

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 13, NO. 1

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

JANUARY 2021

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## Thurmont receives '20 Main Street Accreditation

The Town of Thurmont has been designated as a 2020 Accredited Main Street America™ program. Accredited status is Main Street America's top tier of recognition and signifies a demonstrated commitment to comprehensive commercial district revitalization and proven track record of successfully applying the Main Street Approach™.

"We are proud to recognize this year's 860 Nationally Accredited Main Street America programs that have dedicated themselves to strengthening their communities," said Patrice Frey, President & CEO of the National Main Street Center. "These Accredited Main Street programs have proven to be powerful engines for revitalization by sparking impressive economic returns and preserving the character of their communities. During these challenging times, these Main Street programs will be

key to bringing economic vitality back to commercial districts and improving quality of life during the recovery process."

In 2019 alone, \$6.45 billion of public and private reinvestment was generated, 6,466 net new businesses were opened, 32,316 net new jobs were created, and 10,412 buildings were rehabilitated in Main Street America communities.

"The benefits that we receive from being a nationally accredited Main Street program are a vital component of the critical services the Town of Thurmont provides to our community" stated Jim Humerick, Chief Administrative Officer. "We are proud to be a Main Street community since 2005 and equally proud of the work we've accomplished so far".

The Town of Thurmont's performance is evaluated by the State of Maryland Main Street under



As noted in this month's Book of Days column, the last day of the year is synonymous with celebrations of the New Year. But this year, with the COVID-19 pandemic raging, many will be glad to put 2020 into the history book and forget it.

the Department of Community Housing and Development which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify the local programs that meet ten rigorous performance standards. Evaluation criteria determines the communities that are building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts and include standards such as fostering strong public-private partnerships, documenting programmatic progress, and actively preserving historic buildings.

Since Thurmont's 2005 designation, the work of Thurmont

Main Street has resulted in:

- \$1 million in 57 private investment projects
- \$676,985 in 26 public improvement projects
- 46 new businesses
- 138 jobs created
- 17,290 volunteer hours valued at \$439,685
- Grants received \$760,205

*The learn more about Thurmont's Main Street program and all it's accomplished, visit its website at [www.thurmontmainstreet.com](http://www.thurmontmainstreet.com).*

## FY 2021 budgets passed with no tax increases

Four Pennsylvania municipalities within the *News-Journal* coverage area approved their proposed 2021 budgets without increasing the local tax burdens on their residents.

The Carroll Valley Borough Council approved their 2021 budget in the amount of \$2,342,157, nearly \$200,000 less than that which was approved for the 2020 budget. The approved budget is even less than the borough's budget that had been passed for 2019 in the amount of \$2,396,409.

In order to avert a tax increase, the council approved cuts in spending ... which included the elimination of further consideration of hiring a fourth police officer, and avoiding hiring a code-enforcement officer. Borough Manager David Hazlett has been substituting as the borough's code enforcement officer in addition to his other duties.

The borough tax-rate remains unchanged at 1.5 mills on real estate, plus a .25 fire-tax.

The Liberty Township supervisors approved their 2021 budget in the amount of \$345,840 (less than \$5,000 over their 2020 budget), which was approved in the amount of \$349,902. The township was able to accomplish this without increasing taxes and without utilizing any of their reserve funds.

While several subcategories of projected expenses increased, virtually all of the increases were for

near-negligible amounts. The police department, for example, was budgeted at \$100,000 in FY 2020, but was only increased by \$200 for FY 2021. \$7,000 is also being set-aside annually towards the purchase of a new police vehicle, but the set-aside amount is not yet reflected as part of the police department budget.

Secretarial expenses increased by more than \$15,000 over FY 2020 due to the hiring of a part-time assistant secretary-treasurer. Highway and road line item decreased by \$10,500, the result of replacing the resigned roadmaster with part-time and seasonal employees

The township tax-rate remains unchanged at 0.816 mills on real estate, plus a .25 mill fire tax.

The Hamiltonban Township supervisors approved their 2021 budget in the amount of \$834,910, in which the revenue was projected at \$741,242 and expenses at \$834,910.

The difference between the projected revenues and projected expenses was made-up by approving a transfer of \$93,668 from the capital reserve and from "other" money allocated to interfund operations transfers. The move resulted in having the money necessary to fulfill projected obligations without necessitating a tax-hike.

Supervisor Coleen Reamer said, "The short and sweet of it is that



Fairfield, like its surrounding municipalities, managed to balance its budget once again without any tax increase.

the board is covering that difference with our transfers from cap res and interfund transfers. Most of our anticipated spending is the same as last year and we feel our revenues will be a little flat, so we are taking this opportunity to pay-down some of our debt with our reserves."

The budget was reduced from the 2020 amount of \$1,140,593. The tax-rate remains unchanged from 2020, at 1.4859 mills real estate tax, plus a .25 mill fire and emergency services tax.

The Fairfield Borough Council approved the 2021 budget in the amount of \$208,316, a slight increase over the FY 2020 budget of \$206,283.

Police services at \$76,625, and secretarial/treasurer services at \$35,900 were among the highest of the projected expenditures for FY 2021.

The borough tax-rate remains unchanged from 2020, with the millage rate established at 1.532 on real estate, plus a .25 mill fire tax.

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Irishtown Road closure approved

Richard D. L. Fulton

The Town Council approved a plan to allow for the closure of Irishtown Road for 90 days, and a subsequent partial-closure for an additional 30 days, at their December meeting, to “pave the way” for additional Brookfield home-development.

Town Planner Zach Gulden told the commissioners, “(Developer) Richard Demmitt is looking to improve Irishtown Road. It was a condition of approval back when it (the Brookfield development) was approved in the ‘90s, that Irishtown Road had to be widened, waterlines had to be added, sewer line had to be added, and sidewalks, trees, etcetera, has to be added to Irishtown Road in order to build houses on the 19 lots that are Brookfield lots along Irishtown Road.”

Gulden subsequently noted that waterlines would be 10-inch while the sewer line would be 8-inch, and that curves gutter, storm drain infra-

structure, street trees, and sidewalks along the side where the homes will be built. There will also streetlights.

“In order to do this effectively and efficiently and in a cost-effective manner,” the town planner stated, “Mr. Demmitt is requesting that the town approve this two-phase road closure process.”

Guilden said, with regard to Phase One, the developer has requested to close the road from the bridge and up to Brookfield Drive, so as far as local access, “if they’re (drivers) coming from the Town Square, they’d have to go up to the entrance of Brookfield (and) through (the) Brookfield (development) on Brookfield Drive in order to get to North Seton Avenue.”

The town manager stated that the full-closure and detour would be in effect for a maximum of 90 days, and that the developer will have to go through a street closure permit process through the town manager. “If approved

tonight”, Guilden said, “we would allow them to have 90 days maximum. If they do need more time, we would have to bring it back to the board for approval. If they go over without requesting an extension, we do have the authority to fine them \$1,000 per day. This is a town-owned road, so we have complete control over this.”

Regarding Phase-Two, the town planner claimed that once the developer has completed this portion of the road, they are going to request closure of the left-side of Irishtown Road, which will be reduced to one-lane traffic with flagging. “There won’t be any delays in traffic that will be significant, compared to Phase-One,” Guilden stated.

“This is an extremely expensive project - it’s over a million-dollar project - so we’re recommending to help him out in order to make this as cost-effective as possible so he does go forth with this. This is in the comprehensive plan to improve,” the town manager stated.

## ADA upgrades planned

The Town Council approved a resolution at their December meeting authorizing the submission for a Community Development Block Grant to help address curb-ramps not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Town Planner Zach Gulden told the commissioners that ADA requires local governments to make their facilities, streets, and sidewalks accessible to people with disabilities so that they may travel throughout the municipality in a

safe and convenient manner. There are some 300 individuals in Emmitsburg considered disabled.

With that in mind, Gulden stated that, in developing a town-wide ADA curb-ramp project application, “the town contracted with Fox and Associates, Inc., in order to conduct a formal, town-wide inventory and detailed cost-estimate of all of the ADA non-compliant, sidewalk curb-ramps located at intersections and street-corners.”

The town planner said the survey revealed that 117 curbs throughout the town are “old, cracking, and not ADA-compliant, which create unsafe conditions for all citizens and visitors, but especially the elderly, disabled, wheelchair-bound, and sight-and-hearing impaired.”

The numerous non-ADA compliant curb-ramps were scattered throughout the Pembroke, Brookfield, Silo Hill and Southgate developments, and throughout the town-proper, including parks and other residential areas.

The total estimated cost of the proj-

ect for bringing the 117 curb-ramps up to ADA standards is \$697,693.

If awarded, the curb-ramps projected timeline would include producing an associated environmental review in March or April, issuing requests for construction proposals in April or May 2021, awarding contract for construction in June 2021, and beginning and completing construction-period between July 2021 and April 2022.

The block grants required public hearing also mandated review of a number of other topics relating to com-

munity development, including citing recent, past, and projects underway.

Gulden noted that, not only have developers expressed interest in finishing-out existing housing developments, but other developers have expressed interest in annexing lands on North Seton Ave. and Frailey Rd. to the town for construction of new housing developments. In addition, he said, there has been interest expressed in the past year by a developer who would like to construct a 58,900 square-foot warehouse and a 5,200 square-foot office building.

## News-Briefs . . .

### County buys Mount land for new park

Mayor Donald Briggs informed the commissioners at their December meeting that Mount St. Mary’s has sold land to the county for a future park.

Briggs stated, “The Mount has sold some land to the county up on Motter’s Station Road ... and that will be a county regional park with turf fields, baseball, lighting, and tennis courts, and with walking paths around so it’s going to tie-into the Mount’s sidewalk system.”

The mayor said the amount

of land sold by the Mount to the county was “one hundred and some acres,” adding, “That (the creation of the park) is in the future – maybe two-years out.”

“The regional park is up at our end (of the county), so we’ll have to wait to see how this weighs-out with complementing our park facilities,” he said.

### Renewed water restrictions loom

After only a little longer than three weeks after Emmitsburg had lifted its water restrictions, water supplies have again begun to drop, which could

lose to another round of restricted water-usage.

Town Manager Willets told the commissioners’ at their December meeting that the previous mandatory water-restriction imposed had been lifted on November 13.

Willets noted that Rainbow Lake, which serves as the town reservoir, is still low, at 2.8-feet below the spillway, and the area has sustained a 7.86” deficit in precipitation over the past six-months. Normally, the area receives an average of 23.9” during the six-month period but has instead only received 16.05”.

“What we’ll do is ... we’ll re-evaluate after the holidays the need for water

restrictions again,” she said, adding, “However, we still encourage people to do their part (in conserving excessive water-usage).”

### New water and sewer truck approved

The Town Council approved the purchase of a new water and sewer department vehicle.

Town Manager Willets said the staff is looking to replace the water and sewer department’s 2003 Ford Ranger XLT with 98,559 miles. The commissioners voted unanimously to purchase a blue 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 4WD V8 for \$28,089.00 vehicle from Wantz Chevrolet.

### 124,000 gallons lost in water-line break

Emmitsburg town crews responded shortly after midnight on December 7 to a report of water welling up out of the ground along West Main Street.

Town Manager Cathy Willets told the commissioners at their December 8 meeting that the ruptured pipe was located about six-feet deep beneath the street, and the break was clamped and repaired.

She said however ... that the crack was losing about 20 to 30 gallons per-minute. “We believe we ended-up with a loss of about 124,000 gallons.”

Willets said town staff would soon be cold-patching and repairing the pavement.

*Emmitsburg*  
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# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Liberty police to patrol Freedom Township

The Liberty Township Police Department will be providing police services to neighboring Freedom Township beginning in January as a result of an agreement approved by the Liberty Township supervisors at their December 1 meeting.

The Liberty supervisors voted to authorize Chairman Walter Barlow to sign the agreement.

Township Police Chief Sherri Hansen told the board, "We finalized our police coverage (agreement) for Freedom Township." As a result, she said,

the township police will be patrolling Freedom for 25-hours per month.

Freedom has agreed to pay Liberty Township \$16,500 annually for the service. Liberty police will begin to cover Freedom Township on January 1, according to the agreement.

The supervisors also approved a motion to allow police to exercise officer discretion as to the company employed to tow vehicles that have been involved in accidents, or vehicles that cannot be driven by the driver.

Chief Hansen requested the deci-

sion in order to officially reaffirm a policy to which the police department had already been adhering.

The policy covers vehicles involved in a crash, and those who were being driven by someone alleged by police to be driving under the influence, or driving an unregistered vehicle, and/or without required papers.

Chief Hansen said that normally ... the first option an officer has is to try and contact a family member or friend to remove an operable vehicle or allow the driver to select a tow-

ing company to remove it. If there is no one available to remove a drivable vehicle, police may try to find a safe place to park and lock-it for subsequent removal.

If police have to arrange for the vehicle to be towed, then the officer has the discretion to decide who will tow it. Hansen said their first choices are usually to use B&C or Excalibur. If the vehicle involved is a tractor-trailer or a bus, officers can call any company who can handle these larger types of vehicles.

Liberty Township will be acquiring an additional police vehicle as a result of purchasing a used one from the Gettysburg Police Department.

The township supervisors voted at their December 1 meeting to authorize Chairman Barlow to sign the title to the vehicle once the deal is consummated.

The police vehicle that the Gettysburg department is selling is a used Ford Explorer equipped with a police package. The Explorer has approximately 68,500 miles on it.

Town staff said the township will be receiving the Ford sometime in December.

## Carroll Valley wraps up 2020 business

The Carroll Valley Borough Council dealt with a number of items at their last council meeting of the year on December 15, including the approval of hiring a new part-time police officer.

Police Chief Richard Hileman requested permission to hire a new part-time police officer, having been denied the ability to hire a fourth full-time officer as a result of 2021 budgetary cutbacks (See related story "FY 2021 budgets passed: No tax increases.").

Hileman identified the new officer as Kyle Freeman, a police officer pres-

ently with the Conewago Township Police Department, adding that Freeman was a 2017 graduate from the Police Academy, and earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from York College. Freeman was also a graduate of Biglerville High School.

Officer Freeman was sworn in as a full-time member of the Conewago police force on January 17, 2019. Chief Hileman said Freeman's record indicates the Freeman was obviously well-trained at Conewago, and his full-time schedule with the Conewago Police Department puts him in a position to be able to work a part-time

schedule with Carroll Valley Borough.

The chief proposed the new officer's starting salary be \$22.15 per hour. The council voted unanimously to approve the hiring of the new part-time officer.

In other police business, Chief Hileman stated that police now have a year-round medication drop-box established at the borough office, which is accessible anytime the borough office is open. The purpose of the medication disposal is to remove unwanted medication in order to reduce drug accessibility, medication misuse, and accidental poisoning among children and teens.

The medication drop-box was made possible by the Carroll Valley Borough Police Department partnering with the Rite Aid Foundation and the KidCents Safe Medication Disposal Program, Hileman noted.

The council also approved an agreement that would allow Mill Trail to be extended in order to allow a potential property-owner in Liberty Township to access a two-tract property from Carroll Valley Borough.

Conditions under which the road could be extended at some unknown, future date include that; the plan to extend the road be approved by the

borough; that any construction of any extension of Mill Trail to its western terminus be completed in compliance with borough standards; and that the proponent, buyer or seller, will pay all construction costs incurred,

Additionally, the agreement states that a cul-de-sac (to facilitate snow plowing) must be constructed at the end of the extension (within Liberty Township); that the party seeking to extend the road must post required financial securities, that the proponents make the plans known to Liberty Township, and that the proponents guarantee the property will not be further subdivided beyond the two existing lots.

## Business closures continue

From the closure of grocery and hardware stores to gas stations to undeveloped developments, Fairfield area's economic base has been sustaining entrepreneurship hits for years with occasional promises of rebounds.

The loss of the Sunny Ray Super-thrift grocery store left the community ... stone-cold ... without a brick-and-mortar grocer. Fairfield Borough Secretary Susan Wagle recalled that Sunny Ray's had previously been known as Newman's Super Thrift and was operated for many years by Thomas New-

man and his brother William (from 1927 until 1983). Ray and Paula Williams subsequently purchased the property and established Sunny Ray's, which continued in operation for 29 years until Ray's death.

"Not long after Ray Williams died," Wagle said, "the property was bought by its current owner," who split the area inside the building to include room for the Market Street Grocery and a pizza business, "which seemed to be successful (but ultimately also closed)."

The old store has remained empty

since, but there does appear to be some recent interest. An operation referred to as Brown's Grocery filed in 2019 and has established a Facebook page. Pending the establishment of another grocery store, area residents are left with Dollar General and a convenience store, or shopping in Blue Ridge Summit, Emmitsburg, or Gettysburg.

The same applies to shopping for hardware. Fairfield area's only hardware store closed in 2019.

Paul and Judy Metz founded and

operated Metz's Hardware Store, which they operated for more than 50 years, having established the store in 1968. Dave Metz, who had operated the hardware store with his wife Judy after his father, Paul, died in 1999, retired himself and the business several years ago. With the closing of Zurgable Brothers in Emmitsburg in 2019, the nearest hardware store in now Hobbs Hardware in Thurmont. Metz's is now occupied by the Caterpillar Clubhouse, a childcare center established by Melissa and Joseph Cavey in 2020.

But the real enigma of vanishing entrepreneurs is the recent closure of

the area's only gas station ... is the cessation of operations of the Sunoco gas and convenience store (which included a Subway eatery) on Fairfield Road. The 7-11-owned gas station, branded APlus was closed as of October 22. The stores have since been boarded-up and the APlus signs removed. The store was part of a 116-store closure implemented by 7-11 at that time.

Again, as per the impositions created for groceries and hardware, the only gas service presently available to municipalities around Fairfield Borough are in Blue Ridge Summit, Emmitsburg, and the Gettysburg area.

## News-Briefs . . .

### COVID hits Fire/EMS finances

The Fairfield Fire & EMS lost somewhere between \$120,000 and \$130,000 in 2020 purely from bingo games that could not be held because of the COVID-19 restrictions, according to Treasurer Gayle Marthers. Marthers said the lost revenue has been felt. "We've cut-back on expenditures as much as we can," she said. "It still takes money to keep the rigs rolling."

Marthers told the Carroll Valley Borough Council that the emergency services tax-dollars that Fairfield Fire & EMS receive annually "are greatly appreciated" but do not fill the full need that the department has to run (operate) ... adding that if anyone can donate to the Fairfield emergency responders, it would be greatly appreciated.

Regarding Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding, Marthers stated the Fairfield Fire & EMS has received several thousand dollars through it for personal protective equipment.

### Golf course changes owners and name

In October, the Mountain View Golf Club not only changed owners but its name. The area's preeminent and most popular golf course now goes by the name Gettysburg National Golf Club.

However unlike other golf courses that have recently been are taken over by out-of-state corporations, Gettysburg National has not forgotten its commitment to supporting the local community.

Recognizing that many local non-profits are suffering financially, Gettysburg National has offered to hold benefit tournaments for local fire

and ambulance companies, clubs, or organizations seeking to raise revenues for operations or designated causes.

Located just east of Fairfield along the Fairfield-Gettysburg Road, the club operates year-round and touts a well-manicured 18-hole course, a pro-shop, and grill-pavilion which offers a picturesque views of the 9th, 10th and 18th holes. The club also offers golf lessons and golf club repairs. For additional information on holding a benefit outing contact General Manager Ed Reely at 717-641-7380.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Police chief reviews challenges, successes

Thurmont Police Chief Gregory Eyer briefed the town mayor and commissioners at their December 15th meeting regarding the municipal Police Department's goals, challenges, and successes.

Chief Eyer, a 15-year veteran of the force, stated that the department has 12 sworn-personnel, and three civilian employees, which include a code-enforcement officer, an administrative coordinator, and a receptionist.

He stated the department is short two officers, but that one of those positions will be filled shortly by the imminent hiring of a recently retired, Rederick City officer. He said the department is actively look-

ing for a viable recruit to fill the remaining position.

Major challenges which the department faces are staffing, recruitment, and retaining qualified personnel. "There's a lot of people not willing to put-in to be a police officer because of what's going on - police reform, etcetera."

Eyer also noted, "With the issues and civil unrest occurring across the country, it makes it very difficult to maintain public trust. Thurmont PD personnel will continue with its efforts in this area by providing the best service possible, being professional, dedicated, holding ourselves accountable for our actions, maintaining the highest integrity, and

maintaining high standards. No matter what happens throughout this country, we're going to do the best we can to maintain that professionalism and get that trust ... and keep that trust here in town."

As part of fostering public trust, he said the department remains active in the local community in a number of ways.

"I think our community involvement is excellent ... and from the feedback we get everybody says the same thing," adding that anyone who would like to see the degree of community involvement in which the police department participates, should view the annual police-reports, which are online (Refer to

annual police reports, visit [thurmont.com/2158/Police-Department-Resources](http://thurmont.com/2158/Police-Department-Resources)).

The chief described several recent programs in which the police have been active, including "Operation Chill," a partnership with 7-11, which is designed to enhance relationship among 7-11 stores, the police and the youth. Under this program, officers can reward youth doing good deeds or exhibiting examples of positive behavior with a free Slurpee coupon.

Other programs initiated include "Safetypup" contests ... conceived as a means of teaching children the importance of safety, and a "Gobble, Gobble" competition in which

the public was invited to submit their "best turkey gobble," with the winner being awarded a Hillside turkey. The chief said that the "gobble" submissions "were hilarious."

Eyer credited Code Enforcement Officer Kristi Wood and Administrative Coordinator Stephanie Kennedy by their involvement in a number of community programs.

The chief stated, "One of our goals, which was among many, is to provide the citizens of Thurmont with a cost-effective, professional law-enforcement agency and we've done that. And we're going to continue to do that. And I want to make sure you know that, and that the citizens know that we will do this for here-on-out as long as I'm here as your chief and hopefully, after I leave it continues."

## Public asked to watch deicer, salt use

With winter weather rapidly encroaching on the region, Thurmont residents are being requested to minimize the use of deicers and salt in order to prevent those substances from finding their way into the stormwater collection system.

Andrew Tuleya, Arro Consulting, works with Thurmont in complying with its state MS4 stormwater management permit, and informed the Town Council at their December 8 meeting, that a small amount of salt or deicer can pollute a great deal of water. For example, he noted one teaspoon of salt can cause five gallons of water to be polluted.

Tuleya did not try to sway residents and road-crews from using those products, but rather he stated,

"Try to use those materials sparingly, and try to avoid those materials from entering the roadways or anywhere around a storm drain where it can be carried by stormwater into the storm sewer system ... apply as much as needed, and store those deicers in a dry location."

He suggested that residents do some research to see if there are any "green" alternative products that can be used in-lieu of common deicers and salts, but also noted that environmentally-friendly products can be somewhat more-expensive.

Tuleya also asked for the public to stay out of any stormwater retention ponds, not only when they ice-over during the winter, but at any other time throughout the year as well.

"We ask the public to please stay

out of the stormwater ponds around town, whether they are infrastructure that is managed or operated by the town, or whether it's a privately-owned HOA pond, or if it's (owned by) a private-land holder... these structures are meant to preserve water quality."

He said if the structures are degraded by foot-traffic or by people entering the pond areas, it can damage the ponds' abilities to properly treat the accrued stormwater, adding, "And on top of that - it is also a safety concern (to those entering pond areas)."

Tuleya's presentation was largely centered on what Thurmont has been doing thus far in meeting the requirements of its MS4 stormwater-management permit. Under the permitting

requirements, permit-holders are required to develop educational programs to inform the public about stormwater-runoff pollution.

Regarding this requirement, Tuleya stated, "Recently, with the help of the town staff, we published a public education and involvement stormwater survey on the town's website (can be accessed at [thurmont.com/2287/Stormwater-Survey](http://thurmont.com/2287/Stormwater-Survey)). We encourage the public, including the residents, town staff and businesses, to participate." Hard-copies are also available from the town.

He said the staff has also discussed contacting the area schools to have students fill out the surveys, which, while the schools are conducting their classes virtually, can be accomplished by accessing the sur-

vey online, and "getting the younger population involved."

In order to provide for the prevention of pollution of water in the country, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has established guidelines under the federal Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process, which it then passes on to all the states to administer.

In Maryland, the permits, designated as MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permits, are issued by the state Department of the Environment, who then also enforce compliance.

As per the permitting guidelines, the town must make a discernable effort to prohibit pollutants from entering the stormwater system, including via stormwater discharges or any other unauthorized discharges.

## News-Briefs . . .

**December electric bills delayed**  
Problems with a mailing device caused a delay in the town sending out its electric bills.

Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick told the commissioners at their December 9 meeting, "We had a little issue with the Pitney Bowes (postage-meter) machine here in the office that delayed our bills getting out of the office."

As a result, he stated, "Now, thanks to the holiday mail-rush,

they're sitting at the postal-service in Baltimore, waiting to come back to Thurmont."

The administrative officer said that the 21-day delinquent-pay-policy is not going to commence until the town knows the bills have been delivered.

He said residents had been calling the town regarding what had happened to their electric bills, since they were concerned that they might be held accountable to

pay a late fee on any bills they had not received.

The problematic postage-meter machine has since been repaired. The bills still hadn't been seen as of the commissioners' December 15 meeting. Mayor John Kinnaid noted at the December 15 meeting that residents could come in and pay their bills in-person, rather than wait for the paper bill to arrive in their mail.

Commissioner Wes Hamrick suggested the town explore a means of establishing an online

bill-payment system. "It's ridiculous that out mail has to go to Baltimore," he said.

**COVID compliance requested**  
Commissioners briefly reminded residents at the December 8 town meeting to continue to adhere to requirements regarding COVID-19 safeguards.

Commissioner Bill Buehrer said, "I just wanted to re-emphasize ... to all the members of the community to please wear the mask, keep your safe distance

from one another, wash your hands frequently, and be respectful of one another."

Buehrer said that ... in his opinion, the COVID numbers have not been going in the right direction "because there's been too many people who have been careless."

Commissioner Wayner Hooper agreed with Commissioner Buehrer's comments, adding, "Please, everybody be careful. I've had a neighbor pass-away from it. We've got to really be diligent in what we do, to try and get rid of this thing."

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# TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Park use impact fees proposed

A proposed ordinance establishing park impact-fees was officially introduced at the Taneytown Council's December meeting with the intent to consider adoption of the fees at the council's January meeting.

At the December work-session, City Manager Wieprecht stated that the city presently does not have a true park impact-fee, although it does have an "in-lieu-of" fee charged to developments who do not wish to preserve open-space as part of their development plans. Developers are charged \$1,500 per unit if they wish to pay a

fee rather than set aside a portion of the development for open space.

What the city manager proposed at the work session is a true park impact fee, which would be, if adopted, a separate fee which would be unrelated to in-lieu-of open-space charges. Wieprecht said that in recent years the council has discussed the idea of adopting a park impact-fee that every new dwelling would pay, in addition to an in-lieu-of open-space fee.

"When we have a major subdivision in the pipeline, they have the option of dedicating a certain por-

tion of the property – and it has to be usable to some extent ... it can't be steep slopes or things like that, that are unusable," he said. As things presently stand, if a developer does choose to provide open space, the developers tend to select the land to be set aside, which may have absolutely no park attributes.

Thus, he said, even if a developer provides open space, there's still an impact on the parks. "There's still people (new development residents) joining recreation programs, little league, football, soccer. Even though

the development might provide open space, there is still an impact on the parks," Weiprecht stated.

If the proposal is adopted, the park impact-fee will be assessed in the amount of \$1,000 per dwelling unit. If a developer does not wish to provide open space, they would then be compelled to pay both a \$1,000 per unit park impact-fee and a \$1,500 per unit in lieu-of-open space fee, for a total of \$2,500 per unit.

So, he continued, "The idea is really to give us a little more funding to be able to further-develop our existing park network," adding, "We really don't fall short on having park

acreage available. What we fall short of is ... sometimes having the money to develop additional sports fields and things like that as new homes come online and generate more demand for those fields."

Mayor Wantz said, if the city should continue on as it has been, "When we go to replace them (parks and equipment) - half the time we need to find some sort of grant to make that happen, because we just don't have the funds to replace a playground, and a lot of it is because with the growth we have had, we're just not seeing any fees supporting our park program."

## Planning Commission tackling multiple projects

The preliminary improvements plan for a Taneytown housing development need to be re-worked in order to address an adjacent, county-owned road, according to the city manager.

City Manager James Wieprecht told the commission at their last meeting that the proposed improvement plan, referred to as Phase-2 for Meade's Crossing, will have to be further revised including improvements of Angel Road being taken into consideration, at the request of Carroll County. As a result, the now-deceased version that the planning commission had been reviewing has to be scrapped, and the developer will have to generate a new plan for review.

Specifically, the improvement

plan addresses infrastructure, including a clubhouse and pool. Prior to the county's insistence on including addressing improvements of Angel Road into the mix, some relatively minor changes had been proposed as "red-line" items, such as moving a couple of stormwater inlets relative to the clubhouse and swimming pool entrances and changing some stockpile locations relative to the clubhouse and swimming pool area.

As far as the overall development of Meade's Crossing, Phase-1 is "mostly built-out," and construction of the second and final phase's infrastructure is underway. Some lots in the second phase are already being constructed.

In other business - a planned

addition to Taneytown Liquors was approved by the planning commission and the commission's Design Review Board. Taneytown Liquors requested approvals for the design of a planned extension to their existing building, as well as a site-plan waiver.

Wieprecht told the planning commission that the building occupied by the liquor store is located in the Old Town District, and this is subject to the applicable design standards of that district. As a result, the changes proposed required a decision by the design-review board.

The city manager noted that the existing building "is not particularly of the architectural character that the city is really hoping to emulate or preserve through the design stan-

dards ... we still want to make sure that what's being proposed to be added-on to the building fits with the building and doesn't do any harm or stand-out too badly with the existing community."

Regarding the proposed exterior design of the addition, project-architect Dean Camlin stated that the intention was that the materials to be employed should match that of the existing building. "It seems like the addition really inhibits its own compatible identity that related to the existing building ... but doesn't go too far out-of-the-way to try and look like it's been there since the beginning."

Wieprecht also reported that the work on the preliminary plan for Bollinger Park, a new town-owned

park currently under development, is continuing to progress. The park is located off route 194.

The city manager said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has developed some additional ideas to include in the park's preliminary plan, including a pollinator garden (involving plantings which attract pollinating insects), whimsical sculptures, and an additional side-trail. "They've kind of fleshed-out the concept with some more details and some more features," he said.

Bollinger Park, currently in the development stages, will be a nature park. Preliminary plans include a walking, jogging, and biking trail, and possibly an observatory constructed and operated by the Westminster Astronomical Society.

## Council streaming to be upgraded

During their December meeting, the Taneytown Council awarded SYSCOM a contract to provide the council chambers with additional audio-visual improvements at a cost of circa \$56,000 to better the streaming of council meetings throughout duration of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Also planned in conjunction with the AV upgrading will be a reconfiguration of council chambers.

During the December council work-session, City Manager Jim Wieprecht stated that, under a tight deadline, he, working with information technology specialist Dan Dennis, and Mayor Bradley Wantz ... had produced a list of various technological improvements, which he dubbed a "technology package," that would improve holding remote or hybrid meetings in the council chambers. The city manager further stated that the cost of the package should qualify for reimbursement under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding relief guidelines.

Wieprecht said that the list includes various elements of technology that will allow the staff and council to offer better remote and hybrid meetings "if and when we do get to a point where we might have some council members returning (physically) to the council chambers, but we may not be opening the doors to the public yet."

Wieprecht further stated, "This equipment that we've got lined-up is going to help us produce a better product and

have those hybrid-type meetings."

Wantz said, "One of the issues we've had in the council chambers has been our audio-system and the lack of video-system," adding that as the pandemic progresses, whether the city does hybrid, in-person meetings, or non-public meetings ... "we would really need a better AV system that can manage those things."

Wantz further stated that IT-specialist Dennis generated a list of proposals from several audio-visual vendors, and "we settled on what he believed is the best for what we're looking for." He said the package would include adequate audio ... sufficient microphones for all of the council members ... staff and delegation tables ... mounted displays for projections, ...

mounted, and remote-control cameras (that can capably pan around the room and zoom onto speakers).

The mayor further stated that staff are looking into flipping the council chambers 180-degrees, which would include multiple video-dis-

play screens allowing for viewing from various perspectives

The cost of rearrangement and redesign of the council chambers would involve little more than an in-house construction of a new delegation table at a cost of about \$2,100.



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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# County Councilman Phil Dacey

Hope everyone had safe and healthy holidays. As we embark on the new year I see reason for hope and optimism in Frederick County. Health care providers have started receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as we work our way back toward normal. So many people have been impacted in so many ways by this virus that it will be years before we will be fully free from its effects. For now, though, the clouds are beginning to lift.

In December, the Freder-

ick County Council had a productive conversation with the Board of Education. While the Board of Education is an independently elected body, some people may not realize that over 1/2 of the county budget is sent to the Board of Education for use in the schools. It is vitally important for the Council to take an interest in where and how this money is being spent. The main topics of discussion were how the Board plans to return students, teachers, and staff to a safe learning envi-

ronment in the schools. Information presented was that 70% of parents with children in the system would take advantage of the hybrid learning model, (some in person schooling, some virtual).

In fact, many parents have made the choice to either send their children to private schools or to homeschool their children. With the county growing, there was a projected increase of thousands of new students entering Frederick County Public Schools. However, actual numbers show a decrease of

more than 200 enrolled students for this school year, meaning that thousands of parents have decided to make arrangements other than full virtual learning.

Frederick County Public Schools have been preparing to send students back since this summer. I can assure parents, the plan is thorough and well thought out. A final decision on when to implement the beginning of the hybrid model will be made by the Superintendent. It is important to stress that classroom sizes will be reduced with only 1/2 of the students returning at one time. It will be further

limited by the fact that families will be making the decisions that are best for them in their circumstances. Up to 30% of families may choose to keep their children in all virtual learning.

I know that many educators, staff, and students are eagerly anticipating the return to in-person learning. It is my continuing hope that we can do so safely in January.

On other news from the Council, the County Council in December approved a Frederick City Annexation of property in the Route 40 area (near WFMD).

## County Notes...

### Application Opens for Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program

Owners of historic properties located in unincorporated areas of Frederick County may now apply for the Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program. County Executive Jan Gardner recently announced the Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program to support the rehabilitation and stabilization of rural historic properties.

"The goal of this grant is to leave a legacy for future generations of a vibrant agricultural community and to preserve our rich history," Executive Gardner said.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants may request up to \$50,000. Grant funds can be used for expenses associated with exterior work to stabilize, rehabilitate, restore,

or preserve historic buildings. Grants will not be awarded for completed work, work that is already underway, new construction, landscaping, or projects that do not meet the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties.

To be eligible, properties must be located in unincorporated areas of Frederick County; be either designated on the County Register of Historic Places or the National Register, or a contributing resource in a County or Nationally designated Historic District; and be in good standing with the County. If the property or district is currently not designated to the County Register of Historic Places, a determination of eligibility must be made by the Historic Preservation Commission prior to applying for the grant. This let-

ter of determination must be included with the application.

To apply or for additional information, visit [www.frederickcountymd.gov/7981/Historic-Preservation](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/7981/Historic-Preservation). Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26. Questions about the grant program can be emailed to Amanda Whitmore, Historic Preservation Planner at [AWhitmore@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:AWhitmore@frederickcountymd.gov)

### Mobilize Frederick Focuses On Youth

Mobilize Frederick, formally known as the Climate Emergency Mobilization Workgroup (CEMWG), is reaching out to Frederick residents including the youth of our community, to explore issues, ideas, and potential solutions to address our changing climate.

Since the group was formed in September 2020, numerous volunteers, recognizing the importance of CEM-

WG's charge, have generously offered their assistance. Mobilize Frederick is particularly thrilled that eight university students have stepped forward offering their time and talent. They come from the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University. Five have volunteered their time to support the Public Awareness and Outreach (PAO) Subgroup and three have offered their time to assist the Health and Extreme Weather Adaptation and Resilience (HWR) Subgroup.

"We are enormously grateful to our university students" says Sonia Demiray, co-chair of Public Awareness and Outreach. "They bring enthusiasm, energy, passion, and a fresh perspective to our efforts to create equitable recommendations for the City and County. The younger generation is very aware of climate change. They are witnessing the effects of increasingly extreme weather patterns and must

lead the way in adopting our group's recommendations to minimize the impact of a changing climate."

Mobilize Frederick continues to encourage all residents who are passionate about Frederick's future to provide their perspectives on various issues, including energy, agriculture, construction, health, weather, transportation, and others, in our "We Hear You" forum or by answering quick surveys on the website. We are integrating the voices and opinions from residents across the County in our planning in order to improve any future recommendations. For more information about Mobilize Frederick, the Climate Emergency Mobilization Workgroup, please visit [www.MobilizeFrederick.org](http://www.MobilizeFrederick.org).

The Climate Emergency Mobilization Workgroup is a body of volunteer experts authorized by resolution No. 20-22 of Frederick County and No. 20-07 of the City of Frederick.

## Frederick County Health Department Street Safe Program (SSP)

### STREET SAFE PROGRAM (SSP)

Behavioral Health Services with the Frederick County Health Department's Street Safe Program (SSP) offers the following services to People Who Use Drugs (PWUD):

- Distribution of sterile syringes & other sterile drug use equipment
- Distribution of fentanyl test strips for drug testing
- Overdose prevention & safer use education
- Rapid HIV, Hepatitis C & syphilis testing, education & linkage to care
- Safe sex supplies & education
- Collection of used syringes
- Overdose response training & distribution of Naloxone/Narcan
- Wound Care assessment, education & supplies
- Hepatitis C (HCV) case management
- Referrals to care and community supports

For SSP locations and times, call 301-600-1777, email [HarmReductionService@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:HarmReductionService@FrederickCountyMD.gov)  
Visit us at <http://health.frederickcountymd.gov/549/Street-Safe-Program>  
or visit us on Facebook at Frederick County Harm Reduction Services.

Services are free, confidential and anonymous.

No identification required to sign up and no appointment needed.

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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jan Gardner

As we begin the new year, I wish all of you peace, comfort, and good health.

2020 was a difficult, stressful year. Covid-19 has unfortunately brought illness, death and sorrow. We pray for those who have suffered as well as for those who have risen to the challenge to care and comfort afflicted people and their families. I am deeply grateful for our nurses, doctors, respiratory therapists, cleaning staff and many others at our local hospital who have been on the job for many months taking care of people who are ill and witnessing the worst of the pandemic. Our public health staff, nursing home staff and first responders have also been on the frontline of the health pandemic and have valiantly persevered. The humanity and compassion of our healthcare workers and frontline employees has been incredible.

The pandemic has delivered plenty of economic hardship as many businesses have been required to operate with limitations and requirements to reduce

the spread of the virus. Many people have struggled with mental health due to isolation, anxiety, and uncertainty. Families have been challenged to assist their children with virtual instruction while working from home. And we all miss our personal interactions with our extended family, friends, and community.

Yet even in our darkest days, there is hope. Hope for brighter days in 2021 with vaccines on the horizon. Hope for our economy to recover and thrive with the assistance of grants and a return to more normal operations. Hope for people with rental assistance, eviction prevention, and food which we are committed to continue even when federal funding ends.

We find hope and optimism in our caring community and in the people who call Frederick home. Many non-profits, foundations, and individuals have stepped up to offer help to others in need. It is remarkable to know that we have over 80 locations for food distribution in our county, many oper-

ated by people who simply stepped up to get the job done. There is an app available to find food distribution locations near you. You can find the location closest to you by visiting [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FoodResourceMap](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FoodResourceMap). Our senior services division will continue to deliver meals on wheels and groceries to seniors. If you are a senior in need of food, call 301-600-1234.

Lives everywhere have been affected by COVID – 19. The pandemic is not only posing significant health risks but causing enormous emotional distress. If you or someone you know is struggling with anxiety, addiction, or mental health challenges, you are not alone. There's a way forward for anyone who is struggling. Go to [AWayForwardTogether.org](http://AWayForwardTogether.org). You can find guidelines, tips and resources. Additionally, you can also call 2-1-1 for assistance and connection to resources.

The Chamber of Commerce, our economic development partners, our municipalities and the County are working together to support our

economic recovery. While our hospitality industry has been hard hit and some businesses have closed, other businesses have flourished including our life science and information technology sectors. We can be proud that businesses in Frederick County are working to develop testing, diagnostics, and vaccines for Covid-19, making a difference to public health.

We can find comfort in knowing that we face our challenges together, that we are committed to helping and caring for one another, and that the fundamental strength of who we are as a community persists. Frederick County residents are caring, faith filled, and generous to each other. As we face our last great fight against the virus, recognize that we each have the power to shape our future by doing our part to protect the health of our families, friends and co-workers. I urge everyone to continue to wear face masks when outside your home, to physical distance, and wash your hands. These simple behaviors are our best defense. If we all do our part, we will get through these final months. If you know someone who

is isolated and lives alone, call them. Be a good friend and neighbor.

I want to leave you with news about two opportunities that the new year brings. Two new grant programs are available to protect what we value about Frederick County: the Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program and the Agricultural Innovation Grant Program. The goal is to leave a legacy for future generations of a vibrant agricultural community and to preserve our rich history. Applications are being accepted now through February 26 for the Rural Historic Preservation Grants. Information can be found at [FrederickCountyMD.gov/7981/Historic-Preservation](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/7981/Historic-Preservation) or by emailing Amanda Whitmore at [AWhitmore@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:AWhitmore@FrederickCountyMD.gov). The Agricultural Innovation Grants will begin accepting applications the first week of January. Visit [DiscoverFrederickMD.com/ag\\_innovation\\_grant](http://DiscoverFrederickMD.com/ag_innovation_grant).

Have a blessed, safe, and peaceful New Year filled with gratitude for what we have and for each other, and with hope for the better days ahead.

## Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

There, 2020 is behind us. We have not one, but two vaccines being distributed across the country. Now that is a Christmas present. In ten months from virus awareness, we have a vaccine that is 95% effective.

Some thoughts as we end up the year...

We finished up the year with virtual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning where thirty participated. All proceeds raised from entry fees going to the food bank. Thank you to all who participated, volunteers, town staff, Commissioners Burns, and O'Donnell.

Thank you to our town staff for decorating the downtown. Each year we add to our decorations as town budget allows. Also, for trimming the town tree in front of the Community Center in time for a lighting on the first Monday of December.

Thank you to the staff at the Carriage House Inn, carolers, and Santa for their preparations for the

32nd annual 'Evening of Christmas Spirit' to only have the event cancelled two days before. We look forward to the 33rd next December.

Thank you to all the volunteers over this year who assisted with different events from dedication of the new bridge over Flat Run to Terry Myers, pool opening, bingo played from cars, baseball, Heritage Day, the dedication of Community Park to Gene Myers, and a belated Arbor Day.

Thank you to all our first responders, hospital staffs, and front liners who serve us every day.

Rutters, finally all site approvals have been accepted by the various levels of government. The expectation is to break ground early spring, and a new day-care to soon open.

Come on snow. It is beautiful. It creates a mess. But slow melts absorbed by soft ground is the near perfect solution for replenishing the water table during the drought condition the town is experiencing. Thank you to

Commissioner Davis for cooking up breakfast for the town snow removal crew at Vigilant Hose Co.

Getting closer to the temporary closure of Irishtown Road. Finishing touches on right of ways and we should be good to go.

Again, please support our restaurant and businesses. These are good people who serve us. As a community, through the town, grants have been given out to restaurants and businesses that applied and were qualified. But

this effort pales to the economic reality of the loss of business they have suffered.

"Homeless for the holidays" for some this is more than an ironical take of a popular seasonal refrain. Unfortunately, it is true for some of our most vulnerable. Nearly 1,000 children in Frederick County have been identified by the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership of Frederick (SHIP), as being homeless. And there are more out there. Thank you to those who have helped in keeping the meal supply chain

rolling. Churches, private, and government entities have come together to provide meals for (not only) children in need. What was part of regular school day regimen is no longer available. Please go to the SHIP web site and see how you can help these children.

Lib and I wish you the best for a happy and healthy new year. Let us get our shots, wear our mask, wash our hands, and social distance until this virus is just another one of those things out there but well under control through vaccines.

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How can you give a great gift and help support your locally owned businesses? Easy! Just purchase Thurmont Business Bucks! Thurmont Business Bucks are redeemable at 33 local businesses!

Go to the Thurmont Town Office located at 615 East Main Street, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. -4 p.m. Purchase Thurmont Business Bucks in \$5, \$10 & \$20 increments with gift envelope & a pamphlet of all businesses where Thurmont Business Bucks can be redeemed.

**Local businesses need your support now more than ever!**  
**Thanks for your continued support before, now and tomorrow!**  
For more information or questions email [vgrinder@thurmontstaff.com](mailto:vgrinder@thurmontstaff.com)

LIST OF PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:

<b>RETAIL:</b> Cousin's Ace Hardware Gateway Candyland & Liquors Hobbs Hardware Med One Pharmacy Rebecca Pearl Gallery Red Canary Tattoo Rowlands Art & Glass Thurmont Main Street Center Timeless Trends Boutique Town & Country Liquors	<b>FOOD:</b> Bollinger's Family Restaurant Hillside Turkey Farm Hoffman's Market Mountain Gate Family Restaurant Rocky's New York Pizza & Italian Restaurant Simply Asia Thurmont Bar & Grill Thurmont Kountry Kitchen	<b>SALONS:</b> Beautiful You Salon & Spa Here's Clyde's Family Hair Care Images Of "U" Hair Studio Jen's Cutting Edge Salon M&T Shear Magic, Inc. Renovations Salon & Day Spa Tracie's House Of Hair
<b>PET CARE:</b> Catoctin Vet Clinic	<b>GETAWAYS:</b> Ole Mink Farm	<b>CAR CARE:</b> Complete Auto Diagnostic Criswell Auto Service Gateway Automotive

## FROM THE DESK OF...

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

At the December 2020 Borough Council meeting, the Council passed the Tax Levy Ordinance, which continued to fix the Tax Rate at 2.45 mills, which means there is no tax increase for Carroll Valley Borough residents. Also, without increase, Council passed the fixed tax in the amount of .25 mills appropriated for fire and emergency service for 2021.

Did you ever watch the holiday movie classic "It's a Wonderful Life"? The film explores the true meaning of what these holidays are about – the values of basic goodness, the gift of friendship, the sense of community and belonging that helps us feel genuinely connected to each other. While we are not experiencing a Christmas in 1945, nor are we in Bedford Falls, New York, I truly believe we are nurturing those same values and feelings in our communities today.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a loosely knit group of caring individuals organized by Robin Dicken, made up 65 bags of personal care items for the elderly in the Nursing Homes and Meals on Wheels in the Fairfield community area. Each bag contains the following items, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, bath soap, hand lotion,

hand sanitizer, hand soap, shampoo, chapstick, socks, crackers, mints, and a word search book.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors wish to thank the community for their generous support with the donations to make this happen! Through our local community support, Neighbors Helping Neighbors were able to add a little smile to peoples' faces during the holiday! Using the financial and food donations made by the Carroll Valley residents, members of the Carroll Valley staff, and with the Fairfield Fire & EMS Department's permission to use the kitchen and drive-thru window, 37 meal kits were handed out. Each kit contained turkey, chicken, or ham, stuffing, potatoes, corn, green beans, yams, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, dessert, eggs, and butter. The goal of the meal kit was to provide an entire Christmas dinner for the whole family.

On December 20th, our residents, young and not so young, were treated to the sight of a pre-visit by Santa Claus. Through the Fairfield Fire and the Fountindale Fire Departments' coordinated efforts, Santa was driven around the communities of Carroll Valley, Fairfield, and Hamiltonban. Thanks go out to all involved, especially Santa! Yes, we are living through this pan-

demic. We have no choice. We bear the emotional turmoil. But through these acts of kindness during the holiday season, we know we have not lost our innate emotion to care for one another.

January and you all know what I am about to share – my resolutions. Well, not all of them. Some are personal. However, here are a few. I am going to try to do my best to help others. To let those around me know how important they are in the lives of others. And to be sure to thank those who assist others. Remember, "Give out what you most want to come back." Oh, I also promise my wife that the next time I bring my "stuff" down to the Carroll Valley Yard Sale when we can have one, I will "sell" the items rather than just "show" the items. With January comes snow, which means you need to make sure that you winterized your car. If you haven't, you need to get it done. Check the car's tires and tire pressure, the heat/defroster, and wipers. Please slow down. If you drive too fast, those antilock brakes will not help you to come to a smooth stop. When driving behind another car, remember to leave more space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. Some experts tell us that this distance is four car lengths for every



**Neighbors Helping Neighbors: (Seated L-R) Tammy Deardorff - St. John Lutheran Church, Linda McMullen - community member, Robin Dicken - Fairfield Area School District, Gayle Marthers - Carroll Valley Borough. (Standing) Deedee Mezger - St. John Lutheran Church, Dani Mikesell-Redding - Fairfield Area School District, Barbara Richwine - Fairfield Area School District, Missy Miller - Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Mark Englund-Krieger - Pastor Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church, Carlos Wampler - Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church.**

ten mph you are traveling. Remember you have less control over your car during bad road conditions.

I received sad news when I learned that one of Carroll Valley's well-known celebrities, Fred Snyder, passed away at 76. He hosted "Freddie's Breakfast Nook" a 30-minute morning radio show on 1320 WGET. After 19 years hosting the radio show, Fred switched to print.

He published a column every Tuesday in the Gettysburg Times for seven years. Fred loved his community and will always be remembered for his passionate

coverage of local politics.

Borough meetings in January are Planning Commission (Jan 4), Tree Board (Jan 7), Borough Council (Jan 12), Sewer and Water Authority (Jan 25), and Parks/Recreation Committee (Jan 27). Please reduce your speed to make sure you, your loved ones, your friends, and your neighbors will be safe. Don't Drink and Drive. As of Dec. 22, there have been 178 COVID-19 positive cases reported in Zip Code 17320. Take care.

If you have any questions, call me at 301-606-2021 or email me at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net.

## Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Liberty Township would like to pass on condolences to the Flinner family for the recent loss of Zoning Hearing Board member Dr. Lee Flinner. Dr. Flinner faithfully served on the Township Zoning Hearing Board for many years. The Township also lost former Township Supervisor Leonard Sites earlier in 2020 and we extend our condolences to the Sites family as well. The Township is grateful for the years of dedicated service from both gentlemen and all those who make time to serve the Township.

The loss of Dr. Flinner and a recent resignation left two open-

ings on the three-member Zoning Hearing Board. Dr. Bart Hogan, who's term was set to expire at the end of 2020, has generously agreed to serve another three-year term. Liberty Township welcomes Cindy Arentz who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors at the December 1 meeting to serve out the remaining year of an unexpired term on the Zoning Hearing Board. At the end of 2020 there are two openings for five-year terms for the Planning Commission and one opening for two-years left of a three-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board. These posi-

tions hold viable interests within our community, and we seek community volunteers on an ongoing basis. Anyone interested in serving the township now or in the future is asked to please send letters of interest to the Board of Supervisors or contact the Township for additional information.

Tax Collector and Alternate Secretary/Treasurer Jessica Ilko has passed her notary certification and she will be authorized to notarize Township documents. Although her services will not be available to the public for items that are not township related, it provides a no cost convenient service to anyone signing agreements with Township that require notarization. The most common agreement form between the township and property owners is the Stormwater Operation and Maintenance Agreement.

The Township Road Department was prepared for the first winter storm and we hope all our residents

remained safe and enjoyed the first snowfall of the season. Again, I just want to remind the residents that the ash trees will be coming down more and more as winter sets in on us with ice and snow, please remain cautious while driving. The Road maintenance crew did continue to finish cleaning up brush and dead trees that were along the roadways on Stultz Road, Irishtown Road, and Bullfrog Road. We have done a lot of road work this past year. I believe our roads are currently in great condition. In addition to black topping and line painting the driveway at the Township building, we recently installed new lighting in the bay areas.

We have quite a few projects scheduled for 2021. We plan to install a new HVAC system in the Township building. Additionally, we plan on doing extensive base repair work and tar and chip on many of the township roads. We have started the process to obtain a

general permit from DEP to complete bridge repair work on the Old Waynesboro Road bridge.

On January 1, our police contract with Freedom Township becomes effective. We have approved the purchase of an additional police vehicle and we are awaiting delivery.

Officer Courtney Herring has begun working for the Township. We are proud to have her as part of our team. Officer Corey Ammerman is also back working part-time for the Police Department along with Officer Chris Roosen and Officer Brian Weikert. We commend our police department for the job that they do under the command of Chief Hansen.

I encourage the residents to reach out to the Board of Supervisors and Township staff any time with your comments, questions, or concerns. You can contact us by mail, phone, email, or use the drop box located at the main door of the building. It's a great privilege serving you as Township Roadmaster and as a Supervisor. Have a blessed New Year & stay safe! God Bless!

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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Randy Phiel

It seems like Adams County and most of the country is currently locked in the grip of escalating COVID-19 numbers. The long-awaited vaccine is starting to arrive; but is still possibly months away for many residents. Last month Governor Wolf ordered additional initiatives to flatten the spike that include banning any K-12 school extracurricular activities including games or practices.

Inside dining at bars and restaurants is once again prohibited at least until January 4. Outside dining and take out is not affected. There is no doubt that more of us are now experiencing positive test results and exposures much closer to our inner circle of families, friends, and co-workers than we did for the past eight months. Both the County & Courts are closely following this situation and have taken the following steps to reduce exposure and illness. These protocols that follow below, will remain into effect until further notice.

All Adams County office business is by appointment, phone, or internet only. These include the Courthouse, Human Services Building, Department of Emergency Services, Adams County Adult Correctional Facility, and the Adams County Conservation District Building on Old Harrisburg Road. A list of office phone numbers will be on the door of each building so that clients may call the desired office to check availability or schedule an appointment.

The Adams County Court of Common Pleas has adopted an Emergency Order similar to the order issued in the

spring which prohibits in-person court filings at all Court filing offices with the exception of emergency pleadings. When possible, and unless otherwise required by interests of justice, court proceedings will be conducted by advanced technology systems. Allowed judicial proceedings will be limited to the parties and their counsel. Arrangements to observe allowable court proceedings by the media and the public must be done electronically through arrangements with the Court Administrator at least one business day prior to the proceeding. The November 30, 2020 criminal trial term was cancelled. The Law Library is closed except by appointment. All Magisterial District Courts shall remain open to the public Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.. All in-person weddings at the Courthouse are cancelled through January 31.

As of Friday, November 20, the Adams County Department of Emergency Services (ACDES) building is closed to the public until further notice. All meetings and trainings on the lower level of the building are temporarily suspended. The upper level housing the 911 Center has been closed to the public. For questions or information please contact Adams County Department of Emergency Services Director, Warren Bladen.

The Adams County Adult Correctional Facility has been closed and will remain closed to the public until further notice.

All County and Court staff who are able to work from home, in collaboration and consultation with their super-

visor, are directed to work from home to reduce COVID exposure.

All staff remaining in county facilities are directed to refrain from all unnecessary and casual contact with other staff to reduce exposure. There are numerous methods of electronic communication available to staff to accomplish this beneficial exposure reduction objective.

It has been stressed over and over that properly wearing a mask, correctly washing your hands, wiping surfaces, avoiding close and casual contact, and using electronic and tele-communication when possible, both at work and home, help to reduce exposure and illness. As painful and difficult as it may be to avoid, family gatherings around the table are also super spreaders. Please make smart decisions based on what is best for you, your family, friends, co-workers, and your community!

The Adams County FAIR (CARES) Program wrapped up with final approvals at the December 16th Commissioner's Meeting. The Community Evaluation Team presented their final recommendations to the Adams County Board of Commissioners at that meeting. It is anticipated that all of the funds given to Adams County from the federal government will be encumbered and fully distributed by the end of December.

While this \$9.3M has had a positive impact on our community, we know there is still significant need out there with businesses and organizations trying to weather this storm. Adams County Planning staff and the Community Evaluation Team have

worked diligently to process 221 applications to get these funds to 198 qualified applicants complying with state and federal guidelines. The county was very aware that all fund dispersals must have the ability to stand up and pass state and federal audits. We will continue to monitor federal and state legislation to stay abreast of any additional funding programs that may benefit our Adams County community. A huge shout out to Adams County Planning, GMS Consulting and the volunteer Community Evaluation Team for their professionalism, dedication, civic engagement, and diligence in this significant undertaking for our community.

Attention Fire Companies and Emergency Service organizations! The Office of the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner will begin accepting applications for the Fire Company and Emergency Medical Service Grant Program on December 11. The deadline is January 25, 2021. Written instructions, guidelines and applications for the 2020-2021 program are now available on [www.osfc.pa.gov](http://www.osfc.pa.gov). All fire companies, emergency medical services and volunteer rescue squads qualify for this grant.

New for 2021 and 2022, funds may be used to supplement operational expenses incurred by the lack of opportunities for fundraising and the inability to generate revenue due to compliance with measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As always traditional categories allow funding to be used for such projects as construction and/or renovation of the fire company or EMS facilities, equipment,

debt reduction, training, and recruitment and retention, including volunteer firefighter length-of-service award programs and programs for minors.

It is really easy to become overwhelmed with negativity in these trying times. One step forward and two steps back, too many times, can test your mettle. This is especially true during this holiday season, which is normally full of traditions and anticipation. Focusing on what we have to be thankful for may take a bit more concentration these days; but I can guarantee you it will be worth the effort. Your bright spot may be family, friends, co-workers, a quality workplace, a beautiful landscape, serving others less fortunate, a spectacular sunset, sharing a meal, a favorite pet, or a wonderful community. After watching the Governor's most recent announcement banning inside food and beverage, I staved off the urge to be negative and frustrated and began to mentally tick off the many things that I have to be thankful for. Give it a try. It may just make these COVID-19 dynamics somewhat less impacting.

With the Governor's renewed directive, we are again in a situation where many local restaurants, bars, winery's, and distillery's desperately need your support more than ever. They are back to outside dining and take-out in harsh winter conditions. Some establishments are barely hanging on. Please give special consideration to patronizing these businesses.

No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

## State Representative Dan Moul

### New Law to Help Fund Broadband Expansion

Recognizing that broadband access is not a luxury but a necessity, the General Assembly passed a new law that will help expand the service in the state's most rural communities. Act 132 of 2020 creates the Unserved High-Speed Broadband Funding Program to provide grants in support of broadband expansion in areas most in need of these services. Initial funding comes from a repeal of the \$5 million Mobile Telecommunications Broadband Investment Tax Credit and will require additional state or federal funds.

Preference will be given to projects in the most unserved areas of the Commonwealth as defined by the Federal Communications Commission's minimum speed requirements and to projects that already have federal funding allocated to them. This is the second major pro-broadband measure to become law this year. Act 98 of 2020 will help clear the way for rural electric cooperatives, cable companies or any entity that wants to run broadband cable to provide the service using existing infrastructure and easements held by rural electric cooperatives.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Has Arrived

The first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine have already begun arriving in the Commonwealth. The state's initial allotment of 97,500 doses is going to 87 hospitals statewide, includ-

ing Gettysburg Hospital. Because careful handling is required during the distribution of the Pfizer vaccine to maintain a temperature of minus 70 degrees, hospitals receiving the vaccine are being selected according to their ability to manage refrigeration and other necessary protocols.

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, which was approved more recently, is less fussy, requiring only standard refrigeration. Both were highly anticipated and demonstrated to be safe and effective in clinical trials.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, supplies of the vaccines are limited at this time and will be available in phases beginning with critical populations such as health care workers, EMS first responders and residents and staff in congregate care settings. When the department has a sufficient supply of vaccine, it will be available to the general public probably a few months from now.

### 2021 Fishing Licenses

During a time when many of us are looking for fun and affordable ways to enjoy the outdoors, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is reminding anglers that 2021 fishing licenses are now on sale. Regular fishing licenses, as well as various permits and gift vouchers, can be purchased online at [fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com) or by visiting one of nearly 700 retail license-issuing agents. Licenses, permits and vouchers purchased now are valid

through Dec. 31, 2021.

The price of an annual resident fishing license is still \$22.90. Multi-year

options are also available in increments of three years, five years or 10 years. The most popular add-ons, a trout permit cost \$9.90 each. While anglers under age 16 do not require a fishing license, they

must have either a Voluntary Youth Fishing License (\$2.90) or a free Mentored Youth Fishing Permit to participate in various youth opportunities throughout the 2021 season.



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**\*\*\*ACTIVE\*\*\***



**30 E. Main St., New Oxford, PA**  
4 BR, 2 BA.  
Colonial home, built in 1880, detached garage  
**\$225,000**

*To our cherished clients, friends and family, thanks for helping us to make this a truly enjoyable, successful and fulfilling year. We hope your New Year is filled with lots of joy, laughter and good cheer!*

**\*\*\*PENDING\*\*\***



**365 D Boy Scout Rd., New Oxford, PA**  
5 BR, 1 BA  
getaway on 1.65 ac.  
PRICE REDUCED  
**\$70,000**

**\*\*UNDER CONTRACT\*\***



**8815 Casper Drive, Waynesboro, PA**  
3 BR, 2.5 BA home, end unit townhouse, 2 car attached garage.  
**\$200,000**

**\*\*\*PENDING\*\*\***



**2244 Cold Spring Rd., Orrtanna, PA**  
Refurbished 3 BR, 2 BA home. Well Maintained  
**\$235,000**

**\*\*\*\*\* LOTS \*\*\*\*\***

15 Brown Tr., Fairfield, PA - Low price Low perc rate, near skiing & golf. <b>\$23,900</b>	350 Topper Rd, Fairfield, PA - Near Gettysburg, skiing & golf & beautiful orchards & wineries. <b>\$89,500</b>	47 Meadowlark Tr., Fairfield, PA 0.46 ac., low perc rate. <b>\$27,500</b>
16 Mason Dixon Tr., Fairfield, PA 0.94 ac., perc test needed. <b>\$18,500</b>	10 Valley View Tr., Fairfield, PA - 0.46 ac., perc appr., Beautiful surroundings near parks, lake & walking paths. <b>\$26,500</b>	5 Spur Tr., Fairfield, PA - Cul-de-sac, public sewer, close to Gettysburg <b>\$39,000</b>
12 Winter Tr., Fairfield, PA - 0.52 ac., low perc rate, near skiing & golf. <b>\$23,500</b>		5600 Fairfield Rd., Fairfield, PA - 1.78 ac., 487 foot road frontage. <b>\$350,000</b>

## COMMENTARY

# Words From Winterbilt

## A new year and new predictions

Shannon Bohrer

Normally in January of each year, I, not unlike other non-experts, give my predictions for the coming year. This year is no different, but first, it is important to write a few words about 2020. This past year was unlike anything most of us have ever experienced, and much of what occurred will affect us not just this New Year but for many years.

Saying the year 2020 was different might be the epitome of what different means. We expected the divide over the election, but Covid-19 and everything else related to the pandemic were unexpected. When I say unexpected, it is because no one was told of the virus in January 2020. Yes, Covid-19 already existed, but we did not know that it was already a pandemic in China, much less that it landed in America. Our government knew but never disseminated the information. When the information was disseminated, it was left to each state to create a strategy. The federal government was generally absent. Our wartime president closed his eyes and surrendered before the war started.

Before the vaccine is widely available and distributed, the pandemic will continue to grow. In just one year, by

February 2021, the deaths from Covid-19 will exceed 400,000, and possibly close to 450,000. In all of WWII, we lost 418,000 service members, and that was over four years. According to the experts, the primary cause of the high number of deaths is the lack of a national strategy, reflecting our federal government's lack of involvement. When a country has less than 5 percent of the world's population and 20 percent of the pandemic deaths that is a large clue that problems exist.

Many experts from major medical organizations have said that at least two-thirds of all our Covid-19 fatalities could have been prevented with a national coordinated response. While facts, truth, and science were often ignored in 2020, to really fight the pandemic, facts, truth, and science are needed in 2021.

While last year was unexpectedly different, examining my predictions from last January's paper finds some of them accurate. This proves that we can all be right - sometimes. Then again, when we are wrong, how often do we tell others?

My prediction for last year was "the truth will out." I said that if Trump were acquitted of his impeachment, he would lose the presidential election. He was acquitted, and he did lose. Addi-

tionally, the prediction stated that he would not escape the consequences of his actions. Either before he leaves office or shortly thereafter, we would know the extent of our president's corrupt practices. We would find out why he is beholding to Russia, that he has cheated on his taxes, and he will face multiple criminal charges after leaving office. So far, my predictions have been correct for 2020, but he still has time to pardon - himself. Of course, we must wait to see if the after-election predictions are accurate.

I also predicted if he lost the election that he will still have a strong following. Convincing a solid Trump supporter that his presidency was a disaster is like giving a blind man a pair of glasses and expecting him to see. A large segment of his voters will believe that the "deep state set him up," or maybe it was Q. President Nixon still has followers, some people still believe that the holocaust never occurred, and there are those people who still believe that we will find "Big Foot." Only time will tell if the predictions of Trump holding on to his loyal believers is true.

My predictions this year are about the new administration. President-elect Biden says he wants to work across the aisle; he wants to cooperate with the intent of moving forward. He believes that our divisions impede any progress, which

does have merit. I applaud his intentions, but I predict he will encounter resistance. Most of the resistance will be in the senate. The party that is the majority in the Senate will not have been decided when you read this, but it does not matter.

The Senate has been the resistance of any democratic proposals for many years. The day after Obama's inauguration, Senator Mitch McConnell said, "The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president." When he publicly said those words, he set the stage for intensified partisan politics for the next twelve years. He did not care that we were in a recession, he did not look out for you, but he lived up to his words by blocking and obstructing everything the democrats put forth.

In 2017 when the tax cuts were enacted, Mitch McConnell said that the "Tax Cuts won't increase the deficit" However, shortly after the 2017 tax cuts, Mitch McConnell suggested that the government may want to reduce entitlement programs. The reason for this was the increase in annual deficits. Before Covid-19, we were running record annual deficits. The forecast was an extra 5 trillion before 2025 and 30 trillion before 2030. In 2016, before the tax cuts, the deficit was 13 trillion. The entitlements mentioned were Social Security and Medicare.

Before the midterms, 2018, the Star-Ledger Editorial Board reported that "Mitch McConnell... offered up another issue for voters to ponder... If the Republicans hold on to both houses of Congress, the preferred GOP fix for the massive deficit created by their tax plan is to take a meat axe to Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid." I am thankful that the republicans did not hold onto the house since I am on Social Security and Medicare.

For too many years, the Republicans have called themselves the conservative party. The behavior of the conservative party does not align with what we think of as conservative values. The republicans are the big spenders' party; the massive deficits, eliminating regulations, and lower taxes. Oh, and they want to reduce social security, Medicare, and Medicaid. That is their record for the last 40 years. However, they always espouse conservatism when a Democrat occupies the white house.

My prediction is that the Republicans will again call themselves conservatives and fight any new administration's spending efforts. They will also fight any attempts to roll back the tax breaks for the wealthy while saying the exploding deficit is "very disturbing, and it's driven by Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid."

To read past editions of *Words From Winterbilt*, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# American Mind

## Liberal? Conservative? Let's talk

Mark Greathouse

What's a conservative? What's a liberal? Should we care? And what of the political bumper-sticker clap-trap labels and niche beliefs that get stuffed into the mix? Resistance! Collusion! Impeachment! Deep State! Swamp! Defund Police! Cancel! Social Justice! Black Lives Matter! White Supremacy! It's a sad state that our nation has come to, when opposing points of view are smothered by emotion-driven ideological sloganeering. Fear of political opponents is rampant. Reason is cast aside. Trust is virtually non-existent. The very definitions of conservative and liberal have become blurred. We only intuitively recognize that they're different, and it's likely that half the population doesn't know or care. We need to talk.

Full comprehension of the difference between the conservative or liberal label demands the opportunity to freely express well-reasoned positions. Our nation's founders recognized the critical importance of free speech by enshrining it in the Bill of Rights. It's especially notable that those same founders counted on the exercise of reasoned thought both pro and con to preserve our freedoms. Little wonder that eliminating free speech is an essential tenet of totalitarian governments.

Labels are terribly inadequate to convey the depths of reason behind them. The conservative label is generally associated with 'traditional' values, the Republican Party, tried over untried, fact over mystery, patriotic nationalism, and faith-based morality. By contrast, the liberal label -

a perfectly good but misunderstood word - is associated with globalization, the Democrat Party, unproven solutions to complex problems, abstract thinking, retreading of failed governing systems, and secularized morality. Liberal is a great word with a great history, and ought not be further sullied. 'Progressive' is a grossly inaccurate label, so we'll call today's modern liberalism 'leftism' or 'leftist.'

Leftists are generally perceived as seeking to control the nation through large central government authority akin to totalitarianism. Saul Alinsky's Rules for Radicals, ostensibly the 'bible' of leftism and akin to Marx's Communist Manifesto, is integral to a leftist rubric comprised of centralization and de-personalization of healthcare, destruction of traditional family, and disarming citizens of their guns while sustaining vast dependent-laden welfare programs; dividing society by race, class, and gender; suppressing religion; maintaining large central bureaucratic economic control; seeking to protect the environment through economically disastrous means; fostering fetid cesspools of poverty and homelessness; controlling the nature and access to information; promoting open borders; corrupting education as a megaphone of leftist dogma; seizing private property, and building an unsustainable national debt. Before you leftists go ballistic, there are many Republicans that have enabled those radical initiatives for their own selfish gain. Power, after all, is heady stuff. Arguably, it's why most folks view the power and control by a central authority as espoused by socialism as the gateway

drug to authoritarianism...or often, Communism. These folks scare me big time. I don't trust them.

Conservatives perceive government as bestowing privileges, not rights. They hold that there are transcendent God-given - as opposed to government-given - values of which free will is foremost; liberty is indivisible and cannot exist without economic freedom; government is established to protect those freedoms, not govern them; a free market economy is the optimal method of enabling citizens to pursue happiness and maintain a strong nation; foreign policy should always be in our nation's best interests; concepts like loyalty and patriotism are sacred; and the U.S. Constitution is the optimal arrangement for governance.

Religious faith is a key component of conservatism. In his consummate *Democracy in America*, the French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville saw public opinion in the form of a mass movement or unbridled voting majority as an all-powerful force whereby that majority could tyrannize unpopular minorities and marginalize individuals. Tocqueville viewed religion - much as our nation's founders had - as one of the foundational aspects of American democracy. This was especially so because of religion's capacity to generate a morality that supported social order, discipline in the workplace, obedience to democratic laws, and spiritual desires that could mitigate democracy's incentives towards pure individualism and materialism.

Niccolò Machiavelli, an Italian Renaissance diplomat, philosopher, general, family man (six children), agrarian, and writer best known for *The Prince* written in 1513, advised his Florentine prince that a nation state would exist long-term only with strong

laws, strong defense, and strong faith. Imagine those three fundamentals as likening government to a three-legged stool. Can anyone think of a single nation that survived very long with one of those three legs missing? Nope. A government built upon the rock of religious faith was and is an underlying manifesto of our nation.

Often, it is not so much the what as the how and why. Let's be clear, a huge drawback to government control of anything is its inability to respond quickly and effectively to change. The status quo is far too often the easiest and most often chosen path. For openers, I suggest that big government is a leviathan, a behemoth, a shapeless metastasizing cancer on the folks who are governed...unless you are one of the elites in charge. And once folks realize they can access the public money trough at will...well, it's like pigs to a slop party. The how and why get corrupted. Keep in mind that the motto on the Great Seal of the United States is E Pluribus Unum (From Many, One), not Ubi Est Meum (Where's Mine?).

Both political parties seem to constantly drive divisive wedges as the convenient political pabulum of the day. They are substitutes for well-reasoned thought. Ergo, we endure cancel culture, campus protests, riots, lootings, and more as the unknowing are led naively in pointless conflict. It's reminiscent of a method used by the Plains Indians to kill buffalo by stampeding the dumb beasts over cliffs to their ultimate end. Good eating for the Indians. Today, politically elite leftists send their useful idiots running wild in the streets and stampede them over imaginary cliffs at their bidding. The hollow outcome makes for a very sparse meal.

Leftists appear to be stuck in the decidedly untenable position of hav-

ing stirred emotion-driven supporters with such hatred of opponents as to be unable to pull back in the face of reasoned thought. Opposing argument is often shut down for fear of revealing inconvenient truths. Leftists often reflexively belch forth at conservatives with palpable disdain and condescension. Unfortunately, it's virtually impossible for these leftists to recognize that conservatives can and do exercise reasoned thought. Conservatives are often well-educated despite some having dirt beneath their fingernails and driving pickup trucks. I dare say, there is insufficient space here to adequately dispel the myriad biases, lies, and half-truths spewed in overwhelming amounts by media, academics, entertainers, politicians, and other special interests. In the Far East, there used to be a concern with saving face; offering opponents an honorable way out. Not so in America.

Leftist leaders call for unity? They appear to confuse unity with conformity. In any case, one must ask why the leftists would want to unify with a bunch folks they perceive as gun-toting, Bible-thumping deplorables. Each side garnered well over 70 million votes in the recent election. Will the side with slightly fewer votes corrupt its own principles or ideologies and support the other side? Nope. As the political wars go on...well...paybacks can be hell. Impeach Biden for collusion with China? LOL. Leftists must learn that transcending reason does have its consequences. Enough is enough. How about trying something novel like well-reasoned argument? Indeed...let's talk.

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

# The Bulwark

## Strengthen the guardrails of democracy

Chris Truax

*"You can count on Americans to do the right thing, after doing all the wrong things."*  
—Winston Churchill

Joe Biden should spend political capital fixing what Trump broke.

Now that the election is over, everyone in the Biden coalition is jockeying for a position and trying to get their people in place and their issues on the agenda. The Congressional Black Caucus pushed for a black secretary of defense. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus got its wish for Hispanic heads of homeland security and health and human services. Bernie Sanders wants to be secretary of labor.

It's now clear that every part of the Biden coalition was absolutely necessary to his victory, especially in swing states. And that includes Never Trumpers. In Wisconsin, to take just one example, Never Trump voters egged on by groups like Republican Voters Against Trump and the Lincoln Project split the ticket and 64,000 voted for Biden, a number three times larger than Biden's margin of victory. Nor are Never Trumpers people who jumped on the bandwagon at the last minute. Many were supporting Joe Biden even before he decided to run and that support never wavered.

While Never Trumpers have as legitimate a claim on the spoils of victory as anyone else, what do they want? You might be surprised.

On June 11, 2019, Joe Biden gave a speech in Iowa where he said:

Everywhere you turn, Trump is tearing down the guardrails of democracy. . . . What he's doing isn't your typical battle between two co-equal branches of government. He is deliberately and completely ignoring the legitimate authority of the Congress . . . In 2020, we not only have to repudiate Donald Trump's policies and values—we have to clearly and firmly reject his view of the presidency. . . . We're at a moment when we need to re-set constitutional norms in this country. The presidency is not without limits. The Congress is a co-equal branch of government.

Never Trumpers don't necessarily want "our" people in positions of power. We don't want special favors from a grateful administration. Never Trumpers want Joe Biden to do something he has already promised to do: rebuild and strengthen the guardrails of democracy.

The Guardrails of Democracy project has identified dozens of these kinds of reforms that need to be implemented: fixing the Vacancies Act, updating the Electoral Count Act, revamping the system

under which presidential emergencies are declared and managed, etc. None of these reforms is partisan. They are all fixes that will be broadly supported by anyone, Democrat or Republican, conservative or progressive, who is not a fan of authoritarianism.

While there may be vigorous debates on how best to implement these reforms, there is broad consensus that these reforms should be implemented. We can argue about how, precisely, we ought to amend the Constitution to prevent self-pardons, but does anyone really think presidents should be allowed to pardon themselves?

Rebuilding the guardrails of democracy needs to be one of the defining themes of Joe Biden's presidency. Just because these reforms will have broad support doesn't mean that implementing them will be easy. The devil is in the details and working out those details and getting all the necessary legislation passed will require sustained attention and effort. Our system of checks and balances has been drifting for decades as Congress ceded more and more power to the executive. Now Donald Trump has spent four years actively damaging the fabric of American democracy. Correcting that drift, fixing what he broke, and strengthening our institutions to handle the next wannabe autocrat isn't something you can do with a single piece of legislation.

Ideally, President Biden would create a small Office of Legislative



and Constitutional Reform specifically tasked with developing these reforms and getting them passed through Congress. Perhaps it should be led by a Never Trump Republican, since we have been sounding the alarm about these issues for the last four years. But the important thing isn't who does the work but that the work gets done.

Never Trumpers didn't spend four-plus years trashing their careers and alienating their friends because we didn't like Trump's "style." We opposed Trump because we recognized that what he stood for is an existential threat to the American experiment in constitutional democracy. While Trump will be leaving on January 20, the threat remains.

Donald Trump has opened a portal to another political dimension and we can now expect other Trump-like creatures to cross into our universe. If Donald Trump could figure out a way to do it, he would happily ignore the Con-

stitution, ignore the laws, subvert our elections, and install himself as president for at least another four years. If we have avoided autocracy this time it's only because the current president isn't competent enough or intelligent enough to pull it off. But we can't expect to be as lucky next time.

What do Never Trumpers want from President Biden? We want him to fulfill his promise, reinvigorate our system of checks and balances, and "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." If President Biden is looking for a theme that will heal our divisions and unite the country, he isn't going to do better than that.

*Chris Truax is an appellate lawyer in San Diego and the CEO of CertifiedVoter.com, the first system designed to deter foreign interference in American social media.*

*To read past editions of The Bulwark, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.*

# Down Under

## Hoping for a better New Years

Lindsay Coker

*"Accidents will happen to the best regulated families"*  
—Dickens, David Copperfield

Happy New Year to you all from everyone here in Australia.

And it will be happy. Although the pandemic is growing every day, the vaccine roll out has begun, and I can almost hear the sighs of relief. Unemployment has fallen, China has gone quiet, and we wish you well.

2020 will go down in history as the most important ever experienced in human history because never before have there been so many people affected by a disaster, its speed and the lack of preparation.

Let me bring you up to speed on how things are here in Australia, and although I don't like to brag, we have succeeded in eliminating the virus, (the last case of community transmission as of December 14 is now 45 days ago), and returning citizens are isolated for fourteen day, with about six testing positive.

The only businesses not open are casinos and gaming venues,

although there is pressure being applied for this to change as soon as possible. Limits on the number of people dining etc. have been increased, facemasks are needed only in crowded areas.

The places hardest hit by the shutdowns are booming – the arts are dancing, travel within the country is seeing very few vacancies, manufacturing unable to keep up with demand, and agriculture suffering from lack of backpackers and casuals who do most of the fruit picking each year.

This has put smiles on most people's faces, and there's a sense of joy everywhere you go.

Household savings have gone through the roof because shops selling all but essential items were closed, as were sporting venues, pubs, racecourses and other assorted money-eating pastimes.

Our conservative government plowed billions of dollars into support for workers who had either lost their jobs or had had them cut back, and many small businesses got various amounts, generally between 35 and 100 thousand, to retain their staff.

Naturally, the unemployment rate skyrocketed, but is now fall-

ing back to pre-pandemic levels.

And it was no miracle that we came through this relatively painlessly. Although we are really just a very large island surrounded by sea, the arable land is dotted around the coast and a population of our current twenty five million is spread mostly between our five main cities. There are no land borders by which people can enter and 99% of everyone who enters is well documented, which makes control easier.

There are two decisive factors that were responsible for this. Firstly, as a nation we mostly tend to obey the law, and consider it stupid to not do so, so that when mask wearing was mandated we did it; when contact tracing was presented we signed up and watched the numbers each night to see how we were doing.

Secondly, our system of government, inherited from the British and experimented with as only new governments can, saw compulsory voting put in place so that a prime minister was the choice of a true majority, and left the states to make most of their own rules.

No system is free from corruption and the use of influence to gain their goal, but our system does not permit any one person to pass laws. We have a Prime minister and Cabinet, and a majority in both houses is needed for any law to get into the statute books.

This is in contrast to your system when one person has enormous power. Now I had no idea just how much power the president has, (and I wonder; Do you?), so I looked it up and found this unbelievable list:

He is the chief of state, meaning he is responsible for all the people.

He is chief executive and so is in charge of the executive, who are often dependant on the president for their position.

He is commander in chief, in charge of all military and defense matters.

He can sign a piece of paper, which becomes law, impose tariffs and block imports as he chooses.

He is in charge of all the diplomatic posts, policy decisions and treaties as well as the judiciary.

He can elect to use 'hard' or 'soft' power in his dealings with other nations. That is, soft power is negotiation, hard is the use of force.

When all these are put together, the powers of the president of the United States look very much like those of a dictator. It certainly did not begin that way, but starting with Ronald Reagan, presidential powers were increased until you and the world were faced with the unintended result of the president being a man unfit for office by any standards.

But he's gone, and his successor,

Joe Biden, is returning the highest office to one of probity, decency and reason. World leaders are in dialogue, China has relaxed, alliances honoured, treaties reexamined, and real time plans put in place to address the economy.

And we, who look to America as a powerful negotiator and staunch ally, are right behind him.

Yes, we have huge problems, the chief of which is being dependant on China for our livelihood, but we can feel proud to be allies of yours.

We can boast about our COVID-19 success and mourn your appalling plight, but our relationship with you is back to being one of family. Families look out for each other, even as we disagree and fight.

So let me remind you that Australia is one of the best places in the world. Best to live in, best for equality, services, opportunity and peace. Very few of us want to live anywhere else, and we always come home from a trip abroad so glad and thankful that we have a way of life that is the best. Yes, the very best.

Please join us, we need your indomitable spirit, we need to show you how to reform your government.

*To read past editions of the Down Under, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.*

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## New Years – a chance to start over



**Pastor Heath Wilson**  
Tom's Creek UMC

Oh New Years! We love a new year. It feels like we get a chance to start over. The year ahead is filled with all sorts of possibilities. We get so excited about changing to a New Year. This year probably more than most we are overly excited for it to change from the dreaded 2020 to a new year. And yet, the changing to a new year is a line that we as humans have drawn. We are the ones that created the calendar and decided what would make a new year and when we would consider a new year.

Yet a full rotation around the sun doesn't really change anything, except make us older. The changing of the calendar to a new year is not really that special at all. God is eternal and a human year really doesn't mat-

ter too much in the big scheme of God. Yet, what does matter is God wants a relationship with you. I mean if you really want to talk about something that can make a change to your life, it is not a ball dropping and midnight hitting marking a new year. Having a real relationship with the Creator of all things can actually make a real change in your life and can really matter.

I always think it is funny when people think a new year is going to change anything. Do you really think you are going to have any better control over what you eat just because it is a new year? Do you really think the new year is going to help you stop getting so angry when you are behind a slow driver or they cut you off? Do you really think a new year is going to give you the strength to overcome all forms of bad hab-

its that we as humans partake in? Oh yeah, in our minds we think it is something magical and so we have an extra burst of motivation and strength so we last a little longer than we normal do when we make a vow to change.

Yet, in reality the success rate for new year commitments is quite low. I don't say this to discourage you. I say this because there is something that can give you real strength. There is someone who can give you the power you need to resist temptation. It is not a new calendar with a new year printed on it. You can have all this and more by starting and growing a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The problem is growing a relationship is harder than turning the calendar to a new year. Yes, a relationship means you need to put in time and work to get to know someone and to spend time with someone.

Even after making a decision to make Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior you need to continue to nurture that relationship. That means not just paying lip service but spending time in the Bible, spending time in prayer, spending time in worship with the Body of Christ aka the church. Oh yes, you can get so

much more out of a relationship with God than you can from the turning of the calendar to a new month in a new year. There is a but though, but you need to invest the time and effort in that relationship. This can be one of the most rewarding relationships you ever invest in. It can change the way you live, it can give you power to overcome addictions and temptations that have tormented year after year. This is the type of relationship that will give you the power and strength to really achieve your New Year resolutions.

I have learned that we humans say we want to overcome something or be free from something but we really don't want to put in the work. That is why we love the New Year and changing the calendar and thinking it will magically change our situation. The truth is as we enter 2021, all the baggage from 2020 will still be there. The clock is not going to strike midnight and the New Year is ushered in and all the crud from the previous is gone. Nope, it is not going to happen. We might try to point to things saying that it is proof that this New Year is going to be better. Yet, the reality is the changing of years has very little impact on our lives and our ability to change things that we don't like.

If you are hoping this New Year is just going to be better because it is not 2020, well the truth is that you are probably going to be disappointed. Yet, I can tell you that a relationship with Jesus Christ will not disappoint. Oh yeah, some people that claim to follow Christ might disappoint you. You might have some outposts of the Body of Christ, aka the Church, disappoint you but a relationship with Jesus will never dis-

### Scatter Your Crumbs



*Amidst the freezing sleet and snow,  
The timid robin comes;  
In pity drive him not away,  
But scatter out your crumbs.  
And leave your door upon the latch  
For whosoever comes;  
The poorer they, more welcome give,  
And scatter out your crumbs.  
All have to spare, none are too poor,  
When want with winter comes;  
The loaf is never all your own,  
Then scatter out the crumbs.  
Soon winter falls upon your life,  
The day of reckoning comes:  
Against your sins, by high decree,  
Are weighed those scattered crumbs.  
-Alfred Crowquill ~1850*

appoint if you are willing to take the time to build up and grow that relationship. Jesus is so much better at providing the help you need than the changing of the calendar year.

So instead of hoping the new year is going to easily and magically make things better, I encourage you to invest some time reading the Bible, being in prayer, and being part of a church community. Normally, being part of a church community takes a bigger investment in time but thanks to COVID you have so many choices to start your relationship with the Body of Christ, aka the Church, right from home. So come on, decide this year you are not going to rely on the calendar to change things. Decide this year you are going to put your time, your effort, your faith in something much stronger and greater. Jesus is calling, come journey with him!

To learn more about Toms Creek United Methodist Church visit them on-line at [www.tomscreekumc.com](http://www.tomscreekumc.com) or better yet, join their on-line worship at 9 a.m. on Facebook

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

# New Year's Eve, or Hogmanay



As a general statement, it may be asserted that neither the last evening of the old year nor the first day of the new one is much, observed in England as an occasion of festivity. In some parts of the country, indeed, and more especially in the northern counties, various social merry-makings take place; but for the most part, the great annual holiday-time is already past.

Christmas Eve, Christmas-day, and St. Stephen's or Boxing Day have absorbed almost entirely the tendencies and opportunities of the community at large in the direction of joviality and relaxation. Business and the ordinary routine of daily life have again been resumed; or, to apply to English habits the words of an old Scottish rhyme still current, but evidently belonging to the old times, anterior to the Reformation, when Christmas was the great popular festival:

*Yule's come and Yule's gane,  
And we hae feasted weel;  
Sae Jock maun to his flail again,  
And Jenny to her wheel.'*

Whilst thus the inhabitants of South Britain are settling down again quietly to work after the festivities of the Christmas season, their fellow-subjects in the northern division of the island are only commencing their annual saturnalia, which, till recently, bore, in the license and boisterous merriment which used to prevail, a most unmistakable resemblance to its ancient pagan namesake.

The epithet of the Daft [mad] Days, applied to the season of the New Year in Scotland, indicates very expressively the uproarious joviality which characterized the period in question. This exuberance of joyousness—which, it must be admitted, sometimes led to great excesses—has now much declined, but New-year's Eve and New-year's Day constitute still the great national holiday in Scotland.

Under the 1st of January, we have already detailed the various revelries by which the New Year used to be ushered in, in Scotland. It now becomes our province to notice those ceremonies and customs which are appropriate to the last day

of the year, or, as it is styled in Scotland, Hogmanay.

This last term has puzzled antiquaries even more than the word what has never yet received a perfectly satisfactory explanation. Some suppose it to be derived from Hogg-nott, Hogenat, or Hogg-night, the ancient Scandinavian name for the night preceding the feast of Yule, and so called in reference to the animals slaughtered on the occasion for sacrificial and festal purpose word hogg signifying to kill. The other derivation of Hogmanay is from 'Au gui menez' ('To the mistletoe go'), or 'Au gui lan neuf' ('To the mistletoe this New Year'), an allusion to the ancient Druidical ceremony of gathering that plant

In country places in Scotland, and also in the more retired and primitive towns, it is still customary on the morning of the last day of the year, or Hogmanay, for the children of the poorer class of people to get themselves swaddled in a great sheet, doubled up in front, so as to form a vast pocket, and then to go along the streets in little bands, calling at the doors of the wealthier classes for an expected dole of oaten-bread.

Each child gets one quadrant section of oat-cake (some-times, in the case of particular favourites, improved by an addition of cheese), and this is called their hogmanay. In expectation of the large demands thus made upon them, the housewives busy themselves for several days beforehand in preparing a suitable quantity of cakes. The children on coming to the door cry, 'Hogmanay!' which is in itself a sufficient announcement of their demands; but there are other exclamations which either are or might be used for the same purpose.

It is no unpleasing scene, during the forenoon, to see the children going laden home, each with his large apron bellying out before him, stuffed full of cakes, and perhaps scarcely able to waddle under the load. Such a mass of oaten alms is no inconsiderable addition to the comfort of the poor man's household, and enables him to enjoy the New-year season as much as his richer neighbours.

## New Year's Day Festivities

As New-Year's Day, the first of January bears a prominent place in the popular calendar. It has ever been a custom among northern nations to see the old year out and the new one in, with the highest demonstrations of merriment and conviviality. To but a few does it seem to occur that the day is a memorandum of the subtraction of another year from the little sum of life; with the multitude, the top feeling is a desire to express good wishes for the next twelve-months' experience of their friends, and be the subject of similar benevolence on the part of others, and to see this interchange of cordial feeling take place, as far as possible, in festive circumstances.

It is seldom that an English family fails to sit up on the last night of the year till twelve o'clock, along with a few friends, to drink a happy New Year to each other over a cheerful glass. Very frequently, too, persons nearly related but living apart, dine with each other on this day, to keep alive and cultivate mutual good feeling. It cannot be doubted that a custom of this kind must tend to obliterate any shades of dissatisfaction or jealous anger, that may have arisen during the previous year, and send the kindred onward through the next with renewed esteem and regard. To the same good purpose works the old custom of giving little presents among friends on this day:

*'The King of Light, father of  
aged Time,  
Hath brought about that day  
which is the prime,  
To the slow-gliding months,  
when every eye  
Wears symptoms of a sober  
jollity.'*

Charles Lamb had a strong appreciation of the social character of New-Year's Day. He remarks that no one of whatever rank can regard it with indifference. 'Of all sounds of all bolts,' says he, 'most solemn and touching is the peal which rings out the old year. I never hear it without a gathering up of my mind to a concentration of all the images that have been diffused over the past twelve-month; all I have done or suffered, performed or neglected, in that regretted time. I begin to know its worth as when a person dies. It takes a personal colour; nor was it a poetical flight in a contemporary, when he exclaimed: "I saw the skirts of the departing year."'

One could wish that the genial Ella had added something in recommendation of resolutions of improvement of the year to come, for which Now-Year's Day is surely a most appropriate time. Every first of January that we arrive at, is an imaginary milestone on the turnpike track of human life: at once a resting-place for thought and meditation, and a starting point for fresh exertion in the performance of our journey. The man who does not at least propose to himself to be better this year than he was last, must be either very good or very bad indeed! And only to propose

to be better, is something; if nothing else, it is an acknowledgment of our need to be so, which is the first step towards amendment. But, in fact, to propose to oneself to do well, is in some sort to do well, positively; for there is no such thing as a stationary point in human endeavours; he who is not worse today than he was yesterday, is better; and he who is not better, is worse.

The merrymakings of New-Year's Eve and New-Year's Day are of very ancient date in England. The head of the house assembled his family around a bowl of spiced ale, comically called lamb's wool, from which he drank their health; thou passed it to the rest, that they might drink too. The word that passed amongst them was the ancient Saxon phrase, Wass hael; that is, To your health. Hence this came to be recognised as the Wassail or Wassel Bowl.

The custom of wassail at the New Year was kept up in the monasteries as well as in private houses. In front of the abbot, at the upper end of the refectory table, was placed the mighty bowl styled in their language Poculum Caritatis, and from it the superior drank to all, and all drank in succession to each other.

[Receipt for Making the Wassailbowl - Simmer a small quantity of the following spices in a teacupful of water, viz.:—Cardamums, cloves, nutmeg, mace, ginger, cinnamon, and coriander. When done, put the spice to two, four, or six bottles of port, sherry, or madeira, with one pound and a half of fine loaf sugar (pounded) to four bottles, and set all on the fire in a clean bright saucepan; meanwhile, have yolks of 12 and the whites of 6 eggs well whisked up in it. Then, when the spiced and sugared wine is a little warm, take out one teacupful; and so on for three or four cups; after which, when it boils, add the whole of the remainder, pouring it in gradually, and stirring it briskly all the time, so as to froth it. The moment a fine froth is obtained, toss in 12 fine soft roasted apples, and send it up hot. Spices for each bottle of wine:—10 grains of mace, 46 grains of cloves,

37 grains of cardamums, 28 grains of cinnamon, 12 grains of nutmeg, 48 grains of ginger, 49 grains of coriander seeds.—Mark Lane Express.]

Till very few years ago in Scotland, the custom of the wassail bowl at the passing away of the old year might he said to be still in comparative vigour. On the approach of twelve o'clock, a hot pint was prepared—that is, a kettle or flagon full of warm, spiced, and sweetened ale, with an infusion of spirits. When the clock had struck the knell of the departed year, each member of the family drank of this mixture 'A good health and a happy New Year and many of them' to all the rest, with a general hand-shaking, and perhaps a dance round the table—And the gude companie! &c.

The elders of the family would then most probably sally out, with the hot kettle, and bearing also a competent provision of buns and short-bread, or bread and cheese, with the design of visiting their neighbours, and interchanging with them the same cordial greetings. If they met by the way another party similarly bent, whom they knew, they would stop and give and take sips from their respective kettles. Reaching the friend's house, they would enter with vociferous good wishes, and soon send the kettle a-circulating. If they were the first to enter the house since twelve o'clock, they were deemed as the first-foot; and, as such, it was most important, for luck to the family in the coming year, that they should make their entry, not empty-handed, but with their hands full of cakes and bread and cheese; of which, on the other hand, civility demanded that each individual in the house should partake.

To such an extent did this custom prevail in Edinburgh in the recollection of persons still living, that, according to their account, the principal streets were more thronged between twelve and one in the morning than they usually were at midday. Much innocent mirth prevailed, and mutual good feelings were largely promoted.

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

**MELISSA M. WETZEL**  
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## ECOLOGY

# Mammalian Carnivores of the Toms Creek Watershed

Lizzy Ryan  
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

South Central Pennsylvania is home to its fair share of mammalian carnivores. A carnivore is an animal that eats meat. An herbivore is an animal that eats plant matter. Carnivores are extremely important in any ecosystem. They keep their environment balanced. I always come back to the Lion King. Mufasa says to Simba, "Everything you see exists together in a delicate balance. As king, you need to understand that balance and respect all the creatures, from the crawling ant to the leaping antelope." But Simba says, "But dad, don't we eat the antelope?" To which Mufasa replies, "Yes, Simba, but let me explain. When we die, our bodies become the grass, and the antelope eat the grass. And so we are all connected in the great Circle of Life." Carnivores eat the herbivores. The herbivores eat the plant matter. If there are too many herbivores, vegetation becomes overly grazed. Without enough vegetation, there is little variety in plant and animal life, which in turn hurts the food chain.

One example that many like to use when speaking of predator/prey relationships in the environment is the wolves in Yellowstone. Wolves were once extirpated from Yellowstone. When this happened, the elk population skyrocketed. When the elk population rose, the number of shrubs and trees were reduced dramatically. The other animals that depended on that vegetation for food and shelter disappeared.

In 1995, Yellowstone began reintroducing wolves back into the park. Many were worried that this would disseminate the existing elk herds. Instead, the wolves actually enhanced the elk herds by preying on the weak and sick elk. The elk population stayed steady. It is survival of the fittest at its finest.

We don't have any wolves around here, but we do have other carnivores. One carnivore similar to the grey wolf is the eastern coyote. "Recent research shows the eastern coyote is an immigrant, the origin of which likely involved interbreeding between coyotes and gray wolves. Analysis of DNA suggests coyote-wolf hybridization has occurred (Penna. Game Commission)."

In the 1960's, it appears as though many coyotes came to Pennsylvania from the Catskill Mountains in New York. Over the years, their population spread across the state. Male coyotes weigh between 45-55 pounds and the females between 35-40 pounds. Mating usually occurs in the winter and pups are born in the spring. They normally have litters of 5-7 pups in their dens. Dens can be in hollowed trees or rock crevices. The young leave the mother at around 6 months of age. Sometimes coyotes will hunt in packs and other times they will hunt alone. Coyotes mainly eat rabbits, voles, moles, deer, groundhogs, and other smaller mammals.

Foxes are another common carnivore in Pennsylvania. We have two species of fox: the red and the grey. Foxes are in the dog family or canine (Canidae) - the same as coyotes and wolves.

Both species of fox weigh between 7 and 14 pounds in adulthood. Both are mainly nocturnal. Grey foxes have the special ability to climb trees. They will eat anything they can catch- small rodents, chickens, groundhogs, opossums, rabbits, and birds. They will even eat carrion. Male foxes are called "dogs" and the females are called "vixens". Just like the coyotes, foxes will create or find dens to have their litters in. Dens can be hollow logs, crevices, and even burrows in the ground. Females have their young (average about 6 per litter) in the winter in these dens. The young stay with the mother until the fall where they then go off to establish their own territories.

Bears are our largest meat eater. However, their diet does not just consist of meat. Black bears are omnivores, that is, they eat both meat and vegetation. They love to eat wild berries and nuts as well as leaves, grasses, insects, amphibians, fish, carrion, and small mammals. Sometimes, adult black bears will prey on newborn white-tailed deer fawns during their first few days of life.

In the fall, the bears are active, foraging for food to fatten up for the winter ahead. They normally begin to hibernate in mid to late November with the pregnant females going down for their winter's nap first. Bears will create dens in rock fissures or caves, a hollowed tree, or any other crevice they can find. Females will normally give birth in their den. While bears do sleep during the winter, they also will leave and defend their den.

Then there is the elusive bobcat. Bobcats are our only native feline predator. They weigh approximately 18-25 pounds in adulthood. Bobcats are colorblind and are mostly nocturnal. Like foxes, they will eat most anything they can catch - small rodents, birds, mink, muskrat, groundhog,



The red fox is the largest of the true foxes and has an extensive presence in the Toms Creek Watershed. The young of a mated pair remain with their parents to assist in caring for new kits.

squirrels, and rabbits. Occasionally, they will take young or sick deer as well. Breeding is in late winter. In the late spring, they typically have a litter of around 3 kittens in a den. In the early 1900s bobcats were considered varmint and even had a \$15 bounty. "More than 7,000 bobcats were killed for bounty from 1916 to 1938; the majority of these were reported during the 1920s. A realization that bounties were ineffective for controlling predator populations resulted in the removal or reduction of bounties on many predators. The bounty was removed from bobcats in 1938, but they remained unprotected and were widely persecuted until classified as a furbearer in 1970 (The PA Game Commission)." Now, their population is expanding.

Weasels are long-bodied carnivores with short legs. There are 3 species of weasels in Pennsylvania. They are the short-tailed weasel, the long-tailed weasel, and the least weasel. They will eat a variety of different animals, but mostly on small rodents. They are quick and agile predators and are known to bite their prey right behind the skull. "Females give birth to 4-12 young in an underground nest (The PA Game Commission)."

Minks are another carnivorous mammal in the weasel or Mustelid (Mustelidae) family. They are semi-aquatic and weigh only 1-2 pounds. They have a very similar diet to the weasel and also kill their prey with a bite to the back of the skull. They prey on small rodents, crayfish, amphibians, chickens, snakes, birds, and fish. They tend to kill more than they eat and will stash extra food away for later. They create dens in old groundhog tunnels or hollow logs near water.

All species play an important role in an ecosystem. All the way from the tiniest insect to the largest predator; everything is connected.

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# IN THE COUNTRY

## T is for Tetons

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

Sweeping across the wide open plains of Jackson Hole, Wyoming valley the sky seems limitless and expansive. Grasses and sage brush envelope the foreground, where herds of elk and bison graze, only to be bisected by the Snake River that serpentine its way across the western plateau. Just behind the pastoral grassland scenes, encumbered only by the occasional grove of trees, suddenly rises the mountain range that dominates the skyline and landscape. Immediately, and without any gradual warning or ascent, the Tetons soar 13,770 feet interrupting the endless expanse of sky. Grand Teton National Park has one of the most iconically American landscapes and some of the very best scenery the west has to offer.

Due south of Yellowstone National Park lies neighboring Grand Teton National Park in the northwestern corner of Wyoming. The Teton mountain range is just 40 miles long, but the park covers a total of 480 square miles, encompassing more than just the mountains which bear its moniker. Part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Grand Teton National Park along with adjacent Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding national forests, protect 18 million acres making it one of the largest intact ecosystems in the world. Largely untouched, the pristine environment found in Grand Teton National Park is the same pre-historic ecosystem that has thrived here for millennia featuring some of the same plants, animals, and ecological processes that have naturally occurred over many thousands of years.

Grand Teton National Park gets its name from its tallest peak, Grand Teton. It's derived from the name bestowed by French-speaking fur trappers in the early 1820's - Les Trois Tetons, meaning "The Three Teats." However, the area had long since been settled and named. The Shoshone and other ancient indigenous peoples, who had already named the range Teewinot ("Many Pinnacles"), had been in the area for at least 11,000 years.

Archaeological evidence suggests the earliest people followed elk, moose, bison, and bighorn sheep through the valley and mountains as the seasons changed. Research biologists and archaeologists confirm that their seasonal migratory patterns have not changed much over the last several thousand years. Encampments featuring hunting and fishing tools, as well as other cultural timestamps provide snapshots into these early human histories. Several structures, associated with religious or ceremonial purposes, have also been found on many of the peaks - indicating the mountains were previously summited.

By the early 19th century, fur-trapping was big business. Corporations had funded large scale trapping operations and tentacled across the largely unmapped north american continent. When the fur trappers arrived in what is now known as the Jackson Hole valley and the Teton mountains, they found the area devoid of any European settlement. Trappers freely operated and ultimately overhunted the

native beaver populations. The trapping industry folded by the 1860's and western expansion avoided this area until homestead ranching took root in the early 1900's.

As settlement and development was underway in the early 20th century, neighboring Yellowstone National Park superintendent Horace Albright grew concerned. Ranching was occupying greater and greater portions of land use, while dams were rerouting and disrupting water flows for agricultural development. The residents of Jackson Hole were wary of expanding Yellowstone, but were agreeable to a new and separate park believing they would have more oversight. Congress drafted the legislation and President Calvin Coolidge signed Grand Teton National Park into creation on February 26, 1929 - initially setting aside only the Teton Range and the six lakes at the base of the mountains.

The establishment of the park was certainly an accomplishment and a step in the right direction for conservation and protection of the resource, but the valley was still threatened from over development. Both Congress and the local citizenry were staunchly opposed to growing the park beyond the original borders, but Superintendent Albright remained vigilant to protecting the area.

While visiting Yellowstone National Park, wealthy financier John D. Rockefeller Jr. met with Albright. During the tour, they travelled to the edge of the park boundary and looked out over the Jackson Hole Valley toward the Teton Range. Gazing at the serrated peaks rising out from the land mass below, Albright expressed his concerns to the wealthy philanthropist. In turn, Rockefeller created a shell company, Snake River Land Company and started anonymously buying up land. His secret intention to turn the land over to the National Park Service was met with public backlash and resistance making it difficult for him and the agency to complete the transaction.

By 1942, he was growing impa-



The majesty of the Tetons is guaranteed to take your breath away. Once you see them in person, it's hard to take your eyes off them.

tient and applied pressure on Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes to accept the donation. The Secretary convinced President Roosevelt to use the Antiquities Act to accept the land and create a national monument with his executive power. In 1943, 221,000 acres were donated, accepted, and became Jackson Hole National Monument buttressing the Tetons and extending conservation protection to the valley. As public sentiment changed in 1950 the land was eventually absorbed into Grand Teton National Park finally realizing the conservation dream from decades before.

Grand Teton National Park is as diverse as it is dramatic. As the elevation rises from 6,230 feet on the sagebrush valley floor to the towering 13,770 foot summit you pass through distinct areas with characteristics all their own. The park can largely be divided into sagebrush plains, dense forests of both coniferous and deciduous trees, wetlands and riparian river corridors, and alpine tundra areas. Colorful wildflowers paint mountain meadows throughout summer around motionless mountain lakes that reflect perfectly mirrored versions of their real world counterparts.

Throughout the fall, elk below their ethereal mating calls, while moose lazily follow warmer temperatures to lower elevations. As Yellow-bellied Marmots scamper across

boulders, they can be heard issuing high pitched warning whistles as eagles soar overhead. The wildlife and plants are as interconnected to each other in this place as they are throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. They are each as dependent on their success within this park as they are to the wider world. To see the Grand Tetons is to intrinsically know the power that the natural world can hold and why early park and conservation leaders worked so hard to preserve this place. To protect this piece of a larger untouched pristine wilderness was the only option for conservationists, eventually turning it over to an agency that is constitutionally mandated to preserve the natural, cultural, and historic resources leaving them unimpaired for this and future generations.

The "Grandmother of Conservation," Margaret Murie, spent much of her life in Jackson Hole and the Tetons. She is a naturalist and author, who

stands on the same pedestal as John Muir and other famed conservation advocates. On the Tetons, she wrote:

"At last, the wide sky, the wide land, broke and bare but stretching far to the limitless blue sky of Wyoming. Room to breathe, to stretch one's soul's wings again. Here the big country still is. Always a joy to come back, to find it still big, still stretching away, meeting and passing starling buttes which rise here and there, and dry watercourses, drift fences, once in a while a ranch house and corrals nesting under cottonwoods and willows in one of those watercourses; once in a while a few cattle, a band of antelope in the sage, some horses galloping with the wind. After the cities, a wave of thankfulness rises in my heart that the great United States still has some room, some great spaces."

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# REAL SCIENCE

## Science...

Michael Rosenthal

Science, the word scares many people, but the principles of science dominate every event that occurs. Even when you are not a scientist, or even a follower of science, science consistently affects your life. It is my hope that this series of articles can help readers utilize the principles of science in their daily lives and help make better lifestyle decisions.

I fell in love with science, chemistry in particular, in high school, where I was lucky enough to have a wonderful chemistry teacher. So, I have spent the ensuing years of my life studying and teaching college chemistry, a subject of which I've never tired. In this article I'll touch upon a number of subjects that have been in the news lately, and that often have generated controversy, partly due to misunderstanding of the underlying scientific principles, but also often due to a yet incomplete scientific understanding of the issue. In ensuing articles I'll explore these and other topics and encourage readers to make suggestions for topics, to comment to me on reaction to the things I write, and to develop a protocol of learning that goes beyond the simple publicity headlines. I'll respect opinions that differ from mine, but I'll hope for and encourage opinions based on scientific findings, rather than on emotion. We all (even I!) have emotional reactions, but my hope is to balance them with scientific analyses.

Let's start with something with

which I had a personal experience – Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). Over the years there has been a romance with UFOs, and the belief that we have been and continue to be visited by those from other parts of the universe. The beliefs were encouraged by the supposed sightings in New Mexico during the Cold War, and the culture built around the town, Roswell, in southern New Mexico. There is no firm evidence that we have ever been visited by aliens! Roswell has become a tourist center around the notion of alien visitors, and all of us are aware of the many science fiction films and science fiction books written about them. But the fact remains that there is no documented evidence that an alien has ever set foot on earth!

I have two personal anecdotes. Crossing the Hudson River once near Kingston, NY (I was a faculty member in those days at Bard College), I saw a mysterious silver, elliptical object hovering over the wetlands! It was hovering, it was an object, and it was unidentified! It would have been so easy to believe it was piloted by aliens. The second story occurred when visiting Roswell. While leaving the Alien Museum, a man behind us said to the staff member that the museum had absolutely convinced him that aliens had visited us. Believe it or not! Until firmer evidence comes along, I cannot believe it.

Another anecdote from that period involves overhead power lines. To a great extent due to a book and a subsequent three-part series of articles written in 1989 in the rep-

utable and popular (we have subscribed for many years) New Yorker magazine, it became a popular belief that microwave radiation from overhead power lines could cause cancer. This belief led to a period of fear, even of driving one's car under these power lines on a road trip. Electromagnetic radiation must have the energy high enough to do damage to human cells based on the equation: Energy = Planck's constant X frequency, where frequency is inversely proportional to wavelength. Thus high frequency radiation has high energy and can cause cell damage, and low frequency radiation cannot do so. This is why unfiltered sunlight, which has ultraviolet radiation, can tan you and can damage cells, and heat, which does not have such radiation, cannot do so. And why do you get warmed but not get sunburned when sunlight passes through the window? Glass absorbs the high-energy ultraviolet radiation and passes the low energy infrared radiation. We now recognize that there is not enough high energy radiation radiated from power lines to damage human cells.

Sometimes we discover things that do have the potential to harm us. You may have read recently that arsenic in rice, beer, and fruit juices poses a health hazard. It is agreed that inorganic arsenic poses a health hazard, and there are no federal limits for it in juice, rice, or most other food. Of particular concern is arsenic consumption by children. In May 2014 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that they are "conducting a risk assessment as the next step in a process to help man-



Not thinking about getting the COVID-19 vaccine? Think again. We got to where we are as species because of science; don't turn you back on it now.

age possible risks associated with the consumption of rice and rice products". I believe that this is a matter worth watching, and that eaters of rice should seek rice with the lowest levels of arsenic. Articles in Consumer Reports magazine, the most recent in the January 2015 issue, are useful in learning about this issue.

Can we trust the FDA? The FDA has done much good work to recognize danger to us from food and drugs. It is worth watching their pronouncements. Can we believe that they are totally unbiased and always correct? Well, I am a believer in having skepticism of scientific results. It is well to examine the source of information to be sure the researcher is competent and unbiased, and then it is well to be alert for the confirmation of results, since even the most honest and well-meaning scientist can make a mistake. In our household we are continuing to eat rice, but we seek a product with low arsenic levels, and we limit our consumption.

So how do we tell whose data and results are less likely to be wrong and are not biased? One must always be skeptical of those who are likely to gain from the results. To that end, I have a good deal of faith in Consumer Reports magazine, in articles published in respected scientific journals (for example, Science, the monthly publication

of the AAAS, the American Association for the Advancement of Science), a little less faith in government agencies (politics!), and real skepticism of newspaper and magazine articles that only reflect the opinions of the writer. One of the tenets of science is that one person's opinion should be reviewed and verified by others before publication. Even then mistakes are made, some accidentally, and some willingly. (We will talk about Cold Fusion as an example in a later article.)

Finally it is well to take note of the presence of the phrase, "This product has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration". When you see this phrase, beware! The product may not hurt you, but it usually means it has not been proven that it will do you any good. Many, many ads on television and even full-page or multi-page advertisements in respected newspapers and magazines for products to improve your health have this phrase on them. It usually means that it has no proven positive effect, other than to potentially make money for the seller.

Michael is former chemistry professor at Mount. St. Marys and will be joining us as a regular columnist sharing his insights into the world of science.

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# THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## 2021, and we're waist deep in entropy

Jack Deatherage

### Entropy

*2-b: a process of degradation or running down or a trend to disorder*

*-Merriam-Webster*

We've still boxes of stuff we carried home from MomD's apartment- 25 years of accumulated books, magazines, pamphlets- all religious. Plus pictures of family, knickknacks, patty whacks and I'm sure there's a bone or two. Some of the boxes we mailed south to siblings and nieces. Some clothing went to Seton Center, though much of Mom's stuff went into a dumpster. At the end of ninety-four years of existence- the bulk of Mom's material accumulation amounted to so much trash destined for a landfill. It took the DW and I three months to empty her apartment. This April, Mom will have been ash for two years and we still haven't figured out what to do with what remains of her life.

I should have known the laughing gods were just getting warmed up. The DW's da died a year ago. Her mom recently went into long term care when it became obvious the DW could no longer help her stay in the old home place. So began the emptying of that house. Fifty-seven years of accumulation! Fortunately, the DW has a sister, a brother in-law, nephews and their squeezes nearby who show up to sort through and haul away a fair bit of the useful stuff. Only Middle Brother helped us move Mom's furniture out of her apartment. My other siblings were hundreds of miles away.

DW's ma asked her not to get rid of her collection of Native American themed historical romance novels. (Gods have mercy! The DW was days working in just her mom's book room!) Every box of books I carried out to the car was accompanied with a mantra- "Don't bring anything home unless you have a place for it." Evidently the place for her mom's stuff is on top of our stuff, my mom's stuff and stuff we aren't even sure who owns it!

Fortunately, a kind local woman took several boxes of novels off our hands and the Gettysburg public library agreed to take a dozen more boxes in spite of that branch being overwhelmed with donations. Our county library isn't tak-

ing any book donations due to the COVID-19. (I'm rethinking my opinions of the state and county public library systems. I'm also rethinking my opinions of several nearby charities who did not return phone calls the DW dutifully made while trying to avoid sending the books to the landfill.)

Somewhere in the midst of all this the Mad One, who's been with us since July, storms into the upstairs apartment where I'm playing *mahjong*- minding my own business- and snarls, "Why do you hate your son?"

Now that was an odd question, even coming from someone not raised in my branch of the clan. Turns out she and my cousin had spent most of a day sorting through and throwing out a sea container full of her father in-law's personal belongings. Knowing what our house contains, she was furious that we'd leave the mess for Jack,<sup>3</sup> to deal with. "How could you?" seemed to be the bulk of her expressed outrage.

I don't think she was happy with my answer. "It's a test of his intelligence. If he's smart, he'll come home and take what is of value to him. Then he'll call an estate auction company to get rid of everything else, including the house- which needs numerous repairs."

Of course, he's smarter than I've ever been. When he was here two Mother's Days ago he told us to order a roll off dumpster and start emptying the house. There is little we have that's of value to him. Which is another joke played on me. Thirty some years of accumulating books, fishing tackle, gardening stuff, and cookware for him to make use of and he goes off in some other life's direction, potentially turning all my efforts into landfill debris. Oh, the laughter of the gods rings in my head!

With the Mad One and Cousin Luke now gone off to another continent, we've begun to rearrange the upstairs to suit our needs. This gives us room to begin sorting and tossing the junk downstairs. While friends and neighbors are urging us to avoid sending things to the landfill- "put it on eBay!" "put it on Facebook Marketplace!"- the most we're going to do is let a few friends and a niece (coming up from Florida this spring) sort through it. Then we start piling it on the sidewalk on Friday mornings as "sidewalk

sale" stuff, and wave goodbye to it Monday mornings as the trash haulers take it away.

There's long been some maniacal aspect of me that takes over when I'm forced to action when I don't want to move. Being ordered to mow the lawn sees flowerbeds reduced to shreds. Cleaning out one of the several refrigerators sees the chill box all but left empty. Sort out the pantry? I'll be buying things I threw out within a week or two. Get rid of clothes I can't wear? The DW will suddenly have plenty of room for clothes she doesn't wear!

As I think about it, I realize I miss the days when all of value that I owned was a motorcycle and the stuff I could cram in its saddle buckets. Yeah, things are different when I'm responsible for more than just myself, but other than a place to sleep, store foods, cook, bathe and hook to the interwebs do I really need everything piled around me?

I'm sure I'll need my hobby accessories as I settle into my dotage. But even those have changed since my accumulating much of their geegaws. The brew buckets that once fermented wine and mead, then cabbages, will become flowerpots. I'll have to find someone still into the hobby to take the glass and plastic carboys though. I



Jack's Doctorate thesis at the University of Harney is on disproving the theory of entropy - where matter becomes evenly distributed over time. To the contrary, Jack says 'stuff' concentrates over time, especially in his living room.

haven't a clue as to what I might use them for.

As open spaces once more appear in our house I'll drag out the three-tiered growlight and get back to sowing and growing some houseplants- if I can find seeds! So many of the companies I used to deal with have vanished. With room enough to set up a table I'll spend hours sorting through fishing tackle and deciding who I can gift it to- hopefully some local youngster not yet lost to his or her smart phone.

I suppose I should be feeling something akin to melancholic as I begin preparing for my eventual discorporation, but I don't. I'm closer to comfortably numb, a state I once wasted good money

on when I should have been spending it on dreams achievable. I'd argue I'll be taking what little I've learned into the next turn of the wheel, but just thinking that brings the guffawing gods to mind.

Ah well. Though the New Year's Day feast was canceled, the urge to prepare the foods of the feast remains. I've egg noodles and shrimp stuffed ravioli to make, and breads to build and gift. The equipment and tools for those will remain with me as long as I'm competent enough to use them.

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

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## January to-do list

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener  
Head Christmas Elf

Who would have thought that January 2021 COVID 19 would still be affecting our lives so dramatically! It's hard to believe that we went from a proposed two-week shutdown in March to a minimum of 10 months of concern, social distancing, and closing of face-to-face programming for Extension. Our focus has been virtual, from trainings and meetings for work, to family time via the computer. BUT, our work outside in our gardens has not been hindered, nor has any of our inside plant enjoyment. For many, gardening has become a place of relaxation and calm, a place we can count on, a place that's always there for us, stable and reliable. So what can we do, in January, for our garden?

By now, we have all hunkered down for the winter. Here are a few things that we can be doing and thinking about for now and for our spring garden.

- The Christmas Tree. What have you done with your live or cut tree? Hopefully, if you had a live tree, it's in the ground outdoors. The biggest mistake with live Christmas trees (the trees that have a ball of soil) is that they are indoors too long and not planted or acclimated out-

doors. So make that happen. If it's a cut tree, something that can be done with them through the winter months is put them in the yard near your bird feeders to provide protection for those visiting birds. Every year our tree goes near the base of the feeders for an additional hiding place.

- Feed the Birds. This is the best winter activity, next to perusing seed catalogs, but we'll get to that...There's nothing like a misty or snowy day watching the birds visit, keeping track of who visits, and how many. The garden can be such a flurry of activity. If you don't have one already, get yourself a feeder, some black oil sunflower seed, and a North American bird guide. You'll be hooked in no time!
- The Vegetable Garden-Seed Catalogs. At this point, many of us have gotten seed catalogs to browse. This is one of my favorite gardening "chores". I can spend hours turning pages and taking notes as I venture into the world of seeds. But first, you must have a plan. Hopefully, you took good notes last year concerning what you planted, how well those plants did and what the harvest was like. Taking all those things into account will help

determine the direction you will be going with your garden this spring. Make a list of what you want to grow, where it will be growing (remember to rotate your crops!), and add something fun and different for a try.

- The Perennial Garden. Notes are great. They help guide us in our actions for future seasons. The perennial garden is no different. Many of us will pick up a plant or two through the season that is new to us. Remembering how it did is a good thing. It will help with planning for this year. Notes that represent what must be divided or moved are good to. It gives us a starting point, then as we browse through those seed catalogs, we can begin to work through plants that we may want to add.
- The cutting garden. This often can start with seeds. Perennials can be used in a cutting garden, but often it's our annual flowers that shine when cut and brought indoors. Additionally, starting many of our annual flowers from seeds as opposed to cell packs gives us more options and saves us a bit of money.
- Starting Seeds. Yes, it's too early to actually start seeds, but it's not too early to think about how that is going to happen and what supplies you may need to begin that activity. If starting seeds indoors, are you needing additional lighting or heating? I like to use shop lights that I can lower and raise as the seedlings begin to grow. I also use heat mats to add that bottom heat to keep the soil nice and warm. If you are looking at a seed station, research your needs and get it ordered and set up. Some local garden centers may be able to provide the needed accessories. You also can call



the extension office and chat with us a bit about your needs and we can guide you in this endeavor.

- Order your Seeds. After your planning is complete (like is it ever complete?) get the seeds ordered. Last year due to the big interest in gardening, many folks were unable to get exactly what they wanted. Remember that all began in March, so if you order early enough, you should be good for receiving exactly what you need for your garden.
- Shrubs and trees. Take a look at your shrubs and trees in the landscape. Will any need pruned? If so, will you be able to do it yourself or will a professional need to be contacted? Pruning should begin in late February – early March. But knowing what you can and can't do yourself will help you prepare. If a professional is needed, research local arborists. Certified arborists are trained to know how to prune a tree or

shrub the correct way for the health of the plant. Determine who you want to use and get on their schedule.

- Indoor Plants. Let's not forget about the green things that keep us sane through the winter months. By now, if we didn't have any houseplants at the beginning of fall/winter, we probably do since the holidays. Many folks will give us houseplants as Christmas gifts if they know we are gardeners. If that's the case, research the best location for your houseplants to grow and provide the right amount of sun and water for them to thrive.
- Scout for Insects. Our houseplants can have insect issues, just as easily as our outdoor plants. Take some time to scout for insect problems. Common problems indoors are mealy bugs, scale and spider mites. In warm, dry environments, like a room with a wood-burning stove, spider mites seem to thrive. They love the dry air and when left untreated, can kill a houseplant. Unfortunately, my experience with these insects is that none of them are easy to control, but with consistent scouting and persistence, these can be. I think the key often is wiping down surfaces that the plants are placed on. Mites and scale can live on ledges, windowsills and plant stands for a bit and if we aren't wiping those surfaces with warm soapy water, we can prolong the problem. Typically, a houseplant oil spray or insecticidal soap are used for control of indoor houseplant pests. Always read labels when applying to be sure you are applying correctly, at the right time, and on the right plant.
- Scout for Bud Swell on Early Spring Blooming Shrubs. Why, you say? Because once you begin to see buds swell on plants like forsythia, Clove currant, spicebush, pussy willows and cherries, those branches can

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Winter is the time to see structure in the garden.

be cut and brought indoors for forcing the flowers into bloom for an indoor display! Sometimes by late January we have a warm spell, just enough to push those buds so we can force them indoors. There's nothing that says spring is coming then a vase full of forsythia flowers!

January is a time for reflection and planning. Take this month to do that for your plants and gardens, and prepare for a great spring season!

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

## Conservation District's 2021 Tree Sale

The Conservation District is planning on holding its 2021 Tree Seedling Sale. The pickup date is Thursday April 8 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the pole building behind the Ag Center on 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg.

Due to COVID-19, there is a new pickup procedure which is explained in the brochure. Names of those who placed a pre-order will be entered in a drawing to win a pack of 5 tree shelters and stakes or one free rain barrel.

The District is selling hardwoods, but only in bundles of 25 of the same species. We apologize, but we need to minimize close contact time for staff. Evergreen species will be the bundles of 10 transplants, as done for the last 2 years. We suggest that you talk with your neighbors, friends, family, and combine your 25 hardwood/bundle orders. Hardwoods are: Pawpaw, American hazelnut, American planetree/sycamore, Redosier dogwood, and Win-

terberry holly.

Evergreen bundles of 10 transplants are: Eastern white pine, Arborvitae (Nigra), and Norway spruce. Also available are the 5-foot Miracle tube tree shelters/oak stakes, bluebird and bat boxes, and rain barrels. These may also be purchased throughout the year at the District, when we re-open. Prices are remaining the same as the last few years.

Interested in ordering, or have questions? Please contact the ACCD at 717-334-0636, email [shull@adamscounty.us](mailto:shull@adamscounty.us), or visit our website at [www.adamscounty.us](http://www.adamscounty.us) in Events and Meetings and print out an order form/brochure. The Conservation District apologizes for the necessary changes this year. We need to finalize our numbers with the nurseries by March 1, so this means that we must receive your order along with your check payment by March 1, or before. We are not equipped to accept credit cards. Thank you.

## Small Town Gardener

Sprouts! A winter garden right in your kitchen

Marianne Willburn

Many activities we perform in this life (and which others might never consider) are undertaken simply because we saw them modeled for us as children or young adults. Exposure to these skills helped us understand that they were far from magical, and that we were most likely capable of doing them ourselves at some point.

Thus, I grow my own broccoli and can re-wire a light fixture, where you might be able to clean a carburetor or cable-knit a sweater (says she, deftly mixing her gender-based activities).

One of these 'magical' activities which I never thought magical until I met others who did, is to sprout seeds on my countertop for sandwiches, salads, and just about anything else I make around here. Sprouts are an incredibly rich source of vitamins and minerals and allow you to have a fresh source of greens growing in your kitchen 365 days a year. It simply doesn't get more local than that.

I can thank my seventies-era mom for the know-how. She always had a Mason jar of sprouts growing on the windowsill, and to this day one of my favorite lunches is her freshly made tuna sandwich with carrots, celery, onions and a huge heap of sprouts adding tang and crunch to mayonnaise-y whole wheat.

If you've never sprouted (or even thought of sprouting) seeds, but buy them at the store or enjoy a sprout-filled sandwich at a local hipster café, you are my target audience. Believe me when I say:

- It is not magic.
- It is not dangerous.
- You can do it.

The sprouting process at its most simplistic –

- Soak two tablespoons of organic seeds in a bowl for eight hours.
- Dump them into a container that drains efficiently.

- Rinse them twice a day with fresh water and let them drain.
- When they are big enough after 4-5 days, rinse them of their hulls in a large bowl and store them in the fridge in a lidded mason jar with a paper towel inside.
- Enjoy them for the next week or until they run out.

### Sprouting equipment

Up until recently, I always used a quart jar topped with plastic lids (Sprout-Ease Econo-Sprouter Toppers Set/Amazon). It is an inexpensive and easy way to get started and, judging from my track record, to keep sprouting for a couple decades.

I have also been pretty basic in my choice of seeds. Alfalfa and mung bean seeds provided for all of our needs (be they sandwich, salad or stir fry), and whilst the hipster world around me dabbled with spicy daikon or the purple legs of amaranth, I was content to remain retro in this respect.

Then recently, my head was turned by the sprouting section in the Botanical Interests seed catalog and the [practically frame-able] botanical prints that illustrate their seed packets. I began to think outside the jar.

Salad and sandwich mixes... those purple legs of amaranth... protein-packed lentils and nutty sunflower seed crunch. Why not branch out? After a trade show, I was fortunate enough to be sent one of their clever two-level sprouters and suddenly, things got even easier.

Now I find myself in a tough position. Yes, a Mason jar is cheaper, but the convenience of this sprouter is exceptional. The two trays sit above a draining tray, so you don't have to remember to remove the sprouter from the sink after draining. The trays are covered with a diffuser, which not only lets the rinsing water evenly percolate through the two trays, but also retains humidity which the seeds require.

Each tray comes with a divider which means that you can technically grow four types of sprouts at one time, or like me, stagger my seed sprouting by a couple days and have two crops growing in the same space. In short, I am in love.

For those that have never tried sprouting, it's a great way to start, and the choice of seed and seed mixes is wonderful.

Once you see how easy it is to grow and store them, and how useful they are in helping you keep fresh greens in your kitchen, I'd also recommend [sproutpeople.org](http://sproutpeople.org) for bulk seeds and seed mixes, sprouting information and particularly, for their well-written treatise on "the politics of sprouts."

But aren't sprouts dangerous?

Which brings me to my last point – foodborne illness and sprouts. Sadly, people remember headlines, no matter how dimly, and the general public rarely digs deeper.

When it comes to sprouts, they should.

I have been sprouting organic seeds for over twenty years now and have never had a problem with unhealthy bacteria. I start with high quality organic seeds (which have never been linked to food-borne illness and which are stringently tested for pathogenic bacteria), use common sense hygienic practices when rinsing, and obviously would never store or eat sprouts that have gone bad or moldy.

Of course, there are methods for further disinfecting your seeds if you must, but they take the joy and ease right out of the whole process. Personally, I'd be running for the nearest grocery store by the end of that ordeal. That is, if I for one minute thought that doing so would ensure a foodborne illness-free existence...spinach or romaine salad anyone?

### Cue the crunch

While growing your own food is not magic, the ability to transform a few grams of seeds into fresh nutritious greens in less than five days in your kitchen is the closest you'll probably ever come to it. I urge you to try this delicious, painless way to inject a bit of health into your diet, and start modeling a new skill for other people – young and old – in your life.

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

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# PETS

## A cat's purr

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley  
Animal Shelter

I've decided to start out 2021 with a crazy cat lady rant. You might want to strap in.

This is going to get a little scientific and outer-worldly at the same time.

Enticing, huh?

I'll start with science. My dad perked up right about now. That 77-year-old Sheldon Cooper, retired chemistry teacher must be kind of proud at the moment. Hi Pops! \*waves\*

So, scientifically speaking every physical thing on this planet (including this planet) is made of atoms. Every atom has a vibrational frequency to it – even what appears solid to us, like a chair or a table, actually vibrates. The electrons in the atom move around and give the object a frequency – even if it's too low for humans to detect.

Speaking of humans, we have a vibrational frequency as well that changes pretty constantly. Every one of our cells vibrate and (as I understand it) different cells for different parts of the body vibrate at different rates.

Are you dizzy yet? I warned you about the strapping in.

Anyway, the healthy human body

vibrates (with all the different cells in good shape and vibrating at their optimum, peak levels) between 62 and 72 megahertz. If it drops to, say 58 megahertz, you could be susceptible to catching a cold.

With this theory, it stands to reason we should attempt to keep our vibrational frequency in the healthy range if we want to remain free from disease.

We can maintain that frequency in a whole lot of ways: acupuncture, massage, essential oils, meditation, the kind of foods we eat, getting enough sleep at night, music therapy, positive thinking, laughing, sharing good times with friends and family.

And for some of us, we can help maintain a healthy frequency with our animals.

Studies have shown that our pets can help reduce stress, lower blood pressure and allow us a moment in our hectic world to simply sit and be.

I'm going to take this a little bit farther with our friend, the feline.

Cats, in so very many ways, are kind of an animal unto themselves. From their sometimes independent nature to their stubborn streaks to what occasionally seems like deliberate attempts to disobey anything we want them to do, having a cat in your life will likely never be dull.

Cats also absorb and process food and medication differently than other animals. Their liver function

is lacking one of the enzymes that detoxes the body, so they respond much differently to medications than humans and dogs would. That's why you have to be incredibly careful with the kinds and doses of medication you give to your cat.

They also have the magical phenomenon of the purr.

And this is where we get back to the earlier discussion of frequencies.

A cat's purr can range from 20 to 140 hertz. It's important to note here that that's NOT megahertz, so it is relatively low on the frequency scale, but it's also one of the major reasons humans can HEAR a cat's purr.

Despite the low frequency, don't think for a minute there aren't advantages to that sound.

In fact, it's been discovered in recent years that a purr doesn't necessarily mean a cat is happy. Indeed, sick and injured cats use the purr to soothe themselves and relieve pain. Pregnant females have even been known to purr while giving birth because of the somewhat anesthetic qualities it produces in their bodies (it's believed that the purr actually releases a hormone responsible for pain relief in a cat).

The vibrational level of that purr can help with joint pain and swelling and even restore muscles, tendons and ligaments. I think it's one of the reasons that cats are so agile – purring keeps their joints and muscles limber for jumping and landing on their feet.

The purr is also, most definitely, a source of contentment. Mother cats purr to keep their babies free from stress and even siblings will purr with one another while they snuggle together.

What this means for cat owners is that if we hang around while our felines are purring up a storm, we can also receive those benefits. In fact, petting or cuddling with a cat can have the same relaxing properties as meditation. Hey! That's one of the ways we can keep our body frequency on a healthy level. Imagine that.

I'm taking it even one step further because a study found that people who had cats and snuggled with them were at a 40% less risk of having a heart attack. How about that? Forty percent!

A purring cat can heal our muscles

and bones and joints and swelling just from the vibrations. The sound alone can definitely reduce stress in people. I know when I have rough days, I'll find a cage full of kittens at the shelter, open the door and just hang out with all the purring. Never fails to calm me down.

So this all begs the question: what if the crazy cat ladies and fellows in the world are actually the most mellow and relaxed of us all?

Certainly something to think about when I sit with one of my feline kids later tonight for a snuggle session – and an incredibly good way to welcome 2021.

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

*To read other article by Jennifer Vanderau visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).*



**Kathy is a 4-month-old brown tabby girl who is a real sweetheart. She was transferred from another animal shelter and is now looking for her forever home with CVAS. This little gal will make someone an incredibly special companion.**



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**Bigsby came into the shelter as a stray. We think he's a 3-year-old Rottweiler. He could stand to gain some weight – he was obviously running for a while. We don't know a lot about his past, but Bigsby is a sweet guy who loves to please his people and loves to be with them! He also enjoys playing fetch. Bigsby does chase cats so a home without cats would be best for him. Due to no past history of being with children an age restriction for children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff. Bisby would love to find his loving forever home soon!**

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

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& Aslan**

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

# Everyday pet health hazards

Dr. Jon 'JB' Bramson  
Catoctin Veterinary Clinic

Last month I wrote about holiday hazards dogs and cats can get into. Here are some everyday dangerous products our pets can get into.

Over-the-counter medications are the #1 reason pet parents contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. #2 on the list is prescription medications.

Here is the top 10 list from Pet Poison Helpline for dog toxins: 1) chocolate, 2) mouse and rat bait, 3) anti-inflammatory medications, 4) xylitol, 5) grapes and raisins, 6) anti-depressants, 7) acetaminophen, 8) vitamin d overdose, 9) stimulant medications, 10) fertilizers.

Here is the top 10 list for cat toxins: 1) lilies (lilium species), 2) spot-on flea/tick, medications for dogs, 3) household cleaners, 4) human anti-depressant medications, 5) essential oils, 6) anti-inflammatory medications, 7) mouse and rat poisons, 8) stimulant medications (for ADD/ADHD), 9) onions and garlic, 10) vitamin D overdose.

The following products are danger-

ous to eat and some can irritate skin and eyes.: ibuprofen (i.e. advil) and aspirin, bleach, acetaminophen (i.e. tylenol), potpourri of any kind (liquid, dried leaves), cold and flu medicines, lime/scale remover, anti-depressants, lead, vitamins, paint thinner, diet pills, topical flea and tick medications, anti-cancer drugs, rodent baits, tobacco products, fly baits, detergents, moth balls

Fabric softener, antifreeze/coolant, drain cleaners, gasoline, oven cleaner sprays, motor oil, disinfectants, insecticides, fertilizer, pesticides, cocoa mulch, compost, non-pet safe de-icing salts, lighter fluid

All human and pet medicines should be 'kept out of reach' of pets. This means in a drawer or in cabinets. Child proof (pet-proof) door latches may be a necessity. Remember pets can chew through bottles and packaging.

Here is a list of harmful foods-the extent of harm to your pet is based on the amount ingested and underlying health problems:

Chocolate-no chocolate at all is advisable, but the severity of the poisoning increases from chocolate fla-

vored cakes and cookies to milk chocolate to dark and semi-sweet chocolate with baking chocolate being the worst because it has the most chocolate liquor therefore containing the most theobromine (the toxic compound). The symptoms are the same as ingesting caffeine. There are toxicity calculators readily available that take into account the size of the pet, the type and amount of chocolate.

Coffee, and tea leaves-the caffeine is a stimulant, which can cause agitation, vomit, diarrhea, high heart rate, tremors, seizures.

Grapes and raisins-they cause kidney failure and potential death although we don't know exactly how, no number of these is theoretically safe.

Macadamia nuts-these can cause vomit, diarrhea, hind-limb weakness, tremors.

Raw yeast dough-can cause vomit, Fatty foods-can cause pancreatitis with vomit and diarrhea. Spoiled foods/garbage. Raw foods-can carry many different bacteria that are toxic to people as well as their pets (i.e. e. coli, Salmonella, Campylobacter, and more) - please don't feed it.

Artificial sweeteners (Xylitol) found in sugar-free gum, candy and some peanut butter-can cause low blood sugar, lethargy, drunkenness, tremors, seizures, sorbitol, stevia, aspartame-very mild symptoms with vomit and diarrhea.

Alcohol, avocados, onion and garlic, salt.

Hazardous objects: batteries, plastic wrap, buttons, razors, coins, rocks/pebbles, cotton swabs, rugs, dental floss, rubber bands, electric cords, silverware and dishes, eye glasses, socks, hair pins, towels, jewelry, twist ties, nylons, underwear, paper clips, yarn/thread/needles.

Costs to care for the effects of ingestion of some hazardous materials: surgical removal of swallowed foreign object(s): up to about \$6,000. Chocolate ingestion: up to about \$2,000. Fractured tooth from chewing on hard bones, antlers, chew hooves: up to about \$2,000

If you think your pet ingested something it should not have, it is recommended to contact your veterinarian and/or poison control center. These centers have professionals who can access

data bases that have all the information and risks and treatments. There are fees for this so these centers can assist pets and their parents as well as veterinarians. Call: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 888-426-4435 or the Pet Poison Help-line at 800-213-6680.

A word about health insurance for your pets. There are multiple companies that cover medical and surgical care for pets. Some offer wellness plans. The time to get insurance is before abnormalities are found by your vet and before accidents and illness happen. Research and compare policies. Some companies that offer pet insurance are: Nationwide, Trupanion, ASPCA Pet Health, Figo, Healthy Paws,

Pumpkin, Pets Best, Embrace, and there are more. Unlike health insurance for people, pet insurance reimburses the owner directly, not the veterinarian.

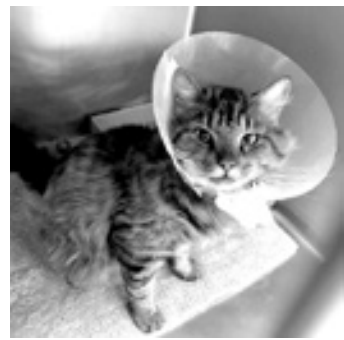
## Help him locate his owner

Linda Shea, FCAC Director

At the very least, Babadook's name will get your attention...and peak your curiosity if you are unfamiliar with the movie he is named after. Fortunately, Babadook is a fictional character. The Babadook at Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center is a very handsome brown tabby seeking a forever home. Our Babadook arrived at the end of October as a stray from Thurmont. While the movie title Babadook is an anagram for "a bad book," we are working to ensure our Babadook's story has a "happily ever after" in the form of a forever home.

Babadook arrived with a few ticks on board and ear mites. We removed the unwelcome parasites, applied preventatives, and have been treating his ears to promote healing and comfort. We recently had his ears flushed at a local vet to ensure his pathway to health continues. He is a strapping 13-plus pounds, neutered, and current on all vaccines. We estimate his age to be around two years old.

Babadook is color-coded green, meaning he is on the independent side. However, don't con-



fuse independent with antisocial. In fact, Babadook is quite social and seeks attention by holding up his end of a conversation and reaching out a paw to grab passers-by. He is comfortable in being picked up and held. He tolerates what we refer to as "Kid's petting" (slowly from head to tail, with a bit of pressure). Overall, Babadook has a very desirable feline personality and a luxurious medium fur coat.

If you are interested in adding a new pet to your family, check out our adoptable animals on our website at [www.frederick-countymd.gov/fcac](http://www.frederick-countymd.gov/fcac). Our virtual adoption process is streamlined and has been extremely successful in allowing shelter staff to make a perfect match with families who want to open their homes and their hearts to a homeless animal...or two. For more information call us at 301-600-1546.

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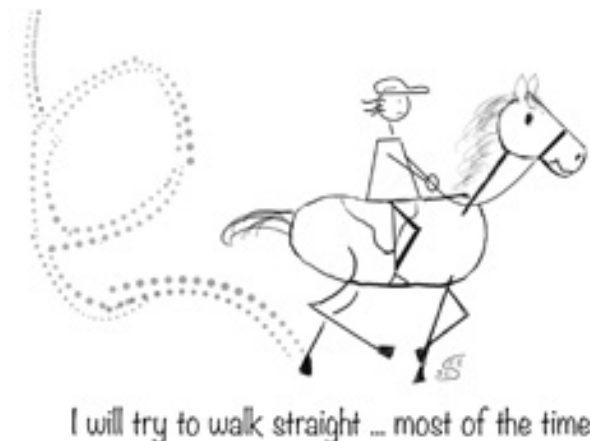
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# THE YOUNG EQUESTRIANS

## Wesley's New Year's resolutions

Wesley, Event Horse  
(and Emma & Sarah Simmons)

Hi. This is Wesley. I'm Mike Hillman's retired Event Horse and I live at Windy Meadow Farm with my two best equine buddies, Kit and Scotty. Mike calls Scotty his 'upper level horse' and Kit is still a baby. But you probably know me best as the horse that Emma and Sarah ride and write about in their newspaper column, "The Young Equestrians". This month they asked me if I wanted to tell everyone about my New Year's resolutions in their column. I thought this was a great idea since I am making several this year.



I will try to walk straight ... most of the time.

It's been a great year for me and my horse friends here at the farm. My twin girls have been riding for just over a year and they are coming along quite well. They have a good seat and are, for the most part, well balanced when they ride. Though both need to work on riding straight. Ok, I have to admit that sometimes I deliberately swerve just to see if they can keep me straight. It's kind of fun for me because when I don't walk straight, Mike corrects them and not me (ha ha).



I promise not to stop just before a fence.

Emma and Sarah are kind and gentle riders who never seem to get mad with me or my buddies, no matter what kind of mischief we cause. And they are getting to be quite good little jumpers as well. They can go over the jumps in the arena and the big logs out in the field. I've really been amazed at how quickly they have learned to jump. But I also have to admit that I've not always been completely cooperative. Sometimes I run out (go around rather than over the

jump) and sometimes I, well, I just stop in front of the jump. I know that's not a nice thing to do but it is kind of funny, especially when I do it time after time after time. But I did feel really bad when I accidentally let my little Emma fall. But she didn't scold me. She just gave me a pet and got right back on my back and we got back down to work. She even gave me apples afterwards. Sarah is a great kid too. When that crazy Scotty took my sweet Sarah for an unexpected run around the big meadow and she tumbled off him, she didn't get angry.



I will not throw my girl anymore.

And I heard her talking softly to him when they got back to the barn and I saw her give him a kiss and a carrot too. So, I'm resolving to stop playing run out and stop at the jump games. . . or maybe just not quite so often. A horse does have to have a little fun with his riders.



I will not chase the twins when they have food.

All in all, it's been a good year here at Mike and Audrey's farm. But I think I can help make this year even better with these resolutions. I've been working on them since Christmas and Kit and Scotty have helped with them too. In addition to curbing my riding games, I want to be more considerate of the humans here. I have to admit that there have been times that I have been a little too pushy, especially when it comes to food and snacks. Like all horses, I do love peppermints, carrots, and apples. So, when I see and smell them, I get a little overly enthusiastic. Ok, ok, I go completely crazy and can only think about how wonderful they taste. And I sometimes forget how much bigger I am than my little twins. So, we horses need to just stand back and wait for the food, torturous as that will be.



Wesley gets a pet from Mike after completing his 1st Dressage test, in a time long ago and in a universe far, far away from the one he now occupies.



Mike, of course, doesn't let us horses get away with that kind of behavior. Unlike the girls, he make us mind our manners. And I will admit that sometimes when we horses get in trouble with Mike, he doesn't always see what we do behind his back. Sometimes we make faces at him., but this is mostly Kit and Scotty. Ok, I do it sometimes too. It's usually when he's walking around with something else on his mind. I can always tell when this happens because he has those funny bubbles over his head with strange letters, numbers, and symbols in them. I think he must be a really smart guy to have that much going on in his head. So, this is something else I want to work on this year, being more respectful of Mike. He's a great guy and he does take good care of me and my buddies. And I know that not all horses get treated as well as we do.



I promise to love my girls forever!

So, these are my resolutions for 2021. I'm going to walk the straight and narrow, no stalling at the jumps, keep the twins off the ground, don't crowd my girls when they are trying to feed us, and be more respectful of Mike. I'm going to try hard to keep these resolutions. But if I don't, it's probably because of Kit and Scotty. After all, I am a herd animal, and if Scotty and Kit go running, I have no option but to follow them! Right?

Oh, and there's one more. The most important one. I can't believe I almost forgot it. I promise to always, always love my little twin girls.

And just so you know, Emma and Sarah helped me with the column since I don't have a computer or iPad. And even if I did have one, I couldn't use it very well -- hooves, no hands. I hope you enjoy this month's column. I really enjoyed being a guest columnist. Maybe if it's popular and everyone emails Mike, who's also the Editor of the newspaper, he might consider giving me a regular column of my own!

To read previous articles by Emma and Sarah, visit the author's section of [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).

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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## 20/20 hindsight on 2020

Ryan Fox

We are finally wrapping up this year and closing with what will hopefully be a peaceful Christmas season.

For stock and bond markets, 2020 has been nothing short of spectacular volatility, and like so much else, a bit unusual. We endured some of the biggest daily point and percentage swings ever as well as what will probably be the shortest bear market in U.S. history. But, in spite of the chaos, solid reminders and investing basics have held true.

The "Incredible Hulk" TV show and follow-up movies seem to remind us that our emotions can change quickly with market movements. Lead char-

acter David Bruce Banner was a mild-mannered scientist by day. But when he would say, "you wouldn't like me when I'm angry" and would metamorphose into the Hulk, well, the reaction is often how we might feel when stock markets act like we've experienced in 2020. Once the Hulk converted back to Banner, he often felt remorse for his actions - sort of like if we sell low in markets because of emotions.

Seat belts and air bags are to auto safety what high-quality, plain vanilla bonds are to portfolio safety. When markets fall, and in an average year, a fall of 10 percent once or twice is pretty normal, bonds tend to act as a safety net to reduce overall risk.

Back in March of this year when

markets fell over 20 percent in short order, bonds held up well. Like so many famous investors tell us, buy low ... having liquid positions in bonds gives us a place from which to sell and to buy into the lower stock market. That's the concept of rebalancing.

"Quarantine" might be the word of the year for 2020, as we've become all too familiar with it.

The world will re-open and we'll get past our current challenges. For portfolios, when markets go astray, sometimes the concept of quarantine is helpful: stay put, don't try to do too much, and often this helps making an error in judgment.

Pulling up a portfolio everyday when markets are declining is a bad

idea unless you are in my profession.

On occasion at home when I actually get to command the TV remote control, I watch a little of the sitcom "The Office" by myself and unwind. The unpredictable nature of lead character Michael Scott is just an ongoing source of amusement to some and frustration to others. Same goes for the stock market's short-term unpredictability.

Back in March 2020, there were days where the stock market fell over 10 percent in one day. On March 16, the Dow fell almost 3,000 points. Eight days later, on March 24, the Dow rose by over 2,000 points. Short-term markets are generally unpredictable but over periods of time, there are extremely positive patterns that emerge. Any sense of frustration (or amusement) should likely be rewarded

with a sense of accomplishment.

As hard as this calendar year has been for all of us, we can benefit tremendously from working hard to stay positive and optimistic. Smiling under that mask at the grocery store is a worthy goal.

The crisis we are enduring will lead to new successes.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year.

Let's count our blessings no matter how many or how few and help others who could use a little boost right now.

*Ryan Fox is partner/owner in Huston-Fox Financial Advisory Services, a fee-only fiduciary advisory firm in Gettysburg. He can be reached by calling 717 398-2040 or e-mail at Ryan@huston-fox.com.*

## Planning for the inevitable

Doug Propher  
Catocoin Advisors

Catocoin Advisors is a Thurmont-based consulting business that offers estate readiness planning, estate administration, and budgeting and bill-pay support to survivors. Each month we answer common questions about end-of-life issues.

Q. What is a Will, and why do I need a Will?

A. A Will is a written document outlining your choices for how your property and possessions should be distributed after your death. It can be as simple or complicated as you want it to be, and it can be changed/updated whenever you determine there is a need to do so. Although many people assume a Will must be created by a lawyer, that isn't a requirement. A lawyer certainly can be extremely helpful, but it's also acceptable for you to create your own Will - there are a handful of useful Internet sites that provide guidance or templates both for free and nominal fees.

Regardless of how you create it, however, it is imperative that you sign it and that at least two witnesses sign it as well. Because it is an important document, you should store your Will in a safe place, such as a fire safe or safe deposit box.

You also can file your Will with the Office of the Register of Wills in Frederick County for \$5.00; they will hold it as a non-public record until your death but final Wills of deceased individuals become public records.

As for why you need one, well, you don't "need" one. A lot of people die without a Will. A 2020 study by Caring.com found that only 32% of participants had a Will; only 48% of participants over 55 had a Will. The two primary reasons people don't create a Will are their belief that it will be expensive and their confidence that they have plenty of time left to get it done. COVID has made plain that health catastrophes can happen to anyone unexpectedly, but we've experienced car accidents and heart attacks before anyone heard of COVID. The simple truth is, you may not have the time you think you do.

Someone in the community was relaying a story to me where the punch line was, "What do I care? I'll be dead." But, if you don't leave a Will, the government will dispose of your property and possessions according to state law, which may be contrary to your wishes. "Not only can [not having a Will] be a costly process in many cases, but it can also be a giant burden on

your heirs during a time of grieving and sadness," says Taylor Schulte, a Certified Financial Planner and

host of the podcast Stay Wealthy.

For more information about Catocoin Advisors, visit [www.catocoinadvisors.com](http://www.catocoinadvisors.com) or send email to [doug@catocoinadvisors.com](mailto:doug@catocoinadvisors.com)

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## HEALTH NOTES

# COVID-19: Protect yourself

Heidi Winkler, Frederick Health Medical Group

It's been eight months since the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Frederick County. As of December 9, our county has confirmed nearly 8,000 cases and 154 deaths from the virus. As cases continue to spike throughout the country and in our area, it's more important than ever to take extra measures to keep you and your loved ones healthy. It's also important to recognize if you have COVID symptoms—and know what to do next.

COVID-19 affects different people in different ways, and anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. Some may not have any symptoms (asymptomatic) but can still spread it to others. Generally, symptoms appear two days to two weeks after you're exposed to the virus. You may have COVID-19 if you have

any of the following symptoms: Fever or chills, new loss of taste or smell, persistent cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

Having a few of these symptoms doesn't necessarily mean you have COVID-19, but you should get tested as soon as possible if you suspect you could be sick.

Testing is available at Frederick Health's drive-through COVID testing site, located at Frederick Health Village off Monocacy Boulevard; at 1 Frederick Health Way. There are also various testing sites throughout the county. If you are tested at Frederick Health's drive-through tent, you will be notified of your results by phone.

Even if you have COVID-19, you may not have to go to the doctor. Most people have mild illness and can recover at home. If

you have COVID-19, follow these Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for taking care of yourself:

If your symptoms are mild, stay home and self-quarantine except to get medical care.

Know your risks. Those with cancer, obesity, kidney disease, type 2-diabetes, and certain autoimmune disorders have an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Keep track of your symptoms daily and notice any concerning changes. It also helps to have a daily log of symptoms you can discuss with your doctor if you begin to feel worse.

Separate yourself from others to avoid getting them sick. If possible, stay in a specific room away from other people and pets in your home. Use a separate bathroom. If you need to be around other people or animals in your home, wear a cloth face mask over your nose and mouth. Wash

your hands frequently and wipe down surfaces with disinfectant.

Tell your close contacts that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. An infected person can spread COVID-19 two days before they show symptoms or test positive. By letting your close contacts know they may have been exposed, you help protect everyone. Reach out to any friends or family members you've been around in the days leading up to your diagnosis.

Need a COVID-19 test or an antibody test, feeling under the weather, or need a simple check-up? Visit [FrederickHealth.org/GetCare](https://www.frederickhealth.org/GetCare) to access healthcare online, over the phone, and in-person.

### Frederick County's planning for COVID-19 mass vaccination

Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) is working with local partners to ensure a safe and orderly plan for distribution of COVID-19 vaccine. Plan-

ning began over the summer, and vaccine is anticipated to become available in small amounts over the next several weeks. FCHD will be practicing their plans to receive and distribute vaccine to ensure the process will be efficient and successful.

"We are grateful for and proud of our strong community partnerships that have allowed us to prepare aggressively and respond innovatively to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now we are pulling together to get ready for distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine," said Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Frederick County Health Officer. "We are also asking everyone who lives or works in Frederick County to take a short survey so we can learn more about your interest in a COVID-19 vaccine and make sure our plans address your questions and concerns."

Frederick County will follow a phased approach in alignment with the State of Maryland's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. The plan will initially prioritize populations with the highest risk of developing complications from COVID-19 and critical workers while vaccine is available in limited amounts.

Phase 1A: Vaccination of Critical Populations. Initial COVID-19 vaccination efforts will begin with Phase 1A, vaccination of Critical Populations. It will include critical health care workers, staff and residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and first responders.

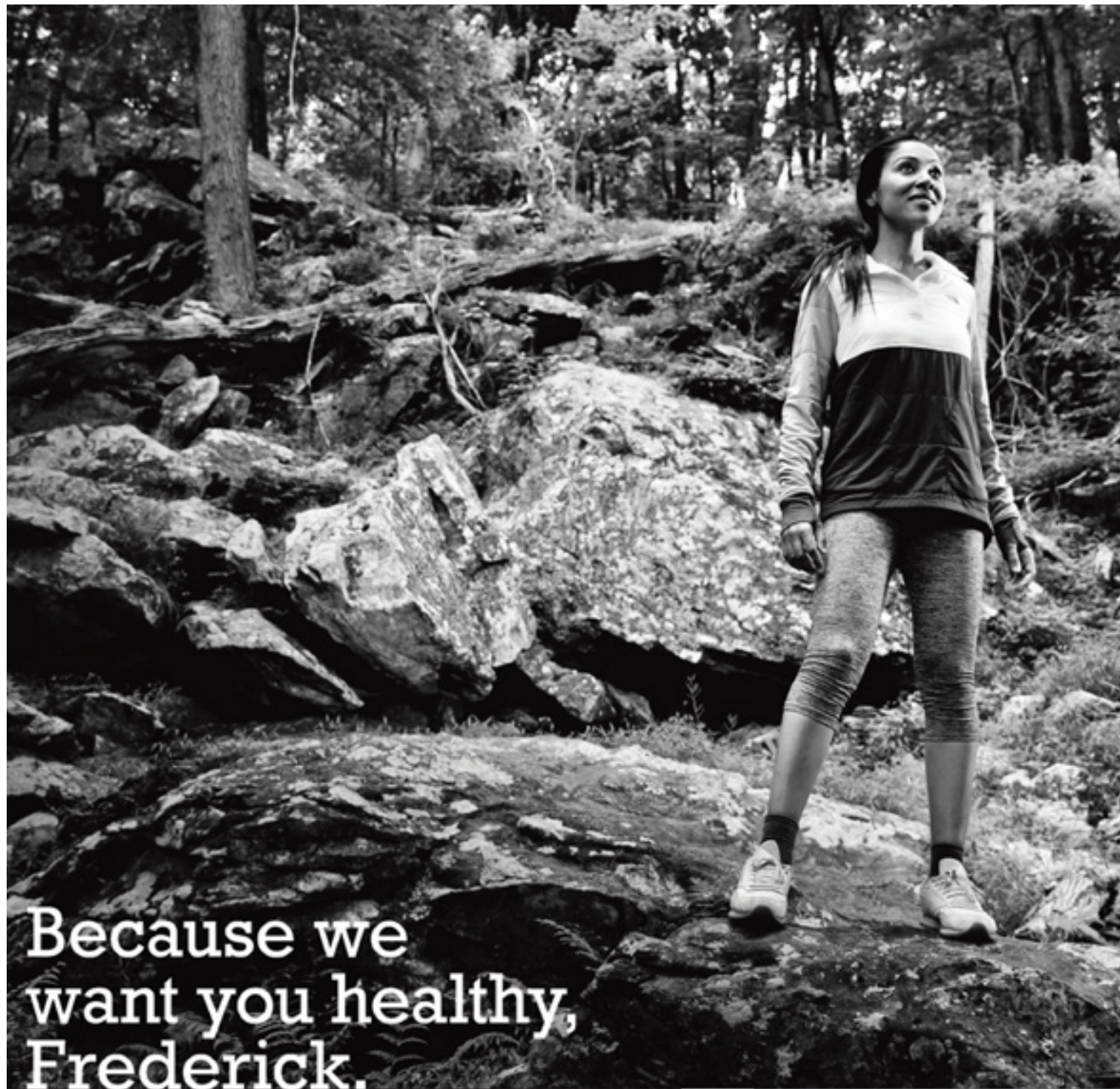
As more vaccine becomes available, Phase 1 may expand to include additional essential workers and adults with medical conditions that put them at high risk. Planning on this later portion of Phase 1 is still in progress.

Vaccination of general public will begin in Phase 2. The timing of Phase 2 will be influenced by a number of factors:

- Availability of COVID-19 vaccine
- Notification by CDC and state authorities that the general public Phase 2 can begin due to sufficient supply
- Achievement of targeted metrics for vaccination of high priority Phase 1 groups

Plans for local vaccine distribution are being developed by FCHD in partnership with the Frederick County Department of Emergency Services, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Frederick County Department of Public Works, Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, Frederick Health Hospital, Frederick Police Department, and long-term care facilities. As planning expands through the phases, additional partners will be involved.

*Additional information on local planning and availability of COVID-19 vaccine will be shared as it becomes available. For local COVID-19 updates, information and data, please visit [health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus](https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus).*



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## A COVID Christmas bird count

Kathy Brown  
Frederick Bird Club

The Catoctin Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has been held every year since 1949 and the Frederick Bird Club wasn't going to let a global pandemic stand in the way of holding the 72nd count. Of course, things would be different. Social distancing and safety were the number one priority. Face masks, hand wipes, caravan birding, sack lunches and port-a-potty stops were the norm.

Weather conditions were mixed. Most roads were clear, but a heavy snow three days before the count had left all roads edged by solid snow-plow mounds. A few roads and most trails in parks and forests were still covered by heavy, icy snow. And it was cold. Morning temperatures never got above 18, but skies were clear and there was no wind.

The Catoctin CBC covers a 15-mile diameter circle in north Frederick County with Thurmont as the epicenter. The territory is divided into 8 sectors and includes a few towns and a lot of open country including state, national and local parks, forests, numerous waterways, fisheries and seemingly endless farm fields. The Frederick Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, has sponsored the Catoctin CBC for many years. It is a very tangible example of citizen science and a great way to enjoy a winter's day in beautiful northern Frederick County.

This year's Catoctin CBC was held on Saturday, December 19, and as the count compiler, I didn't know what to expect. Caravan birding is cumbersome and the normal pull-offs were piled with snow. We did have an excellent team, however. People who normally traveled or hosted family were available for the count for the first time. For others, the pandemic was an ideal time to hone

birding skills and a count was a perfect winter outing.

The majority of the birds seen during winter counts are year-round residents, like chickadees, cardinals, hawks, and woodpeckers. Of course, by the time of the count, our migrating summer residents, the original "snow-birds," have already headed south for warmer territories with open water and plentiful insects and other food. But there are also a few winter-only visitors, who migrate from colder northern climates due to lack of food or heavy ice/snow cover. Our most common winter visitors are Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows that can be seen at the base of many bird feeders throughout the winter.

With the help of the CBC official database, I have been able to look at 71 years of Catoctin CBC population and species data. Many of our common species show significant population declines and some species are increasingly rare or no longer found in Frederick County. A few species like the Bald Eagle show impressive population gains. Red-tailed Hawks are doing very well, but Northern Harrier and Kestrel numbers remain low. Reported numbers for both Black and Turkey Vultures have increased by over 50%, helped by abundant road-kill.

The recovery story is still positive for several highly visible species. The Catoctin CBC's first Bald Eagle was reported in 2001; now they are seen regularly. This year, 8 Bald Eagles were reported. Not as good as last year's record number, but well above historical averages. Ravens were first observed in the 1973 count; this year 20 were sighted. Wild Turkeys were not reported until 1976, but flocks of 20-40 are not uncommon in recent years. Only two were seen on this year's count, a disappointment, but not a trend.

The population numbers for our two common winter visi-

tors, Juncos and White-throated Sparrows, were the highest in the history of the count. Another handsome winter visitor, the White-crowned Sparrow, also had impressive numbers. Several things could have contributed to the increase. Fields were covered with snow forcing birds to feed at road edges (where we could easily find them). Birds were also taking advantage of well-stocked feeders, as more families have taken up "back-yard" birding during the pandemic. Hopefully, numbers for these species are increasing. We'll know more next year.

Overall, results for this year were much better than last. Numbers for most woodpeckers and feeder regulars like Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Cardinal, and American Goldfinch increased 50% or more over 2019. And Robins had the highest numbers in over 20 years. But good results for one year doesn't indicate a trend. There are still plenty of birds out there, but the hard reality is that some of our most loved and familiar back-yard birds are rapidly disappearing.

Studies show that grassland bird populations in North America have declined by more than 50%. Habitat loss is a probable factor in these declines, particularly agricultural intensification and development. Grassland birds include Bobwhites, Eastern Meadowlark, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Harrier, Horned Lark and many sparrow species.

In the first ten years of the Catoctin CBC, Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlark and non-native Ring-neck Pheasant were common. Ruffed Grouse and Logger-head Shrike were seen regularly. The American Tree Sparrow averaged 240 birds a year the first 10 years of the count; the last 10 years the average was 3. Most of us remember seeing a covey of Bobwhites scurry across a field or



For those keen of eye, be on the look out for the immature Bald Eagle that has taken up residence around the Four Point Bridge over Toms Creek. It is one of several that now call the Toms Creek Watershed area home.

hearing the beautiful song of the meadowlark calling from a fence post. The Bobwhites are all gone and the number of Meadowlarks has declined significantly. Meadowlark numbers were up a bit this year; we'll be watching that number closely in the future.

If you are not one of the more than 50 million bird watchers in the United States, you may be thinking, it's unfortunate, but doesn't really affect me. But scientist Ken Rosenberg cautions, "These bird losses are a strong signal that our human-related landscapes are losing their ability to support birdlife, and that is an indicator of a coming collapse of the overall environment." A strong warning that should get everyone's attention.

Scientists say it is possible to bring the birds back and restore our environment, but it will take collective action at a national and international scale. A variety of initiatives are already underway including: bird-safe building standards; conservation innovations in paper/wood production, agriculture and fisheries; cost-effective renewable energy; and expansion

of conservation efforts and protection of The Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

As I mentioned last year, there are seven simple actions everyone can do to help birds: make windows safer; keep cats indoors; reduce lawn and use native plants; avoid pesticides; drink shade grown coffee; avoid single use plastic; and join the Citizen Science Effort.

The pandemic happened quickly and forced most of us to make countless changes in our daily lives. It has taken years to understand the impact of environmental change and wildlife loss, but the impact is just as severe. Time is running out, but as COVID taught us, we can change when the stakes are high.

If you are interested in learning more about the birds of Frederick County, the Frederick Bird Club [www.frederickbirdclub.org](http://www.frederickbirdclub.org) and Audubon Society of Central Maryland [www.centralaudubon.org](http://www.centralaudubon.org) welcome guests and new members. Visit their websites to learn about meetings, bird-focused presentations, bird counts, and bird walks and outings throughout the year.



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# HISTORY

## Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman  
Originally published in 1969

### Chapter 26 Eby's Shoe Repair Shop

Located on Water Street, just south of the public square, is Eby's Shoe Repair Shop, which today is the oldest privately owned business in Thurmont. It is operated by Hugh Eby and his son James.

Mr. Eby was born in Sabillasville, Maryland in 1884 and worked as a carpenter before entering his present trade. As a carpenter he was called upon to help build the Maryland Tuberculosis Sanitarium, known today as the Victor Cullen Hospital.

Mr. Eby often tells with delight, his first day of work on the sanitarium job. On this day, June 10, 1907, he inscribed his name, together with the date and place of his birth, on a piece of slate which was attached to the cornerstone of the building.

The carpenter trade, failing to provide an adequate income for his family, led Mr. Eby to seek employment elsewhere. In 1912 he went into the shoe repair business, hav-

ing picked up the trade on his own. Five years later, in 1917, Eby and his family moved to Thurmont and he opened his shoe repair shop in the basement of the Thurmont Bank which today is occupied by Miller's Barber Shop.

In 1923, Mr. Eby built a shop of his own on a lot next to his home on Water Street and thus began his long career of providing a valuable service to the community and surrounding area.

Today, Mr. Eby operates the only shoe repair shop in the northern end of the county; the nearest one being located in Frederick, some sixteen miles away. This provides him with plenty of work to keep him busy six days a week. His skill and fine workmanship has gained for him the reputation of a first-rate shoe repairman.

Although his methods are not the most modern, they serve their purpose and get the job done. One thing that is really different about his methods of repairing is the manner in which he makes his patterns from the old sole. These are made from paper, a method which he believes pro-



Thurmont Main Street looking east from the square.

duces a more perfect shape. Most repair-men put the old sole on a piece of leather and trace the pattern directly onto the leather itself.

In 1967 Mr. Eby celebrated his 55th anniversary as a shoe repairman and at the age of 83 years old, he has no intention of giving up the business. He is in good health and enjoys his work very much. Mr. Eby and his business has become an important part in the community.

Over the years he has learned all phases of the shoe repair business, and blames the scarcity of shops of this nature, on cheap shoes. People throw away their shoes when they are in need of repair, and just go out and buy a new pair.

This little repair shop in Thurmont serves St. Joseph's College as well as Mt. St. Mary's College. During the summer months Mr Eby notices a slack period, but this is because most of the children in the community go without shoes. This is compensated for by the work which he received from Camp Greentop. The Maryland League for Crippled Children operates a summer camp in the near-by Catoctin Mountains and all repair work on the children's shoes are brought to Mr. Eby for quick and dependable service.

Besides his regular job of repairing shoes, Mr. Eby spends a lot of his time on a hobby ? tinkering with clocks. This he does during the evening hours when the shoe shop is closed.

Through the years this little shop on Water Street has turned out thousands of repair jobs. Prices have changed occasionally, but only to cover the rising cost of materials and leather.

### Chapter 27 Memorial Park

World War I was the first great conflict to involve most of the civilized world. Historians still tell us that over 65,000,000 men were mobilized, of whom more than 8,500,000 were killed or died as a result of it.

When America entered the war on April 6, 1917, Thurmont, like most of the communities in the nation, responded to the call for men. When the war ended on November 11, 1918, there were 119 local men in uniform, most of them on foreign soil.

Thurmont was proud of its citizens in uniform and to further express their pride, decided to erect a memorial as a lasting tribute to the brave and noble sons who had fought and died for the cause of freedom.

Early in 1922, a group of civic-minded citizens met to dis-

cuss plans for a memorial. A tract of land on East Main Street was donated by one of the citizens and it was decided upon to erect a pavilion suitable for housing four large bronze tablets, bearing the names of the 119 men who served their country during the war.

Contributions were received and the memorial was erected and dedicated on November 11, 1922. The rostrum was built of native stone and proved to be a most fitting tribute to the citizens who had served their country. Surrounding the rostrum were eleven scarlet oak trees, each planted in memory of the eleven young men who had made the supreme sacrifice. Their names, which appear on the front tablet of the memorial, serve as a constant reminder, of the price we must often pay for freedom. Making this supreme sacrifice were:

Louis R. Adams  
Jesse M. Pryor  
Murry S. Baker  
Clifford M. Stitely  
Benjamin E. Cline  
Raymond L. Stull  
Edgar J. Eyler  
Stanley M. Toms  
William T. Fraley  
James Somerset Waters  
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# HISTORY



For generations, the Cozy restaurant and inn was a must see tourist destination for anyone visiting the Catoctin region.

Although the memorial was a community project, it did not officially become a part of community property until November 11, 1928, when it was turned over to the Town Commissioners and accepted on behalf of the citizens, by Mayor, Frank L. Cady. Today Memorial Park is an attractive site and plans are in the making to add still another memorial, to honor the citizens of the community who served their country during World War II. The following men served their country well and paid the supreme sacrifice during the Second World War:

- Ray J. Stambaugh
- Reed W. Bottomley
- Reynolds Morrow
- Edwin C. Creeger, Jr.
- Austin Reed
- Frank W. Albaugh
- Annon Shriner
- Raymond Pryor
- Gordon L. Pryor
- Olin W. Bales
- William J. Grimes
- Dale F. Ford
- Hesson Sauble
- Donald A. Duncan
- Francis E. Valentine
- Harry F. Fraley
- John A. Gall
- John F. Knott
- Charles M. Stull

**Chapter 28: Cozy Restaurant**

Cozy Restaurant, located south of the community on Route 806, is the oldest restaurant in Thurmont and takes great pride in featuring the best in home-cooked food. Conveniently

located near many points of local interest, Cozy offers the finest facilities available for banquets, parties, receptions and even bus groups.

Its main dining room, tastefully constructed in rustic outdoor style, comfortably seats 250 people. An interesting display of animal life adorns the walls including a bear-skin rug. The bear was shot by the late President Herbert R. Hoover while on a hunting trip to Alaska and was a gift to the proprietor, the late Wilbur R. Freeze.

Mr. Freeze, a native of Thurmont, spent several years in Detroit, Michigan, where he operated a confectionary store. This was during the Roaring Twenties — when post-war travel was booming. In 1929 Mr. Freeze returned to Thurmont and soon discovered that there were no places in the area for the traveling motorist to stay and so he decided to do something about it.

In the fall of 1929 he constructed three cabins which he gave the picturesque name of “Cozy” and to attract the passing traveler he also opened a service station. Four years later in 1933, Mr. Freeze built a 12-stool luncheon bar which was no longer than the average living room of today. A year later in 1934, the “Cozy Room” and the adjacent sun porch was added to handle the increased business. The main dining room was built in 1935 and enlarged to its present size in 1939.

In the early Thirties “Cozy” was the scene of several balloon ascensions and one of its biggest attractions featured a man who was

buried alive for several days. These outdoor attractions were enjoyed by children and adults alike. “Cozy” was indeed a very popular meeting place and the food served to its patrons was the main

reason for its growing popularity. A fish pond, with its hundreds of inhabitants, composed one of the largest concrete aquariums in the country. A unique doghouse, built by John Stiles, makes even the most adventurous youngsters’ eyes bulge with amazement.

Several million people have dined at Cozy Restaurant since it first opened in 1929. Among these have been some of the most eminent figures of our time. With the establishment of the Presidential mountain retreat in the Catoctin Mountains early in 1942, Cozy was, for a period of time, headquarters for the many reporters and photographers who

followed the President as far as Thurmont.

Prominent guests at Cozy Restaurant include the following: The Honorable Sir Winston Churchill, Henry Cabot Lodge, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Babe Ruth, Theodore R. McKeldin, Baily Goss, Gus Treandos, Lou Gehrig, Branch Rickey, Larry Richey, James Mitchell, William R. Rogers, Joe Brooks, Jim Gentile, Steve Barber, Charles Mc. Mathias, Billy Hunter, J. Millard Tawes, Ordell Bracy, Roger Starrback, Charlie Keller, Bob Baldwin, Robert Hager, Skip Orr, Lee Taylor of Station WLOW-TV Miami, Florida, Nola Jane Birely who was “Miss United States 1966,” and many well-known radio and television personalities. Miss Birely’s father, William Birely, a native of Thurmont, is a director of the Thurmont Bank. Her grandfather, Victor Birely, also a native of Thurmont, is a leading authority on the life of Abraham Lincoln and in 1958 was appointed by President Eisenhower as a member of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission 1958-1961.

Cozy Restaurant serves as a meeting place for the Thurmont Lions Club and the Thurmont Jaycees and because of its close association with these two active organizations, it has entertained many out-standing sports figures.

In 1961 Mr. Wilbur R. Freeze, founder of “Cozy” Restaurant, suffered a stroke and died. His widow, with the help of their son Gerald,

has faithfully followed the traditions which he instituted. Gerald, who majored in Business Administration and with his practical experience, has served well in the family enterprise.

In 1967 a rustic waterwheel and covered bridge were added to the outside grounds. A new and very attractive sign was erected and improvements to the driveway were also made.

Gerald’s future plans for Cozy Restaurant are his main concern. These include many outstanding features, which, if they materialize, will be a great asset to the business and the community as well. However, the Freeze’s major objective is to constantly improve their food and service.

Through the years Cozy Restaurant has retained its homey relaxed atmosphere, quite untouched by any desire for splurge or grandeur. It is without question, one of the finest and most popular eating places in the state, featuring only the finest in home-cooked food. Cozy employs thirty-five regular and part-time employees and on a busy day 800 full-course dinners are served to its patrons who have ten main courses to choose from. Cozy Restaurant is unmatched for cleanliness, and widely known for its charm and friendly atmosphere which has enchanted the public since 1929. These are the necessary requisites for a successful business and Cozy has them all.

To be continued next month

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**Executive**  
**JAN GARDNER**

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**Speaker: Thurmont Police Chief Greg Eyer**

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# TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## History of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

David Buie

Trinity Lutheran Church of Taneytown is one of the landmarks of early Lutheranism in America. No one can fix its beginning date, but it was undoubtedly not many years after the first Lutheran services held west of the Susquehanna. The oldest record preserved is that of a baptism in 1788. The most accurate descriptions of the church began around 1792. At that time, the pastor was Reverend John Guenther Wingandt. The officers of the church at that time were recorded as Michael Null and Ulrich Reaver, Elders, and Matthew Shriner and John Zumbum.

The congregation was first known as the "German Lutheran Congregation of Taneytown." Services were conducted exclusively in the German language until 1828 when the demand for English preaching became so strong that an English-speaking assistant was secured for the pastorate. From that time until several years after the Civil War, ministers conducted services in both languages. Today services are conducted only in English.

During the latter part of the

eighteenth century, the congregation was served by pastors who were not residents. Around the beginning of the nineteenth century, Taneytown's church became the center of a pastoral charge, which included, at various periods, Emmitsburg, Fountain Dale, Mount Joy, Emmanuel (Baust), Uniontown, St. Luke's (Winners), Mount Union, and Keyville. Some of the pastors were almost entitled to be called itinerant missionaries, so faithfully did they labor to establish churches in the surrounding communities. In Taneytown there was tremendous success in attracting people to the church and, from the early records, this appears as a large congregation. In 1920, when the population of Taneytown was around 800, there were six hundred seventy confirmed members of the congregation.

Five buildings have been used in the history of this congregation. First, the Lutherans in conjunction with the Reformed and Presbyterian congregations used a frame building that stood on the ground, which is now part of the Reformed Cemetery behind Grace United Church of Christ, but in 1811, the com-

munity laid the cornerstone for a building where the church now stands. The West Baltimore Street location being chosen for its excellent location on the main artery through town. Two years later, the structure was formally dedicated. About thirty years later, this building was remodeled and enlarged. Beginning in the fall of 1870, a new church was built. After more than twenty-five years, that building was extensively remodeled, enlarged, and improved to give the present beautiful and spacious church the appearance of an entirely new structure. The new design was dedicated on May 9, 1897.

An act of incorporation was approved at a special congregational meeting held February 19, 1900, making the name "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Taneytown, Carroll County, Maryland." The act was acknowledged before Henry C. Wilt, Justice of the Peace, on March 5, 1900, and duly recorded according to the law on March 6, 1900, at the county seat.

During both World War I and World War II, the congregation felt its losses. Verle E. C. Snider enrolled at Gettysburg Seminary volunteered for service during World War I. He died in France in 1918. In addition, to die in France from complications brought on by the Spanish influenza was Corporal Raymond L. Hesson.

Similar to WWI two members of Trinity were killed in World War II: Paul Copenhagen and Richard Sell. A "Service Flag" honoring the 68 men and women of Trinity who served their country during World War II was enclosed in a glass case and placed alongside a brass plaque in the front vestibule. All four service members found their final resting place in the cemetery at Trinity.

Though not all-inclusive, below is a list of the pastors who have served Trinity Lutheran Church since the calling of the first permanent, full-time pastor in 1788.

- John Guenther Wingandt 1788 - 1795
- John R. Ruthrauff 1796 - 1799
- John David Young 1800 - 1803
- John Grobp 1803 - 1828
- John N. Hoffman 1828 - 1833
- Samuel D. Finckel 1834 - 1837

- Ezra Keller 1837 - 1840
- Solomon Sentman 1841 - 1858
- Levi T. Williams 1858 - 1867
- Peter Bergstresser 1867 - 1874
- W. H. Luckenbaugh 1875 - 1878
- Samuel G. Finckel 1878 - 1883
- Oliver C. Roth 1883 - 1889
- George W. McSherry 1890 - 1896
- D. Frank Garland 1896 - 1899
- Charles A. Britt 1899 - 1904
- William E. Wheeler 1904 - 1910
- Luther B. Hafer 1911 - 1923
- Wouter V. Garrett 1924 - 1928
- Alfred T. Sutcliffe 1928 - 1945
- Glenn L. Stahl 1945 - 1955
- Stanley B. Jennings 1955 - 1960
- Howard W. Miller 1961 - 1968
- Maurice A. Arsenault 1968 - 1973
- Emil Gustafson 1974 - 1981
- Arthur L. Mentzer 1982 - 1993
- John S. Douglas 1994 - 2000

While Trinity's pastors have served with devotion, several pastors have been singled out for special mention because of their acknowledged contributions. One was the Rev. John Grobp, a German pastor, who served the congregation for 25 years. Following his resignation in 1828 because of the trend toward English services, he remained in the community, later died here, and is buried in the church cemetery. Another was the Rev. Solomon Sentman who is most often remembered for building the present parsonage as his home and later selling it to the congregation at a discount. However, judging from the young men who he tutored and subsequently entered the ministry, he must have made a tremendous impact on the lives of his constituency.

Another outstanding pastor, the Rev. Ezra Keller, founded Wittenberg College in Ohio, soon after leaving Taneytown. The Rev. Luther B. Hafer researched and wrote the booklet "A Brief Sketch of Trinity Lutheran Church" in 1911 in time to celebrate the centennial of the laying of the church's first cornerstone, Sept. 3, 1911.

The longest pastorate at Trinity



Reverend L. B. Hafer who published the first history of Trinity Lutheran Church in 1911 to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the first separate building.

in the twentieth century was Rev. Alfred T. Sutcliffe who arrived in November 1928 and served until his death on May 26, 1945. Rev. Glenn L. Stahl, in accepting a call to Trinity in 1954, also accepted the challenge to raise funds and begin a building program at Trinity. He rose to that challenge which resulted in the educational wing dedicated Sept. 5, 1954. It was also during his ministry that Trinity celebrated its bicentennial, which culminated in the memorable pageant, "The Seven Books of Trinity."

Rev. Arthur Mentzer, who was Trinity's beloved pastor from Dec. 12, 1982, until his sudden passing on January 27, 1993, will be remembered for his keen interest in music and, most particularly, the Felgenmaker organ. In 1987 the pipe organ was dismantled entirely, tonal additions made, and completely restored at the cost of \$43,000. In 1988 it was rededicated as the "All Saints Organ" and is the pride and joy not only of Trinity congregation but of every musician who plays it.

David Buie is a volunteer at the Historical Society of Carroll County and can be contacted via e-mail at teambuie05@msn.com.

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## January 7

### Wedded Unknown To Their Parents

Unknown to their parents and their most intimate friends, Miss Martha Bowling Fairfield and John Leroy Kane of Fairfield, where married in Shamokin on Christmas Day. News of the wedding was kept a secret until yesterday.

The day before Christmas Miss Bowling left the home of her parents, obstinately for the purpose of visiting friends in Hanover. Instead, she boarded the train at Gettysburg for Harrisburg, being joined in Biglerville by her fiancé. The pair was wed Christmas morning in Saint Joseph's Church during a high mass. Upon returning to Adams County the couple separated and reach their respective homes virtually unobserved.

Miss Bowling, a member of St. Mary's Church in Fairfield, graduated from the nursing course at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lancaster in June 1919. Recently she has been doing private nursing in Adams County. Mr. Kane who met his future bride four years ago, is the present vice commander of the Ira Lady American Legion Post at Arendtville. During the war he served two years in the army. He went to France as a member of the 79th Infantry Division and while there took part in the battles of St. Miheil and the Argonne Forest. In December 1918 he qualified for a commission. After February 1 they will live at the Kane residence where Mr. Kane is engaged as a farmer and fruit grower.

### Boys Held for Court

Three boys from the Cashtown District recently arrested for the theft of three blankets in Fairfield have given bail for their appearance at a future term of the criminal court. The boys are charged with pilfering blankets from Dr. Henderson, Carol Polly and Salomon Allison, all of Fairfield. All the boys are in their late teens.

### New Saving Certificates

Official announcement has been received by the Postmaster of Taneytown, that the interest rates on the Treasury Saving Certificates has been increased to 4 1/2%. The higher rate goes into effect on the 1922 issue of the certificates, placed on sale January 1. The Increase of the interest rates on this class of government securities means that Uncle Sam will really

sell \$25 certificates for \$20, \$100 certificates for \$80 and \$1,000 certificates for \$800, provided the purchaser or recipient holds the security to its five-year maturity date. The treasury has concentrated on the new securities, eliminating the twenty-five cent thrift stamp and the five-dollar war saving stamps. Sale of the one-dollar treasury saving stamp will be continued to provide an easy method of regular savings for conversions into Treasury Saving Certificates.

## January 14

### 41 Hunters Killed

Approximately 3,300 deer were killed in Pennsylvania during the season recently ended, according to estimates made by the Secretary of the State Game Commission. His report also showed there were 41 persons killed and 75 wounded - a 2% fatality rate for hunters. A significant portion of those killed or wounded where inebriated at the time of their injuries. The number of hunters killed is an increase from prior years and is pointed too by local boozers as a direct outcome of prohibition. "Prior to prohibition," a boozier said, "a man could enjoy a bottle or two of booze in the local saloon, but now he has to enjoy the fruits of his hard work while in the woods, and once loaded, just about anything looks like a deer, including fellow boozers."

### Drunk Driver Fined \$100

Milton Null, of Taneytown, was sentenced to pay a \$100 fine and the cost of prosecution for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor. This case was brought to the attention of the authorities when Null was arrested near Fairfield by the state police while returning from a hunting outing.

## January 21

### The Tramp Is Coming Back

The tramp, who almost disappeared during the war, is returning to the highways of the country and the cheap Lodgings of the towns. The new tramp, although as shiftless and as homeless as ever, is better dressed than the old tramp was, and since he cannot get whiskey has generally a more respectable air.

The increase in the number of those who wander in search of work - or to avoid it - raises the all questions of how to prevent vagrancy. Some authorities

advocate farm labor colonies or forced marriage to homely women hoping to scare tramps away. Others however state that many Tramps are created by nagging wives forcing them to remarry would be considered cruel and unusual punishment. At any rate, there should be some place where men with neither means, nor inclination to support themselves could be put to productive work.

### Local Injuries

Elmer Carbaugh of Fairfield, had the misfortune last week while cutting wood to cut a gash in one of his legs. Dr. Henderson rendered the necessary treatment.

Last Saturday evening, when Harold Wolf of Harney was trying to crank his automobile he had the misfortune of breaking his arm. We are told that it was a very ugly break. Wolf was immediately rushed to the hospital where he has remained ever since. We are told he is getting along as well as can be expected. It is wise to be very careful about the 'Lizzie.'

On Wednesday of this week, while waiting on a customer in Mackiey's Confectionary store in Thurmont, Miss Laura Mackley walked into the open cellar way, back of the counter. She fell forward down the steps and then hit her head on the stores boiler and was knocked unconscious. When she revived, she babbled incoherently. Dr. Stoner could not determine if her babbling was because of the injury or because she was just a woman, since women seem to do that naturally.

### Entitled to Third Place

loyd Brown, a member of the Fairfield Pig Club, recently was awarded a prize by the Duroc-Jersey Association for the Durie pig he raised to enter in the state contest. This prize entitled Brown to third place among the pig raisers of Pennsylvania and incidentally to first Place in Adams County.

## January 28

### Revival Attracts Boozers

16 'conversions' have been made at the revival service at the Mount Tabor United Brethren Church, conducted by the Reverend T. D. Ritter. Ritter created much interest in the meetings when he announced that he would, due to the lack of 'Sacramental Wine', he would be using 'Sacramental Whiskey' during the services held Wednesday evenings. All converts are offered to drink freely



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between readings. Services have been in progress for several weeks and will be continued at least two weeks longer. Rumor has it that many of the new 'converts' are returning each week claiming they have 'fallen' and need to be 'converted' again.

### New Plant in Emmitsburg

Emmitsburg's new industry, a factory operated by Charles Schriener and Sons of Taneytown, open Tuesday with 30 girls employed. The capacity of the plant will be increased as soon as additional machinery is installed and Schriener can figure out how to keep the girls focused on doing their work, something they are not naturally inclined to do.

### Harney Mill Ready to Operate Again

Daniel Senfz will soon have his mill ready to operate again. He has had the rolls about completed and in place. We are glad that he is getting in shape for business, and know that it will be a great benefit to the community, as Mr. Senfz is generally known as one of the best miller's in the county.

### Women Not eligible To Serve as Jurors in Maryland

Women will not sit in the jury box of the Circuit Court of Frederick County for the present at least, according to Judge Glenn Worthington. A state law limits jury service to men only and as long as that law is enforced, women will not be allowed to serve as jurors.

This announcement will in all likelihood cause consternation in the ranks of the new voters, many of who would like to take an active part in the courts of justice. Much interest was manifested by women in several court cases recently. A number of women attended trials to get acquainted with the procedures of court so that when they would have a chance to sit as jurors they would go about it like all timers. However, as expected, the feeble mind of the women was unable to understand the complexities of the law and quickly lost interest and began to gossip so loudly that they were evicted from the courtroom.

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

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# COOKING

## New Year's treats

Rheta Thola  
Director of Events

With the New Year just passing, many Americans do their best to make a "New Year's Resolution." There are many very interesting statistics pertaining to how people make their resolutions, what they pertain to, and how long people keep up with them. But I think it is surprising to no one that many of these well intended resolutions do not last long past their creation date. This year I propose that you choose to make a goal (or goals) instead of a resolution.

According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, a resolution is "the act of resolving or clearing up or dealing with successfully". So that implies that a New Year's Resolution needs to focus around fixing a problem. Fixing problems is a great thing to do! In fact, I am sure there are never ending problems that can be fixed in each of our lives. But I would venture a guess that if the problems were easy to clear up, it would not need to be the focus of a yearly commitment. Am I right?

A goal instead is defined as "the end toward which effort is directed." This is why the word "goal" is often used in connection with sports or other physical activity. There is a lot of effort put towards winning a soccer game or towards finishing a marathon. And the desired end of that effort is obvious not only to the person working towards the goal, but often obvious to onlookers as well. A person running a marathon does not turn back halfway through or even

forget what they are working towards. They will often keep track of their progress during the marathon by tracking how far they have gone. Many runners now use apps that track distance, speed, and time. They also spent many long hours to prepare for this goal by training for the marathon, selecting the perfect gear, and even researching the run route ahead of time.

If you want something to change this year, choose to make a goal. Any change requires effort. And effort is not always fun and pleasant. Sometimes it will rain, and you will have to just head right for those puddles. Or it will be hot and dry, and you will just long for a light shower to cool you down. But you made that goal knowing that it was worth the effort. If you keep putting your effort toward that desired end, by the end of the year, you will have reached the finish line. So here is to a new year and lots of effort to achieve whatever it is you set as your goal!

### Egg Stuffed Baked Potato

#### Ingredients

Baked potatoes, slightly cooled  
Melted butter  
Salt and black pepper  
Shredded cheese  
Eggs  
Additional fillings of your choice:  
sauteed vegetables, bacon or ham, etc.

Preparation Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Slice a layer off the

top of each potato. Use a spoon to gently scoop out insides, leaving a thin layer of potato against the skin and avoiding puncturing the bottom. Reserve scooped potato for another use.

Brush inside of each potato with melted butter and sprinkle with a little salt and pepper. Sprinkle a layer of shredded cheese into each potato and add fillings as desired (vegetables, diced meat, etc.) Fill each potato about 3/4 full. Crack one egg into each potato. Sprinkle with a little more salt and pepper. Top with additional cheese and toppings if desired. Place potatoes on a baking sheet and cook for about 20 minutes. Egg whites should be set and yolks soft.

### Coconut Curry Beef

#### Ingredients

2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
2 pounds beef chuck roast, cut into 2" pieces  
Salt  
2 large onions, cut into wedges  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
2 teaspoons soy sauce  
1 tablespoon ground ginger  
1 tablespoon curry powder  
1 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper  
13.6 ounces canned light coconut milk  
2 tablespoons packed brown sugar  
1 yellow bell pepper, chopped in chunks  
1 pint cherry tomatoes  
optional, fresh cilantro for garnish, chopped

Preparation Instructions: Preheat oven to 275-degrees F. Add oil to a dutch oven or oven safe pot and warm over medium-high heat. Salt beef and brown on all sides. Work in batches if necessary. Remove from pan, set aside, covered. Saute onions in the pan for about 5 minutes.

Reduce heat to medium, add soy, garlic, ginger, curry and cayenne and cook for about 2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Watch, being careful not to burn garlic. Add coconut milk and brown sugar and stir until combined well. Taste and adjust seasonings to taste. Add browned beef back to pan, stir to combine all together



well. Cover and cook at 275°F for at least 3 hours (4-5 hours is even better). Add bell pepper and tomatoes for final 15 minutes of cooking. Serve over jasmine rice, or favorite rice or pasta. Garnish with fresh chopped cilantro if desired.

### Cheesy Cauliflower Nachos

#### Ingredients

1 Tablespoon olive or avocado oil  
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/2 teaspoon onion powder  
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin  
1/2 teaspoon paprika  
1/4 teaspoon chili powder  
1/2 teaspoon sea salt  
5 cups cauliflower florets, cut into 1/2-inch slices  
1/3 cup refried beans  
3/4 cup shredded Mexican cheddar cheese  
1 jalapeno, sliced  
1/2 cup chopped grape/cherry tomatoes  
1/4 cup diced red onion  
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro  
1 avocado, sliced or chopped (optional)

Preparation Instructions: Preheat oven to 425°F. Spray a large baking sheet with olive oil or avocado oil cooking spray. Slice cauliflower into 1/2-inch slices. In a large bowl, combine oil with garlic powder, onion powder, cumin, paprika, chili powder and sea salt. Add sliced cauliflower and gently toss to coat. Place seasoned cauliflower

on baking sheet, spacing out the pieces so that they roast instead of steam. Bake 20 minutes, until cauliflower is tender and starting to brown.

Remove the pan from the oven; push cauliflower together in the center of the pan. Top cauliflower with refried beans, sprinkle with cheese and add jalapeño slices on top. Return to the oven and bake until the beans are heated through and the cheese has melted, about 6-7 minutes. Top cauliflower with chopped tomato, red onion and cilantro. Add avocado (if using) and serve directly from the sheet pan. You can also transfer to a platter for serving or portion into bowls.

### Kielbasa Hash

#### Ingredients

1 (14 ounce) package turkey kielbasa, cut into 1/4 inch rounds  
1 green bell pepper, diced  
1/2 yellow, red or orange bell pepper, diced  
1 onion, diced  
3 small or 2 large potatoes, peeled and diced  
Olive oil  
Salt and pepper

Preparation Instructions: In a heavy-bottomed skillet, heat 2 tbsp of olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the potatoes to the skillet and season with salt and pepper. Fry until golden brown and cooked through, around 8-10 minutes, stirring a few times to ensure even browning.

In a separate skillet, brown the sliced kielbasa for around 5 minutes in 1 tbsp of olive oil over medium-high heat. Remove the kielbasa from the pan and set aside. Add the peppers and onions to the skillet and season with a pinch of salt and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes, or until softened, stirring occasionally. Add the cooked potatoes and kielbasa to the skillet with the onions and peppers and mix everything together.

### Upcoming Events

Mini Maker: Do you want to build a snowman? – Saturday, January 23rd 10 – 11 a.m. Cost \$7. Pre-registration required.

Kids' Groundhog's Day Event – Saturday, January 30th 10 – 11:30 a.m. Cost \$10. Pre-registration required.

Family Cooking Class: Hot Chocolate Cinnamon Rolls – Saturday, January 30th 1:30 – 3 p.m. Cost \$45. Pre-registration required.

For more information about these events, call Hollabaugh Bros at 717-677-8412 or visit our website at www.hollabaughbros.com.



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# MOM'S TIME OUT

## A hopeful New Year

Mary Angel

2021 – We made it! Can you believe the year we went through? The year started with this unknown virus killing people in other countries, with many people in the US believing it would never come here. Then it started trickling in like a crack in a dam, until the dam could hold it back no longer and kaboom the dam broke loose. Hundreds of thousands of people have died this year in our country alone. Schools and business have shut down, and that is not to mention all the racial unrest. For me, I know it has been an extremely stressful year. That being said, I have personally seen the toll it has taken on my kids.

Kids have endured their schools closing, which at the start excited many of them. They have experienced parents losing jobs and even the death of a family member or friend. As time has gone on, they have learned, even though they mostly had contact with friends through texts and apps, they now realize how important human interaction is. I am not a conspiracy theorist and I do believe this is real and I have seen firsthand the devastation this virus can cause. I also believe the shutdowns and limitations on schools and businesses were necessary and that we all have a responsibility to care about our neighbor and make the best of things and support (with takeout, curbside, gift card purchases and distanced shopping) the businesses that have been affected. Enough about last year, though!

The New Year is a sign of a new beginning and a fresh start. Although the virus is still here and we still need to be cautious, we know so much more about

it and are well on our way to a vaccine. My kids often say, “2021 has to be better than 2020, right?” My response always involves some form of “YES” and “but” and an explanation. We do know so much more about the virus and we are going to see several vaccines come out at the beginning of the new year, but things aren't going to go right back to the way they were and that is okay.

My kids have learned to cherish the limited time and human contact they have with friends and family. One of my daughter's good friends ended up having to get tested for COVID-19 (her whole family did because her dad was exposed at work). They all tested negative and she called my daughter and asked her if she could see her. What a blessing in disguise that was for both of them. They exchanged Christmas gifts and visited and laughed and simply enjoyed one another's company. Dare I say, they may have appreciated this visit more than any trip to the mall or video game session they had ever had before.

One thing that has impressed me about my kid's friends is their understanding and compassion for the situation my kids are in. Some of their friends don't wear masks, they don't practice social distancing, they don't even necessarily believe this is a big deal, but they respect the fact that my kids do. Their friends, regardless of their own beliefs, allow my kids to have their own opinion and they respect that it is not the same as their own. They all understand that my kids have grandparents (both with COPD) living in their house and they don't hesitate to do what ever will make my kids feel more comfort-

able about when they are around them. It's funny as I say this out loud; I think there are a lot of adults (especially in an election year) that could learn from these children.

Going into the new year, my children are super excited for a vaccine so they can go back to school and can start seeing everyone more often. They acknowledge that not all their friends will get a vaccine right away, some not at all. They will try to respect the decisions of others just as they have done for them. They don't even care about wearing a mask, they said it is kind of nice in the winter. My kids just want to be social and most of them learn better when they are in school and not at home on shotty internet. I actually asked my kids what they are most excited to do when there is a widely available vaccine. My boys want to go have a meal with friends outside of our house.

My girls want to go shopping and not have me say, “No Way!” and turn the car around when I see how many cars are in the parking lot. They all want to have friends over to watch a movie and eat some popcorn. It really is the basic stuff. My husband is looking forward to spending time with our friends without worry about spreading the virus. I am looking forward to seeing my best friend (who has multiple health risks in her household) and taking my mom for a drive.

As 2020 closed, it left with it a year of fear, worry, and pain. It also left a time to slow down and appreciate the blessings we all have. I hope as a vaccine comes out and we look forward to the new normal, we don't lose sight of the simpler time into which we were forced. Instead, I hope we take those memories and continue to enjoy time at home, a slower time with our families. I know the new year will not



## SCHOOL NEWS

# FCPS readies for spring semester

Edison Hatter

As preparations continue for the Spring 2021 semester that will begin at the end of the month, the expectation continues to be that instruction will be delivered in a hybrid model. The hybrid model will include online and in-person instruction for students. Students will all be placed into either an "A" or a "B" cohort. The A cohort students will have in-person instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays, and online instruction on Thursdays and Fridays.

Students in the B cohort will experience the exact opposite: online learning on Mondays and Tuesdays and in-person instruction on Thursdays and Fridays. All students will have online instruction on Wednesdays while the school buildings are thoroughly cleaned. Additionally,

school buildings will undergo a thorough cleaning on Saturday and Sunday. Any students wishing to continue exclusively with classes online will be allowed to do so. This will be a significant change from the Fall 2020 semester, during which the county delivered instruction to students exclusively online.

Early this month, the county expects to tabulate the results of a county-wide survey sent to students and families to gauge overall opinion about the hybrid model. A similar survey conducted this past summer revealed that 40% of students and families would prefer to continue exclusively with online instruction. Board of Education member Brad Young said that it will be interesting to see what the results of the new survey are, but ultimately the decision for this semester now rests solely with

Superintendent Theresa Alban, not the Board of Education.

In November, the Board of Education voted to give Alban the sole authority to decide whether or not the county will move into the hybrid learning model to begin the second semester at the end of the month. Alban is expected to consider community feedback and health department metrics and guidance before making a final decision this month. Young said, as of middle-to-late December, that he still expected Alban to decide to begin the spring semester under the hybrid model. After a nine-month hiatus, organized high school sports have returned to Frederick County.

Practices for winter sports began on December 7 and games are scheduled to begin this month, barring any new recommendations or guidance from county health

and government officials. Competition for high school sports this year is expected to be conducted exclusively within Frederick County, with no teams being permitted to travel to or host out-of-county teams for competitions.

The Board of Education recently made the difficult decision to vote to close Sabillasville Elementary School (SES) after the 2020-21 school year. Young explained that the decision was very difficult for the board to make and that every option was considered before the final vote. Unfortunately, steeply declining enrollment numbers at Sabillasville make the school difficult for the county to continue to operate. Additionally, the board expressed concerns about the "age of the building", noting that the building was originally built in 1964 and has several "operating systems that are well beyond expected life".

While the future of the building

and property is somewhat uncertain, Young expressed optimism that a charter school may someday open a new school at the location. In a press release, the entire board "acknowledged that there may be some interest by community members from Sabillasville who may be submitting an application for consideration of a charter school".

Additionally, the board acknowledged that there could potentially be an appeal regarding the decision and that the board "respects the process to do so as outlined under Board Policy and Maryland law". Finally, the board said that they "wish to thank the SES community and know that SES staff will continue to provide an outstanding education for students through the 2020-2021 school year. In the coming weeks, updates with the community about what happens next will be shared".

## BOE statement regarding the closure of Sabillasville

On November 23, the Board of Education voted to close Sabillasville Elementary School (SES) at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. This was a difficult decision for the Board which only occurred after considering a variety of alternatives, input from staff, feedback from the community and specific evaluation of the criteria outlined in Board Policy.

The Board's evaluation of this decision began on January 22, after staff met with the Board to present student enrollment projections for the school system which showed a total enrollment of 74 students at SES; SES has a building capacity for 160 students. At that meeting, the Board began discussion of the criteria to evaluate regarding closing SES and directed the Superintendent and staff to review such decision in accordance with Board Policy 200.3.

On February 26, Dr. Alban provided a report to the Board and also shared information from a public information session that was held at SES on February 20 with the SES community. Both Dr. Alban and Brad Young, serving as Board President at that time, attended. That meeting lasted over 3 hours and allowed the opportunity to respond to questions and provide information about the evaluation process for closing a school.

At the Board meeting, Dr. Alban provided an analysis of the criteria for closing a school outlined in Board Policy that included: student enrollment, age/condition of the building, transportation, financial consideration, impact on students (i.e. relocating 74 students), and the overall impact to the community. The report covered all 8 factors in the Board Policy and COMAR:

- Student enrollment trends;
- Age or condition of school buildings;
- Transportation;
- Educational programs;
- Racial composition/Demographics;
- Financial considerations;
- Student relocation;
- Impact on community

Dr. Alban specifically highlighted concerns related to the age of the building noting the facility opened in 1964 and operating systems that are well beyond expected life, resulting in maintenance costs as one of the highest in the county. Dr. Alban also shared concerns about inequity in offered educational programming due to staffing and a pattern of continual decline in student enrollment at SES.

The Board made a decision to keep the school open in school year 2020-2021 to allow time to explore

alternative options for keeping SES open and to revisit closure decision before the end of December.

After the meeting in February, a dedicated email address was established for the SES community to provide specific feedback for the Board as it related to the closing of SES.

In addition, Board President Brad Young met with community representatives to solicit ideas for consideration as alternative options for keeping SES open. Dr. Alban joined Board President Young at a subsequent meeting on September 10, 2020 to review the options previously discussed.

On October 14, the Board held a work session dedicated to a review of the alternative options for keeping SES open. The Board directed Dr. Alban and staff to conduct a survey to determine if an open enrollment option was viable.

On November 23, the Board met to review a report provided by Dr. Alban regarding the survey results garnered from the Yellow Springs Elementary School (YSES) community and to again revisit the consideration to close SES. YSES families were surveyed to determine interest in having their students attend SES. Only 5 of the 143 responded in favor of that option. The Board did not view this as a viable option based on the low interest.

The Board then voted to close SES and indicated that the Board believed it had evaluated the criteria outlined in Policy, explored alternatives to closing, and provided opportunity for feedback from SES which was heard and valued. The Board indicated specific rationale for the decision based on the overall condition of the facility, the consistently declining student enrollment, financial concerns regarding maintenance of the building, staffing concerns and an equitable delivery of the educational programs for students.

The Board acknowledged that there may be some interest by community members from Sabillasville who may be submitting an application for consideration of a charter school. The Board guided those individuals to resources under Policy 440.

Finally, the Board acknowledges that this decision is subject to appeal and respects the process to do so as outlined under Board Policy and Maryland law.

The Board wishes to thank the SES community and knows that SES staff will continue to provide an outstanding education for students through the 2020-2021 school year. In the coming weeks, updates with the community about what happens next will be shared and also the email address remains active for the SES community if they wish to submit specific questions.

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## COVID shuts down Fairfield middle and high schools

COVID-19 cases reported at the secondary class-levels at the Fairfield Area School District (FASD) have resulted in secondary school classes going virtual-only through the end of the school semester, while the elementary school is not affected.

Parents of the students in the affected grade-levels were notified by letter from District Superintendent Michael Adamek, in which he stated, "It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this letter to notify all Fairfield families that the secondary

(Grades 5 - 12) will be transitioning to virtual instruction starting tomorrow (December 7)."

Superintendent Adamek said that the number of positive COVID cases for a 14-day period is at the level which requires the district to transition grades 5 through 12 to virtual learning, adding, "unfortunately the number of positive COVID cases also continues to grow at the secondary-level."

Classes at the elementary school will be unaffected unless circumstances there should change. All

schedules for primary and secondary will remain in-effect until the holiday break, which commences December 23.

The district school board voted at their December meeting to permit the elementary school students to return from their holiday vacation time on January 4, but since there have been COVID-19 issues at the secondary levels, those students will not be returning until January 28.

Adamek noted that during the second week following the return of the student body from Thanksgiving

break, six COVID cases were confirmed among the secondary classes, in response to which the secondary school was closed for four days (as per state recommendations).

During the four-day closure, the number of cases was confirmed at seven, resulting in the action having been taken as of December 7.

Regarding sports, as the result of early December COVID-19 related restrictions ordered by Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Wolfe, the Fairfield Area School District will be compelled to reduce numbers of

spectators allowed during games.

Athletic Director Crystal Heller told the school board at their December meeting that, as the result of Governor Tom Wolf's mandates, the allowable gym capacity during sports events will be reduced from 20-percent to 10-percent.

The new restrictions will also impact the number of game-attendance passes that can be provided to parents and friends, but as of the meeting, Heller stated that the reduced number might be had not yet been determined.

## The path forward for resuming classes

**Karen Yoho**  
Frederick County School System

Our school board has some recent changes. Three new members were elected. David Bass, Sue Johnson, and Jason "Mr. J." Johnson were sworn in on Dec. 2. That same day, we conducted our board leadership elections. Jay Mason was nominated by former board president, Brad Young, and unanimously elected as president. I was elected vice president. Liz Barrett's term continues until 2022 and rounds out our seven-member board. We are looking forward to learning more about one another, as well as the skill set that each brings to the position. I can say that all three new members are earnestly working to do the best for the students of FCPS.

As 2020 ends, on the top of anyone's mind connected to the school system is when will we be able to begin hybrid instruction? Last fall, we received hundreds of emails from parents, many of whom wanted their students back in school for in-person instruction. Now, most of the emails are from parents and teachers cautioning us not to move too soon. We used to have metrics; now the state health department is seemingly indicating that there are other variables to take into account. There is research that seems to support schools not being super spreader locations.

But there have been outbreaks at various FCPS schools with less than 10% of our students coming into the school buildings.

And for every study that shows schools to be relatively safe, there is conflicting data. The Biden administration has stated that there is a plan to get students back to school in the near future. All this as the vaccine begins its rollout and teachers in Maryland have been moved up on the priority list for receiving their vaccination. Additionally, FCPS will be implementing a dashboard on our website so that anyone may check on our metrics themselves. We hope it will show our stakeholders that we are trying to be transparent. This could all bode well for getting students back into our buildings.

In order to better understand the concurrent teaching model, where teachers are instructing students at home at the same time they have students in the classroom, I visited a middle school and an elementary school, where I saw two kindergarten and two 3rd grade classes. I found that these teachers did what all teachers do - put their own spin on it. The teachers I observed were already in their schools, working with small in-person groups. They volunteered to try out concurrent teaching to help FCPS come up with best practices for this new model. The feedback received from these teachers will be used during

professional development training when teachers return to their buildings, tentatively, on January 13. It's going to take some adapting - again - but I have every confidence in our teachers to make it work.

One concern was the students in the classrooms spending all their time on a device. This proved not to be true at all. When the teacher is instructing the students at home and in the classroom simultaneously, yes, they all tend to be on devices. But then the students at home go off to do independent work while the students with the teacher have direct instruction using manipulatives, paper, pencil, etc. The students in person with the teacher, which is predicted to be roughly a third of the total class, may have to be the small group since distancing requirements make it hard to

imagine otherwise.

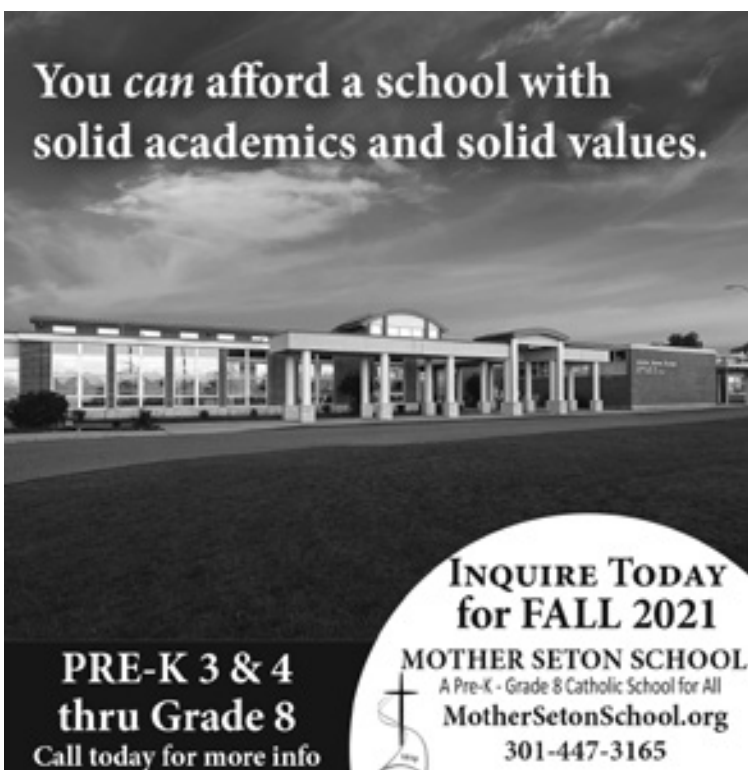
Throughout this health crisis, it has always seemed that we could eventually accommodate all of our students. Many want to re-enter their school building for hybrid instruction, while some will choose to remain virtual. In fact, we've heard from a number of families that during virtual instruction their child has blossomed. Some of the reasons have included not having to deal with bullying, lack of disruptions from other students, ability to self-pace, etc. Additionally, we've supported the option of voluntary involvement in extra-curricular activities for the social and emotional health of our students.

That leaves the health and well-being of our staff. Many emails have pointed to the relatively low occurrence of transmis-

sion from and to children. This is a good thing if it is indeed true, however, the majority of FCPS staff falls in an age group that is more susceptible, with a number having underlying health concerns or who live with someone that does. Our staff needs to trust that they will be called back into a safe environment where protocols are being followed. This will call for principals, as the leaders of their school, to be vigilant.

So, I'll finish this column as I did the previous one. It remains to be seen if the community can contain the spread enough for us to feel safe bringing our staff and students back into the buildings for hybrid instruction. The target seems to move all the time and I know it keeps more than a few superintendents and school board members up at night. Once again, stay tuned. I should know more by next month's column.

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month, we asked our writers to reflect on the ways in which a liberal arts curriculum has impacted their college education.*

### Freshman

#### The seven windows

McKenna Snow  
MSMU Class of 2024

When I chose my business major, I walked through a welcoming door, into a very pretty mechanical box. It had high ceilings, lots of rooms, and a staircase. Because of all its cogs and wheels and gears, the box made a lot of noise, and got the attention of a lot of the world. I was proud to live in that big mechanical box. I had the freedom to go in and out of the front door, which connected me to the rest of the world, whenever I wanted. I truly loved being in the box, because when I was in there, learning about my future career, I better enabled myself to help a lot of people. I could make a big difference in my box, creating, inventing, thinking of new ways to reach my future customers. I could design, employ, dream, and memorize. Another big plus about staying in this mechanical box was that I really liked its interior. It had couches, decor, and loads of hefty books about the field of business. Not to mention, so much technology was at my disposal.

But something that really fascinated me after I came into the box were its seven windows. I began looking through the windows during the first week of my stay in the box. Each one showed me some different scene from the outside world.

In one window, I looked out and saw miles and miles of sand and ocean. People walked up and down the shore in quiet contemplation. They watched the sunrise and sunset, and all they did was think. Part of me wanted to learn what all those people were thinking. As I sat at the sill, a girl from the beach came up to the window and we conversed through the screen. "What are you thinking about out there?" I asked her. She replied simply, "We are just thinking about why we are who we are—and what that means about everything else."

The next window was a breathtaking sight: the imagery was constantly shifting. I first saw ancient cities, and the people who governed them. The scene then changed to a coliseum, with lions emerging from the dark to appease a great angry crowd. I then saw a massive stone castle. Knights rode across the plane, carrying a beautiful white flag with a red cross in the center. Then three ships were

at sea, crashing over the waves. And so the scene continued to change, over and over again. It showed a brilliant history of the human race in vivid detail, portraying both the beautiful and the tragic.

The third window showed me a large museum, full of marble statues and acrylic paintings and brilliant-colored vases. In one corner of the museum a massive orchestra played, and I wished I could get the window open so I could listen to their music while I worked.

The fourth window captivated me in a way I did not expect. I saw a large backyard, with trees, a wrap-around porch, and at least two dozen people. A man was grilling barbeque and a group of young adults were playing cards at a picnic table. At least ten children ran about the yard, swinging on a tire swing, and playing red-light-green-light. I assumed this scene was some sort of family reunion. Here was a portrayal of a happy little society. It occurred to me that being able to understand them as human beings, all with their own personalities, preferences, opinions and backgrounds, was essential to me as a businesswoman.

The fifth window showed me a beautiful feat of architecture: towers of all shapes and sizes, a library, and churches of exquisite design. The

amount of geometric skill that must've been required to successfully craft these massive structures could not be overstated. Written on the inside of this window sill was  $2+2=4$ . I admit that math and I were not wonderful friends, but this window amazed me.

The sixth window was up the staircase of my box. This window showed me a brilliant midnight sky struck through its heart by the Northern Lights. A thousand stars twinkled on either side of the Lights, and if I looked closely down at the ground, there were people gazing through telescopes.

The final window of my box showed me the inside of a church, with low lighting, and a candlelit spotlight on the monstern on the altar. Someone in the church noticed my presence at the window, and came up to me. "What are you doing in there?" I asked him. He answered me, "We come in here to contemplate God. We get to know Him better in here, and in studying theology." I envied those in this quiet place, who did not always listen to all the noisy gears of my box. I wanted to open this window and climb through.

After exploring these seven windows, I was astounded to wake up the next morning and discover that the windows had turned into doors.

Who had done this? I contacted the University that gave me my box. They told me that through my University's curriculum, which doesn't want me to study solely about my major, such windows become doors.

I now have the freedom to travel through the doors and explore these scenes thoroughly, and bring back what I can to make my box better. I've since then brought back much sand from the seaside of philosophy, history that better prepares me for the future of my business, and music that helps me study more efficiently. I've made friends with that family, and understand their dynamics better through studying anthropology. The arithmetic I learned through the fifth door helps me crunch numbers for my business better. The night sky is a place I sit under to study—the same night sky the medieval astronomers looked upon. And that quiet church is a place I frequent to know better the One who made my soul. These doors changed life in my box so much. It is a richer place because of these "liberal arts doors." In fact, where I reside is no longer a box. All its corners and edges have been worn away; now it is a big, well-rounded home.

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

### Sophomore

#### To learn is to live is to love

Emmy Jansen  
MSMU Class of 2023

I love to learn. This is something that has come to the forefront of my mind in the past few months as I toil between various college classes. When I realized graduation was only two years away, it was an unsettling feeling, not because I'm scared to be a true independent adult, but because I would be leaving the classroom. Frankly, I can't imagine not learning, writing papers, and pursuing education.

For most people, 2020 was a year of survival. We were focused on the finish line and whatever got us there the fastest would have to do. This was especially true in schools, where the goal was to stay open despite rising case numbers and the tedious task of enforcing protocols. In the end, we were successful. We proved that universities can survive during a pandemic and higher education can continue through it all. It is an accomplishment that should not be downplayed.

However, surviving is not thriving. The purpose of university is to cultivate knowledge and promote a community of scholars. This goal gets lost in the shadows when the focus of the institution is on staying open and staying safe. We have proven in 2020 that live can go on even with shutdowns, stay-at-home orders, and the ever-present fear of COVID-19. Now, our task is to prove that we can live lives worth living as we navigate this new normal.

This year, especially, has taught me the importance of liberal arts education. These disciplines are at the heart of university, not because they are stepping-stones to six figure salaries but because they are the cornerstones of higher edu-

cation. Movies like "The Dead Poets' Society" are reminiscent of a time where learning was a passion, literature was praised for its beauty, and philosophy was discussed outside of the classroom. You can study biology and research chemistry, but it cannot be done separately from the humanities. This is the age-old debate of science versus religion and philosophy, but it is one that needs to be settled by both disciplines being included in higher education.

Despite the changing tides of higher education, the Mount has stayed true to its belief in higher education. Every student, no matter what diploma they are chasing, is required to study philosophy, theology, history, and the like. Not because it will land them a job in a research lab, but because it creates a well-rounded student as well as a well-rounded individual. While we could be goal-oriented and fill our course schedules with only classes for our major, the Mount makes sure we are grounded in history, knowledge, art, and beauty.

This does not mean that the debate of liberal arts education is over. Far from it. Because secondary education has become increasingly focused on test scores and college acceptances, there is a loss of the love of learning early in adolescents. It is now the job of universities and colleges to reignite this passion, which is an uphill battle that will be hard to conquer. In my core classes at the Mount, I notice the students around me are disengaged because they do not see the point of what we're doing. We read Nietzsche, Merton, and Homer but we do not internalize the information we are given. Once the final grades are posted, we forget all about philosophy and the virtues we can cultivate. How are these century old poems and doctrines relevant to modern society, as we face unprecedented events that are vastly different

than what these authors knew? Students find themselves asking questions like this frequently, and even I am not innocent of this. In our success driven society, we always want to know what the point is. What do I get out of it? What's in it for me? How will this help me? It's the end goal, not the process. The destination, not the journey.

COVID-19 shook up our world. It changed how we view the family, community, health, education, religion, and everything that life touches. For many students and faculty, it has changed the way we view our roles in university. Around midterms, I found myself and other students discussing how we felt like we weren't retaining any of what we learned. Before our worlds were flipped upside down by the virus, I would fill pages and pages of philosophical thoughts and ideas to ask professors over coffee and debate with friends late at night in the dorms. This semester, the margins of my notebooks were blank, filled with only the notes I needed for tests and papers. After all, how can you retain information or think about the big picture when you're merely trying to survive and stay on campus? No one could love learning because learning wasn't our goal. We had to survive before we could thrive.

Students looked forward to the start of the fall semester because it was a marked end of quarantine and a sign that life was continuing outside of the homes in which we'd been sheltering. Now, we can look forward to the spring semester as a chance to learn and to love what we're learning. The liberal arts are where passion lives and it is this drive that keeps universities open, despite the 'wasteland' language used by the media. When I was in high school, the counselors always pushed STEM and technical degrees. For a teenager who chose to take Creative Writing instead of Physics and Calculus, these were not viable options for me.

When I declared a major in English, I was prepared for the judgmental looks and the jokes about my future salary (or lack thereof). But you can't live a life that is solely based on science and math. Literature, art, and philosophy are the things that make life worth living. They are what makes the human experience beautiful, money is not.

Yes, we need scientists. This is clear more than ever, as we look to doctors

and researchers to provide us with vaccines and cures. But science will only get us so far. The humanities continue because they are human. It is where we feel connected, whole, and understood. It is where we feel emotion and passion. It is where love lives.

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

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# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

## Junior

### Liberal arts as resting in the Good

Harry Scherer  
MSMU Class of 2022

In his Symposium, Plato's Diotima says, "that is what is so bad about ignorance – that you think you know enough." In our world, and, it should be recalled, in the world of our ancestors, men have found self-comforting satisfaction in identifying their fellow men as ignorant. It seems that the good men, though, can be easily identified if they grant to the world in such fervent search of virtue the easily observable fact of their ignorance.

When college students in their freshman year enter this new place of physical and social being, they could find themselves in a place of emotional confusion, excitement or dread. They are open and excited for the possibilities because of their mostly pleasant pre-college experiences or they fear the potential because they know how much the actual has harmed them in the past. In either case, they have a general conception that people change during college, but they don't know what this change means and the extent to which this personal

shift will affect them.

If Plato is right, it seems to me that the college life should leave a deep impression on the graduate that says, "you were ignorant, you came here to learn, but at least now you know of your ignorance." The recognition of ignorance should be the defining distinction between the eager freshman and the hopefully self-aware graduate.

It seems that the most efficient way to impress this truth on college students is through the mode of education known as the "liberal arts." Josef Pieper, the noteworthy Thomistic philosopher of the 20th century, notes in his *Leisure: The Basis of Culture* that "the 'liberality' or 'freedom' of the liberal arts consists in their not being disposable for purposes, that they do not need to be legitimated by a social function, by being 'work.'" I hope the reader will excuse the lengthy reference to his quote, but the meaning of these words seems to be so essential for our times.

As historical descendants and beneficiaries of the industrial revolution, we are obsessed with the realm of human action that delivers a product; the sooner this product is realized, the better. This impulse to create quickly has only been further aggravated by the technological revolution. A practice of the liberal arts, then, at least

under the framework that Pieper lays out, seems almost impossible in the modern world.

Perhaps this is why we need to follow this framework all the more diligently. These two revolutions that required the mechanization of human work have led to an efficiency and specialization revolution in every industry of labor; this revolution does not need to extend into the realm of higher education. When young people go to college, they should be provided a reprieve from the cult of productivity in the world around them. How are students to learn more intimately the truth of their ignorance if they are instructed to participate in mindless production? How could students possibly be expected to partake in the hard work of inspecting the human heart as a reflection of its Creator while granting a seemingly singular focus on the optimization of their résumés?

Indeed, the progress of the modern world has not successfully shunned the liberal arts; it has only made their necessity all the more obvious. Through the study of history, the liberal arts student learns that his struggles are not all that unique but that the potential for uniquely remarkable action lies within his response to these struggles. Through the study of poli-

tics, he learns the art of human interaction on every social level and the weight that men place on words and their meanings. Through the study of his native tongue or the tongues of antiquity, he learns how to use well the gift of the written word and the ways in which this gift has developed over the centuries. Through the study of rhetoric, he learns how to best utilize the spoken word as a means to participate with the grace of God and not as a spark for division. Through the study of philosophy, he learns about the reality of things, their nature and their end, their relation to one another and the ways that we can know them. Through the study of theology, he learns of the nature of God, His participation in the world today and the ways in which his ancestors treated this topic.

What could possibly be inappropriate about this project for our time? Looking back at the purposes of each of these disciplines, it becomes clear that among the hustle and bustle of our productive work, every discerning human person has considered, or someday will consider, the importance of these questions. These questions are pertinent to every person in every time and space because they are fundamentally human questions that, through the grace of God,

deserve human answers. The questions and answers interact with one another; who doubts that one's use of rhetorical ability should not be put into practice through the lens of a proper ethical framework? Does the awareness and encounter with history not impact how one views the nature of the human person? Everyone is asking these questions; the liberal arts teach the student how to ask them well. How many of the problems that we feverishly attempt to solve would have been previously resolved with a proper formulation of the right questions?

In his *Summa Theologiae*, St. Thomas says that "the essence of virtue consists more in the Good than in the difficult." Life in college should not be characterized by multiple individuals conquering difficult tasks but in a social order resting in the Good. In my two and a half years in college, I have experienced the rush of the former and the peace of the latter and I can say, both from the perspectives of principle and personal experience, that I much prefer the tranquility of rest in the Good for its own sake and for the sake of protection from the clamor of confusion.

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

## Senior

### Change of heart

Angela Guiao  
MSMU Class of 2021

I am going to be completely honest with you. When I first applied to Mount St. Mary's, I had no idea what a liberal arts college was. In fact, I didn't even notice the Mount considered itself a liberal arts college until my mom asked me what that meant. At the time, I kind of just brushed it off and said that it was their way of saying they provide classes that were aimed at making students more well-rounded. I had remembered hearing the upperclassman talk about veritas classes on my tour of the campus and figured that was the reason they were a liberal arts college. It all sounded very renaissance to me.

Or should I say, classical antiquity? According to Niche, liberal arts began during the era of classical antiquity. There were three particular studies that together were called trivium: grammar, rhetoric, and logic. Eventually, these three studies grew to include geometry, music, history, anthropology and more. These subjects were considered liberales, or worthy of a free person, thus creating the liberal arts.

Liberal arts colleges, as a result, are higher ed institutions that focus their curriculum on these classic ideas and beliefs. According to Niche, liberal arts schools tend to be smaller than most schools, have more accessible professors, and be focused more on undergraduates. This, in turn, attracts students who prefer smaller class sizes and prioritize one-on-one opportunities with their professors.

As a result of being a liberal arts institution, Mount students were required to take core curriculum classes, including philosophy, social sciences, history

and theology classes alongside their classes that related to their major. Now, this may just be my cynical side talking, but I used to think the core classes were a waste of my time. I believed that they took away valuable time from studying for my major classes, which at the time were the only classes I thought mattered. Now, granted I am an Accounting major, which has nothing to do with the humanities, so it is possible that played a part in my bias.

I was all about business. I enjoyed logical thinking and simple reasoning. In accounting, things were usually right or wrong; it was not very often that there was a gray area. I liked knowing that there was a correct answer, and that there was a way to get that answer. While accounting wasn't entirely black or white, it was definitely not whatever color philosophy was. I couldn't find the sense in spending an entire class period analyzing the words of Plato, and it frustrated me that everything was up to interpretation. In my theology classes, I spent a lot of time reviewing things I've learned in years of religion classes growing up, so I kept wondering why I had to spend time writing a paper on the Resurrection instead of studying for my accounting exam.

Now, what kind of article would this be if I didn't have a change of heart? I am proud to say that now, today I am honored to have experienced a liberal arts education. I don't think I really recognized the impact it had on my well-roundedness until I was able to contribute to conversations that referenced Aristotle and Socrates. Or until I was able to correct one of my coworkers that the Vietnam War happened before the Persian Gulf war, not the other way around. Or maybe it was when I contemplated joining a book club, only to realize that I've already read the books that they had planned to read in my Modernity class the year before.

What I didn't realize while taking the classes, was how much I learned. I could be considered well-versed in literature, history and the arts, greatly due to my participation in the core curriculum here at the Mount. This pandemic has allowed me to reconnect with my friends from big state universities, and it still baffles me how they haven't heard half the stuff I mentioned above because they weren't required to take the classes.

It's funny, how much something has an impact on you after the fact. Information I had at one point dubbed as useless helped shape my way of thinking and understanding until today. The philosophy classes that I thought were so impractical turned out to be quite the opposite and actually taught me some very valuable lessons: to ask why, and to challenge beliefs. Where I once prided myself in being a logical, straightforward thinker, I can now say I am more insightful and understanding.

The liberal arts education that the Mount provided me with has set me up to be more successful in all my future endeavors. Recently, I have gone through the long and tedious process of interviewing for my internship, and I now understand fully why so many employers recruit from the Mount. A liberal arts education not only makes a student well-rounded but also more worldly and aware.

It appears the humanities are dying, or so they say. The younger generation has more reason to think more realistically, with larger student loans and higher rent in some areas, they need to make decisions that would benefit them financially. And the reality is, financial/business majors offer higher paying careers than those in the humanities. And while I understand this decision, I do believe that the humanities shouldn't be cast aside. In fact, I believe in it so much, I would recommend to all future

college students to try and attend a liberal arts college.

I was offered the support and encouragement that I know I would not have received at a bigger school. I transformed from a shy, quiet biology student and became a curious, confident future accounting graduate, and I have my liberal arts education to thank for that. Without this curriculum, I would never have

been forced to work on my speech skills in english class, or my critical thinking skills in theology, or my memory skills in history. The core curriculum contributed more to my general education than I ever would have expected and for that I am eternally grateful.

To read other articles by Angela, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# HOME DECOR

## That awkward season

Jessica Crawford, Cotton & Co.

We're entering the "Awkward Season" as I have decided to coin it. That season in between Christmas and Spring, where it's time to think about taking down the Christmas decorations, but sadly too soon to think Spring. So, what do you do now? Once the tree is taken down, ornaments boxed up, jolly little santas tucked away until next year, there's actually a lot of opportunity for some cozy decorating for the impending chilly months ahead.

First, let's talk introductions. I'm Jess, and I own Cotton & Co, a local vintage boutique in Keymar. I've likely met many of you this year, as we re-branded and started back up again this past March; formally the location of The Mill at Keymar. We have maintained our vintage status and offer a wide array of vintage merchandise, spanning from primitive to farmhouse to mid-century to retro and everything in between. In addition to our vintage inventory, we also carry an assortment of seasonal, home décor, gift and artisan goods. Part of our shop is also dedicated to The Maryland General Store, where we support around twenty local Maryland business that practice primitive trades (tea, coffee, soap, soy candles etc...) Between our seventeen permanent vintage and artisan vendors and the businesses within

the MD General Store, we have a little bit of everything for everyone.

Back to being cozy. What do you do with your home in those Winter months, that seem to drag on, when everything feels so grey and stagnant? Those first few snowfalls are so romantic and beautiful, but how do you brighten your home when winter is starting to out-stay its welcome?

There's a trendy term circulating around these days: Hygge. It's a Danish-Norwegian word, pronounced 'hyoo-guh', defined as creating a warm, cozy atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with good people. As we, the vendors and I, transform the store and our homes from Christmas to The Awkward Season, this is a concept we're keeping close in mind.

Keeping the Hygge concept in mind, I like to decorate for Winter by removing the reds from Christmas, but maintaining the softer winter themes. Soft, white textiles, such as an oversized throw blanket or pillows are a great compliment to winter, but are also neutral and can be used throughout the year. Draped over an over-sized chair or used to spruce up a sofa, a comfy throw or new set of pillows can transform a space, without breaking the bank. Flocked and frosted greens are also great winter décor without being specific to Christmas. On the opposite end of the color spectrum to white, jew-

el-tones (teal, emerald, plum, mustard, etc...) are a hot trend now as well. Adding a small or medium sized pieced of furniture, in a bold jewel-tone, can add a coziness to a space. I'm also a fan of pops of gold, particularly antiqued or brushed versus metallic gold. Done in small, artistic doses, gold-tone is a great partner to white, green and those warm but bold jewel-tones.

Every vendor in the shop has their own taste and style and each execute their visions differently. I asked them to offer tips and tricks on how they survive Winter while feeling cozy, happy and bright. They had a wealth of winter advice to hand out. If you're one of the many that loves to stretch the Christmas Season as much as possible, Pam, owner of Dragonfly Memories Collectibles suggests leaving up a winter tree. Remove all the miscellaneous Christmas ornaments, and feature snowflakes and woodland birds and animals, to create a rustic, woodland retreat themed tree. She also suggests using natural elements abundant during the Winter, such as pine cones and birch to add warmth and texture to a space. Paired with creams, greens and candles, you're set.

Ashley, Owner of So Long Status Quo, suggests utilizing the foraged greenery in your own back yard, and spraying it with glitter spray for added snazziness. If kept in water, the greens will last through the winter season. While Christmas Lights are going to go out of season here quickly, fairy lights are a great alternative and can really be used year-round. She suggests adding them to a winter themed vignette or intertwining them with the greens to create a little sparkle. Charlene, of The Craftsman Work-



Once the tree is taken down and ornaments boxed up, there's actually a lot of opportunity for some cozy decorating for the impending chilly months ahead.



shop added that she loves to make topiaries from back-garden greenery. She particularly likes to create them using blue spruce, in contrast with other greens such as boxwood, and natural elements like sticks, twigs and antlers. If you do not have access to free back-garden greenery, faux greenery is always an option and we carry a seasonal assortment throughout the year.

Our vendor Donna, jewelry creator behind The Good Earth Jewelry loves to stick to a naturalistic approach. She advises contrast and texture by using wood tones against whites, with small pops of color that can be changed out easily and seasonally. In tune with Ashley and myself, her favorites are tiny twinkle lights and a variety of soft, cozy blankets on beds and sofas, to create comfy, cozy nooks to retreat to.

Several vendors advised the use of color, in pops here and there to brighten a Winter Space. Katt, creative behind Grit & Grace, our wood flower vendor, reminds us that a pop of color here or there indoors, will brighten moods and spirits. Cathy and Becca, mom and daughter behind A Rustic Beginning, advocate the use of candles for winter warmth. Whether used in a table centerpiece, vignette, or plug-in candles in every window, a candle creates instant coziness and comfort, for you and those driving by your home. And Carol, from The Oils Marketplace sums it all up by saying, a fire always burning in the fireplace. And if you don't have a fireplace, you can create the effect of one with a cluster of candlesticks and pillar candles.

Winter is a tricky time. It can feel never-ending and unmoving. It's been mild so far, but the Farmer's Almanac is calling for a rough one. With some seasonal switch-up, winter can be a comfy, cozy season after all. Our vendors work hard to source items, handmade, vintage or curated, to bring seasonal flair to your home. Stop in and see us, we're always more than happy to lend a hand in creating a vision for any space in your home.

To read past Home Decor articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Looking at affordable housing

Mary Ellen Mitchell

Back in the fall of 2017, a group of 100 locals got together to discuss the state of affordable housing in Frederick County. They identified opportunities for building, changes in funding and ways to improve community awareness related to the need for housing.

That list of concepts and ideas sounded like a job description to Mary Ellen Mitchell, and so she founded the nonprofit Housing Frederick in 2018. Mitchell has spent her career working in the nonprofit world, including a few years with the Daughters of Charity before they reorganized. Over the past 10 years she has focused on finding ways to help people help themselves, particularly by teaching financial education. There is a direct correlation between how you manage your credit score and your income with how you find safe, decent affordable housing. She has volunteered and led workshops at the Seton Center on these topics over the past 5 years.

“Let’s be clear, says Mitchell.” Affordable housing is for Teachers. Nurses. The cashier at the grocery store. The aide who cares for your mother at the nursing home. The guy who fixes your brakes. Your

favorite waitress. The flagger on the road crew. The military spouse. Your recent college grad. Your cousin. The kid who sat next to you in 3rd grade. The young firefighter who rushes into a burning home. The ones who can’t afford to rent or buy in Frederick County. They work here, but can’t afford to live here.”

Housing Frederick seeks to raise awareness and help the community understand why affordable housing is so important. One benefit of living where you work is that you spend your salary at other local businesses like the barber shop or daycare center. You support other people and make our economy stronger. Also, by eliminating the commute to another county or state for lower rent, traffic on Route 15 would decrease, which is something everyone can appreciate.

Housing Frederick will soon release the results of a survey that will shed some light on the economic impact of nonprofits who build or manage housing. Housing Frederick worked with the Mount Caritas department who designed, distributed and is analyzing the survey. The survey will demonstrate how much better our community is because we invest in housing to meet people’s needs.

Housing Frederick seeks to collaborate with other nonprofits and

assist them. Soon they will release a video series that details how residents of the County can get assistance to pay back rent and avoid eviction. By shining a light on the work of peers in Frederick, Housing Frederick hopes that many more individuals and families will keep a roof over their head this winter and seek out help suggested in the video.

2020 has been the most difficult year in collective memory, and many people have faced the fear of losing the place they call home or housing insecurity. In 2021, Housing Frederick will begin teaching financial education to the clients of five partner nonprofits as a way of assisting people get back on their feet.” While no one could have predicted the pandemic, most people are not prepared to handle lesser emergencies, like replacing a tire or paying for dental work to fix a crown,” said Mitchell. “We want to give people hope plus strategies to handle their bills and feel better about money.”

To find out more about the work of Housing Frederick, follow them on Facebook and Instagram. Their new expanded website will launch in December and will include resources for assistance for housing and financial education, plus the results of the survey. The address is [www.housingfrederick.org](http://www.housingfrederick.org).

### VHC installs plaque in memory of ‘Jef’ Fitzgerald



On Sunday, December 6, the family of the late James “Jef” Fitzgerald, gathered at the Vigilant Hose Company’s emergency services stationhouse at 25 West Main Street to dedicate the apparatus bay in his memory. Jef, a much-respected and well-known area resident, was instrumental in overseeing all aspects of the significantly expanded and enhanced VHC facility back in the decade of the 1990’s. The activity included collateral efforts of planning for and acquisition of the community’s first aerial ladder truck, Tower 6.

Portions of the re-constructed and enhanced complex included dealing with sections dating back over 200 years. He was a life-long dedicated VHC member including having served for several years

as VHC President. Jef passed at his home on January 10, 2013, minutes after arriving there from a work detail at the station.

Jef had also served for several years as President of the Frederick County Volunteer Fire/Rescue Association, too. Over several decades, Jef assisted Emmitsburg Town Government Officials with assuring proper compliance to specifications and code mandates of a great many community constructions projects.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance at the event was limited. Thus, it is hoped that all who knew Jef will make it a point to view the permanent plaque on display along West Main Street on the exterior wall out front of where Tower 6 sits.



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## LOCAL ARTS

# The Museum of the Ironworker

Theresa L. Donnelly  
The Catoctin Furnace  
Historical Society

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society received a \$15,000 grant from Delaplaine Foundation to help complete the fabrication and installation of the “Dirty and Dangerous: The Heritage of an Iron Village” exhibit in the new Museum of the Ironworker, located in the village of Catoctin Furnace. The Museum, which will be housed in a ca 1820 stone cottage, is scheduled to open in 2021.

The “Dirty and Dangerous: The Heritage of an Iron Village” exhibit will focus on all workers at Catoctin Furnace through time: the wealthy Anglo-American furnace owners, the white European immigrants who worked at the furnace during its later periods of activity, and the enslaved workers at the furnace from the 1770s to the 1850s. The exhibit is designed to increase public awareness of the crucial role of all these workers who contributed to the furnace’s output and success for more than 130 years and whose contributions still resonate in the immediate community and throughout the United States.

These exhibits will provide enrichment not only for visitors and students, but also for residents of the village and surrounding area, many of whom are descendants of the furnace workers. It is important to tell their story and provide a narrative of their immense contributions to our country.

Seven exhibit designs have been formulated: 1) Natural Resources - advantageous location for iron 2) Casting Light on the Furnace - process of iron making; 3) Enslaved and Free African Americans - contribution of the workers and the scientific discovery process; 4) Clothing - discovery of 100+ articles of worker clothing; 5) Daily Life - life in the village; 6) Evolving Transportation - from mules to railroads; 7) Leisure - culture/celebrations, moments of respite and leisure spanning race, class, and gender.

This new grant from Delaplaine Foundation aligns with their historic preservation focus - one of six areas of their Foundation mission’s concentrations, according to Delaplaine Foundation President Marlene Young, and generously supplements the Foundation’s crucial funding for the Museum of the Ironworker’s recently completed state-of-the-art facial reconstructions of two of Catoctin Furnace’s enslaved workers (a young mother in her 30s and a young man in his teens).

The reconstructions will serve as centerpieces of the larger exhibit on the lives of the ironworkers and which add identity to the important—and long-neglected—contributions of these enslaved laborers whose stories were not recorded in the written pages of history, but now can be told through the skeletal remains uncovered during a rescue excavation in 1979 that unearthed the remains of 35 individuals who were interred in the Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery

during the late 1700s and early 1800s. The compelling nature of these facial reconstruction exhibits coupled with the flexibility and appeal of an interactive IPAD-based exhibit all within the context of the larger exhibit that will tell the story of those who lived and labored here will allow us to expand this mission to a much wider audience and introduce new visitors to the fascinating history of this important site.

The 600 square foot exhibit area in the museum, as well as the gift shop area and restroom, will be open to the public year-round, serving as the visitors center for the Catoctin Furnace area of Cunningham Falls State Park. Our recently completed African American Cemetery Interpretative Trail links the museum to the parking lot at the furnace area and provides an informative walk with 11 wayside panels through the village and to overlooks including one close to the cemetery. The planned permanent museum exhibits will be designed to incorporate graphics and artifacts (including recently conserved Catoctin Furnace made stoves, cannonballs, and other more utilitarian objects) while encouraging visitors to explore the larger area’s cultural landscape.

The Catoctin Furnace was built by workers owned or employed by the four Johnson brothers in order to produce iron from the rich deposits of iron ore found in the nearby mountains. At least 271 enslaved people of African ancestry made up the bulk of Catoctin Furnace’s earliest workers. In the decade before the Civil War, Euro-



The 600 square foot exhibit area in the museum will be open to the public year-round, serving as the visitors’ center for the Catoctin Furnace.

pean immigrants began replacing the enslaved and freed African American workers as it was more economical to hire cheap labor than support an enslaved workforce. Descendants of the immigrants still live in the village.

The iron furnace at Catoctin played a pivotal role during the industrial revolution in the young United States. The furnace industry supported a thriving community, and company houses were established alongside the furnace stack. Throughout the nineteenth century, the furnace produced iron for household and industrial products. After more than one hundred years of operation, the Catoctin Furnace ceased production in 1903.

Today, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society is undertaking groundbreaking research, including bioarchaeological research of the African American cemetery in Catoctin Furnace. In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the Reich

Laboratory for Medical and Population Genetics at Harvard University, this project is analyzing ancient DNA and the human genome of revolutionary-era enslaved African American workers at Catoctin Furnace. Such research, in conjunction with other technologies such as stable isotope analysis, could tell us where these workers were born, where they lived throughout their lives, and what constituted their diet. We believe that every life mattered, and every past matters now. By studying and disseminating the results of this research, we hope that people everywhere will get to meet some of these early workers and understand the critical roles they played in the development of our young nation, as well as appreciate the rich, varied trajectories of their lives.

For more information on the museum or our research projects please contact [info@catoctinfurnace.org](mailto:info@catoctinfurnace.org) or call 240-288-7396.

## Way Off Broadway opens its 2021 season

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre will kick off its 2021 Season in January with the ultimate who dunnit? - Clue: On Stage. The theatre began working with Broadway Licensing, the show’s licensing agent in New York, nearly two years ago to obtain the rights to produce a production of the new play based on the hilarious ‘80s motion picture. Originally announced for the fall of 2021, the show has been moved to the opening spot on Way Off Broadway’s calendar.

In the play, it’s a dark and stormy night, and guests have been invited to a very unusual dinner party. Each has an alias, the butler offers a variety of weap-

ons, and the host is, well . . . dead. So whodunnit? Audiences join the iconic oddballs known as Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock, and Mustard as they race to find the murderer in Boddy Manor before the body count stacks up. Based on the cult classic film and the popular board game, Clue is a madcap comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist.

The premise is taken from the wildly popular murder mystery board game, Clue, which was originally released as Cluedo in the United Kingdom in 1949. The object of which was for players to determine who murdered the game’s vic-

tim, in which room the crime took place, and using what weapon. The game was originally licensed to Parker Brothers in the United States for release the same year under the name Clue. Since first being released over 70 years ago, the game has become an international favorite.

In 1985, Paramount Pictures released a film based on the game with an all-star cast taking on the roles of the iconic characters, including Eileen Brennan as Mrs. Peacock, Madeline Kahn as Mrs. White, Christopher Lloyd as Professor Plum, Michael McKean as Mr. Green, Martin Mull as Colonel Mustard, Lesley Ann War-

ren as Miss Scarlett, and introducing the character of Wadsworth the butler, played by Tim Curry.

At the time of the movie’s release, it received lukewarm reviews from the critics. But over the years, the film has amassed a cult following, in part because of the rapid-fire dialogue which created so many hilariously quotable lines.

After years of wondering whether the film would ever receive a stage adaptation, fans were rewarded in 2017 when Clue: On Stage premiered at Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, PA. The production featured Emmy Award-winner Sally Struthers as Mrs. Peacock and Tony Award-nominee Erin Dilly as Mrs. White. The Philadelphia Enquirer raved that the play was “an athletic, uproarious 90-minute sprint.”

Way Off Broadway’s staging brings together a who’s who of familiar faces from past productions to play the iconic charac-

ters including Jessica Billones as Miss Scarlet, Dina P. Coppa as Wadsworth, Brian D. Kaider as Professor Plum, Melissa Ann Martin as Yvette, Sarah Melinda as Mrs. White, Pam Neely as Mrs. Peacock, Jordan B. Stocksdale as Colonel Mustard, and Jake Thereault as Mr. Green.

Clue: On Stage is adapted from the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn, with additional material by Hunter Foster, Sandy Rustin, and Eric Price. Way Off Broadway’s production is directed by Justin M. Kiska.

The show will run January 15 - March 6, 2021, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. Tickets for dinner and the show on Fridays and Sundays are \$50 per person, and \$53 per person on Saturdays.

To learn more about Way Off Broadway’s holiday productions or any of its upcoming shows in 2021, visit [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).



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# Beauty is a reality, not a taste

Tristan Anderson  
MSMU Class of 2024

“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” or so we are frequently told and pressured to believe. We are frequently encouraged to consume and approve of “beautiful” art that, if only a few decades ago, would have been considered hardly worthy to hang on a wall. More than that, we are forced to view repeated incursions of shock art, bland and exaggerated styles, and a general lack of order across almost all forms of art commonly presented. One need only view any modern design website to view firsthand how this phrase has affected visual arts such as architecture, painting, and even drawing.

Although there are many such modern attempts to portray ugliness as beauty, there are solid principles and qualities within art that make the presence of it objective rather than subjective. To truly be beautiful, something must reflect some degree of aesthetic substance that is found pleasing to the human eye. We see this naturally in many paintings, particularly of the older masters, which accomplish this through forms, color combinations, proportions, or similar tactics. In many romanticist and impressionist works, for instance *The Angelus* and *The Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog*, it is these aesthetic methods that convey the intended emotional effect to the viewer. The same object must also possess order in some degree, which can be expressed in various ways. Some artists of the past utilized clear central points to their designs, others naturally paired color schemes, others employed lifelike perspectives. Regardless, from *Liberty Leading the People* to *The Starry Night*, one can clearly see these elements of unity in paintings, and in architecture, examples such as the Neoclassical and Colonial styles relied on near perfect symmetry. Finally, visual art must display some aspect of the presented scene to the viewer, which can bring about a variety of feelings related to the theme. Even in paintings centered on morbid or uncomfortable subjects, this factor appears.

The final, and yet perhaps most significant of these \*qualities, is

uniqueness in some degree or other. Just as every being in creation is in some way or other unique and experiences a unique life suited for them, so also must a work, to truly be art, possess some uniqueness of form and presented message. Spanning the wide variety of visual art disciplines, within most individual schools and styles, individual works each have some sort of unique flair to them. Victorian homes differ in coloring and trim, for example, while even neoclassical paintings have differences in the structures of figures. These minute differences, spread within portions of the world of visual art, complete the necessary foundation for an object to be labeled as true art. It must possess, in the objective sense, an aesthetic display, order and form, unity, and individuality. With this defined clearly, artistic beauty cannot be “in the eye of the beholder,” but rather determined by a firm set of characteristics to qualify.

In fact, a variety of displays in modern times have unfortunately been promoted as beautiful art, when they are nothing but the alternative, an “anti-beauty” so to speak. These pieces are not only devoid of the qualities that make something beautiful, but intentionally designed to reflect the opposite. Consider, for example, the origins of the visual art style known as “shock art.” Though comprised of a variety of contemporary expressions, the style itself is engineered to sow discomfort, replace beauty with ugliness, and present an image of disorder, all hidden under the false guise of social commentary. In the case of Duchamp’s *Fountain*, quite literally a repositioned urinal with the name of the artist inscribed on an edge, this distinction is obvious. Though presented as art, and considered by some to be beautiful, purely out of the idea that beauty is subjective, it cannot be so. The repositioning of the object itself renders it absent of order or form, which combined with the lack of any aesthetic elements presented to the viewer and the absence of any theme or uniqueness beyond the mundane, the *Fountain* cannot be considered beautiful in any way. In fact, as with most other shock artistry, the logical interpretation of the piece is that of



Badminton Manor, the Seat of the Duke of Beaufort, is a classic example of aesthetically artful design, surrounded by lush gardens. As such, it’s attraction has withstood the test of time.

an anti-beauty, with a deliberate intent to present distaste and insignificance to viewers.

This “anti-beauty” has hardly remained contained to only pieces deliberately intended to offend the aesthetic senses of the average man. Especially in modern times, styles of art have been designed for this same purpose but masked and on a larger scale. The brutalist architecture often employed for government buildings, office buildings, and similar institutions, was designed to appear soulless and devoid of all artful quality. With minimalist construction, no decoration, odd proportions, and cold or dissimilar colors, nothing remains in the style to satisfy aesthetic needs, but rather offend them. The same is true for the avant-garde styles of the early twentieth century, such as the cubist or abstract schools, the core principles of the movements being to violate traditional notions of art and beauty, removing all elements of art and replacing them with intentional chaos and pointlessness. The nature of these works can be demonstrated through the fruits of them. While art, in the actual sense, produces satisfying feelings and encourages admiration, such works that can

hardly be aesthetically deemed art cause confusion and aimlessness in thought. It is possible even to state that the unconscious mind can determine art, feeling at peace when viewing works that possess the proper qualities and feeling deep worldly anxiety when exposed to works that are meaningless. No matter how often ugliness is touted as beauty, the two can never be the same, and the matter is hardly subjective.

Perhaps therein lies the reason behind our modern ills. The human mind is undoubtedly susceptible to the influence of the aesthetics that surround it. True art can evoke positive feelings and dispositions in mankind, while imitations or outright opposites of true art can produce an equal opposite effect. When surrounded by beauty, we unavoidably feel the worldly peace of it. Is that not the reason why visitors are so attracted to classically designed cities from the old world or the new, where aesthetically artful designs were constructed through architecture and gardening? One need only look at the most revered cities and locales to explore the reality of this. Historic districts are often more attractive to the populace precisely because of their aes-

thetic organization, with unity of architectural styles, consistent colors, unique structure and design within those elements, and more than that, a thematic expression of the individuality of the local culture. Perhaps it is a return to such artful design that society desperately requires in this modern age. After all, should we not have an opportunity to live surrounded by manmade beauty that reflects the natural beauty present in creation?

Without a doubt, whether through the aesthetic principles behind a work or the effect related by them, the reality is that beauty is not “in the eye of the beholder,” but rather entirely objective. It must possess unity, uniqueness, order, and a firm presentation of substance applicable to aesthetic realities, and if those are present, a positive effect will undoubtedly result. Such are the realities of artistry. As uncomfortable as it may be to consider that beauty is not necessarily within our personal choice, modern and past realities prove it as such, leaving little choice but to reasonably assume such a statement.

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

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## CATOCTIN SPORTS

# CHS athletics prioritizes health and safety

Mia Ferraro  
CHS Class of 2022

Catoctin athletes are carefully watching their health, on and off the field, court, or track, as they train for the upcoming competitive season for winter sports and adjust to safety restrictions--general and COVID-19-related. As of December 7th, winter sports have officially begun, and the teams are set to compete from January 4th to February 13th. After conducting summer and fall conditioning, current teams continue to follow the basics of the Return to Play safety protocols, including mandating masks, participating in small groups, and consistently evaluating the health of the athletes. While keeping healthy in the time of COVID-19, athletes are also being cautious of the dangers on the field. Catoctin Athletics' top priority is keeping their participants and community healthy and safe.

Since the season began, all participants in winter sports have been required to complete a daily check-in regarding symptoms of COVID-19 before they are able to attend practice for the day. This form is to ensure the safety of all participants to the best extent possible. The check-in asks for basic background, including the individual's role in participation, sport, team, small group, and the type of event. Then the participant is required to indicate which, if any, virus-related symptoms they have exhibited, including a fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, a cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle aches, congestion, a sore throat, a new loss of taste or smell, a headache, and/or fatigue. Finally, the form asks if the participating individual has been in contact with any person who has tested positive for COVID-19. The online questionnaire can be found on the Catoctin High School (CHS) website

under "Athletics." QR codes for the form will also be accessible upon arrival, but it is requested that all participants complete the form before arriving at any of the school's athletic activities, as individuals who checked off any symptoms should stay home and contact the athletic trainer.

As participants follow COVID-19 regulations for safety against the virus, they also turn to the athletic trainer for treatment and examination of injuries and other medical concerns. Athletic trainers play a critical role in a school's athletic department, as they provide medical service to the teams and are responsible for training teams to avoid injuries, developing policies to ensure safety and the best healthcare, evaluating the athletes' physical health, tending to injuries, and overseeing the overall physical well-being of the teams. Catoctin High School is happy to welcome Kayla O'Connell to our school community this year as the athletic department's new athletic trainer.

O'Connell is no stranger to FCPS sports, as she played softball from age six through the end of her junior year of college. Much of her youth was spent playing on a local team called the Heartbreakers. She was primarily an outfielder in college, but also pitched and played some infield. She also participated in unified sports, playing on her school's unified bocce team throughout high school, which she considered to be the most competitive sport she has been involved in. O'Connell attended Frederick High School. She then continued her education to earn her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Shenandoah University. During that time, she completed four internships for athletic training during graduate school--three internships at high schools, and one at a Power Five institution. Throughout these experiences, she had the opportunity to expand her

abilities and knowledge about the field. "I was able to learn about the profession, build my skills, and build my own style as a professional," O'Connell explained.

As athletic trainer, O'Connell's responsibilities entail injury prevention, examination, treatment, and rehabilitation. She trains with administration, coaches, and teams in preparation for emergencies in which someone is injured to determine the best healthcare for them. O'Connell works with individual CHS athletes on a regular basis to aid their health, from treating musculoskeletal injuries to general medicine, as their situation is "always different than that of their teammates." She also trains with teams as a whole, providing mobility programs and other guidance for staying healthy. In addition to this, she also confers with other healthcare professionals in the area that she can refer athletes to in situations that cannot be handled "in house." When O'Connell is not training with CHS teams, she works with the Emmitsburg Pivot Physical Therapy Clinic to assist with patient care. She also assists on projects with various Pivot Athletic Trainers. In addition to this, she collaborates with other athletic trainers in the county, physicians, physical therapists, coaches, parents, and school administrators to, as she described, "create a well-rounded sports medicine team." As Catoctin sports begin and competitions soon commence for the upcoming season, O'Connell will be attending every home game at CHS as the responsible medical professional. She will stay on the sidelines at every home game so that she will be able to tend to chronic and acute injuries that occur to a player on either team during the competition. "I am available during most practice times for student athletes to receive an evaluation or treatment if they need before, during, or after practice," she assured.

Though athletic trainers generally would not have the opportunity to meet with the teams



CHS Athletic Trainer Kayla O'Connell

until the beginning of the season, O'Connell has been able to meet all of the teams and individual athletes during Return to Play conditioning as she assisted in checking-in participants at every session. She is excited and prepared for upcoming games and matches and is looking forward to working more with the teams. After what was essentially an extended off-season since the beginning of isolation and shutdowns, the players must adjust to being back on the field. O'Connell feels that a challenge she will often face this year will be "ensuring that each student athlete is prepared to compete in competition while they are maintaining their health both on and off the court," as she described. "Most of my athletes play multiple sports,

and might not be accustomed to this amount of time off." After COVID-19 has restricted the teams' abilities to complete the season as they generally would, lots of uncertainty has circled around the sports seasons in various aspects. "The phrase 'play like it could be your last game' has never been more true," O'Connell stated. "Given the frequent changes, we never really know if we will be back the following week." O'Connell feels that while it will be a challenge, it is important that athletes and coaches focus on staying in the moment and being thankful that they are able to play and spend time together. "This year is the year of adaptability," she described.

O'Connell, like all athletic trainers, is a medical professional with lots of training in orthopedic and musculoskeletal injuries. However, while her job entails treating and examining chronic and acute injuries, athletic trainers are, in addition, "advocates for their student athletes' overall wellness." O'Connell wants CHS athletes to know that she has an open-door policy where she offers her attention to them so that they may speak to her about anything that they may have going on, or just to have someone to talk with. She explained, "You learn lots about student athletes in the athletic training facility and it is good to know someone is always in their corner."

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).

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MOUNT SPORTS

# COVID-19 impacts Mount St. Mary's basketball

Samuel Barber  
MSMU Class of 2022

The 2020-21 college basketball season can be described as nothing short of hectic and historic, for a multitude of reasons. This season has also brought on the feeling that coaches, players and fans alike are walking on eggshells, as the thought of canceling is constantly hanging in the balance. While college basketball approaches the one-month mark of the season, the landscape has not got any less rocky. Well over 250 games have either been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

While both Mount St. Mary's men's and women's basketball teams have seemed to go unscathed, that tune has quickly changed. The men's program has seen their schedule completely turned inside out, as their quarantine period is set to end on Dec. 17. As for the women's team, the Mountaineers are scheduled to resume basketball activities when they visit St. Francis (PA) on Dec. 19. For the latter, pausing team activities, although necessary, is a nuisance, as they have their eyes set on a Northeast Conference (NEC) crown.

The men's team has had to ax a pair of games against Saint Joseph's and UMBC, while also having to reposition a two-game series against Wagner, with the latter sure to add to the headache-inducing conference slate. For Maria Marchesano's squad, they were forced to cancel games against La Salle and national powerhouse, Maryland. The matchup with the Terrapins would have served as a potential résumé-boosting opportunity.

To the casual fan of the sport, having a team go through a 14-day quarantine does not appear to be problematic. However, the quarantining process presents a slew of challenges to those who fall under its web, especially mid-major programs like the Mount. Due to significantly lower athletic budgets than their Power Five counterparts (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, SEC), the Mount has lost key opportunities during the early portion of the season.

Not only does the quarantine period hamper the ability to run a smooth, cohesive regular season but it also imposes residual effects on the postseason, which is three months away. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has put forth a plethora of COVID-19 related gameplay measures. One of the most notable and controversial has been the requirements to earn postseason eligibility. All teams across the 32 conferences will be required to play a minimum of 13 games to have a chance to play in their respective conference tournament and additional tournaments.

However, the main controversy-causing component to this motion is how it appears to give smaller schools the short end of the deal. Blue-blood programs such as Duke, Kansas and Kentucky can afford to cancel or postpone a game while not having to worry about their bottom line since the NCAA

has the elite programs' best interests in mind. The same cannot be said for lower-tier schools that are left struggling to stay afloat. The pathway to the NCAA Tournament has now become exponentially harder while also making every time a team takes the court that much more pressing. As the season continues to develop, so will the nearly impossible ability to maintain requirements.

Many conferences across the country have taken it upon themselves to reduce the number of teams participating in conference tournaments, as the NEC is one of them. For the 2021 tournament, instead of the traditional eight teams, there will be four teams. This will ultimately eliminate the quarterfinal round entirely and leave a semi-final and championship round. Reducing the teams present will limit the number of people, which will keep the event in ordinance with COVID-19 protocols. Rules like these will undoubtedly mold this season into one of the most important, high stakes seasons in program history. Much like the journey to March Madness being difficult to come by, so will the pathway to qualification for a conference tournament.

The nation's most successful programs have also been in the line of fire of newfound pandemic restrictions on both the men's and women's side of the game. Through the nearly 300 matchups that have been affected, a handful has been blockbuster matchups that were planned well before the beginning of the season. Most notably, there was a Dec. 5 heavyweight tilt between top-ranked Gonzaga and #2 Baylor, as well as a highly anticipated ACC-Big Ten Challenge clash between Michigan State and Virginia, which would have pinned the potent offense of the Spartans against the smothering defense of UVA. Although fans will not be able to see these longstanding matchups, they will be treated as spur of the moment powerhouse games, as athletic directors and coaches have been able to be quick on their feet to ensure teams play against quality competition.



Coach Maria Marchesano and the Mount women's basketball team continue to keep their fingers crossed that they will have a season this year.

Meanwhile, in the women's basketball world, fans have been teased with games that would pin top-three teams against one another. Historical heavyweight UConn was forced to exit their Jimmy V Women's Classic matchup versus top-ranked South Carolina due to positive COVID-19 results within the Huskies' program. However, athletic directors and coaches have also been able to accommodate the top women's programs with high-end games.

The ramifications of COVID-19 are being felt well beyond the basketball court. Economically, scores of programs have lost tremendous amounts of revenue due to the cancellation of in-season tournaments and on-campus games. It goes without saying that mid-major programs profit from traveling to big-name programs; without these guaranteed games, it leaves major gaps within the annual athletic and team budgets. On a larger scale, the relocations, and in some cases outright cancellations, have completely uprooted college basketball. Mount St. Mary's, who is accustomed to participating in regular-season tournaments decided to forgo that option to limit travel. The Mountaineers took part in the Anne Donovan Classic and Bluegrass Showcase respectively. Venues across the country, as well as the select few outside the United States, depend heavily on the revenue that is gener-

ated from said tournaments. It not only hurts the venues but activates a trickle-down effect, which hinders a team from both a gameplay and economic standpoint.

By far the most noticeable change that stems from the COVID-19 pandemic has been the playing ability of teams that are relieved from the quarantining process. On each side of the game, from the high majors to the low-majors, teams that are coming out of the 14-day quarantine unsurprisingly appear to have their overall level of gameplay take a hit. Not playing a basketball game for at least 14 days will certainly disrupt any momentum, even with the highest-rated team. This post-quarantine funk has affected both the offense and defense. Despite the troubling findings of this newfound phenomenon, there have been

instances where teams return to play without having missed a single beat. This characteristic is most evident in higher ranked programs; whether it is the team simply tapping into the scores of talent they have, or if it is truly a revitalization of the players is yet to be determined.

Closer to home, fans of the Mount have not been able to witness what the exact effects will be of the quarantine, as both teams have yet to take the court. The men's team is scheduled to host Howard from Knott Arena on Dec. 22 and open NEC competition in early January. The women's team will resume play on the road against Saint Francis (PA) in Loretto, PA to open conference play.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of emmitsburg.net.

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# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## 2021 – the Year of the Ox

Renee Lehman  
Jefferson Breland

The Chinese New Year (also called the Lunar New Year or Chinese Spring Festival), one of the traditional Chinese festivals, is the grandest and most important festival for Chinese people. It originated during the Shang Dynasty (about 17th - 11th century BC), and it is an important time for families to get together, similar to Christmas Day for Westerners. It is also a time to hope for the return of spring, to welcome prosperity, wealth, and longevity, and a time to remove any negative qi (pronounced "chee") from the past. There is even a tradition prior to the New Year for every family to thoroughly clean the house to sweep away any ill-fortune in hopes of making way for good incoming luck.

### Chinese calendar history

The Chinese calendar was originated by the Yellow Emperor Huang Ti, and has been in use for centuries. The Chinese calendar is called a lunar calendar but is really a calendar based on the moon and the sun. The Gregorian calendar, which the world uses today (originated 430 years ago) is a solar calendar. (The Chinese Lunar New Year always begins on the second new moon after the winter solstice, in case you were wondering why it's on a different date every year.)

### The twelve animals of the Chinese calendar

The Chinese calendar is made of five, twelve-year cycles. Each of the twelve years of the Chinese calendar is appointed one of the following 12 animal's names (in this order): rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon (the only mythological animal), snake, horse, goat/sheep, monkey, fowl/rooster, dog, and pig. The animal that rules the year of

your birth is said to exercise a major influence over your life, and that year in general. Much of the information used for this article is taken from The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes by Theodora and Laura Lau, 2007. The sign of the Ox is the second sign of the Chinese zodiac, and the animal related to this coming New Year. The stable, faithful, and charitable personality of the Ox can be a calming presence. February 12, 2021 through January 31, 2022 is the Year of the Ox.

In February, the year of the Rat will come to a close. In the following story (written by Lau & Lau) we learn how the Rat might have become the first animal sign of the Chinese zodiac and the Ox became the second animal sign through its helpful and humble nature.

Lord Buddha gave out the summons for all animals to come to him before he departed the Earth. He entrusted the Rat with the mission to get the word around. It is possible that the Rooster was also chosen to announce the same message. The Rooster worked days while the Rat worked during the night. One can imagine the Rat rushing about with the good news. However, being the resourceful and practical animal that it is, the Rat decided to save energy by asking for a ride from other animals (since it was tired from running about declaring the message from Lord Buddha). The Rat tried to get a free ride from the Horse, but the temperamental Horse would have none of it. The Rat then approached the sturdy and kind-hearted Ox who was happy to carry the little Rat on its back. Furthermore, the dutiful Ox was early for the appointment and therefore the first animal to arrive on the scene. But, when the Lord Buddha said he was going to honor the Ox by naming it the first sign of the zodiac, the

Rat jumped down from the Ox's back and claimed that privilege. The Ox did not oppose the Rat as it felt the Rat had done more than its fair share by bringing the news to all of the animals. So the Buddha conferred the esteemed first place and leadership of the zodiac to the crafty Rat and the Ox was awarded second place.

*I AM THE OX*  
(Lau & Lau, 2007)

*Mine is the stabilizing force  
that perpetuates the cycle of life.*

*I stand immobile against the  
test of adversity,  
resolute, and unimpeachable.*

*I seek to serve integrity,  
to bear the burdens of righteousness.*

*I abide by the laws nature  
patiently pushing the wheel of  
Fate.*

*Thus, I shall weave my destiny.*

### Ox Personality

If you were born in one of the following years, your sign is the Ox January 25, 1925 – February 12, 1926; February 11, 1937 - January 30, 1938; January 29, 1949 – February 16, 1950; February 15, 1961 - February 4, 1962; February 3, 1973 – January 22, 1974; February 20, 1985 - February 8, 1986; February 7, 1997 – January 27, 1998; and January 26, 2009 – February 13, 2010.

A person born in the year of the Ox is noted for their perseverance and strength. The Ox symbolizes the attainment of prosperity through fortitude and hard work. Patient and tireless workers who stick to routines and established ways of doing things, Ox are honest, fair-minded, and good listeners; though, it is difficult to persuade them to change their views

as they are stubborn and often have strong prejudices.

Because of their steady and reliable character, Ox will be awarded positions of authority and trust. They will not fall short when duty calls. As a matter of fact, Ox should be careful not to get totally wrapped up in their responsibilities. They do not seek attention and public opinion means little. The Ox will put their whole heart into whatever they are doing. The Ox will always be an asset to their business and family.

Oxen are systems-oriented, preferring fixed patterns and traditional ways of doing things. In fact, Ox people tend to do exactly what is expected of them and are so predictable that they may be unfairly criticized for a lack of imagination. The dutiful Ox knows that only by doing things in their proper order will they achieve lasting success. With a focused mind, the Ox moves through life without depending on others or luck to succeed. The Ox triumphs through tenacity and dedication. Ox people are true to their word and keep promises.

Beneath the Ox's somewhat modest and neat appearance is a resolute and logical mind. Their intelligence and dexterity are masked by a reticent and undemonstrative front. Yet, in spite of being basically an introvert, their forceful nature can manifest as a commanding and eloquent speaker when the occasion demands.

In times of turmoil Ox's presence of mind, refusal to be intimidated and innate self-confidence will enable order to be restored. The Ox walks with their head held high.

Ox is generally known to hold onto grievances too long. They remember injuries or slights with their substantial memory. It is difficult for them to let go of grudges and sometimes they magnify perceived insults. Ox would be better off if they could lighten up and not take life so seriously and not be so sensitive, especially with issues of pride. Ox will always pay their debts to the penny. Due to their great sense of responsibility, Ox make every effort to express gratitude in tangible and meaningful ways. Their matter-of-factness manner can lead to the impression that they are not romantic as they eschew prosaic language as beneath their dignity.

If pushed past their extraordinary patience, Ox will lose their temper and it is best to stay out of their way until the heat of the moment passes. Usually though, Ox will hide their suffering and bear the burdens of life quietly.

### Famous People born in the Year of the Ox

George Clooney, actor, President Gerald Ford, Michael Phelps, Olympic swimmer, Vincent van Gogh, artist, Bruno Mars, singer, Napoleon Bonaparte, French emperor, Margaret Thatcher, British politician, President Barack Obama, Walt Disney, entrepreneur, Carly Rae Jepsen, singer, Gore Vidal, writer, Meryl Streep, actor, Cristiano Ronaldo, soccer player, Johann Sebastian Bach, composer, Robert Redford, actor, Paloma Picasso, designer, and Charlie Chaplin, actor

### General Predictions for the Year of the Ox

This will be a good year for the Ox and many things may not come easily. There will be additional work and long days to tie up loose ends by the end of the year. Trust that Ox's patience, honesty, solid work-ethic, and intelligence will carry the day and all will be well.

### Quotes to Live by in the Year of the Ox

*"Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognize them."*  
–Ann Landers

*"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties and obstacles vanish."*  
–John Quincy Adams

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist, physical therapist, with over 33 years of health care experience. She can be reached at 717-752-5728. Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist, he can be reached at 410-336-5876. Their office in Gettysburg is located at 249B York Street.

To read more articles by Renee or Jefferson, visit the Authors section of emmitsburg.net.



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YEAR OF THE OX

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# HEALTH AND FITNESS

## Happy Healthy New Year!

Linda Stultz  
Certified Fitness Trainer

Happy New Year! This past year has been a trying year for all of us but now we are starting a brand new year with hopes and anticipation of much better times ahead. New Years seems to be the time everyone sets big resolutions for themselves. You know how that goes and you know most resolutions are over by the end of January. This year think of something you would like to improve and then think of how you can start slowly with your new adventure so you don't get overwhelmed and give up right away.

Maybe your goal is to loose some weight. Examine your eating habits and choose one that you know you will be able to stick with for a month. Changing just one thing will get you started and let you see that it is possible to commit to doing it for a month. During that month hopefully you will start to feel a little different and see that this is not as bad as you thought it would be. Getting that feeling of accomplishment may give you a little more strength and willpower to change one more thing and after you see that you are now able to commit to these two changes the sky is the limit for continuing.

Since you have given up, or a least stopped eating as much of some of the foods that contributed to your weight gain in the first place, try replacing them with a healthy alternative. I know it's hard to believe but if you give up those chips or cookies for a while they will not taste as good when you eat them the next time. Your taste buds will change if you stay away from the sugary and salty foods. The more you eat, the more you want.

Same goes with the fact if you don't eat sugar or salt you will not crave it. So many of my clients don't believe me when I tell them this but it is really true. You know yourself and your weakness when it comes to snacks and food.

You also know if you are able to slowly change your eating habits or if you need to give up those foods completely while you are trying to loose weight. Which ever way works for you is the path you need to take. Not every weight loss method works for every person so keep trying out new ones till you find the perfect match for you. There is one out there so don't give up too quickly.

Once you reach your goal you will be able to eat your favorite foods as a treat or on special occasions. Don't think you will never get that piece of cake or whatever your favorite des-

sert is. Just keep it for a reward and it will taste even better then. I have heard that the first bite or two tastes the best and after that you are just eating the rest because it is there. Think about that the next time you are eating something you really like. I have found it to be true and then I think, why am I eating this big piece of cake with all these calories when just a few bites was where all the flavor was and now I'm just eating calories.

Exercising more is another very popular New Year's resolution. Like the weight loss resolution, this seems to be a hard one to keep. Also like changing your eating habits starting an exercise program needs to be one that you can stick with. Knowing how busy everyone is today the exercise program you choose needs to be one that will fit into your busy schedule. Some people want to exercise and improve their health but they convince themselves they just don't have the time.

That is just not true. Once you commit to doing something to improve your health and you actually get started you will be pleasantly surprised how much better you feel. You will also be surprised that you



Sigh ... maybe next year ....

can find time for your exercise program because it makes you feel a sense of accomplishment and a new found energy source.

Taking time for yourself and improving your health and energy level actually helps you find time for the things you need to do along with things you use to think about but just didn't have the energy to do. I know

you have all heard the fact that you need to take care of yourself first so you have the strength and energy to take care of your family and others. This is really true and once you start taking time for and care of yourself the other things you need to do will fall into place,

Remember to keep moving and have a Healthy, Happy New Year!

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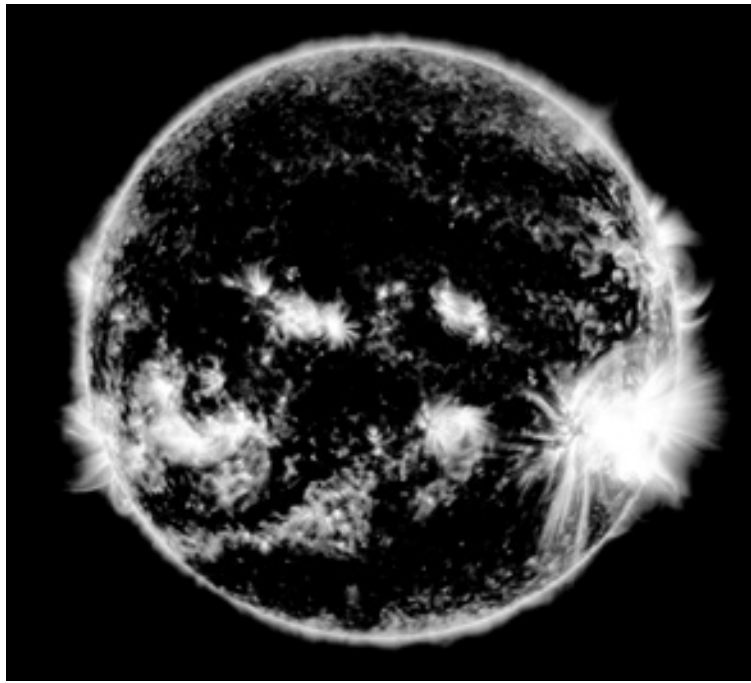
# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of January

Professor Wayne Wooten

The full moon, the long night moon, is on December 28th. The Earth is closest to the Sun at perihelion on January 2nd. Our orbit is so circular that this slight variation does not have a major impact on our seasons...our 23.5 degree tilt is much more important. The last quarter moon is January 6th. The crescent in the dawn is above Venus on the morning of January 11th. The moon is new on January 12th. The waxing crescent lies to the upper left of Mercury and Jupiter in early twilight on January 14th. The first quarter moon is on January 20th, just south of reddish Mars overhead. The full moon, the hunger or wolf moon, is January 28th.

Jupiter passed Saturn in the SW twilight on December 21st, and both of them are now getting lost in the Sun's glare. But if skies are clear, Mercury joins them low in the SW about 35 minutes after sunset on January 9-10th. Brighter Jupiter will be on top of the trio, with Mercury to lower left, Saturn to right. A week later, Mercury is at its highest and best, but the giants are lost in the sun's glare until February. With the giants gone, only reddish Mars is an evening planet. It is overhead now at sunset in Aries, but much smaller and fainter than during its historic opposition three months ago. Venus is also about to vanish behind the Sun by month's end. Look for it rising



The Sun's current solar storm cycle could be one of the strongest since record keeping began. Solar storms send coronal mass ejections containing charged particles into space. The charged particles can disable satellites, disrupting telecommunications and navigation systems. They have the potential to effect power grids, and black out entire cities or regions.

only an hour before the dawn at the start of January.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about December 30th visit the [www.sky-maps.com](http://www.sky-maps.com) website and download the map for January; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back

of the map. Sky and Telescope has <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/>.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus" Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant.

Overhead is Andromeda's hero,

Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while

blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active starbirth all over the place. You should be able to glimpse this stellar birthplace as a faint blur with just your naked eyes, and the larger your binoculars or telescope, the better the view becomes.

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 PM, and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting desert for New Year's sky feast.

Our cosmic highlight for the new year is the New Solar Cycle 25. Already the southern hemisphere of the sun is active with new spots, flares, faculae, filaments, and prominences. The northern side is lagging behind, for reasons that will win you a Nobel Prize if you figure it out.

To read past editions of the Sky at Night, visit [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net)

## Farmers' Almanac

*"Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution long after the excitement of the moment has passed."*

—Cavett Robert (1907-1997)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Dry, turning mild (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) with rain and wintery mix (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); windy, colder with snow showers in the western part of the region ((11, 12). Fair and milder (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20) with light snow and wintery mix (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); windy, milder (26, 27, 28, 29) remaining windy and much colder with snow showers in the west.

**Full Moon:** The first Full Moon of 2021 will occur on Thursday, January 28th. It has been called Hunger Moon by many Native American tribes because of the scarcity of game at this time of year. Other tribes called it Wolf Moon because of the increased boldness of wolf packs venturing closure and closer to their camps looking for food.

**Special Notes:** The 2021 Hagerstown Town and Country Almanac is its 225th edition. It has been continuously published since its first appearance in 1797 and while it is the second oldest almanac in the United States. It is the only almanac in America that is still published

by heirs of its founder, John Gruber. Both he and his partner and son-in-law, Daniel May, would be proud to see their almanac continuing to provide even more refined weather forecasts and astronomical data vital to agricultural success in the region. It is our commitment to continue improving our look, the accuracy of our weather forecasts, and offering useful information and inspiration to help one survive in today's world. In that way, The Hagerstown Town & Country Almanac will earn its place in the 21st Century as a useful and cherished reference as it has been in centuries past.

**Holidays:** New Year's Day falls on Friday, January 1st. Martin Luther King, Jr., famed civil rights activist leader, was born on January 15, 1929. His birthday is celebrated on the third Monday of the month. In 2021, that is Monday, January 18th. This great leader must be remembered on this day for the great social changes he brought about in this country and for the ultimate sacrifice he made pursuing unity and racial harmony which still eludes us today.

**The Garden:** Be sure to shake or brush off heavy snow from the branches of your evergreens and shrubs. The light fluffy snow poses no real threat, but if it should

become wet and frozen, the weight dramatically increases. Branches are more brittle when the plants are dormant, and the weight of the snow may snap them off. Take care of our feathered friends who will need a reliable supply of water and food during winter. Once you start feeding them, they'll keep returning for more, so be prepared to continue providing ample amounts of both until natural water supplies and food becomes available later in the Spring.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (5, 6); weeding and stirring the soil (1, 2, 3, 4); planting above-ground crops (16, 17); harvesting all crops (9, 10, 11); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19); transplanting (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 5, 16, 17); harvesting and storing grains (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12),

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

*"The next twelve months offer a world of promise; it all depends on each of us and how much we are willing to give of ourselves to help make it a better world"*

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# COMPUTER Q&A

## Changes in technology: What you should know

**Aysë Stenabaugh**  
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Technology is changing at such a rapid rate that we often find ourselves left behind when it comes to understanding what changes are occurring and why. As we enter 2021, we are ushering in a plethora of new security standards that may alter how you do things. Of those changes the most notable that have raised questions for many include the end of Adobe Flash Player support, iOS 14 wireless security warnings and data caps for Comcast Internet users.

Support for Adobe Flash Player ended on December 31 which means websites that utilize Flash Player and have not found alternatives (such as HTML5) to display information will no longer work as intended come January 12th. Last June, Forbes estimated that users of millions of websites will experience issues due to flash content being disabled if left unresolved. So, what does that mean for you, the end user? Not much really, Adobe is strongly recommending that users uninstall Adobe Flash player prior to it being completely disabled. If you're wondering WHY flash player is no longer supported, you may recall when Apple's Co-Founder Steve Jobs revealed his thoughts on Flash which ultimately led to support for Flash being pulled on all Apple devices, this was just one stepping stone to the applications final demise. It's no surprise that support for flash has finally ended, over the past few years Flash player has been a growing target for malicious downloads and security vulnerabilities.

It is always recommended that you keep your devices up to date and Apple's mobile devices are no different. In addition to a slew of new features iOS 14 has changed the security requirements when connecting to Wi-Fi. This does not mean you have to change anything to continue to use your home or public Wi-Fi networks, you will however receive a notification on your phone that will indicate that your wireless security is weak. If you navigate to settings and do not have the recommended wireless security when you view your wireless network, you will see "weak security" and will have the ability to tap on the i symbol to the right for additional information. A

s indicated by this notice the Wi-Fi network you are connecting to uses WPA2 (TKIP) encryption and Apple wants you to increase your wireless security by changing your router or gateway settings to use either WPA 2 (AES) or WPA3 security types. Beyond that you will not get much help from Apple as these settings are controlled by your physical hardware located in your home. You can contact your Internet Provider, research how to access your routers set-

tings or seek help from a professional. To resolve the issue, you will need to be connected to your network, so you won't be able to take your phone to a repair shop for help. Instead, you can consider having a support professional you trust connect to your computer remotely to resolve the issue. At Jester's Computers we provide remote support services for \$1 per minute with a \$10 minimum. If you decide to update your router settings on your own be sure to backup any settings before you make changes.

Comcast recently received a lot of backlash after announcing that they will be adding data caps to 15 states including Pennsylvania, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Beginning March 2021 Comcast internet customers will have a limit to the amount of data usage (or internet traffic) included each month. That limit is 1.2 Terabytes of data which is a lot for most users and comcast estimates that roughly just 5% of their customers will be affected by the change. Now that many of us are working and schooling from

home and relying on streaming for television instead of Cable TV, that usages has increased.

We recommend that you check your usage history before Comcast enacts the change in March so that you can be prepared. Your data usage can be monitored by logging into your account on the Xfinity website or by checking your usage on your monthly bills. If you go over your monthly data allowance the first time in a 12-month period Comcast will provide a courtesy credit and will not charge you for exceeding your data limit. If you have exceeded that limit more than one time in a 12-month period, Comcast will be billing \$10 for every additional 50 GB of data used within that month period up to a maximum of \$100. For example, if your monthly bill is \$80 and you use an extra 200GB of data over your limit you would be billed an additional \$40 for that month's bill which would then come to \$120 with overage fees. Alternatively, Comcast is offering that you can add unlimited data if you have one of their xFi routers for \$25



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# HUMOR

**Activities of the staff of the University of Harney & the Tom's Creek Fleet**

## 1915

### July 25 - Dr. John Glass on the Mexican situation

Dr. John Glass and the strategy board of the War College connected with Harney University has been in consultation for 98 hours on the Mexican situation, and it is thought that when the results of the deliberation is presented to the War and Navy Departments at Washington, a plan will have been reached whereby all trouble on the border will soon be brought to end.

According to the Doctor, It was first proposed to send the armored cruiser and six battleships of the Flat Run fleet, under the command of Admiral Bushman, to the golf. This would have been the ordinary procedure, but after considering the difficulties attending such a move, it was thought best to adopt a more original and secret plan and the following idea will be carried out.

"Seven aero-planes loaded with molasses will be sent to the scene of the action, at the same time 800,000 rounds of Limburger bullets will be distributed to troops from Zora, Four Points, and Popular Ridge, whose regiments will already have reached the heart of Mexico."

The plan is very simple: "The molasses will be release from the aero-planes, about 100 tons from each machine. This will have the same effect on the enemy as tangle-foot flypaper has on flies. When the opposing forces are rendered incapable of marching or standing erect, Limburger bullets will be discharged at them at a rate of 10,000 a second. Death will be instantaneous due to the smell of the cheese An important feature of this mode of warfare is that death will be so horrible that no further recruiting will be possible-no one will enlist in the Mexican army."

### August 8 - Appointment at Harney University

Prof. Jacob Turner who has just accepted the chair at snakeology at the University of Hardy has announced his intention of opening a correspondence school with the idea of teaching all takers a course on the science of snake charming. The professor now has 28 snakes of different vari-

eties fully trained and he says he has no difficulty in making them do anything he asked. In the collection, there are two copperheads which he has taught to dance the tango and a black snake taught to walk the slack wire blindfolded.

### September 12 - University of Harney Invents Unique Airship

Probably one of the most unique air-planes ever constructed is that which has just been finished by Dr. Jerry Overholser and Dr. Daniel Shorb, both of the faculty of Harney University. This airplane may be seen for the next few days at the hangar of Dr. Shorb's Estates, "Pig's Misery."

It took 27 men, working day and night underwater, to build the machine. Many of the mechanical devices were designed by Adm. Bushman and the air digging devices by Dr. John Glass.

According to Dr. Overholser: "The main feature of the engine, which is of the complex eccentric type, is the simplicity of the duplicidentate. The meta centre articulates with the friction real and top burtons on the warping chock. This flutes the suction pipe in such a manner as to lap joint the back gear. The lubricator, connecting with a center balance spring, throws the pinch cock under the carburetor, at the same time opening the muffler cutout near the nephoscope. This feeds the silo juice through the bunghole and sparks the fifth wheel near the gunwale. The cloud anchor, which is regulated by a heliograph, is so adjusted on the pinochle deck that its releases automatically from the whiffletree, making it possible to stop and remain stationary by putting on the reverse clutch while going at the rate of 184 knots a second."

Dr. Overholzer and his crew will make a flight next week at four o'clock from the Popular Ridge standpipe to the Eiffel Tower, stopping for lunch at the Sandwich Islands.

### November 14 - Admiral Bushman Readies Fleet

Realizing that it will only be a matter of days until the Mexican situation will reach a crisis, Admiral Bushman is putting the Flat Run Fleet in readiness to sail to southern waters. The Board of Strategy of the Naval Annex of Harney University has been in executive session night and day for two weeks making plans for

the combined attack on the Mexican arsenal of Coca-Cola Bay.

Admiral John Glass will be commanding the fleet, now coaling at Turkey Run, where it is expected that the Zorro Zouaves, under command of Col. Dan Shorb will go aboard. The Dry Bridge Dragoons will also form part of this command, which would take orders from Commodore Cornelius Buckingham, who will be the chief officer of the gunboat "Sardine." Nick Keller has been carrying cipher dispatches to Gen. Bill Snyder, who for the past 10 days has been secreted in a cider barrel in the cellar of the Mexican president's palace.

Gen. Jerry Overholzer will have entire charge of the wireless towers, recently erected on Poplar Ridge. With this system, which is entirely new and the invention of Major Hiram Ranger, it is expected that the secret plans of the Strategy Board will be carried out.

The signal for the fleet to sail will be the explosion a 6,000 pop bottles from Carrick's Knob. In the event of hostilities daily bulletins will be posted at Dry Bridge, Whitman's Wharf, Pig's Misery and other seaports in the area.

## 1917

### March 30 - German Spies Captured

Two German spies were apprehended in Emmitsburg; one on Tuesday, the other on Wednesday. The arrest was the outcome of the activity of the Secret Service Department of the War College at Harney University. The head of the service, disguised as a bunch of dock weed wading through 3 miles of calimus swamp en banc as the quarry was in the act of adjusting a time bomb with which he intended to blow up the Toms Creek Fleet's cruiser "Paprika," which was laying in anchor at Whitmore's Wharf. A Limburger cheese, a beer opener, and a complete map of the fortifications of the forts along Turkey Run were found in their possessions. The prisoners were interned in the guardhouse on Bungalow Point where they will wait the action of the Spy Corps.

### Activities of the Former-Former Boozers

## 1920

### January 16 - Wakes Mark End Of Liquor

Numberless wakes attending the

death of John Barleycorn were held Friday night just about everywhere. Today is a day of sorrow for many and the dawn of the New Year was ushered in solemnly as a testimony to the end of gay parties. The price of whiskey and other forbidden beverages had much to do with the lack of hilarity at many parties. In many places whiskey was selling from \$10-\$12 a quart, and in many sections it was hard to get. In Emmitsburg, members of the Former-Former Boozers Association conducted a vigil outside the Hotel Slagle, where members openly wept at the sight of over 100 one-gallon jugs that Mrs. Becky Boyd had senselessly holed with buckshot in her feud with her upright husband, causing the liquor contained within them, which had been intended to be consumed that evening, to be drained away. Members compared this act of villainy to Eve offering Adam the apple and openly questioned why God had bothered to invent womenfolk.

### January 30 - Farmers Brave Icy Roads For Meeting

Notwithstanding the almost impossible conditions on the roads, about 60 farmers attended the opening of Farmers Institute meetings in Thurmont. The meeting was held in the school building and was marked by interesting and instructive addresses. At the conclusion of the regular program, Alice White, National Field Organizer for the Women's Suffrage Party, delivered a short address, which was received with boos from the unsympathetic audience. Members objected to her illogical view that women were equal to men, with sound and well-reasoned arguments women were inferior to men in just about every way, with the exception of cooking and cleaning, and raising young'ins, and that they should stick to those roles and let men do the important thinking.

### March 19 - Boozers Fail to Blow Up Ice Gorge

Ceasing upon the success of last week's destruction of the Marsh Creek ice gorge. Members of the Former-Former Boozers Association answered the call to bring their most potent 'hooch' to the covered wooden bridge over Tom's Creek on the South side of

Emmitsburg. The intent was to place it in barrels on the accumulate ice and lightening it. Given the potency on the hooch, many gathered for what was hoped would be a spectacular firework display. But efforts quickly got waylaid the committee in charge of selecting the hooch to be used, decided to select the hooch by sampling all submitted entries.

The cries of 'foul' from prohibitionist were brushed away by town officials, who declared that the testing of the hooch was for emergency purposes and did not violate the prohibition law. Upon hearing this, Boozers quickly complained that the committee was too small, and soon all the Boozers were being allowed to sample entries. By sunset, four hours after the intended 'explosion,' all booze had been consumed and none remained for the explosion. The assembled abundance dispersed in disappointment, with the exception of course, for the Boozers.

### June 11 - Dog Owners Slow To Take Out Licenses

At the close of business yesterday afternoon fewer dog licenses have been issued at the County Treasurer's office that it any corresponding time since the law requiring dog licenses had been enacted. But 37 licenses have been taken out with receipts of \$49. Emmitsburg has not recorded any request for licenses at all this year.

When questioned why, one Former-Former Boozers Association dog owner stated that he saw no reason to license his dog: "Why would I want to put a collar around his neck? He's always at my side. If anyone needs a collar it's my useless wife and her stupid cats ... all they do is lay around the house sleeping and eating. My dog at least earns his vittles by protecting my still from no good revenuers when I'm not around, and unlike my useless wife, he doesn't snore like a bull moose in heat when he sleeps."

### July 30 - The Woman Vote Problem

Should the men in one more State Legislature lose their minds and ratify the suffrage amendment, not only Maryland state officials, but local election boards throughout the county would be swamped with the problem of taking care of their portion of women who would be eligible

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**HUMOR**

to be added to the registration books. Official figures show that there are over 403,200 women 21 years or older in Maryland who will be eligible for registration. The total number of males of voting age is 403,908.

Dr. Brokaw, President of the Former-Former Boozers Association told the members at their last meeting at their secret still, that passage of the amendment will result in their women thinking they are equal to men, and expecting men to do such ludicrous things as cook their own vittles or clean the house. "We will be living in hell". He said.

**September 12 - Fairfield and Emmitsburg Boozers to Hold Joint Rally**

Dr. Brokaw, President of the Emmitsburg Chapter of the Former-Former Boozers Association, has announced that the Emmitsburg chapter will hold a joint rally with the Fairfield chapter, September 20th. The purpose of the rally, Dr. Brokaw said, will be to get men in both towns to register to vote in order to prevent their womenfolk from taking over the government and ruining everything. The rally will be held at the Boozers' secret still just behind the barn on Mayor Annon's farm on Annondale Road. Every man who brings a voter registration card will be given a pass for two free drinks during the rally.

**September 26 - Boozers' Rally Backfires**

The much anticipated joint rally between the Emmitsburg and Fairfield Chapters of the Former-Former Boozers Association, to overcome the plurality of women voters, backfired when members showed up with blank registration cards or worse, cards filled out for their wives or other women in the towns.

When reminded that the purpose of the rally was to get men to register, many boozers stared blankly, and several complained that the word on the street was to bring a registration form, "Nottin said anything about filling it out."

Apparently the women of both towns, upon hearing of the intent of the rally, and knowing their husbands would be too drunk to read the names on the registration cards, organized themselves to take their husband's blank cards and use it to register themselves, or women who's husbands had forbid them to register.

As a result, the number of women registered to vote in both towns now is double that of the men. Upon hearing the result, the wailing on the men was pacified by extending the night's drinking until first light. Meanwhile their womenfolk celebrate their nefarious victory by polluting the evening air in both towns with God-awful suffragettes songs.

**October 1 - Votes For Women Expensive To Taxpayers**

Elections in Maryland have always been very expensive under the present ballot law. Comparisons have shown them to be greatly in excess of the cost of elections held under the original Australian ballot law, and now the doubling of the number of voters brings with it also a doubling of the previous already exorbitant election cost. Supervisors must buy additional ballot boxes, the cost of which has jump from five dollars each a few years back to \$25 now. It will also cost an additional \$15,000 to print more ballots and modify the registration lists.

It is too early to figure the cost of the election this year for the whole state, but there will be something for the taxpayers to think about, when they are found out. The question we will have to answer will be: 'was it worth it to give women the vote when it is clearly known that they do not have, nor will they ever have the mental capacity to understand the complexes of running governments.' All we can hope is that women will follow the direction of their husbands or fathers and vote as told, otherwise chaos will surely ensue.

**October 15 - Taking Joy Out Of Tonics**

Many patent medicines offered to the public as 'tonics', or under some other medical designation, are going to lose their charm. The

thousands a patrons who, since the prohibition enforcement law became effective, who have become experts in diagnosing their own diseases and also in treating them with tonics are going to learn that their 'favorites' will be placed under scrutiny by officials of the internal revenue service.

A revenue report showed that after prohibition law became effective, patent medicine sprung up from every nook and corner. The originality of the productions, the wonderful effects produced by a slight overdose in the popularity of some of the brands quickly spread amongst boozers. If there is the slightest suspicion that medicines may grow into a beverage it has. "It is possible, of course, to get drunk on Witch Hazel, but the man who tries this medicine two or three times is going to the hospital," said an revenuer. The same is true of patent medicines, which are tonics.

**October 22 - Former Boozers Protest Crackdown On Tonics**

Members of the Former-Former Boozers Association held a protest at the fountain on Saturday night protesting the intended government crackdown on medical 'tonics.' Dr. Brokaw, President of the Association, told the assembled drunks, that he knew first hand the value of self-medicating. "Tonics made for corn squeezings," Bro-

kaw continued, "can be used to cure just about all maladies effecting men, especially nagging womenfolk. "Imagine," Dr. Brokaw said, "what life would be like if we had to deal with our wives with out it? Now that would be a true crime." The rally lasted well into the wee hours as Boozers sampled the lasted batch of 'tonics' fresh off the mountain.

**November 26 - Fined for Intoxication**

State troopers, driving along the Harney Road early Sunday morning, noticed an automobile coming towards them in a zigzag course. Investigation found that the occupants, Howard and Clement Bechtel, who live in Taneytown, who were returning from the weekly meeting of the Former-Former Boozers Association, were thoroughly intoxicated. So much so, they were unable to remember their own names until the following morning.

The pair was ordered to pay a fine of \$10.25 apiece for driving an automobile while under the influence of liquor. The pair offered to pay their fine in hooch, but after extensive deliberation, the offer was refused by the Justice of the Peace when his wife got word he was considering it. The pair was only released after their toughly annoyed wives showed up to pay the fine.



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