

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 13, NO. 9

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

SEPTEMBER 2021

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**Four Running For Town Council**  
Interest in serving on the Town Council has increased. **Page 2**

**Pippenfest Celebrates 40th Anniversary**

Organizers are looking to make up for last year's missed event. **Page 3**

**Green Team Honored**

Team recognized for tree care activities throughout the town. **Page 4**

**Taneytown To Get Observatory**

Telescope in in Bollinger Park will allow residents to peer deep into the night sky. **Page 5**

**The Maryland Iron Festival**

The Catocin Furnace Historical Society's Maryland Iron Festival. **Page 25**

## COMMENTARY

**Word From Winterbilt**

Navigating the rumors behind the origins of COVID-19.

**Page 10**

**The Bulwark**

The evacuation of Afghanistan – a bad idea, badly executed.

**Page 11**

**American Mind**

Reflections on censorship - has it gone too far? **Page 10**

## ARTICLES

**The Book of Days**

The life and times of John Paul Jones. **Page 13**

**Ecology**

The cause of the decline of the Eastern Monarch Butterfly population. **Page 14**

**In the Country**

Preventing raptor road-kill. **Page 15**

**Gardening**

The ripening of apples on the trees is a sure sign of Fall. **Page 18**

**Young Equestrian**

Ivy: fun comes in pint sizes. **Page 22**

**Four Years At The Mount**

This month we asked out students to write about a professor who influenced them the most. **Page 34**

**Humor**

More totally useless facts to waste your time with. **Page 47**

## St. Catherine's shutting doors November 1st

After a month on speculation, Ascension Living, the operators of St. Catherine's nursing home, announced it will be closing Nov. 1.

Officially known as St. Joseph's Place, the facility is owned by the Daughters of Charity and has been leased to Ascension Living since 2010, according to George Brenton, provincial director of facilities.

"After thoughtful and prayerful discernment and discussions with the Daughters of Charity, we have decided to close Ascension Living St. Joseph's Place, a skilled nursing and independent living community in Emmitsburg," according to a statement released by Ascension Living.

"This transition will help ensure the long-term stability of those options for older adults in the midst of continuing staffing challenges across the industry," according to a statement released by Ascension Living.

The nursing facility included short term rehabilitation, long term care as well as respite and holistic care.

The Daughters of Charity currently make up approximately 20 residents in skilled care with a total of sixty Sisters within the entire facility, according to Brenton. Daughters will continue to provide care for their seniors within the facility, "through another healthcare management company," he said.

Saint Joseph's Provincial House was originally built in 1964 as a housing for approximately 400 sisters for what used to be the southeast providence, according to Brenton. However, with the declining numbers of women joining the order, in the early 2000s, many of the administrative activities conducted in Emmitsburg for the Daughters were moved to their St. Louis Provincial House, and need for the massive facility became problematic. As a result other uses for the facility were explored.

One wing of the four wing X-shaped facility is currently dedicated to the Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton which was originally designed as the chapel for the Daughters.



St. Catherine's will officially close its doors on November 1st

Another wing is known as Setonville and was converted into low-cost senior living for Houses for America 10 years ago. A third wing is being rented by Mount St. Mary's for storage. St Catherine's encompassed the remaining wing, which the Daughter of Charity are currently exploring other options for use of.

Mayor Don Briggs was disappointed to learn of the shutdown. Not only were approximately 10-15% of the over 100 employees regional to the Emmitsburg area, but he also found the facility's town location convenient for visiting residents, he said.

For the current 140 employees of Ascension Living St. Joseph's Place, Molly Gaus, Vice President of Marketing and Communications wrote in an email "we are in the process of seeking well qualified nurses and staff members, to care for the senior members but will no longer have the numbers (enough residents) to retain everyone. As we go through this transition, our top priority will be taking care of our residents as well as our valued associates. Our team will coordinate the transition of all current non-Daughters nursing residents to an appropriate community (nursing homes) of their choice."

## Community honors local fallen firefighter

Battalion Chief Joshua Laird, 46, of Fairfield, died Aug. 11 after sustaining injuries fighting a two-alarm structure fire in Ijamsville, Maryland, according to the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services (FCDFRS). Officials said the fire was a result of lightning striking the home from a strong line of thunderstorms moved through the region.

While operating inside, Laird fell through the first floor of the structure into the basement. A mayday was sent out and rapid intervention crews were deployed to rescue him. Upon extraction, Laird was provided emergency medical care and transported by a Maryland State Police helicopter to the Washington Hospital Center. Laird died later that evening from injuries sustained from the fall.

Laird was a 21-year veteran of FCDFRS as well as a member of Fairfield Fire and EMS. He was also a member of the Fairfield Area School Board for four years a member of the Pippenfest Committee.

The Pippenfest Committee and the entire Fairfield community is mourning the loss of Joshua Laird, according to Sally Thomas, Chair of the Pippenfest Committee. "If a single word could

ever be sufficient to describe his life, 'dedicated' comes to mind. Dedicated to his family, his profession, his co-workers, friends, and his community, Josh somehow found time to serve others, whenever and wherever there was a need. He did so with humility, with energy, and with an endless sense of humor. Most of all, he set an example of dedicated service for his daughters, instilling in Erin and Maddy the ideal that it is good to give of your time and talents. We are sad, but we are richer for having known and worked with him. Rest in peace, Josh. And keep an eye out for us down here," she said.

"We are in constant contact with the Laird family and our DFRS families and are doing everything we can to make every resource available," said FCDFRS Chief Tom Coe. "This unexpected loss of a father, a husband, and a brother to firefighters across the nation, will have a lasting impact on the Frederick and Fairfield communities. We are and will be here for them now and in the future."

Maryland Governor Larry Hoag ordered flags to be flown at half-staff until the completion of Laird's internment.

Laird began firefighting as a volunteer at the Fairfield Township Volunteer Fire Company 1. He joined Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services in 2000 as part of Recruit Class 4 and was assigned to Green Valley Station 25 upon graduation from Firefighter school, according to the FCDFRS.

Throughout his over twenty-one years of duty, Laird served at multiple stations, including New Market, Westview, Spring Ridge, United, Carroll Manor, Braddock Heights, and as a Safety Officer, according to the FCDFRS. Laird was posthumously promoted to Battalion Chief on Aug. 13.

A ceremonial procession escorted



Battalion Chief Joshua Laird

Laird from the Green Valley Station to his hometown of Fairfield before traveling to Mount St. Mary's University's for a public viewing on Aug. 16.

As of August, there have been over 70 firefighter fatalities in the United States in 2021, according to the United States Fire Administration.

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Animal ordinance approves chickens

Emmitsburg residents will be allowed to raise and keep chickens in backyard coops following amendments to the town animal ordinance. Under the amended Code, a maximum of six chickens can be kept in backyard pens or coops. Residents must also comply with other zoning regulations already in place. Chickens must also be registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, along with a copy of the registration submitted to the town.

The ordinance, approved by the town council at the August meeting, closely mimics Frederick County and Frederick City's Animal Code, according to town planner Zachery Gulden. The previous one was similar to a much older version of the Frederick County Animal Code.

Chickens must be kept in a backyard lot of at least 2,500 square feet with no more than one chicken per every five hundred square feet. Chickens must

be provided a covered coop at least 10 feet from any lot line and the backyard must either be surrounded by a fence or contain a chicken run. In addition, chickens are not allowed for commercial use, and are not allowed to be slaughtered on the premises. Manure not used for composting or fertilizing must be removed within a reasonable period.

The proposed changes were made following a request by Mayor Briggs to reallocate the keeping of chickens through an ordinance that expired and was not renewed in 2013.

Other approved changes in the animal ordinance include raising the fine for not cleaning up animal waste (including dogs) to \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second, and \$300 for the third offense. "Right now, we can only fine \$25," said Gulden. Noisy animals are also prohibited and are subject to a \$100 fine, with each day a deemed a sepa-

rate offense. Property owners are on an honor system, according to Gulden. "As long as they're complying with the code, no citations will be issued," he said.

The final vote was 3-1, with Commissioner Frank Davis voting against the update, and Commissioner Joseph Ritz abstaining, citing a conflict of interest due to his neighbors owning chickens. Ritz said however, had he voted, he would have objected to the chicken provision, as it did not prohibit the owning of roosters, which he predicted would cause noise problems.

Davis also expressed concern that the ordinance's allowance of roosters has the potential to create a population overload and a noise nuisance if neighbors surrounding each other all acquired the maximum of six birds.

"I have nothing against animals, I love animals. I just don't think downtown Emmitsburg is the place for chickens," Davis said.

## Four vying for town council seats

Two seats on the Emmitsburg Town Council are up for election September 28 with four candidates vying for the seats. The two seats, currently being held by council incumbent Town Council President Tim O'Donnell, and Cliff Sweeney, are three-year terms.

The four candidates registered to run include O'Donnell and Sweeney as well as, Liz Buckman, and Rosario Benvenji.

Buckman previously served as council commissioner from 2017-2020. Even while not serving on the council, Buckman says she has never stopped advocating and building relationships throughout the community. "I love communication. Everyone knows my phone number," she said. Buckman said she is running to create new opportunities for Emmitsburg as well as strengthen a bridge between the town and the council.

"We have a sustainable, loving community that takes care of people. The government that is supposed to be doing that is actually doing that, and I want to be a part of that," she said. Buckman hopes to bring accessibility, transparency, and representation to the council.

"It's not about power or prestige, it's about helping another sister out," she said. Buckman also proposes a focus on creating local jobs by incentivizing land for warehouses and industrial business. "Small towns have to be self-sufficient," she said.

Benvenji previously served on the council from 1994-1997. Benvenji said now more than ever there needs to be changes made to the town. "It is important to always be looking ahead for the future of Emmitsburg and be proactive, I don't want to react," he said.

If elected, Benvenji aims to

keep small businesses not large businesses flowing as the backbone of the county, he said since most businesses fail in the first two years; he aims to propose a fifty percent tax credit for first year businesses. "To really help get their feet on the ground in Emmitsburg," he said. Supporting businesses goes hand in hand with stimulating the town economy and improving it even farther, according to Benvenji. He also wants to see new housing developments established in the community to give residents living options.

Sweeney is not only the longest serving commissioner on the current Town Council, but the longest serving council member in the town's history, having been on the Town Council for 23 years now. (Sweeney was briefly unseated in the 2004 election.)

"Every year I learn something new that I haven't tried. I enjoy

being on the council and making Emmitsburg a better place," Sweeney said.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish if re-elected, Sweeney said he didn't want Emmitsburg to continue to be a "bedroom community, one that residents only sleep in while they live and work in the cities. A focus should be placed on bringing in new businesses and developments and upgrading the sewer system to expand the town."

Sweeney also aimed to bring back community involvement activities such as Little League, noting many families must travel out of town to participate in sports and activities. "You have to get involved in the community, or the community won't exist," Sweeney said.

Current Vice President O'Donnell has served on the Town Council since 2009. O'Donnell said he was running to: "continue serving our community." O'Donnell aims to prioritize the safely opening of businesses following COVID-19 guidelines.

O'Donnell also wanted to see

"measurable growth" throughout the town by continuing to improve parks and preserving local trails. "I don't want to lose the quality of life that makes Emmitsburg known for as a small town," he said. A focus on systematic ways to improve the town sewer and wastewater treatment are also high on O'Donnell's priorities. "My judgment is in accord with what the community wants," he said.

The town election will be held at the former town hall, now serving as the community deputy office, at 22 East Main Street. Voters can cast their ballots between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Anyone in line at the time of closing shall be permitted to vote. Absentee ballot requests must be turned to the town office by Sept. 14.

Commission members are compensated \$4,000 annually. The mayoral position, which is not up for reelection, is compensated at \$8,000 annually. Candidates elected to either of the two seats will be sworn-in and assume their position on the town council on October 7.

*Emmitsburg*  
NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Pippinfest celebrates its 40th anniversary

Making up for last year's missed celebration due to the pandemic, Fairfield's annual two-day community jamboree will be held rain or shine Sept. 25 and 26 throughout the borough.

Unable to celebrate in 2020 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) the two-day community festival is ready to be better than ever, according to Pippinfest Committee volunteer Linda Sites.

A community staple four decades in the running, Pippinfest is more than the community's local apple festival, it is a celebra-

tion that brings people into the community, fosters an environment of fun for everyone, and brings neighbors together.

Founded in 1980 by David Thomas, Pippinfest was initiated to provide opportunities for local clubs and non-profit organizations to raise funds and to provide a community-wide celebration of the annual apple harvest. As a small town with a strong sense of community, the citizens of Fairfield were eager to support the idea and an all-day street festival was planned.

Through Thomas' dream along

with a supportive citizenry, an all-day two-day street festival was soon born. The annual apple festival is testament to the community togetherness and promote local non-profits. "It amazes me in a small community how these things take hold," Sites said.

Local Boy Scout troops, high school groups, churches and many others and many other organizations can be found as participate as vendors to help raise money. Additional funds made during Pippinfest go into a reserve and can be used by the Borough

for community enhancement. Within the past few years, funds from this reserve were used to purchase new conference tables and chairs for the Borough Hall office, restoration, framing and matting of the town map, the purchase of a complete Pippinfest pottery collection, and pottery display cases.

Considered the "community yard sale," of the two-day event, Saturday Sept. 25 will be a plethora of yard sales, craft, and food vendors from all over the region. Sunday is sure not to be missed either with live performers taking

to the street and entertainment for all ages including car shows, apple dessert competition, and a display of timeless Pippinfest Pottery.

A quilt show and demonstration organized by Stitch 'N Peace will be held in Village Hall both days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Both days will also ensure plenty of activities through the Kids' Corner including pony rides, inflatables, a petting zoo, a climbing wall, dime pitch, and hands-on play for toddlers with bird seed. For activities, event times and locations, visit [www.pippinfest.com](http://www.pippinfest.com) or call the Fairfield Borough Office at 717-642-5640.

## Carroll Valley looks to improve police retention

Following the resignation of Carroll Valley police officer Erik Pfeiffer, borough council members discussed the ongoing issue of the hiring and retention of local police officers in their area. Board president Richard Matthews said, "with Carroll Valley's small community, low crime rate, and little opportunities for advancement, we're going to continue to lose people." He called the community a "training ground" for law enforcement personnel before

going off to bigger and better paying departments.

Council member John Schubring suggested a different approach for hiring applicants, "I think the status quo will continue as long as we bring on young officers, period. They're not going to stay." One idea he recommended during a search was focusing on applicants that were ready to settle down. "I think that we should take the bull by the horns and really make an effective change here for

the better and not just accept mediocrity in staffing our police force," Schubring said.

"What you're talking about doing, I support you 100%. However, it may cost you \$20-\$30k more a year," said Borough Manager Dave Hazlett. In response, Chief of Police Richard Hileman said most police department pension plans don't promote mobility, once they're so long into that pension system, it'd be foolish of them to leave it."

"While Carroll Valley Borough offers fantastic employee benefits, it doesn't make us stand out," said Hazlett. "Ours is a standard package that is offered to police officers everywhere across the country. If you want to attract somebody, you're going to do so with a higher salary. You could go just about anywhere and find someone with five years' experience that is going to be making significantly more money than \$51,000," which is the average salary for a Carroll Valley probationary police officer, according to Hazlett.

"If you want to hire somebody who has a ton of experience, you must pay them like they have a ton of experience," said Hileman. "Pay scale tends to run on five years. You hire them at a rookie level and in five years, you've got a quality, polished professional working for you."

An advertisement was approved for the Civil Service Commission to produce a list of eligible candidates for the full-time police officer position with the starting salary of \$51,345 to \$65,000 depending on the experience.

## Borough moves forward with vehicle tracking system

Carroll Valley Borough Council moved forward with authorizing a GPS monitoring system for up to 20 borough vehicles. New road foreman, Brad Sanders, presented the council with information about Geotab, a fleet tracking and "live monitoring system," that can record and provide real time vehicle feedback, he said.

The tracking system plugs in under the vehicle dashboard and

can monitor vehicle information including location, speed, fuel consumption, and seatbelt violations. The system also provides a 24-hour history of roads traveled. The cost for the upgrades would include a \$1,105 installation fee, plus a \$17.50 per month fee per vehicle for maintenance, according to Sanders.

The automatic technology system investment could extend the

use of the borough's vehicles by cutting down on idle time and cause the vehicles to run more efficiently, said Borough Manager David Hazlett. "We have invested millions into our equipment, I don't have any qualms about this whatsoever," he said.

The live system update monitoring would also be especially useful and provide peace of mind during snow removal to easily track vehi-

cle locations, what roads have been traveled, and at what time, Hazlett said. Council member Robert Verderraime expressed initial hesitation that the total cost would come to over \$4,000 a year if all 20 municipal vehicles were upgraded with the monitoring systems in a time when every dollar must be counted – but eventually warmed up to the essential use of the systems.

"I see this paying for itself and then some," council member John Schubring said. Hazlett was confident that borough staff could trim the fat from other categories of next year's budget to pay for the monitoring systems without increasing expenditures in other departments. "It's really good technology and we're committed to making this work financially," Hazlett said.

## Soaring club seeks state funding

Representatives of the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association (M-ASA) sought support from Liberty Township Board of Supervisors for state funding initiatives. Founded in 1952, the M-ASA includes 100 members, 40 gliders, and several power planes, according to Mike Higgins, Association President. It is one of the country's largest soaring clubs.

The M-ASA is a non-profit flight airfield located in Fairfield, dedicated to public outreach, education, and promoting the art and science of soaring," said Higgins. The organization is volunteer supported and provides its members with flight instruction, tow services, and gliders. Youth memberships enable students a means to obtain affordable flight training. M-ASA also provides other community education programs through Open Houses and other outreach, focused at enlightening the general public on the topic of soaring.

Higgins said, "the association is looking to expand their resources and is seeking state funding and grants for capital expense projects." Applying for Pennsylvania

Department of Transportation's Multimodal Transportation Fund requires the association to have municipal support, he said.

The funding will go toward expanding the M-ASA meeting building and constructing a glider hanger, said Michael Cooper-White, Association Secretary.

The addition of hanger space on the property would not add extra aircraft but will allow aircraft to be stowed assembled instead of disabled in trailers, according to Cooper-White.

A public hearing on the subject is scheduled for September 7 at 6:30 p.m.



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# THURMONT NEWS

## Green Team honored for environmental efforts

The National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA award was presented to the Thurmont Green Team during the August 10th Town Council meeting for their dedication to tree care activities throughout the town. The team's efforts to create sustainability, further education, and making the community a greener place was well noted during the award presentation by Becky Wilson, of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Thurmont achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: creating an Arbor Day observance and proclamation, a multi-panel board, a tree-care ordinance, and a forestry budget of at least two dollars per capita.

Thurmont also received the PLANT Green Award in 2021 for sustained programs that are organized, funded, and fully functional with technical assistance and support. This level of award is given to towns and cities that are recognized as Tree

City USA. Colleges and Universities are recognized as Tree Campus USA.

Trees provide multiple benefits to the community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal to neighborhoods, provide much needed shade, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat among many other benefits.

This will be the group's fifth consecutive year since its establishment in 2015. Despite limitations during the

pandemic, not only did Thurmont's Green Team continue their dedication to sustainable planting efforts, but they also included safety protocols, social distancing and mask wearing while planting the parks trees.

MDNR representative, Becky Wilson stated "while there was no requirement to do any plantings due to COVID-19, this team held two different events to do so."

Wilson also said that "in appreciation of their dedication, the Green Team was also awarded their very first

Growth Award. This recognition signifies the team has taken their tree management program and grown it above and beyond the baseline of caring for existing trees but also doing some additional tree planting. Thurmont's Green Team joins eight other jurisdictions in Maryland to achieve the award this year – most of which, are in western Maryland."

Mayor John Kinnaird was very pleased and told the team, "You guys are really dedicated and do a great job."

## Internet Commission proposes wireless provider

On August 10, the Thurmont Internet Commission briefed the town council on their current plans to bring wireless internet to residents of Thurmont. The Commission was established in 2020 to investigate the feasibility and costs of a municipally owned internet provider.

The purpose of a Thurmont-owned service would be to provide businesses and residents with an optional internet provider. "The idea is not to replace services, but to provide competition to those services already available," said Chairman Elliot Jones.

Jones had the idea of a locally owned service while running for a seat of the Town Council last year and garnered the support of Commissioner Martin Burns. The Internet Commission was subsequently established in March to amass information and explore options, and to report their findings to the council.

Community interest for the project really took off after a recent survey was sent out to the community. The survey received 117 respondents and gauged interest for high-speed internet as well as what prices residents would be willing to pay,

according to Jones.

After Requests for Quotations were sent out in April, the only consistently interested company bidding was Civitas Networks. Civitas' bid proposal was to provide wireless internet services in town which include the use of existing water towers to install transmitters, according to Commissioner Martin Burns, who acts as the liaison to the Internet Commission.

Jerry Kirshman, Chief Executive Officer of Civitas Networks said the equipment to be utilized for the wireless project has a long-life expect-

tancy, and as technology continues to improve, it is expected to be replaced and updated. "A partnership between Civitas and the town", Kirshman said, "would allow Thurmont to have control over wireless prices for the community."

The pilot phase of the potential project would lay transmitters on one water tower and measure response, while the second and third phase would add additional transmitters to two or three other water towers to help overlap the service area.

The three existing towers are located at Easy Street, Orchard Hills,

and Eyer Road Park. The second phase of the project will expand the service to full community coverage, said Jones.

Details, dynamics, and costs are in the process of being discussed. Representatives from Civitas Networks are scheduled to present and answer council questions at the next meeting.

A public hearing is anticipated for a later date, according to Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick.

The internet commission consists of several local individuals, and anyone interested in joining can contact Elliot Jones for more information.

## News Briefs . . .

### Thurmont to hold elections for Mayor and Commissioners' seats

The nominating convention to select candidates for this year's Thurmont Town election for mayor and two commission seats will take place on September 28 at 7 pm at the town office.

Those who wish to run in the election are invited to attend. Self-nomination will be accepted at the convention as long as second nominations are present.

Mayor John Kinnaird, and Commissioners Martin Burns, and Wayne Hooper's terms of office are up this year. The terms for both mayor and commissioner are four years. Burns does not anticipate running again.

To be eligible for commissioner, a candidate must be a registered voter in Thurmont, and must have

lived in the town for at least one year. Thurmont commissioners meet every Tuesday and are paid \$10,000 per year. The Mayor is paid \$15,000 per year.

The election will be held October 26th. Residents can contact the town office at 301-271-7313 for more information.

### Playground Equipment for Woodland Park

A contract was awarded to Playground Specialists for the completion of the second phase of the Woodland Park project.

The amount of \$159,534 was awarded to complete removing and replacing old playground equipment at Woodland Park including a large central unit, an outdoor fitness gym, shade structures, a seesaw, new benches, and a new

sidewalk, according to Jim Humerick, Chief Administrative Officer.

The first phase of the project was completed by Playground Specialists in 2020 with a \$40,000 grant from Maryland Department of Natural Resources with 25% matching, he said. "Everyone knows playground Specialists, they are a very dependable contractor," Humerick said.

100 percent of funding for the completion of the second phase of the project is coming from a Community Parks and Playground grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$160,000 with no matching funds required, he said.

The total cost of the Woodland Park project is \$199,534 with the "total cost to the town for this state-of-the-art playground is \$10,000," Humerick said.

**TOWN OF THURMONT  
ELECTION NOTICE**

**Notice Is Hereby Given Of The Upcoming  
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**September 28, 2021**

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**September 28, 2021**

Last Day To Register To Vote (Close of Business)

**October 8, 2021**

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# TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Sewell Farm annexation agreement approved

At their August 9th meeting, the Taneytown City Council approved the Sewell Farm Annexation Agreement effect upon final approval of the required annexation resolution.

According to Taneytown Town Manager Jim Wierprecht, "The agreement is actually effective upon final approval of an annexation resolution." Section 2 of the agreement, titled 'Contingent Upon Annexation' states, "This Annexation Agreement is expressly contingent on the enactment of the Annexation Resolution by the Mayor and City Council of the City

of Taneytown and the approval thereof if petitioned to referendum. If for any reason final approval is not obtained, this Annexation Agreement shall be deemed void ab initio and shall be of no force and effect as if it had never been executed."

The agreement was created between the Sewell family and the City of Taneytown for a potential 'age targeted' housing development. The annexation of the 125-acre Christmas tree farm just north of city limits presents the opportunity for City expansion while saving the developer money by connecting it to the cur-

rent city water and septic systems.

City Attorney Jay Gallo previously advised the City Council to address the annexation before considering the development proposal since addressing these details would be all for naught if the annexation isn't approved first. The annexation package will include the property plat, which Gallo said can be tweaked as desired, the proposed annexation agreement, and the proposed annexation resolution.

At their April meeting, Gallo said when the Sewell's initially approached the city with their annexation and

development proposal, that wanted to start-off with everyone in agreement on all of the aspects that the project would incur before it was commenced.

"The more we went on, the more we found that was not in anyone's best interest," the crux of the issue being, promises made now may not transcend into promises kept later, due to unanticipated, changing variables, including potential changes that could occur as the actual construction of the development proceeded.

Thus far, development plans has yet to be set in stone as the City focuses

on getting the annexation in motion. As per the comprehensive plan, the property would be annexed into a residential R-20 zone, though the Sewell family hopes to double the number of housing units beyond what is allowed in a R-20 zone.

To necessitate a zoning change from an R-20 zone (20,000 square-foot lot) to a R-10 zone (10,000 sq. ft.) as specified in the annexation agreement, will require a waiver from the County. If the Sewell's cannot acquire a waiver to allow for the zoning change, they will be locked into the 20,000 square-foot lot size restrictions for five years after the annexation is final.

## Observatory planned for Bollinger Park

The Westminster Astronomical Society is working with the City of Taneytown to include an observatory in their plans for Bollinger Nature Park.

Erich Bender, a member of the Westminster Astronomical Society, the prime mover and shaker of the initiative, (and owner of the Taney Auto Service Center) said that this location will be the Societies premier observatory, featuring a 25-inch reflector telescope.

Bender said that other large telescopes may eventually be added that for

viewing deep space objects and capturing meteor showers, conjunctions, and other celestial events. WASI will host public gatherings during these major events as well as monthly Star Parties and programs with local schools. The observatory will also be available for private use by reservation for research purposes.

According to Bender, the Observatory will have a large view screens to project the images from the telescopes for others to see. The roof will roll off

80% to expose the night sky. Without a dome in place, light pollution would be a concern.

As part of the effort, the City is working to become compliant with the International Dark-Sky Association's to be certified as being Dark-Sky Friendly. Taneytown is about 80% of the way to meeting these requirements by minimizing skyglow and glare that creates light pollution over the city, according to Bender. Members of the Astronomical Society hope

to educate the community about the negative impact of light pollution and share the wonders that hide above the skyglow of the city.

As Bender says, "How can our kids reach for the stars if they cannot see them?"

The park is still in the developmental stage. The site plans will also be reviewed and approved by the Taneytown Planning Commission, with opportunity for the public to give their input on the various features of the park.

Phase one features of the park include a walking trail with educational signage that will meander through the woods and along Piney Creek, a two-acre pollinator garden, and a meditation garden. Phase two features will include the observatory construction and a connector path to the nature trail.

The Westminster Astronomical Society has two observatories currently, one in Charlotte's Quest in Hampstead and the Frank Rolke Memorial Observatory located at the Bear Branch Nature Center in Hashawa Park, Westminster.

## News Briefs . . .

### Zachary Myers Selected as Officer of the Year

Patrolman First Class Zachary Myers has been selected as the Taneytown Police Department Officer of the Year for 2020. According to Deputy Chief, Major Bob Mitchell, his fellow officers chose Myers for his devotion to the force and his superior performance as the departments Crisis Intervention Officer and as a Field Training Officer.

The Taneytown Police Department nominates one officer for the Officer of the Year award to acknowledge their hard work and dedication to the department and the Taneytown community. This year according to Mitchell, "Chief Ertzler turned to his force for the selection, and Zach was the overwhelming choice of his peers.

Mitchell said, "Pfc. Myers is a well rounded officer, who is always looking to expand his potential and skill sets, while at the same time meeting his patrol duty obligations".

As a Field Training Officer, Myers trains new members of the department and often acts as a mentor for less experienced officers. Myers has also assumed responsibility as the Taneytown Police Department's mental health liaison with the Carroll County Health Department where he interacts with individuals coping with mental health challenges.

Myers also serves as the departments Crisis Intervention Officer, which according to Mitchell "in today's environment is a critical element in any successful local police department.

City Council members spared no accolades in describing Myers as a "stellar member of the community" for his leadership and upstanding character.

Regarding the nomination, Myers said, "although I do not do the job for awards, it is nice to be recognized sometimes. I love what I do." Mayor Pro Tem Joseph Vigliotti noted that Taneytown consistently places in the top ten safest

cities in Maryland thanks to the hard-working officials like Myers.

### Council Updates Park Regulations

At the August 9th City Council meeting, the council approved changes to the rules governing the use of various parks in Taneytown. The changes were requested at the Councils August 4th workshop meeting following a comprehensive review of the existing regulations.

Universal updates to all parks include provisions for penalties and prosecutions for destruction of property. All costs associated with damage to park property are to be charged to the responsible party. The new rules also clearly spell out that "all persons using park facilities do so at their own risk and are solely responsible for any accidents or injury in connection with such use". Council members said that the updates are to

ensure that citizens can enjoy the City's Parks in an "orderly, safe, and comfortable manner."

The new rules will also allow residents to bring their pets into the parks, which has been longstanding requests of community members. Pets must be licensed, leashed, and up to date with all vaccines to share the park space. Additionally, pet and service animal owners are expected to clean up after them. Apart from service animals, pets should remain off of playground areas. Owners should reference posted rules that specify where pets are allowed or prohibited.

Specific updates to Memorial and Roberts Mill parks rules include allowing campfires, which were previously prohibited. Visitors may now bring their own 'self-contained food preparation units' such as camp stoves, grills, and smokers. The City however reserves the right to prohibit the use of flammable or combustible units, including grills that do not comply with local burn-ban

regulations when the bans are in effect. These regulations do not apply to the other City Parks as these are the two locations that have previously provided grilling stations.

### Storage Building Planned for High School Park

Plans for the construction of a storage building at Taneytown High School Park are set to be reviewed by the Taneytown Planning Commission at their August 30th meeting. The storage building will serve to replace three storage sheds, which will be removed after its construction.

At their meeting on the 30th, the Planning Commission will consider a request to waive site plan requirements for the proposed building. A preconstruction meeting was held on July 27th, and if the waiver request is approved at the August 30th meeting, the zoning certificate and building permit may be obtained. Construction may be sched-

uled after these documents are acquired and loose ends tied up at the August Planning Commission meeting.

### Roberts Mill's Project Update

The ongoing improvements at Roberts Mill Park are now complete with all but a fountain yet to be installed. The fountain is currently in transit to the contractor's facility and is estimated to be functional by the second week of September. In addition to the fountain being placed, electricity service for the fountain will be upgraded.

Plans for this project began in February when the Taneytown Parks & Recreation Advisory Board began seeking bids for the proposed work. For now, the completed upgrades include riprap (loose stone) installed around portions of the pond banks where concern of erosion is greatest, overlay on the walking trail with segments relocated, and improvements to the basketball court.



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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# County Councilman Phil Dacey

We received the census numbers back for growth in Frederick County. Not surprisingly for those of us that have been here a bit, Frederick County grew quite a bit over the past decade. In fact, it was the fastest growing County in Maryland from 2010-2020 adding 16% new residents.

The biggest challenge in the coming years is how to manage that growth within Frederick County. We are facing a tremen-

dous demand from people who want to live and do business in Frederick County. It is a good position to be in. However, it comes with its own challenges.

We must continue to preserve our agricultural way of life. We have various state and local programs to preserve farmland. But it is more than that. We need to preserve what makes Frederick a unique and special community. How in the long run can we withstand these growth pressures?

One big economic development you may have heard some about is the coming of data centers to Frederick County. The big opportunity is on the grounds of what was formerly the Eastalco plant in southern Frederick County. A new startup is looking to build millions of square feet of datacenters on this parcel of land.

Datacenters are generally good for the county. They occupy land without a big impact. They do not require new schools, don't generate

much traffic, and are generally quiet neighbors. They pay their taxes and provide good jobs to local residents. There has been much discussion over this large tract of land since Eastalco closed the plant.

Many thought it was prime for more residential growth, or even a new urban center. I think these data centers could be the answer to what should happen with these properties. These data centers will house growing internet traffic, without adding to our vehicle traffic. They will provide revenue for our county to invest in public safety, schools, and tax

reductions. Importantly, they will put Frederick County on the map for some of the world's leading technology companies who will be invested in Frederick County's future.

As the county faces these important growth decisions, the most important thing is hearing from the community. Local government matters and your voice really does count. Please participate in these processes going forward where the Council will be making big decisions that will help to shape Frederick County's future for a generation.

# Emmitsburg Commissioner Candidates

## Rosario Benvengi

To the residents who already know me, I would like to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak to you. To the residents who have just moved into our great town, allow me to introduce myself. I reside in Pembroke Woods along with my wife Kelly and our dog Linus. My family and I moved to Emmitsburg in 1989, and I had just served my 4 years of military service in the U.S. Army. I had just accepted a job with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, and we were looking for a safe place to reside and raise our children. We found that place in Emmitsburg and have lived here for 31 years. After 10 years of service with the Sheriff's Office, I started my first business as a private investigator. After 15 years with my investigating business, I opened an Allstate insurance agency that was located on Main Street. I became a member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus and was a driver for the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company. I managed one of six little league teams and umpired for the league prior to becoming a manager.

The first three people I met

when I moved here were 3 important people that helped me understand how great this small town was. They were Mr. Eugene Myers, Mr. Thomas Topper and Mr. John Hollinger, all longtime respected residents. I then decided to give to the community what they gave to me. In 1995 I ran for town commissioner and was elected. I wanted to serve the same community that accepted me as one of their own. Although it has been 25 years since I was in office, I once again would like to give back to the community that has given so much to my family and I.

If I am elected, I will work with the current board members and the State Highway Administration to obtain left turn lanes for the east and westbound lanes located at North and South Seton Avenues. With increasing numbers of houses being built in and around the town limits, traffic flow will only increase and the problem can't be ignored any longer.

Second, I will work to provide monetary support in the form of a 50% tax credit for new businesses. This will allow business owners in their first year of operation to settle in and allow their business to

grow. We should do everything possible to help our small businesses, as they are a vital piece to our town's success.

We need to take a hard look at all requests for building within our town. We need to make sure we have the water to support this growth. Prior boards have spent thousands of dollars trying to locate usable wells that could be used for the town of Emmitsburg. During my term as commissioner, we tested 5 wells. Of those wells, 3 were too contaminated to use and one wasn't feasible to use as there wasn't enough water output to connect to our water supply. The final well was dry and had no water. We must not allow this town to outgrow the infrastructure that is already in place.

Finally, the town government along with town employees need to do a better job in assisting our residents and businesses. There need to be more resources to support our existing and new businesses. First, town codes should not hinder businesses but help our businesses thrive. Second, I would propose providing a 1<sup>st</sup> year 50% tax credit for new businesses. Finally, our existing sign ordinance needs to be updated to allow businesses to advertise within their premises. We need to be the solution to problems and

not the creation of another problem. If elected I look forward to working with you in keeping the town of Emmitsburg great.

## Liz Buckman

I decided to run for town commissioner once again and I wanted to take a moment to explain why you should vote for me on September 28th.

I moved to Emmitsburg in 2004 looking for a safe place to raise my children. After a long search, I finally settled on Emmitsburg for one main reason—this community cares about its people. We are not perfect, but we are a compassionate community. It has been a pleasure for myself and my family to serve in different capacities as volunteers in the community, and because of this I have come to know a good portion of the people in Emmitsburg. Time and time again I have heard you and see the need for transparency in town government. In other words, we the people should know what, when, where, why, and how of our government and it should be presented to us in an understandable way.

I do not believe men or women are better than one another but it is better to have a town council comprised of a balanced mix. This would be ideal to create a

more representative government. As a woman, a single mother, and a teacher of the visually impaired, I bring an additional perspective that is currently missing in our town council.

My approach to problem solving and how I achieved many of my accomplishments as a past town council woman was by full collaboration with civic associations, churches, and many individuals in Emmitsburg.

As your commissioner, I pledge to continue to wake up each day with a vision of possibility—to stand with the people of Emmitsburg to problem solve through networking and advocacy.

I personally pledge to continue to work collaboratively with the Town of Emmitsburg, Mount Saint Mary's, our civic association, our churches, the health department, our cooperating municipal officials, housing, the Seton Center, The Ship of Frederick, mentoring services, and many more as we find creative solutions to the problems we face. I pledge to listen to your concerns and address those concerns, even if the topic is uncertain and uncomfortable.

I pledge to make decisions on town spending as if it is coming out of my pocket (because as a taxpayer myself, it actually is!); I will consider carefully and weigh the impact of any new spending and look for ways to cut those costs where they can be cut. I will consider the long-term sustainability for our community and how costs will affect your quality of life.

We all know growth is happening in Emmitsburg, and I pledge to always consider best practices in urban planning to keep this small town a vibrant and safe place for our children to grow and learn. I pledge to support our schools by attending FCPS board meetings where decisions are made, to advocate for our small community.

I pledge to work toward a transparent government and for a responsive government that looks at how they can help you, not why they shouldn't. Our town needs to work on communication with its customers, the residents of Emmitsburg, to establish a close problem-solving relationship that makes it a government for the people and by the people.

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The last day to register to vote with Frederick County is August 27.  
 Registration applications can be obtained at the Town Office located at 300A South Seton Avenue Emmitsburg, Maryland or by visiting [www.elections.maryland.gov](http://www.elections.maryland.gov).

Candidates must file written application for candidacy and their Financial Disclosures with the Town Clerk no later than August 27 at 1 p.m.

All candidates will be posted on the Town bulletin board in alphabetical order.

The write-in deadline is September 21 at noon.  
 Two commissioner seats are up for election.

For more information visit [www.emmitsburgmd.gov](http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov) or call the Town Office at 301-600-6300.

# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jan Gardner

The past few weeks have been difficult for our community, with the sudden passing of two much-beloved public servants, Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services Battalion Chief Joshua Laird and Frederick Police Lt. Andrew Alcorn IV. Both men devoted their lives to helping people. They showed us that there is honor in serving others.

We are blessed to live in a community with so many people like BC Laird and Lt. Alcorn, men and women who selflessly give their time and talents to make life better for everyone who calls Frederick County home. I want to thank all who serve our community. Whether you are a public servant or a volunteer, your actions make a difference and you are appreciated.

### COVID-19

Frederick County has seen a sharp

increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases over the past few weeks. This has led to a dramatic rise in the number of hospitalizations at Frederick Health Hospital, including in the Intensive Care Unit. The Delta variant is spreading quickly here, as it is doing all across the nation.

Our best tool to stop the spread is to vaccinate as many people as possible. There are about 60,000 adults in Frederick County who remain unvaccinated. It is up to all of us to protect our children, who are not eligible for vaccines. Even vaccinated people should wear masks inside public places, according to public health experts.

My call to action for you is this: 1. Get vaccinated. The vaccine is free and easy. Child care and transportation options are available to help. 2. Wear masks at indoor public places until our transmission rate is

back to a moderate level. And 3. Do your part to protect our children and other vulnerable populations, including the elderly, and to keep schools and our economy open.

### New Initiatives

I am pleased to share news of two new initiatives that Frederick County hopes to launch, with support from our Federal partners. The first is a Mobile Career Center, which would bring technology and training for job searches to rural parts of the county. The center will offer computers, internet access, career guidance, and other services to people who may not have broadband or transportation.

Our Mobile Career Center will work in partnership with non-profit organizations such as the Seton Center to enhance the offerings they provide. There will also be opportunities for middle and high school students

to learn about jobs that are in demand by local employers. Frederick County's Mobile Career Center will allow us to meet people where they are. Congressman Jamie Raskin included \$250,000 for the career center in an appropriations bill passed by the House of Representatives.

The second community project for Frederick County included in the bill is a Crisis Stabilization Center. People who are in crisis or under the influence of a substance can go to a Crisis Stabilization Center instead of a hospital emergency department. The center offers short-term medical care and links individuals to community resources that they may need.

We are working hard to address substance misuse and addiction, as well as mental health challenges, in Frederick County. A Crisis Stabilization Center has been a missing piece in that effort. Our goal is to provide the right services to people when they need them most. A

visit to the Crisis Stabilization Center may help to de-escalate a situation and provide more appropriate services to people who are facing a crisis. Congressman David Trone joined Congressman Raskin in designating \$850,000 for this much-needed service. I appreciate their efforts to secure this funding for Frederick County.

Recovery from substance misuse is a long and difficult journey. There is hope. Frederick County is celebrating National Recovery Month throughout the month of September. This year's theme is "Recovery Is for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community." We are shining purple lights on Winchester Hall this month in honor of National Recovery Month. Our Health Department will mark the occasion on September 16th and 17th with virtual celebrations. For more information, email Jeffrey Thompson at [JThompson2@FrederickCountyMD.Gov](mailto:JThompson2@FrederickCountyMD.Gov).

## Mayors. . .

### Don Briggs - Emmitsburg

The Irishtown Road construction started in mid-August. The intention was not shut down the road and have flag men there to assist the traffic flow during construction. However, in more encompassing perspective for safety of workers and vehicular traffic, there will be road closures. Soon there will be two-way traffic off Irishtown Road to Brookfield Drive. This is a vital connection needed to balance expanding town traffic flow.

The timetable is fluid, but the intention is to wrap up road construction by mid fall. With the road project will come nineteen homes built on the southside of the road to finish out the Brookfield subdivision. So, another segment of town connectivity will be completed with sidewalks and lighting in front of the homes. Think about it, in the not too distant future with the completion of proposed Emmit Ridge II subdivision and finally a second entrance to Northgate, there will be a second east - west sidewalk connection through town.

Under the long list of taking things for granted...40 years ago we might have laughed at the thought of buying water or at the possibility of a water shortage in the area. But once again for a lot of reasons, development, weather changes, the town has implemented phase 1 voluntary conservation restrictions.

The town has issued its permit for development of the Rutters site. It is our understanding that the permit from the County is being processed.

The town pool will close after Labor Day weekend. From all reports, a good season was had by all.

### John Kinnaird - Thurmont

I am very pleased to announce that the contract for installing the new Skate Park has been awarded. Construction should start within two months. This has been a very interesting process that began with a group of teens approaching the

Board of Commissioners about getting a Skate Park in Thurmont. Since then we acquired Project Open Space funding to help finance the project and the members of the Skate Park Commission have raised about \$15,000 in donations to help with the funding. The park commission has also played a part in designing the park and made a recommendation for the selection of the contractor. The skate park will be located at East End Park. Be sure to keep an eye open for the groundbreaking ceremony!

The Town of Thurmont will be holding elections this fall for Mayor and two Commissioner positions. Here are dates to keep in mind as the elections approach.

Sept. 28 - Nominating Convention, 7 p.m. at the Thurmont town office & last day to register to vote in the election. You must register at the municipal offices before close of business at 4 p.m..

Oct. 8 - Absentee ballot applications will be available at the town office.

Oct. 19 - The last day to make application for an absentee ballot. You must apply at the Municipal Office before close of business at 4 p.m..

Oct. 26 - General Elections to be held at the Guardian Hose Company activity building, 123 E. Main St.. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.. Persons in line at the time of closing will be permitted to vote. For more information contact the Town Office at 301-271-7313.

The Frederick County Health Department is offering COVID-19 testing and vaccinations at the Town Office parking lot every Friday evening from 5 to 7 pm. You can also get the booster shot if you qualify with medical issues. At this time you must use the same vaccine as your original shots. I believe Frederick County will be expanding the booster shot to everyone else within the next two months. Check the Frederick County Vaccination page for vaccination clinic locations, times, and the vaccinations

available at [www.health.frederickcountymd.gov](http://www.health.frederickcountymd.gov).

I hope everyone has great Septem-

ber and as always I can be reached at 301-606-9458 or by email at [jkinnaird@thurmont.com](mailto:jkinnaird@thurmont.com).

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is with a heavy heart I bring you the sad news that Battalion Chief Joshua Laird, 46, a resident of Carroll Valley Borough, died Wednesday, August 11th, fighting a two-alarm house fire for Frederick County Fire and Rescue. Battalion Chief Laird was a 21-year veteran stationed at Green Valley Fire Station 25 in Frederick County. Throughout his 21 year-year career, he received numerous accolades and commendations for exemplary service, including the Silver Medal of Bravery. He was a firefighter: First Responder.

As the name implies, he is a trained professional who is the first to respond in an emergency. Unless people happen to be facing an emergency themselves, this service is often taken for granted, and little thought is given to the impact on the first responder's family. I cannot imagine what the Laird family is experiencing – the loss of a husband, a father, a son, a sibling, and a friend. On behalf of Carroll Valley, please accept our community's heartfelt condolences. You have our deepest sympathy. A GoFundMe has been established: [www.gofundme.com/f/donations-for-the-laird-family](http://www.gofundme.com/f/donations-for-the-laird-family). If regular mail

is preferred, you can use the following address: The Laird Family, PO Box 720, Fairfield, PA 17320.

The month of September brings with it a time to honor the American worker on September 6th. On a more somber note, September 11th is a time to reflect on the lives lost during a terrorist attack on our homeland during the morning of September 11, 2001. This is the 20th Anniversary of that horrible day when nineteen militants hijacked four planes. Two planes hit the north and south towers of the World Trade Center in New York (2,606 victims). One plane hit the Pentagon in Washington D.C. (125 victims). And, the fourth plane crashed in Shanksville because of the heroic efforts of the passengers. It was thought that the fourth plane's target was the Capitol Building in Washington. I encourage you to take a moment on September 11th to reflect on this horrible event and say a prayer for the victims who died and their families, especially the children. To show gratitude to all the first responders in our area, a "Never Forget" ceremony will be held just outside St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hamiltonban Township.

The memorial site was constructed in 2013 by Eagle Scout Anthony Venzin. The ceremony will start at 11:00 am on September 11th.

School will be starting which means school buses will be on the road again. Let us partner with the parents, teachers, administrators, and transportation personnel to keep our young residents safe when they are being transported to and from school. How do we do that? Follow the law. According to the Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law, when you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended you must stop. When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you must stop. You must stop at least 10 feet away from the school bus. You must wait until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving. And most important, do not move until the children have reached a place of safety.

The Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank will be holding a Blood Drive on Thursday, September 9th from noon to 5 in the Carroll Valley

Borough Council meeting room. Everyone will receive a \$5 gift card to Ventura's Restaurant and Pizza! There are two ways to schedule your donation appointment. You can go to [717GiveBlood.org](http://717GiveBlood.org) and click on Donate Now or call 800-771-0059. A form of ID is required to donate. You are strongly advised to schedule an appointment to donate blood. Appointments help the Blood Bank to improve your donation experience. Walk-ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first and this may result in a significant wait time.

Child Passenger Safety Week is scheduled for September 19th to 25th, and the National Seat Check falls on Saturday, September 25th. Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children. On average, two children under 13 were killed, and an estimated 374 were injured every day in 2019 while riding in cars, SUVs, pickups, and vans, as reported by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Under Pennsylvania's primary child passenger safety law, children under the age of 4 must be properly restrained in an approved child safety seat anywhere in the vehicle. Children under 2 must be secured in a rear-facing car seat until the child outgrows the maximum weight and

height limits designated by the car seat manufacturer. Children from age 4 up to age 8 must be restrained in an appropriate booster seat. Children from age 8 up to age 18 must be in a seat belt. If you have any questions, call the Carroll Valley Police Department for information.

The Fairfield's annual Pippinfest will be held this year! Head to Fairfield on the September 25th and 26th to enjoy arts and crafts exhibitors, music, and food. A Carroll Valley Yard Sale will be held on September 25th in the Borough parking lot. To rent a space call the Borough at 717-642-8269. Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) had several neighbors with small projects for their Community Day. Several of those projects have been completed but we still have a few projects that they still some help with. If you have a few hours and would like to do a small repair project, please let Robin Dicken know at 717-642-6578 or [dickenrobin@gmail.com](mailto:dickenrobin@gmail.com). Thanks to the following volunteers for helping our neighbors with the projects: Kathy Adams, Lori Borden, Doug Lichty, Phyllis Smith, and Sue Welsh! Folks keep safe. Watch your speed! If you have any questions, call me at 301-606-2021 or email [MayorRonHarris@comcast.net](mailto:MayorRonHarris@comcast.net).

## Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Liberty Township would like to thank the Blue Ridge Sportsman's Club for donating \$4,395 to our Police Department to purchase a new ENRADD. We thank them for their kindness and willingness to work with our police department.

August has been a productive month at Liberty Township. The

road crew has been working on McGlaughlin Road cutting the road in preparation for base repair in September. McGlaughlin Road is scheduled for paving in 2022. Waste from road projects earlier in the year resulted in mixed size ground blacktop millings. If anyone is interested in this blacktop fill, please contact

the township. After signing a release form, the township will deliver the material to your Fairfield area location free of charge.

There is a vacancy on the Liberty Township Planning Commission. This commission meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. as needed to review Subdivision and Land Development plans. Liberty Township residents who are interested in municipal planning and can

commit to attending the meetings are encouraged to contact the township with a letter of interest. Training will be provided.

During our Board of Supervisors meeting in August, the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association presented information on a proposed new hanger and renovations to the clubhouse/terminal at the airport on Pecher Road. M-ASA is looking for support from Liberty Township as part of an application for

grant funds for this project. The Board agreed that it was important to obtain input from Liberty Township residents before making a decision to support the project. A special public meeting will be held on September 7, at 6:30 p.m. regarding the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association proposed improvements. The special meeting will begin one hour before the regular monthly Board of Supervisors meeting at the Liberty Township Municipal Building. Residents are encouraged to attend this open meeting and offer comments on this project.

School is back in session so please be mindful that the school buses will be on the roads and please be cautious of the children waiting at their bus stops. Remember when the buses have their flashing red lights on you must stop. Our police officers will be vigilant for activity at bus stops. The objective is to continue to keep everyone safe in our community. God Bless!

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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Marty Qually

On January 1, 1983 the internet was born. The first smart phone came out in 1998. Remember when we all thought that everything computerized would crash at the year 2000? Seems like a long long long time ago. Look at us now. Much of our lives are dependent on the internet. In less than 40 years (fewer for most of us) the internet went from a fringe geeky concept to one of the most significant indicators of a community's success. Most of us, myself included, barely understand how this digital world was created, who builds and owns the infrastructure, and most frustrating how do we get more.

Prior to the pandemic it was already clear that portions of Adams County had inadequate broadband infrastructure. After the various at home schooling and work experiences of 2020 it is clear that the general public is now aware that inadequate broadband infrastructure is a big deal. The internet is no longer just for the geeks and more importantly affordable high-speed internet is no longer a luxury.

Affordable high-speed internet is vital for students learning remotely, employees working from home, making medical appointments or scheduling your covid-19 vaccine, and other vital business transactions. While

everything I just listed can be dealt with without high-speed internet, inadequate internet access is holding us back. If this continues, Adams County could see lasting impacts on our local economy and quality of life. Hopefully, we are at a turning point and with the proper investment of federal, state, and local resources we can change Adams County to a regional leader in broadband connectivity.

In 2012 Adams County created a broadband task force, also known as Adams County Connected, with the goal of providing definition to the problem. After a few years of the board banging our heads up against a lack of engagement from existing telecommunication companies and the general public, the task force faltered. The board at that time was populated with mostly tech savvy leaders of education and local industries, who were well versed in analyzing and defining the challenges, but we lacked the public buy-in and public funds to do much. Post-COVID-19, this landscape changed. The public and telecommunication companies are much more engaged.

Today, with the exception of lingering emails about election fraud from far-right radicals, the most common communication I receive is that we

need to work on broadband. Beyond the public reaching out, I receive weekly articles about funding opportunities and have heard from no less than five new companies looking to expand broadband services into Adams County. That is five more companies than we had in 2012 and millions of dollars more in funding opportunities. The public outcry is clearly a result of the pandemic. The private sector response is clearly a result of new government investment in broadband.

Earlier this year the federal government approved the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), better known as the Covid-19 Stimulus Package or the American Rescue Plan. Funds from this huge investment legislation can be used for four general categories of expenses. Fund can be used to address water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, to address lost revenue to state, county, and local governments, to pay for the negative economic impacts of COVID-19, and to pay premium pay for essential workers during the pandemic. As it stands today, Adams County will receive almost \$20,000,000 in ARPA funds.

Similarly, every municipal government will receive ARPA funds, albeit a much smaller portion than the county

for these same categories. Each government unit has until 2024 to have determined projects for these funds and until 2026 to spend these funds. While that may seem like a long time, we are still waiting for final guidance from the federal government before we even begin to prioritize potential projects. While each of these categories are laudable uses of funds, our community must take a hard look at using these funds for broadband improvements.

Broadband is the great equalizer of the 20th century. The problem is that it is expensive. When it can cost \$30,000 a mile to run fiber optical cables, it is no surprise that telecommunication companies are very frugal in rural areas. So, why are companies constantly contacting us about new projects in Adams County? Apparently, they got the memo about the ARPA funds and are eager to get in on the action. And I agree. While many of the uses are important, many of them are retrospective.

Expanding broadband is an investment into our future. It can help to usher in a new economic growth for our communities. Not only would this help existing businesses, but it could be used to attract new industry compatible businesses. Residents with skills equal to their urban coun-

terparts could telecommute much of the week from home for more money than they currently earn. Service sector and manufacturing industries could relocate to Adams County. These investments in turn will improve our tax base, which has remained flat for years. I know I am oversimplifying this, but you get the drift. Without a modern infrastructure, our employers, our schools, and our service providers will fall behind.

So, where do we go from here. These are the steps as I see it. We need to re-boot the county broadband task force with residents from various sectors to share insights from every corner of the county. We need to use ARPA funds to conduct a needs assessment study, preferably with the buy in from neighboring counties and local municipalities. Once we have the outline of the problem, then we reach out and get the private sector to invest in our communities. Like I said before at \$30,000 a mile, all of the ARPA funds in the county will not be enough, so we need to work smart and we need to work together.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in this effort, let me know. If you have any questions about broadband or ARPA funds, or if you want to suggest other projects, just let me know. mqually@adamscounty.us

## County Notes...

### PA Budget Protects Our Most Vulnerable Citizens

In late June, the General Assembly passed, and the governor signed, the 2021-22 state budget into law. In recent weeks, I have been sharing more details about the plan and how it meets today's needs while also planning for the future.

Recognizing the ongoing costs related to COVID-19 mitigation, this budget allocates \$282 million in federal relief funds to help nursing homes, assisted living and personal care homes with costs related to personal protective equipment (PPE), staff testing and other pandemic-related costs. The budget funds services for an additional 832 people living with intellectual disabilities, as well as home and community-based services to 501 additional older Pennsylvanians. Finally, a new dedicated funding source is established to provide \$9.3 million in Tobacco Settlement Fund dollars annually for pediatric cancer research.

### New Law to Provide Caregivers Access to their Loved Ones

In response to the forced isolation of long-term care residents from their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have adopted a new state law to ensure this tragedy does

not happen again. Act 67 of 2021 will safely allow family members to visit long-term care facilities as essential caregivers for our most vulnerable citizens. Mirroring regulations already successfully implemented in Minnesota and Indiana, the law amends the Pennsylvania Health Care Facilities Act to allow a designated essential family caregiver to be named for each resident of a licensed long-term care facility during a declaration of disaster emergency. Too many long-term care residents died alone or experienced a significant decline in their physical and mental well-being due to pandemic isolation. This law recognizes the importance of a holistic approach to caring for these residents in emergency situations.

### PennDOT Seeking Workers for Winter Maintenance Program

While we are still feeling the summer heat, PennDOT is preparing for cooler weather by gearing up for its winter maintenance program, which will run from September through April to supplement the permanent workforce. Positions and paid hourly rates are as follows: transportation equipment/CDL operator (\$17.05-\$19.24, based on location); diesel and construction equipment mechanic

(\$20.40-\$21.70, based on location); auto mechanic (\$18.08); semi-skilled laborer (\$16.05); tradesman helper (\$16.05); welder (\$18.08); radio dispatcher (\$14.25); custodial worker (\$14.25); and stock clerk (\$14.25). Anyone wishing to apply should visit employment.pa.gov and go to the PennDOT Winter Maintenance Program posting under the "Open Jobs" section of the website.

### Specialty Crop Block Grants

The Pennsylvania Department of

Agriculture is inviting proposals for the Commonwealth Specialty Crop Block Grant program.

Eligible projects will stimulate market growth and enhance the competitive position of crops designated as high priority for their potential to feed Pennsylvania's economy and boost environmental sustainability. Eligible high-priority crops include hemp, hops, hardwoods, honey; and barley, rye and wheat for distilling, brewing and malting. Click here

to review grant guidelines.

A percentage of funds will be designated to projects in rural communities with at least 20% of the population below the federal poverty line.

Proposals must be submitted through the Department of Community and Economic Development's Electronic Single Application. Applicants with questions about eligible projects or procedures should email Morgan Sheffield, the department's grants manager, at msheffield@pa.gov.



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# COMMENTARY

## Words From Winterbilt

### Politics and our health

Shannon Bohrer

*When they call the roll in the Senate, the Senators do not know whether to answer 'Present' or 'Not Guilty.'*

—President Theodore Roosevelt

Politics can be a strange business, and many would say that is an understatement. During the last two years, and this one is just half over, numerous politicians have demonstrated how facts and the truth can be twisted so as not to remotely resemble either. Some may say, that is their normal behavior. But when dealing with a pandemic, the peddling of false or misleading information has consequences. We should expect their words and actions at a minimum - would not put us in harm's way.

In our current situation, dealing with Covid-19, the spreading false information and denying the truth is not just putting citizens at risk; it amplifies the danger. The misinformation and false claims have endangered us in three ways. The first is by creating and repeating incorrect information. The second is with silence, which is ignoring the truth. And the third is poor governance that adds to our endangerment. All three have contributed to our current situation.

When we became aware of the Covid-19 pandemic, the spreading and endorsing of false information began almost immediately. The previous administration downplayed the severity and spread false information. In May of 2020, Trump said the coronavirus was created by the Chinese, and they hid the fact that it was released. That conflicts with what the "very stable genius" said in February, that he trusted the Chinese. Which was the truth, or were both lies? Trump also said the "country had just a handful of cases and matters were well under control."

Some early false claims were, Covid-19 does not affect young people, and most people that contract it feel it's no worse than the flu. Then he elevated the misinformation with the possible miracle cures, like hydroxychloroquine and bleach. It was said and often repeated that in a few months, it will disappear. On July 4th, Trump said, "Now we have tested, almost 40 million people. By so doing, we show cases - 99% of which are totally harmless." The truth was that 4.5 % of all cases, at that time, ended in death. When the U.S. Death toll hit 60,000, Trump predicted that the death toll would stop short of 100,000 but would probably be less.

The false and misleading information was enhanced and spread by several news and television networks. If the president said something, and you watched the news that repeated it, you may have believed it. Some-

times the false information started on news stations and social media and was repeated by the administration, and all while people were contracting the virus, getting sick, and dying.

Numerous members of congress also repeated and spread false information. Senator Joni Ernst suggested that doctors were inflating the fatalities -to make money. Others, when asked, would not comment, often replying that everyone is entitled to their own opinion. The science around the virus has evolved, as one would expect, but continuing to put forth opinions that conflict with the science, is not just a different opinion, it is a lie. When in a pandemic, putting forth false facts increases the probability of harm.

We all know how the pandemic ended - the first time, when over 600,000 people died. Now that we are in another phase with the Delta strain, we don't know when that will end. The doctors and scientists are telling us that the new variant is more contagious, and the number of infections is rising, especially in states with low vaccination rates. Simultaneously, there are states (eight at this time) that have passed laws barring schools from requiring students to wear a mask. There are also eight states that have barred schools from requiring Covid-19 vaccinations. These laws do not seem like an informed or educated policy, especially since young children cannot yet be vaccinated. Now with a more conta-

giuous and deadly disease, they prohibit young children from even wearing a mask. These actions almost seem intentional, with the intent of putting persons in harmful situations. Is this deliberate governance negligence?

The prohibition(s) in some states even prevents private businesses from asking if someone is vaccinated or requiring vaccination as a condition of employment. The party that has always pushed for free enterprise and fewer government regulations, especially for private industry, is now regulating them. Why is it legal to say, No Shirt No Shoes No Service, but it is illegal in some jurisdictions to say, No Shirt, No Shoes, No mask, No Service. What happened to the party of free markets? The prohibitions are inconsistent with what they say they believe; of course, they are also inconsistent with the science. The party that is always complaining about government overreach is telling private industry they cannot protect their businesses, or their customers, which seems like government overreach.

In Florida, the government passed laws forbidding the cruise ship industry from asking passengers if they have been vaccinated. All businesses are prohibited from requiring proof of vaccinations. The law imposes a maximum fine of \$5,000 - for each violation. It was reported that two cruise lines are ignoring the law. I believe the lawyers for the cruise ship industries are already filing papers in courtrooms.

The party that is obsessed with

fewer government regulations and government overreach is enacting laws that resemble government overreach. They say they believe the vaccine is a personal choice and should not be questioned. And yet, in most school districts, students are required to show proof of vaccines for Chicken Pox, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Polio, to attend school. No mask and no questions, while the country is in a pandemic that is increasing with the new variant does not make sense.

The party enacting these laws is driving in the wrong direction, telling us they are going the right way. Additionally, they seem to be wearing blinders, not seeing the dangers, and missing the warning signs of another major phase of the pandemic, the delta version. The more they are questioned, the faster they go, in the wrong direction. Their laws and policies could result in a head-on collision, with millions be struck with the virus. The sad truth is that a lot of their motivations - are based on lies that have never stopped.

*"In our country, the lie has become not just a moral category but a pillar of the State."*  
-Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn 1974

While lying is not a pillar of our country, it is becoming the pillar of one party.

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

## American Mind

### On censorship

Mark Greathouse

Raise your hands, if you support free speech. Lots of hands. How about censorship? No hands up? So, why do we let censorship run amok in today's America?

Censorship is suppression of speech, public communication, or other information. Such suppression of words, images, or ideas is the outcome of what some people deem objectionable, harmful, or sensitive per the imposition of their personal political or moral values. It's often a tool wielded by private groups, like academia, social media, news media, publishers, and corporations. Censorship by the government is unconstitutional. Harry S. Truman noted, "Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear."

Censorship can be especially threatening by the manner of its enforcement. Banning books is old school. "Politically correct" language editing is ever-more-common. But "narcing" (snitching on neighbors) and "doxing" (publicly releasing personal information) should scare us all as personal privacy invasions abridging our First Amendment rights. Increas-

ingly common today is "shadow banning," also called stealth banning, ghost banning, or comment ghosting. It's the practice of blocking users or their content from an online community so users don't realize they've been banned.

As to publishing, I believe stories told with straight-shooting honesty drive our culture. It's why authors toil to ensure accuracy of words and phrases as well as cultural beliefs of eras in which their work is set. Intellectually honest authors don't use alternative terms to avoid offending hyper-sensitive readers. Notably, "sensitivity readers" employed by major publishing houses are mostly inexperienced, ill-informed college grads not even permitted to interact with the authors whose work they review. Many authors now turn to smaller publishers or even self-publish so as to maintain creative integrity. Author Judy Blume in "Places I Never Meant To Be: Original Stories by Censored Writers" articulates a leading author fear, "In this age of censorship, I mourn the loss of books that will never be written, I mourn the voices that will be silenced--writers' voices, teachers' voices, students' voices--all because of fear. How many have resorted to self-censorship? How many are saying to themselves, 'Nope ... can't write about that. Can't teach that book. Can't have that book in our collection. Can't let my student write that editorial in the school paper.'" Blume nailed a hard truth of what's

occurring in America today.

Censorship destroys stories and by extension a nation's culture. We can't sugar-coat the lexicon of past generations, can't substitute present values for those of the past, without depriving readers of learning from that past. We dare not forget American philosopher George Santayana's quote, "Those who forget history are condemned to repeat it." The French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville noted, "The greatness of America lies not in being enlightened more than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults." Bottom line, we should not erase the past simply because it doesn't fit someone's present. It's about intellectual honesty. Artificially imposed censorship offers naught but disastrous consequences.

But it's not just authors subjected to censorship. If you are sitting in college classrooms, reading newspapers, posting on social media, and more, you're inundated with censorship in all its ugliness. We dare not come to George Orwell's 1984 horror, "Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture repainted, every street renamed, and building renamed, every date altered. And the process continues day by day...Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right."

Censorship, even if well-intended, disrespects the intelligence of the public. We cannot turn evil into good without a moral imperative, and morals in our nation are sorely lacking. As Laurie Halse

Anderson notes, "Censorship is the child of fear, the father of ignorance, and the desperate weapon of fascists everywhere." Philosopher Carl Sagan warned, "[Censoring] knowledge, telling people what they must think and what ideas are impermissible, which lines of evidence may not be pursued, is the aperture to thought police, foolish and incompetent decision-making, and long-term decline."

Unbridled, uncensored truth is critically important to America. Famed poet Rudyard Kipling summed it well in his epic poem "Gods of the Copybook Headings" excerpted as follows:

"In the Carboniferous Epoch we were promised abundance for all, By robbing selected Peter to pay for collective Paul; But, though we had plenty of money, there was nothing our money could buy, And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: "If you don't work you die."

Then the Gods of the Market tumbled, and their smooth-tongued wizards withdrew And the hearts of the meanest were humbled and began to believe it was true That All is not Gold that Glitters, and Two and Two make Four And the Gods of the Copybook Headings limped up to explain it once more.

As it will be in the future, it was at the birth of Man There are only four things certain since Social Progress began. That the Dog returns to his Vomit and the Sow returns to her Mire, And the burnt Fool's bandaged finger goes wabbling back to the Fire;

And that after this is accomplished, and the brave new world begins

When all men are paid for existing and no man must pay for his sins, As surely as Water will wet us, as surely as Fire will burn, The Gods of the Copybook Headings with terror and slaughter return!"

Kipling's message is that most "progressivist" plans aren't new at all; they've been tried before and invariably brought disaster. In his epic "The Sixteen Satires" Roman poet Juvenal's warns, "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? - Who will watch the watchers?" That phrase encapsulates a great public fear of just who is censoring.

What to do? "Big Five" publishers must be boycotted, academia opened to free debate without penalizing divergent views, news media reined in by audience pushback, social media losing Section 230 protections, corporations kicked in their pocketbooks, and government policed against abridgement of speech.

We tolerate speech we hate because one day our own speech may not be tolerated. At a recent western writers convention, I was struck by the widespread member concern over censorship by publishers. There was a general commitment to fighting back. I also attended a "Rally Against Censorship" event in Texas sponsored by my publisher. It's our duty to fight censorship, to protect free speech.

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

# The Bulwark

## A bad idea, badly executed

Robert Tracinski

The mainstream consensus emerging in response to the disaster in Kabul is that withdrawing from Afghanistan was the right decision to make, but President Biden botched its implementation.

Some serious and thoughtful people hold this position, but it strikes me as fitting a little too comfortably with certain powerful partisan impulses. If you're on the left, it allows you to establish that of course you're a good peacenik and you want America to end its interventions overseas—while disowning the actual consequences of doing so. If you're on the right, it allows you to indulge the fantasy that Trump would have executed this withdrawal so much better—it would have been the best, the strongest retreat, everybody says so—even though Biden was following the basic roadmap Trump drew.

So everyone will compare the actual retreat from Afghanistan to the idealized fantasy model in their heads and assure us that real Afghanistan withdrawal has never been tried.

But we should take a few minutes to consider whether the actual, real-world results show that withdrawal was a bad idea in the first place.

The withdrawal certainly could have been done more competently and less dishonorably. But it's hard to see how the worst of its negative consequences could have been avoided. The chaos and blindness of our retreat are direct and

unavoidable results of our decision to withdraw under these circumstances.

Take the rapidity of the Afghan government's collapse. This was a consequence of the Trump administration's announcement, back in February 2020, of a fixed date for total withdrawal. This signaled to everyone on the ground that the United States had given up and that we would be leaving the Afghan government without support. This led local leaders to start cutting deals with the Taliban in the hope that this would give them a way to survive under the new regime.

"Some just wanted the money," an Afghan Special Forces officer said of those who first agreed to meet with the Taliban. But others saw the U.S. commitment to a full withdrawal as an "assurance" that the militants would return to power in Afghanistan and wanted to secure their place on the winning side. . . .

The negotiated surrenders to the Taliban slowly gained pace in the months following the Doha deal, according to a U.S. official and an Afghan officer. Then, after President Biden announced in April that U.S. forces would withdraw from Afghanistan this summer without conditions, the capitulations began to snowball.

The result was a deceptive hollowing out beneath the surface. The Afghan government was still nominally in control in many areas where it had already preemptively surrendered to the Taliban—which is why the Afghan government

collapsed in days rather than in months or years.

This certainly makes it unlikely that we somehow could have stretched out the collapse or managed it, as if we were still in control—because this whole thing was happening precisely because we announced that we were no longer going to be in control.

Now consider why we failed to realize that this collapse would happen, or to understand that it was happening even as it unfolded. Politicians will say they were not warned, and intelligence services will say that they were. But one of the consequences of announcing plans to abandon our local allies is that it leaves us blind. We withdrew any motivation for many of the people who might have informed us, because they knew that we weren't going to be there to protect them if they stuck their necks out—and because we wouldn't have listened, since we were already determined to leave no matter what.

This blindness will persist and only get worse, because one of the unavoidable consequences of withdrawal is that it makes recruiting new allies and local intelligence sources that much more difficult. President Biden seems to think we can abandon Afghanistan to the Taliban and then rely on intelligence gathering to determine whether al Qaeda or other terrorist organizations are planning attacks on us. But with no footprint on the ground and no local allies, how are we going to be gathering this intelligence? Who is going to be gathering it, after we have either evacuated them all or left them to be murdered for helping us?

Like I said, we could almost certainly have done a better job of evacuating and resettling the interpreters, pilots, Afghan Special Forces soldiers, and everyone else who aided us over two decades. But is there any realistic scenario in which we could have gotten them all out? How are we supposed to carry out a perfectly effective operation while removing the very people who would be required to conduct it?

The only realistic scenario for an orderly withdrawal that comprehensively protected U.S. citizens and our local allies would have been a massive new surge of U.S. troops into the country—which is what we are belatedly doing, sending in thousands of additional troops just to secure a single airstrip. But if we were going to launch an Afghan surge, why not use it to make our position stronger and make it easier to remain in the long term?

Advocates of staying in Afghanistan are usually accused of acting on the "sunk cost fallacy," of throwing good money after bad on a failing venture. But in fact maintaining the status quo, with pre-withdrawal troop levels or even elevated troop levels, would have required a commitment of a few thousand troops, mostly acting in support of our Afghan allies, and a few tens of billions of dollars a year—a rounding error in our recent multi-trillion-dollar appropriations bills. In exchange, we would have gotten what we came to Afghanistan for in the first place: assurance that it never again becomes a safe haven for terrorists.

Afghanistan is certain to become a base for terror again, and it will

now be a hundred times harder to go back in again when we need to. After all, we can no longer make any credible assurances about our ability to protect people or our willingness to follow up on our commitments. They are entitled to conclude that if they help us again, we will sell them out again and then add insult to injury by implying, as President Biden did in his Monday speech, that they are cowards who aren't willing to fight—even after they've been doing the bulk of the fighting and dying for years.

This, in turn, destroys any real deterrent we might have held over the Taliban. We went into Afghanistan after 9/11 because the Taliban had provided a safe haven and base of operations for the terrorists who attacked us that day. What if they were to do it again? What are we going to do, invade them a second time, after having given up the first time? And what local allies would believe our assurances and help us? The Taliban have every reason to believe that they are now immune from retaliation.

As one Afghan negotiator put it, "The slogan now of every single terrorist group with the jihadist mind is 'now that we have defeated the United States and its 42 allies in Afghanistan, we can go after them anywhere.'"

We left Afghanistan in the most ignominious way possible. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, we had a choice between war and dishonor. We chose dishonor, and I fear we will get more war.

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

# Down Under

## Lessons from the Olympics

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia

*Life is mostly froth and bubble,  
Two things stand like stone,  
kindness in another's trouble,  
Courage in your own.*

—Adam Lindsay Gordon, 1866

The world has recently watched the thirty-second Olympiad being held in Tokyo. Every country and principality in the world was represented, and it was impossible not to be moved by the sight of 10,305 athletes from 205 countries doing their utmost to perform a personal best.

For them all it was not about winning medals, it was about doing better than their best. You have to be a top performer to be selected, and you will be competing against top performers; to get to that level you have to go beyond dedication, sacrifice and discipline, you have to be totally committed to the ultimate best. Failure was possible and often achieved, but it was never a deterrent. Coming last was not shameful, as simply getting there was an achievement, and I'm sure not one competitor ever said to themselves,

'Well, that's it, I give up.' That is never in the lexicon of those who continue to strive to do better, it is simple recognition that they are not as good as the others at that time and place.

And that is not defeat, it is reality.

Unlike other endeavours, competing in the Olympics is not about money or sponsorship, and not really about bringing renown to your country — although that is always in the background — it is ultimately about being true to yourself. That is the reward, the only one that is not tarnished by time, one thing that no one can take from you. Being true to yourself lifts the heart, the spirit and the determination. Getting to the Olympics is hard, and practically impossible for many. Most of us never even think of getting to that level of competitiveness, but here's the thing: It doesn't matter. I remember my two-year-old granddaughter trying to undo her gran's watch strap. She tried for many minutes before saying, "I'm not strong enough."

That's the point: Trying your best is the way forward. It's the opposite of giving up, and that can be so easy to do if you seem to have no

future. Getting somewhere begins with desire: You see someone do something — say skateboarding at a park — and you say to yourself, 'I want to do that.' It doesn't look easy, but you try and fall, get upon a try again and again and... until finally you feel the greatest feeling of all — accomplishment. It doesn't matter what it is — you have to try. You'll never make it to the Olympics, but that doesn't matter. The other thing you've done is make friends. They are happy to help, because showing someone how to do something is another great feeling. Then there's the next thing, and the next — and before you know it, you're grinning.

And that's another lesson from the Olympic competitors: They treat the other competitors with respect. More than that, they are not afraid to help. The most wonderful image came when, in the 5000-metre distance race, Abbey D'Agostino, representing the U S, stopped to help Nikki Hamblin from New Zealand to her feet after she had clipped the heel of another competitor and had fallen. They both came last, but won gold in showing what the true spirit of the games is.

Friendships are made and last far longer than the games. All these things are there for the taking, but only if you are prepared to step up to the challenge. OK, you will be taken advantage of, but so what? It

is your worth that is being shown, it is you taking that step, trying until you succeed. There is nothing quite like that feeling.

The para-Olympics are starting soon, and listening to some of their stories fills me with admiration. One young woman who was a dressage performer was thrown and broke her spine. Two years later she was back on her horse in a brace. Asked if she thought she might get a medal, she replied, "I have it already."

There is a dividing line between those who succeed and those who don't. No one can attempt anything without help, from learning to spell to designing buildings. From writing sentences to stories to reporting, our parents, siblings, teachers and friends help us answer questions, solve problems and hopefully teach us the cooperation needed to succeed in the future.

But then not all of us have these privileges. So many have no way of being able to contemplate getting out of the slums or escaping the ravages of drugs. That is not condemnation, it is fact.

In a country that has the highest rates of incarceration in the world, any sense of helping has gone. It is 'correction' that rules, an idea that is so unjust that it makes many of us sick, and has come from the fear conservatives have of increasing

crime — 'Law and Order' has always won elections — and hypocritical when it them that determine what crime is. Yet there are many people and organisations who try to help, for which we must be thankful, but in the cities, the burbs, the idea of community has grown less and less.

Doing a google search, I could find no not-for-profit community groups who try to help the homeless, the forgotten kids in Maryland. There has to be, of course, but even such groups are not the answer. It comes down to individuals. One person helping another to achieve whatever with no thought of recompense — except the feeling of happiness such deeds bring. There's a parable I'd like to finish with: A man was going down the road when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest, then a holy man saw him and walked on by. When a workman went by, he was dismayed and took pity on him, bandaged his wounds, gave him some food, then helped him to a motel. As he paid for the room, he said to the manager, "Here's some more money. Look after, won't you?" That's all it takes.

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

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Serving others



**Pastor Jay Petrella**  
Graceham Moravian Church

Do you ever look back over certain moments of your life and cringe? It could be that those moments of reflection aren't even voluntary. You could be just going about your day, maybe staring off into space after a long day at work, trying to relax, when out of nowhere, BAM, it hits you. Your brain says, "Hey remember when this embarrassing moment happened? Boy I sure do! Let's dwell on it for a while." Well, this just happened to me as I was pondering what to write this article about, so let me bring you along for the ride.

Picture this. I was a young adult, flying by myself for the first time. I was sitting at the gate waiting for my plane to begin boarding when I had, what I thought at the time, was an amazing idea. I thought about the snacks I would soon be served on board the aircraft. I thought about being handed that packet containing at most 5 peanuts, 7 pretzels, or maybe, if I was really lucky, 2 small cookies. I then lamented the bygone

era where one could get an actual meal on a plane while flying coach.

Then I wondered why I should settle for such meager hospitality when it was well within my power to dine in the sky like I was in first class? Amazed at my own brilliance I marched over to one of the food vendors near my gate, purchased lunch and brought it with me onto the plane when it boarded a few moments later. Once in the air and with the "fasten seatbelt" sign off, I lowered my tray table and as though I was at a picnic, spread out a bountiful feast of a Whopper, large fries and a large soda. "This is amazing," I thought. "I get to eat a (now slightly warmer than room temperature) meal in the sky like some aristocrat."

Well as I was setting my banquet table so to speak I noticed the man sitting across the aisle from me. He was looking in my direction and when I glanced over, our eyes met. He then leaned over and said, "Are you going to make the rest of us have to smell that for the rest of the flight?" Now that is in fact what he said. I remember it clearly. However, at the time, what I heard was, "Wow, you're going to make the

rest of us so hungry smelling that delicious food, and we won't be able to get any of our own until we land in a couple hours. I'm so jealous. I wish I had thought to do the same!"

Now of course anyone with a combination of common sense, and experience with air travel knows he was actually chastising me for inflicting the odorous, greasy, onion filled meal upon his and everyone else's noses for the next two and a half hours. It was just that I was so caught up in my own supposed brilliance; it never occurred to me someone would think this was a bad idea. My genius was just too obvious.

However, over twenty years later, I wish I had the names and addresses of everyone on that flight so I could send an apology letter to each of them. Or better yet, travel back in time and talk myself out of my scheme to transform coach into first class.

Throughout the New Testament we have calls from Jesus, Paul and other writers, to serve others. It's made pretty clear that caring for others is what we were created to do. It's job number one. It is who we are. It is how we can come to experience peace within our communities and within our relationships.

Serving others even plays a large role in us experiencing peace within ourselves, and beyond all of that, it is the calling of every disciple of Jesus. God loved us, God served us going so far as to give his life for ours. It'd be pretty hypocritical of us Christians to claim to be Jesus' disciples, while not loving and caring for others. We are human and as such will not be able to love and serve perfectly, but continually working to learn to love and serve better is the job of every disciple.

Now this seems like Sunday School 101, but I think it is helpful to be reminded of the above fact from time to time. It is easy for us, myself included, to get swept up in a moment and begin thinking only of ourselves.

Serving others can conjure up images in our minds of cooking someone a meal, helping someone change a flat tire, giving someone a ride to an important appointment, giving money to charity, or giving up your seat so an elderly or pregnant person can sit down. However, our call in Jesus to serve others includes, but extends beyond these big moments of obvious servitude. We must also give consideration to how our words and actions

## Graceham Moravian Church

Graceham Moravian Church is a community of followers of Jesus where we "nurture an environment of faith and service, so that in Christ we love, reach out, and grow."

We share God's love and grace in Jesus Christ with everyone! All generations will experience the love of Jesus in our worship, education programs, service and outreach. Caring, prayer and other supportive ministries, along with regular celebrations and gatherings, help us grow in love for all.

We share Christ's gift of love through a variety of community ministries and collaborative relationships, including:

**Served with Grace** – A community meal served the first Monday of every month which provides time for visiting around an abundant table – free and open to all.

**Angie's on the Bend** – A housing ministry for women who have experienced homelessness, or who are in need of safe, affordable housing.

**Community Garden** – A vegetable and flower garden ministry

that supplies fresh produce to the local food bank, senior center, and for Served with Grace meals; and flowers for those confined to their homes or nursing homes.

**Collaborative Ministries** – Thurmont Ministerium's Summer lunch program for children and adults; School Supply Drive; Thurmont Food Bank; Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs; Seton Center; and many other joint ministries that serve those in need and support ecumenical outreach efforts.

As followers of Jesus, we are lifelong learners! There are Christian Education classes for everyone from infants to adults! Bible studies, Sunday School classes, Vacation Bible School, mission trips, bi-annual Turkey & Oyster Dinners, and opportunities for developing nurturing relationships help us all to grow in faith, hope and love.

Everyone is welcome at Graceham! To learn more about us, visit us at [www.gracehammoravian.org](http://www.gracehammoravian.org), or better yet, join us for Sunday service.

impact others. That too is an act of compassionate service.

It was not illegal for me to bring a giant, greasy, oniony hamburger onto an airplane, as far as I know. But it was in poor taste. In thinking of my freedom, my right to eat that value meal, I forgot about my mandate from God to care for others. Maybe there was a very pregnant woman sitting a few rows back who'd become very nauseous in the presence of strong smelling food. I could have made her quite sick and uncomfortable for that entire flight. Not a very kind, loving, Jesus-y thing to do.

Maybe there was someone going through chemo experiencing a similar thing with odors. I thereby needlessly and inadvertently made their lives a little more difficult and uncomfortable than it already was. And even if there wasn't someone on board that flight with major medical things going on, like the person who microwaves fish in the office break room, I failed to take into account how my action would impact others.

I had every right to do what I did, but the cold letter of the law sometimes doesn't reflect the warm heart of Christ. So I invite you to join me this week, and in all our years ahead to not limit Christian servitude to only

those big, obvious acts of service, but to also think deeply about how our thoughts, words and actions directly impact others. As a part of that process, we also need to be open to hearing from other's how our words and actions impact them. If that man on the plane never said anything, I probably wouldn't even remember my little story and I might still, to this day, think one could stick it to The Man by packing a plate of Garlic Chicken Alfredo in one's carry-on.

Mowing a neighbor's grass counts as serving others, but resisting the temptation to blast a blue-tooth speaker on a crowded bus counts too. The life of a disciple of Jesus is best lived serving others. So may the Spirit help us each day to put others before ourselves, serving as Jesus served.

Trinity United Church of Christ, in Thurmont, is looking for an organist to play for our Sunday morning worship services. Student organists or pianists who play the organ are encouraged to apply. We have one traditional service at 11 a.m., and there is no choir direction involved. Call Ross 301-271-3489.



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## THE BOOK OF DAYS

# John Paul Jones



On 23rd September 1779, a serious naval engagement took place on the coast of Yorkshire, H.M.S. Serapis and Countess of Scarborough being the ships on the one side, and a squadron under the command of the celebrated adventurer Paul Jones on the other. It was a time of embarrassment in England. Unexpected difficulties and disasters had been experienced in the attempt to enforce the loyalty of the American colonies.

Several of England's continental neighbours were about to take advantage of her weakness to declare against her. In that crisis it was that Jones came and insulted the coasts of Britain. Driven out of the Firth of Forth by a strong westerly wind, he came south-wards till he reached the neighbourhood of Flamborough Head, where he resolved to await the Baltic and merchant fleet, expected shortly to arrive there on its homeward voyage under the convoy of the two men-of-war above mentioned.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the 23rd September, Jones, on board of his vessel the Bon Homme Richard (so called after his friend Benjamin Franklin), descried the fleet in question, with its escort, advancing north-north-east, and numbering forty-one sail. He at once hoisted the signal for a general chase, on perceiving which the two frigates bore out from the land in battle-array, whilst the merchant vessels crowded all sail towards shore, and succeeded in gaining shelter beneath the guns of Scarborough

Castle. There was little wind, and, according to Jones's own account, it was nightfall before the Bon Homme Richard could come up with the Serapis, when an engagement within pistol-shot commenced, and continued at that distance for nearly an hour, the advantage both in point of manageableness and number of guns being on the side of the British ship; whilst the remaining vessels of Jones's squadron, from some inexplicable cause, kept at a distance, and he was obliged for a long time to maintain single-handed a contest with the two English frigates.

The harvest-moon, in the meantime, rose calm and beautiful, casting its silver light over the waters of the German Ocean, the surface of which, smooth as a mirror, bore the squadrons engaged in deadly conflict. Suddenly, some old eighteen-pounders on board the Bon Homme Richard exploded at their first discharge, killing and wounding many of Jones's sailors; and as he had now only two pieces of cannon on the quarter-deck remaining unsilenced, and his vessel had been struck by several shots below the water-level, his position was becoming very critical. Just then, while he ran great danger of going to the bottom, the bowsprit of the Serapis came athwart the poop of the Bon Homme Richard, and Jones, with his own hands, made the two vessels fast in that position.

A dreadful scene at close-quarters then ensued, in which Captain Pearson, the British commander, inflicted signal damage by his artillery on the

under part of his opponent's vessel, whilst his own decks were rendered almost untenable by the hand-grenades and volleys of musketry which, on their cannon becoming unserviceable, the combatants on board the Bon Homme Richard discharged with murderous effect.

For a long time the latter seemed decidedly to have the worst of the contest, and on one occasion the master-gunner, believing that Jones and the lieutenant were killed, and himself left as the officer in command, rushed up to the poop to haul down the colours in the hopelessness of maintaining any longer the conflict. But the flagstaff had been shot away at the commencement of the engagement, and he could only make his intentions known by calling out over the ship's side for quarter.

Captain Pearson then hailed to know if the Bon Homme Richard surrendered, an interrogation which Jones immediately answered in the negative, and the fight continued to rage. Meantime the Countess of Scarborough had been engaged by the Pallas, a vessel belonging to Jones's squadron, and after a short conflict had surrendered. The Bon Homme Richard was thus freed from the attacks of a double foe, but was at the same time nearly brought to destruction by the Alliance, one of its companion-vessels, which, after keeping for a long time at a distance, advanced to the scene of action, and poured in several broadsides, most of which took effect on her own ally instead of the British frigate.

At last the galling fire from the shrouds of Jones's ship told markedly in the thinning of the crew of the Serapis, and silencing her fire: and a terrible explosion on board of her, occasioned by a young sailor, a Scotchman, it is alleged, who, taking his stand upon the extreme end of the yard of the Bon Homme Richard, dropped a grenade on a row of cartridges on the main-deck of the Serapis, spread such disaster and confusion that Captain Pearson shortly afterwards struck his colours and surrendered. This was at eleven o'clock at night, after the engagement had lasted for upwards of four hours.

The accounts of the losses on both sides are very contradictory, but seem to have been nearly equal, and may be estimated in all at about three hundred killed and wounded.

The morning following the battle was extremely foggy, and on examining the Bon Homme Richard, she was found to have sustained such damage that it was impossible she could keep longer afloat. With all expedition her crew abandoned her, and went on board the Serapis, of which Paul Jones took the command. The Bon Homme Richard sank almost immediately, with a large sum of money belonging to Jones, and many valuable papers.

The prize-ships were now conveyed by him to the Texel, a proceeding which led to a demand being made by the English ambassador at the Hague for the delivery of the captured vessels, and the surrender of Jones himself as a pirate. This application to the Dutch authorities was ineffectual, but it served as one of the predisposing causes of the war which not long afterwards ensued with England. After remaining for a while at the Texel, the Serapis was taken to the port of L'Orient, in France, where she appears subsequently to have been disarmed, and broken up, whilst the Countess of Scarborough was conveyed to Dunkirk.

Meantime, Jones proceeded to France, with the view of arranging as to his future movements; but before quitting Texel, he returned to Captain Pearson his sword, in recognition, as he says, of the bravery which he had displayed on board the Serapis.

Pearson's countrymen seem to have entertained the same estimate of his merits, as, on his subsequent return to England, he was received with great distinction, was knighted by George III, and presented with a service of plate and the freedom of their corporations, by those boroughs on the east coast which lay near the scene of the naval engagement.

In France, honours no less flattering were bestowed on Paul Jones. At the opera and all public places, he received enthusiastic ovations, and Louis XVI presented him with a gold-hilted sword.

It may be noted that the true name of Paul Jones was John Paul, and that he made the change probably at the time when he entered the American service. His career was altogether a most singular one, presenting phases to the full as romantic as any of those undergone by a hero of fiction. The son of a small farmer near Dumfries, we find him manifesting from

his boyhood a strong predilection for the sea, and at the age of twelve commencing life as a cabin-boy, on board the Friendship of Whitehaven, trading to Virginia.

After completing his apprenticeship, he made several voyages in connection with the slave-trade to the West Indies, and rose to the position of master. He speedily, however, it is said, conceived a disgust to the traffic, and abandoned it. We find him, about 1775, accepting a commission in the American navy, then newly formed in opposition to that of Britain. What inspired Paul with such feelings of rancour against his native country, cannot now be ascertained; but to the end of his life he seemed to retain undiminished the most implacable resentment towards the British nation. The cause of the colonies against the mother-country, now generally admitted to have been a just one, was adopted by him with the utmost enthusiasm, and certainly he contrived to inflict a considerable amount of damage on British shipping in the course of his cruises.

To the British nation, and to Scotchmen more especially, the name of Paul Jones has heretofore only been suggestive of a daring pirate or lawless adventurer. He appears, in reality, to have been a sincere and enthusiastic partisan of the cause of the colonists, many of whom were as much natives of Britain as himself, and yet have never been specially blamed for their partisanship. In personal respects, he was a gallant and resolute man, of romantically chivalrous feelings, and superior to everything like a mean or shabby action. It is particularly pleasant to remark his disinterestedness in restoring, in after-years, to the Countess of Selkirk, the family-plate which the necessity of satisfying his men had compelled him to deprive her of; on the occasion of his descent on the Scottish coast, and for which he paid them the value out of his own resources. The letters addressed by him on this subject to the countess and her husband, do great credit both to his generosity and abilities in point of literary composition. By the Americans, Admiral Paul Jones is regarded as one of their most distinguished naval celebrities.

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

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## ECOLOGY

# Eastern Monarch Butterfly population falls again

Center for Biological Diversity

Monarch butterflies are found across America, but are generally broken into eastern and western groups by the natural divide of the Rocky Mountains. California's monarch butterfly numbers are at an all-time low, having declined more than 85 percent from 2017, according to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. This sudden drop comes after years of steady decline: A massive 97 percent of monarch butterflies have already disappeared since the 1980s. Back then, 10 million monarchs wintered in California. This year, the Xerces Society counted just 28,429.

If this catastrophic trend continues, experts say the monarch butterfly could very well go extinct in the next 20 years. "If we want to have monarchs migrate through the western U.S., as they have for centuries, sustained work is needed," the Xerces Society wrote on its website. "Three decades of decline won't be overturned quickly."

It's not looking good for the monarchs in the eastern half of North America, either: That population is far larger than the cohort that migrate to California—in 1997, a billion butterflies swarmed the East Coast and settled in Mexico for the winter. In 2017, however, the Center For Biological Diversity found that only 93 million had arrived in Mexico. Overall, the North American monarch butterfly population has shrunk by more than 90 percent in the past two decades.

The yearly count of monarch butterflies overwintering in Mexico, continues to show a dramatic decline in this imperiled species. Today's count of 2.10 hectares (5.2 acres) of occupied

winter habitat is down 26% from last year's count. The minimum population threshold needed to be out of the danger zone of extinction is six hectares.

Overall eastern monarchs have declined by more than 80% over the past two decades.

"Monarchs are the face of the wildlife extinction crisis where even once common species could now disappear. They need us because if we don't act now to save them, monarch migrations will collapse and that would be morally unforgivable," said Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity.

The eastern monarch population is made up the butterflies east of the Rocky Mountains and accounts for roughly 99% of all North American monarchs. They migrate each winter to oyamel fir forests on high-elevation mountaintops in central Mexico. Scientists estimate the population size by measuring the area of trees turned orange by the clustering butterflies. That population has been dangerously low since 2008.

In December the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service put monarchs on the waiting list for Endangered Species Act listing, which confers no actual protection to them or their habitat. The Service itself has estimated up to an 80% probability of population collapse for eastern monarchs within 50 years and a 96-100% probability for the western population.

"Last December even the Trump administration, the most anti-environment administration on record, could not deny that monarchs deserve the important protection that endangered species listing provides. They just put it off for an unconscionable

four more years," said George Kimbrell, legal director at the Center for Food Safety. "Now the 2021 count shows monarch numbers declining considerably further because of Monsanto's toxic Roundup. So we are calling on the Biden administration to do what is right and what the science and law demand — list monarchs now."

Monarchs are threatened by pesticides, global climate change, sprawl, and illegal logging of the forests where they migrate for the winter. They are also threatened by mortality during their migrations from roadkill and habitat fragmentation.

Scientists led by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Center for Food Safety petitioned the Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the butterfly under the Endangered Species Act in 2014.

Monarchs have lost an estimated 165 million acres of breeding habitat in the United States to herbicide spraying and development in recent decades. The caterpillars only eat milkweed, but the plant has been devastated by increased herbicide spraying in conjunction with corn and soybean crops that have been genetically engineered to tolerate direct spraying. The butterflies are also threatened by neonicotinoid insecticides, fungicides and other chemicals that are toxic to young caterpillars.

Monarch butterflies west of the Rocky Mountains overwinter on the central coast of California. Their numbers have plummeted by 99%, and fewer than 2,000 total butterflies were counted this winter. The western migration has collapsed in part due to warmer winters and to people planting invasive tropical milkweed, which is unhealthy for the butterflies.



At one time my wife's gardens were filled with Monarchs. This year, I can count the number I've seen on one hand.

In Canada monarchs are slated for listing as endangered under the Species At Risk Act. In Mexico they are considered a species of special concern.

Western Population Has Declined by 99.9%, Migration Collapsed.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced legislation in March that would provide \$125 million in emergency funds over five years to save the western population of monarch butterflies from extinction.

This monarch population is found primarily in Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington, and overwinters on the coast of California. This past winter, only 1,914 monarchs were recorded overwintering on the California coast — the lowest number ever recorded.

The Monarch Action, Recovery, and Conservation of Habitat Act (MONARCH Act) was introduced today by Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Chris Van Hollen (D-M.D.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), and Reps. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.), Salud Carbajal (D-Calif.), Rodney Davis (R-Illinois), Alcee Hastings (D-Florida), Nanette Barragán (D-Calif.) and Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.).

The legislation would create the Western Monarch Butterfly Rescue Fund, which will provide \$12.5 million a year to support on-the-ground conservation projects to stabilize and save the western population of monarch butterflies. The bill would provide an additional \$12.5 million per year to

implement the existing Western Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan.

"Monarch lovers were once able to see millions of butterflies in their overwintering habitat, but now America's most iconic pollinator is almost gone in the West," said Stephanie Kurose, a senior policy specialist at the Center for Biological Diversity. "The MONARCH Act gives these beautiful orange-and-black butterflies a fighting chance at survival. We're so grateful for the leadership of Sen. Merkley and Reps. Panetta, Carbajal and Davis for recognizing the urgency of the situation."

Overall, monarch populations in the United States have plummeted more than 80% in the past two decades. Without emergency help, it's almost certain that the western population of monarchs will disappear within 50 years. Indeed, their annual migration has already collapsed.

In February, a group of 57 lawmakers led by Sen. Merkley and Reps. Panetta and Carbajal sent a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service urging the agency to make substantial investments in monarch conservation after its decision to forego listing the monarch under the Endangered Species Act.

"Western monarchs are running out of time and can no longer afford policy half measures," said Kurose. "Congress must immediately pass the MONARCH Act so that future generations can experience the magic and grace of these remarkable butterflies."

To learn more about the Center for Biological Diversity visit [www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org)

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## IN THE COUNTRY

# Preventing raptor road-kill

Tim Iverson

Believe it or not it had been a rather pleasant afternoon commute up 270-N. I had been following the same sedan for some miles now. As any good driver does my eyes made the circuit from looking ahead through the windshield, up to the rearview mirror, over to the side view mirrors, and every now and again to check the time and speed I was going. After one of these rounds I make it back to staring forward, and I catch a glimpse of a hand fling something out of the driver's side window. The yellow and slender skin with arms flailing in the wind made it abundantly clear what they had tossed aside. It couldn't have been anything other than a banana peel. Big deal you might be asking yourself. Well, I am here to tell you that it IS a big deal.

At seven state parks across Maryland there are aviaries housing injured wildlife that will never be able to return to the wild because they can no longer care for themselves as the result of human caused injuries. The closest to our area is located at Cunningham Falls State Park. Within this aviary are animals, most of who have been hit by cars. These accidents could largely be avoidable. Most think of roadside litter as trash bags, empty fast food bags, cups and containers, and other kinds of junk. When presented with the idea of banana peels or apple cores or other natural and biodegradable things they think it's perfectly natural and fine to toss them aside as they please. However, this is not the case. The raptors living in Maryland Park Service aviaries can provide ample evidence as to why.

Let's meet a Red Tailed Hawk for just a minute. This beautiful bird of prey is the largest hawk that lives in Maryland. This bird prefers wide open spaces, primarily fields. In fact, if we're being honest this is probably one species that has benefited from deforestation and development. They feast on small mammals like mice, rabbits, squirrels, and smaller birds in their territory. You can often see them sitting on the sides of roadways. They're usually perched upon telephone poles, over head lights, or signs. They are naturally drawn to these areas because of high perch places, and the abundance of prey.

You see rodents are naturally attracted to any type of food trash. It doesn't matter if that fast food bag is empty or not, because it still smells like French fries and burgers. Empty wrappers still retain the scent of whatever food they packaged as well. Banana peels, apple cores, or other food waste will still attract prey like mice to the sides of roadways in search of a quick meal. Red-tailed Hawks, and other birds of prey, know this and will wait for prey to arrive. Then when the moment is right

they'll strike. They swoop down from on high to claim their catch. Often times though it's not that simple. They are competing with the tumult of traffic which can be chaos to process for wildlife. Raptors frequently are struck by cars in the process of hunting. In most cases these birds are killed on impact. A lucky few who do survive and make it to medical assistance in time may be able to fully recover and be rereleased to the wild. However, the majority of those who are hit and survive will not be able to go back. These reasons can vary: wing amputations, which makes flight impossible; brain damage, which makes hunting and survival impossible; or loss of vision in one or both eyes, which makes hunting, flying, and surviving difficult to impossible.

For those birds that are fortunate enough to survive, but cannot survive on their own will be placed in zoos and aviaries throughout the county. The Maryland Park Service has a program called Scales & Tales which cares for and houses wildlife like this. Scales & Tales is an environmental education program that provides people the opportunity to see these wild animals up close. By relating the "tale" or story of the animals the Maryland Park Service can reach out to the public and educate them on environmental issues of concern. These issues range from environmental pollution, climate change, habitat and resource loss, invasive species,

and more. There are a few ways people can help these animals as well as wildlife.

The first way is by visiting these aviaries, parks, and wild spaces in general. By raising your awareness you are likely to make lasting lifestyle changes and be able to spread the message to others. Scales & Tales also has an adoption program that allows you to symbolically "adopt" these animals, and the money goes towards their care and well being. The best way to help them is to help prevent unnecessary injuries from happening in the first place. Practicing Leave No Trace is a great way to start.

Leave No Trace is a non-profit organization and a set of principles or ethics regarding how we use and treat the great outdoors. These seven ideas are easy to follow and very reasonable. They are:

- Plan Ahead & Prepare – Make sure you pack all necessary food, gear, etc. Know you're way so you don't get lost. Most importantly, plan for how to pack your waste and bring it back with you
- Travel/Camp on Durable Surfaces – When you hike or camp off of specific or regulated areas you destroy vegetation that prevents rain runoff and destroy habitat by expanding human impact
- Dispose of Waste Properly – If you brought it there, then make sure you bring it back.
- Leave What You Find – This



Raptors frequently are struck by cars in the process of hunting. Sadly, in most cases these birds are killed on impact.

way another passerby can experience what you did

- Minimize Campfire Impacts – If there are existing fire rings then use them! Otherwise the woods will be pockmarked with blackened scorched earth
- Respect Wildlife – Respect all wildlife, but remember some wildlife can be venomous or dangerous so if you don't respect them they will not respect you.
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors – You'd hate it if you were soaking up the beauty of the outdoors and someone was being loud, rude, and disruptive. Don't do it to someone else.

Leave No Trace can usually be summed up by the adage, "Take only pictures, leave only footprints." By practicing these principles in all of our outdoor affairs we can assure that every one of us

can always enjoy what the wild lands have to offer. Just like you try to take care of your personal stuff, we need to take care of our collective stuff. Throwing the banana peel out instead of waiting to find a trash can is reckless. It endangers wildlife by setting them up for disaster. When this happens often enough the scavengers eating it become accustomed to the food source, and may starve when or if it is no longer available. The simple act of just waiting a few more minutes is well worth the investment to preserve the independent and natural order of things. I once saw a road sign while working for the National Park Service in Big Bend Texas that I think I'd like to leave you with – Litterin' is unLAWFUL! Make sure the impact you leave behind is a positive one.

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

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## REAL SCIENCE

# Chemicals in sunscreen

Michael Rosenthal

Here we are in summer with a hot sun outside to enjoy, but also with the potential to do serious skin damage if you become overexposed to the sun. The scientific phenomenon that produces the sun's pleasure of warmth also produces the skin damage. Ultraviolet radiation (UV) is of higher energy than visible radiation and infrared radiation. Thus it can not only comfort you with its warmth and tan your skin, but its high energy can produce serious skin damage. Those individuals with light skin are particularly susceptible to this skin damage from the sun.

The same chemicals that protect your skin from the sun's overexposure causing sunburn can also cause severe skin damage, even skin cancer. Particular dangerous are two chemical compounds often found in sunscreen, oxybenzone and avobenzone. The worry is that these chemicals may do more harm than good, producing skin irritation, hormonal disruption, and skin cancer.

The Food and Drug Administration is therefore concerned. Their studies have found that these chemical components may be absorbed into the skin at levels higher than previously believed. There has been concern as well that these chemicals may damage the fetus when used by pregnant women. To balance this concern, some five million cases of skin

cancer are diagnosed annually, 90% coming from ultraviolet radiation; it is thus a problem to ask people to stop using sunscreens.

The Food and Drug Administration has asked the sunscreen industry to provide safety information on 12 common sunscreen ingredients. The most worrisome sunscreen ingredient is oxybenzone. It is very effective in protecting against ultraviolet radiation. However it has been found that oxybenzone absorbs through the skin, and detectable levels have been found in human blood and in breast milk. There is a worry that it could interfere with normal hormone function.

The pertinent question is whether the chemicals in sunscreen are dangerous when absorbed through the skin, as opposed to other more direct forms of ingestion. It appears that there are safer chemicals that are not absorbed, but only work on the skin surface and are thus safer, but not as effective. There are some sunscreen lotions that do not contain oxybenzone, and it may be better to seek them out. Consumer Reports has been continually studying this issue, and I recommend following their research. I have great faith in the honesty and reliability of Consumer Reports. Their science is very solid.

The cicada season is over, and I was actually disappointed that I had as little direct experience with them as I did. They were noisily in the woods next to our house, and

I saw many dead cicada bodies on the sidewalk while dog-walking, but that's about it. I guess they were just not that fond of northern Frederick County!

The vitamin controversy over multivitamins continues. The Consumer Reports June 2021 newsletter, On Health, has an article entitled, The Truth About Taking Multivitamins. Many adults age 60 and older take multivitamin/mineral supplements. There is disagreement in the literature about the benefit of taking these vitamins. The most common multivitamins include Vitamin B12, Vitamin D, and Iron.

Over the counter (OTC) supplements are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration to the extent that prescription medications are regulated. My physician, a board certified physician in whom I have great confidence, has me taking a D3 supplement containing calcium as well. That is his only recommendation. The label says D3 "supports bone, teeth, muscle, and immune health". There are differences of opinion about what supplements are useful or not useful, safe or risky, and some that may be just a way to spend money. I recommend seeking out an experienced, board-certified physician and follow her or his advice.

Consumer Reports has also taken on the delicate subject of brain supplements. The supplements claim memory enhancement and sharpened mental focus. They are advertised online.



This is a perfect example of what happens when you misapply sunscreen all your life; the nose protector, however, is a nice touch ...

CR found that many of the labels list inaccurate quantities of ingredients and that unapproved drugs contained in them were not listed on the product labels. Some of these drugs may be not legally approved in the United States, and Consumer Reports expresses doubts that as to whether these drugs are safe and effective. Once again, I suggest that you make your drug choices at the recommendation of your board-certified physician.

How can I write this article without saying something about the vaccination issue? I am totally bewildered by the reluctance of many people to be vaccinated against COVID. Nothing I have

read indicates to me that there is a risk of taking the vaccine that outweighs the risk of not taking the vaccine. Of course it's understandable to be fearful of something as devastating as COVID, but I believe one should deal with such a situation with logic. I was a child during the polio epidemic, and the older brother of one of my best friend contracted polio. He recovered, and went on to a normal life, in fact as a physician, but his life would have been so much better if his illness had been avoided. Perhaps I am a naïve scientist to think that nothing like the Anti-Vax movement could have happened, but I am both horrified and amazed. My major goal in writing this column and entitling it Real Science was to bring to readers a rational, scientifically sound view of the world around us. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that receiving the COVID vaccination sequence is the right thing to do. The choice is yours, but my advice is get vaccinated.

I have now written 77 Real Science articles for this newspaper. I so enjoy doing it, and as a retired college professor of chemistry and college administrator, I find it a great way to keep thinking about science and tracking down progress in scientific areas...and I try to be relevant to the reader's daily life. My teaching career was at small colleges of the liberal arts and sciences, where we were encouraged to integrate our science teaching with other knowledge from the world around us. I believe this is a wonderful and appropriate way to be educated. If you have any comments in agreement or disagreement with my Real Science articles, please feel free to deliver those comments to me. I promise that I will respond to you if that is what you request. I respect differences of opinion with me, but The Laws of Thermodynamics and their derivatives remain as the solid base of my scientific thinking.

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

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# THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## Solanum Lycopersicum

Jack Deatherage

I think I can safely ramble about the fruit, *Solanum lycopersicum*, without going off on some triggered, deranged rant regarding the nightmarish adventures I've had over the decades while attempting to grow enough of them to last me through a winter's worth of pasta sauces- so long as I avoid fruit's vulgar name. Not that I haven't learned a few things about growing *S. lycopersicum* from those past adventures.

This year's attempt (I'll skip everything that went wrong early in the season) involved three heirloom varieties I grew out from bought seeds- 'German Pink', 'German Johnson' and 'Striped Roman'. The plants were placed in 5-gallon plastic buckets filled with fresh and previously used commercial potting soil and dead bluegills. A specific Espoma organic fertilizer was added once the plants were well established. They were watered every other day during the dry, hot weeks.

The 'German Pink' variety of *S. lycopersicum* was first trialed in straw bales during a prolonged summer's drought a few years ago. It did extremely well, sending roots down through the bales and into the soil beneath them! Grown in buckets this year, the plants quickly grew past the top of the 6' high fence they are tied to. They also ripened ahead of the other two varieties- middle of the first week in August. As far as flavor? I haven't tasted them this year. I'm growing them for someone else. I'm told they are as good as they were when grown in the straw bales.

'German Johnson' is a first and last time variety in my garden. It produced

the first fruits, but they all had blossom end rot (BER). Then they began to sport dead blossoms which sent me into a panic until I stumbled upon a web blog that informed me blossom drop is normal for this variety which was bred in North Carolina. I'm told to be patient and I'll have lots of large fruits late in the season. That might be worthwhile in NC, but Maryland's late season can be one of heavy frosts and I'm not into fist sized fried green tomatoes. (Man, that was a close one.)

This is the second year I've trialed 'Striped Roman'. I first grew it in the straw bales several years ago and was not happy! BER was so prevalent I barely plucked 1 out of 10 fruits from those plants. The only reason I trialed them again was at the Mad One's instance that the flavor was fantastic and I had to try them in better conditions! Six buckets dedicated to 'Striped Roman' and I've plucked and pitched down the yard more than half the fruits the plants set! Middle August before any fruits that didn't have BER began to ripen. I don't care how good these things taste. They simply aren't worth the space or expense when there are hundreds of varieties I haven't trialed yet!

With the Mad One safely back in Europe, I'm nearly rudderless in a sea of *S. lycopersicum*! There are over 600 named heirloom varieties! Fortunately, another foreigner I occasionally act as a sidekick for on Monday morning errands has wondered if I might acquire seeds of the fruits he remembers from his homeland- New Jersey. New Jersey is a place I vaguely remember wandering through with the DW's da forty years ago on our way to a casino.

I immediately warn the foreigner his

childhood tomato may well be as legendary as the Hanover Tomato- first brought to my attention by Patricia Cornwell in one of her murder mystery novels. The Jersey Tomato and the Hanover Tomato are- depending of which references one reads -various tomatoes grown in specific regions of their states- unlike the San Marzano tomatoes which are both a varietal name and a region of Italy known for its tomatoes in general. (The French refer to "terroir"-soil, water, culture and variety that create a product; vegetable, fruit, wine, cheese and meats among others, uniquely identifiable as from a specific region. I've read that terroir applies to Hanover tomatoes, but not the Jersey Tomato- again, depending on the references.)

There are varieties said to produce the Jersey Tomato; Ramapo and Rutgers- seeds of which are available today! What I didn't expect is they'd be hybrids! I generally avoid hybrid seeds because I've been wrapped up in the heirloom craze of the past two decades- mostly because the heirlooms are supposed to be more flavorful than the hybrids which were bred for commercial harvest, shipping and long term storage among other characteristics such as resistance to viruses, fungi, wilts and the like. However, Don Cool, my "organic uncle" once showed me a tomato plant he was overwintering on a window sill.

"It's a hybrid I really like. None of the other plants, grown from the same seed packet, produced tomatoes as good as this one. I'm keeping the plant alive, so



Jack ate many a tomato off that board over which they are leaning.

come spring, I can root cuttings from it and have exactly the same tomatoes I enjoyed this past summer."

Damn! Another adventure I can add to next year's tomato garden because I'm not set up to grow transplants well from seeds. Being able to have trays of rooted cuttings come plant out time may give me the jump on the season a greenhouse would have. Which, as it turns out, has been an experiment I ran last winter and well into this fall.

I brought in two snapdragon plants and overwintered them in the bow window. Of course they grew leggy from lack of adequate sunlight and I occasionally snipped off the new growth and simply stuck the stems in a big pot I'm growing ginger in for another experiment. The cuttings rooted and though still leggy, have been blooming madly in the window all summer. Tomato cuttings should be a cakewalk!

Now the New Jerseyan/Jerseyite was wise enough to ask if the DW was going to continue letting me play at exploring tomato varieties and various methods of growing them. I assured him she is onboard with me growing tomatoes for saucing. And to hedge my arguments in that direction I've left seed catalogs- full of luscious pictures of tomatoes -in strategic places about the abode.

To my surprise, the DW mentions a Bulgarian red pepper she spied in one of those catalogs. When I told her that was the variety the Mad One and I had ventured to New Freedom, PA to bring transplants home years ago she said, "Well, grow them next year."

"Yes dear." (I go fist pumping and mad dancing about the living room.) The 2022 gardening experiment is on!

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

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Sign of Fall: apple trees

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

I live in the fruit belt of Pennsylvania and when I think of fall, I think of apples. Adams County has been my home for most of my life. Driving through orchards in the spring, enjoying the beautiful flowers, and taking that same drive in the fall while the red and yellow apples hang from the trees – nothing beats the color provided from those delicious fruits!

Picking fruit for fresh eating can be a guessing game for those of us that don't do it on a regular basis. The first step is to know when the variety typically matures in your area. This will allow you to have a general time frame when the fruit should be ripe. Although temperatures, moisture and sunlight will all play a key role in the ripening of apples, knowing the aver-

age time frame will be a great help. Depending on the variety, maturity dates can start in south central PA as early as July with 'Yellow Transparent' or as late as November, as in the case with 'Pink Lady'.

Fortunately, help is available from many resources. Orchards throughout the state may advertise ripening times on their websites, Facebook, or mailing lists. It would be best to use estimations from a nearby orchard as it will likely be more appropriate for your region.

The color of the apple also plays a key role in knowing if it's ripe. Fruit coloration, of course, depends entirely upon the variety and should be "true to type": the characteristic foreground (flush) and ground colors for the variety should be fully developed and match what is expected. Numerous sources provide this information including

Adams County Nursery (acnursery.com) and most tree fruit nurseries, Orange Pippin (orangepippin.com), Adam's Apples blog (adamapples.blogspot.com), and – for the advanced enthusiast – Fruit ID (fruitid.com).

Observing the foreground color is easy. The ground color, not so much. Ground colors vary from white to yellow to green when mature. Apples with a strong, consistent foreground color like 'Red Delicious' or 'Nittany', or those with a tendency for russetting in the basin (bottom indentation where the flower was) or cavity (area near the stem) may make observing the ground color a challenge.

The "feel" of an apple is another indicator. The apple should be firm, but not hard. When pressing into the apple, there may be some slight indentation but using this method alone could cause a person to keep the apple on the tree too long. Overripe fruit quickly becomes soft and mealy.

In mature fruit, the seed coats should be brown. Cut open an apple and take a look. And while you have the apple cut open, taste and smell it. If it's too starchy, and not sweet, then the rest of the apples may need to stay on the tree another few days. It should smell like an apple. The fragrance should be apparent when the



There is no better apple than an apple grown in Adams County!

apple is ready to be picked. Of course, personal preferences affect the ability to appreciate the flavor, but it should closely match the flavor profile expected of the variety.

Any one of these techniques, alone, will not determine the ripeness of an apple. However, using all these methods should help you make the right decision when picking this delicious fruit.

After determining whether the apples are ready to be picked, how do you pick them? Secure the fruit in the palm of your hand, with your thumb near the stem. Twist and lift upward and the apple should release from the tree. You should not need a lot of force to remove the fruit if it is ready to be harvested. The stem of the apple needs to stay on the fruit. Releasing the stem from the

fruit will cause you to be eating, and not storing, lots of apples as they will not keep for long. While picking, take care to not break or remove fruiting spurs! Spurs are short, compressed stems that produce flowers annually and are found on many varieties. Loss of a spur means loss of fruit next year. When picking the apples, gently put them in a bucket, never drop them into a bucket. Bruising the fruit will reduce storage time and increase rotting.

Storing apples require refrigeration. Temperatures should be kept between 34- and 40-degrees F. Keeping them in a plastic bag with holes will increase the humidity, which is important for long term storage of apples. Also note that storing any other fruit, seeds (as in garden seeds left over from the summer crop) or bulbs (if you are forcing daffodils, tulips and such for winter color), with apples is not OK. Apples release ethylene gas that will kill the embryo of the seed and the embryonic flower of the bulb. Also, the ethylene gas will cause other fruits and vegetables sharing the refrigerator to ripen and rot quicker.

Once the fruit is off the tree, what do you need to do with the tree? That's an easy answer – nothing – at least for now. However, when the leaves drop from the tree in November, including any apples that may have fallen, rake up those leaves and fallen fruit, remove any fruit mummies still attached to the tree, and discard of them. (Mummies are simply the dried-up fruit that are left on the tree after picking.) This will help to reduce overwintering spores that live on the dead debris.

Pruning becomes the next chore when the new year rolls around. Check out this video that will help guide you in pruning techniques: <https://extension.psu.edu/pruning-and-training-apple-trees> and this calendar to help you in managing your fruit trees: <https://extension.psu.edu/home-orchard-calendar>.

For us backyard growers, we have few options for spraying. There are general fruit tree sprays available, which have insecticides and fungicides together, as well as specific sprays, organic and conventional, that allow more control of targeted or specific problems. Knowing what attacks your trees and when they become preva-

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

lent is key in control of any insect and disease. Recognizing the connection of weather and timing, will help in your quest for a great apple. Planning now, identifying disease and insect pressure, while the leaves and fruit are still on the tree, will help next year in knowing what to do and when to do it. Check out the calendar link above. This is a great guide for timing of issues that will occur as the year progresses, and you will be able to

better prepare for healthy trees and fruit next season.

Although growing apples isn't an easy task, it is rewarding when you can pick the fruit you have grown in your own yard! Understanding how to manage these trees and fruit throughout the year will help you be successful.

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

## Small Town Gardener

The greenhouse is up!

Marianne Willburn

Is it the end of a journey, or the beginning? "You mean you grow all these plants without a greenhouse!?" came the shocked question during a tour of my garden last weekend.

"Yes," was the answer. A resounding yes. A yes that has been a wry yes for all of the seed starting and propagating and make-doing that has characterized my gardening life to this point. And, over the last decade of working with subtropicals and tropicals, a self-satisfied, smug yes. A yes that I've earned through trial and error, and which leaves its mark not only in knowledge gained and two books written, but in a deeper understanding of what it means to long for something.

And now, also as of this weekend (coincidentally and chaotically), a greenhouse emerges in the middle of all that cold-framed foliage and basement-stored bloom. What to think of it?

Skills built without a greenhouse.

I stood in the garden yesterday morning contemplating that question, and then realized ten minutes later that I wasn't contemplating the greenhouse at all, but everything that existed before the greenhouse.

That mental space is a very safe, very confident place. It's a great place to hang out instead of contemplating the hundreds of dollars of plants I may very well kill in the first three months of owning this thing.

As of this weekend, I'm in undiscovered country. It's as if you just handed me my first tomato seedling and a trowel. The green part goes above the soil, right? Yes. But sometimes no. So much to learn.

Worrying. Instead I thought of the milk-jugs I used to save in order to start seeds outside in the winter, tired of giving over the top of my washing machine and refrigerator in a tiny house where every square inch was precious.

I thought of standing in front of a 50-foot roll of 6ml plastic at Home Depot – hemming and hawing over the \$29.99 price tag as toddlers struggled to get out of the cart, sending 10-foot lengths of CPVC pipe rolling down the aisle.

I thought of the first \$39.99 temporary "greenhouse" that I splurged on with grocery funds at an Aldi's in Pennsylvania. Nothing more than a cold frame, but a useful investment as it allowed me to harden off hundreds of seedlings without shuffling trays indoors on March evenings. I still use that rack as pot storage.

I thought of the wooden cold frame I constructed with the bits and pieces of a building project, and two old window sashes removed from our last house. The glass panes made me feel as if I was getting closer to the dream of greenhouse ownership. Despite my pathetic-woodworking skills it had solidity. Even if it was only 2x4 feet of solidity.

And I thought of the decision that I finally made to stop talking about it and commit to specifically saving for a greenhouse – no backtracking. For it had to be that kind of decision. I am ridiculously and often stupidly frugal.

**Necessity vs. Desire**

Shamefacedly I admit that almost everything substantial around here is calculated by the inflexible laws of ROI – Return on Investment. Creatives can immediately see the major flaw in this strategy.

Art is rarely about ROI unless you are collecting, not creating; and in my opinion, creating a garden is one of the highest forms of art. Could there possibly be Greenhouse ROI for a gardener who did not sell her plants, or charge to have her garden toured, or even monetized her damn website?

No. It had to be about something else. A new skill to learn -- a new adventure in gardening. Fundamentals to study, new plants to try, a new phase in my gardening life. A different kind of ROI – an investment in my growth as a gardener.

I made the decision from that confident place: Look at all I can do without a greenhouse! Imagine what I can do when I've actually got one! It never occurred to me that it would terrify the hell out of me.

I'll get over it. But it is a curious feeling nonetheless.

*Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of the new book Tropical Plants and How To Love Them. She blogs at Small-TownGardener and Garden-Rant.*

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# PETS

## They call me Cat

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley  
Animal Shelter

Seriously. That's what they named me. The thing is, I'm a dog.

Weird, right?  
We first met at the animal shelter. I was there because my owner had passed away. That was a tough time in my life. I missed mom a lot, but the people at the shelter were nice. They told me every day they were going to find me a good home.

The first time I saw my new people, they looked in on me in my kennel and something tingled in my belly. I'm not one of those dogs who has "feelings" and stuff. I mean the people at the shelter think I have Shepherd in me somewhere, so I have some level of intelligence.

So the whole "vibe" thing wasn't ever really my scene, but I also couldn't exactly explain what happened when I first saw them.

The woman just stared. And it wasn't the weird type of stare that some people have. It seemed like it was some kind of intuition or something. I know that's a little "woo woo," but I don't know how else to describe it.

The man hummed. I'm not kidding, he hummed. I could definitely hear it because I'm attuned to a range of noises that not a lot of people can hear. And then he tilted his head a lit-

tle, not unlike what I've seen some of the dogs at the shelter do when they hear a strange noise.

Then they looked at each other, didn't say a word, shared some kind of almost telepathy or something and moved on down the row. I chalked it up to the full moon I had heard the shelter staff talking about and laid back down on my bed.

When the volunteers took me out of the kennel and led me into the bonding room, I have to say I was pretty surprised to see the couple there. I didn't think they had thought much of me from that first glance.

They sat on a bench and I moved in between them. It was slow, our meeting. Their first touch was so gentle, it gave me that feeling in my belly again.

The man said, "Hey there, boy. You are handsome."

The woman said, "He has nice eyes. Smart eyes."

That made my heart skip a beat. Maybe she really could see inside me somehow.

They didn't talk to me in that voice some human use when dealing with animals. They talked to me like I was another person. I hadn't experienced anything like that before.

The next day, they came back with two little kids. Grandkids they called them. It was the almost-three year old who actually named me. The minute I walked in the room, she shrieked,

"Cat!" and raced up to pat my head.

The husband and wife chuckled and tried to explain to her that I was, indeed, a dog and not a cat, but she wasn't having it. I was Cat for the rest of the afternoon.

And I was Cat when they took me home.

I'm still Cat even weeks later.

The grandkids visit every once in a while and they're nice to me and I watch them play and I know that I would protect them, no matter what happened. I think the man and woman sense that, too. They get this knowing expression on their faces when they catch me watching over the grandkids.

The days are pretty calm and serene. The woman paints. The man strums a guitar. One time the woman pulled out this bowl with which she produced the most amazing vibration. Tibetan Singing Bowl she called it. It mellowed me out and relaxed us all.

Life now is definitely different than the years with my first mom. The husband and wife march to their own drummer. They don't dress like mom did or talk like mom did or eat like mom did or act like mom did.

But at random moments during the day, one of them will walk up to me, put a hand on my head and say something like, "I'm glad you're here" or "the house has a better consciousness since you came to live here."

I don't know that I've ever heard people say things like that before.



Rocky came into the shelter because his owner could no longer care for him. He is a 4-year-old Husky/Pomeranian mix who is pretty active. Rocky does have a lot of Husky behavior, so it would be good that potential adopters understand the breed. He knows how to sit and can be a vocal dog, so apartment living may not be the best for him. He will need to be watched around doors, though, because he likes to run through them. He does have a high chase drive, so a home without cats would be best and because of his past history, an age restriction for children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff. Do you have the right spot for Rocky?

For more information about Rocky 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.

But see. Here's the thing. I'm going to admit it. I kind of like it.

The words are spoken with such sincerity, such warmth. The touch to my head is absolutely genuine. Like they want to make that contact. Like there really is an energy flowing between us that neither of us can see, but we can sense.

Oh man, I really am getting woo woo here.

So, I'm a dog named Cat. I have parents who hum and chant and laugh and love and own exactly who they are. There's a certainty in that that settles me somehow.

In some ways, it's kind of refreshing. It's a little poignant. It's definitely a good home, just like the shelter people promised they'd find for me.

It's real, you know? A lot of people and animals may find it odd, but it works. They work. We work.

We connect. And even though a year ago I would have rolled my eyes at anyone who said something like that, I get it now. I really do.

So I'm a Shepherd mix they call Cat. So I lie next to a Tibetan Singing Bowl as it's being played. So I listen to my new mom and dad hum folk songs to each other. So what?

So I'm a dog named Cat. In a lot of ways, I'm definitely one of the lucky ones.

Odd name and all.

Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 263-5791 or visit the website [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org). CVAS also operates a thrift store in Chambersburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the store.

# In-Home

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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# What a baby!



Linda Shea  
Frederick County Animals Shelter

Coal has been brought to the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center twice in the past 6 weeks. Like most animal intakes, the reasons he has been surrendered twice has more to do with the humans in his life than with Coal. Coal was first brought to us in July as a casualty of divorce. We adopted him out, but

then he was brought back when the family we adopted him to realized they weren't ready for a dog—which is actually noble in the whole scheme of things. We appreciate when people are realistic about their ability to commit to a pet.

Coal is smart, well-behaved, and seemingly resilient and adaptable. The changes he's experienced in a relatively short time frame has not created any overwhelming anxiety. However, we recognize that consistency benefits pets in a variety of ways.

We have Coal listed as a Siberian Husky mix. Siberians, in general, are smart but stubborn. Siberians also shed fiercely; if you are considering adopting Coal you must qualify with either an affinity for operating a vacuum.

Coal's recent adopter describes Coal as a "good listener," "extremely loving," and happiest when he is near his family. We would like to see him

go to a family that has dog experience and the understanding that great dogs remain great dogs with ongoing training, patience, and a lifelong commitment. Coal's original owners stated that he is part Pomeranian, but we have no way of verifying that. Our intake process includes collecting information from previous owners so potential adopters can decide if a pet is right for them.

One of Coal's most endearing qualities is that he likes to be held like a baby. While we don't recommend that as gesture of introduction, it's good to know he is tolerant in being handled overall. Most pets arrive at our facility after having at least two previous homes, sometime more. We will do our best to place Coal in a truly forever home. Contact the shelter for more information and make a reservation to visit with Coal in person.

To learn more about Cole visit [www.visitfac.as.me](http://www.visitfac.as.me).



Veruca Salt came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her. We think she's a 1-year-old Lynx point mix because of her coloring. We did notice an issue with her eye - her pupil seems to have been damaged by something. She was checked over by the vet and she can see and it doesn't seem to bother her. Veruca is a shy but sweet little girl who's not a fan of being picked up, but will seek you out for attention. Can you give this pretty baby her second chance?

# Did someone say reopen?

Since March 2020, the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center has been closed to the public. Staying in compliance with directives given to all County entities has kept our staff safe and healthy. We have worn masks, donned hand sanitizer, and been diligent in disinfecting high-touch surfaces throughout the shelter.

Staffing was bifurcated for many months and Animal Control Officers only responded in-person to priority calls for service, resolving other calls for service over the phone if appropriate or offering alternative, viable solutions. However, it is now August and we are reopening our doors with some positive changes in place.

People who are interested in adopting a pet or just visiting our animals will now make a \*reservation to ensure proper staffing and improved customer service. Through August we are offering hour-long reservation times 3-4 days a week, but by September Animal Visiting will continue to be by hour-long reservations, but expand to being Monday-Saturday.

Hour-long visiting reservations begin at 10 a.m. with the last reservation at 3 p.m. Your reservation time

will be an hour during which you can travel our adoption areas, find out about specific pets and interact with them. We recommend bringing along a completed application prior to your visit so you are prepared when you find that special animal that you would like to make part of your family. Adoption applications can be found online and printed out or you can pick one up at Animal Control during normal operating Administrative hours.

In between visits, staff will be sanitizing high-touch surfaces. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building. Currently, masks are required inside all County buildings and that includes the Animal Control facility.

Our normal operating Administra-

tive hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you need to reclaim an animal, look for a lost pet, apply for a pet license, pay a citation, or have other administrative business you do not need to make a reservation.

Currently, Animal Control Officers (ACOs) are on duty from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. To reach an ACO, dial 301-600-1544. For animal-related emergencies, dial 301-600-1603 at any time.

Please continue to check our website, and this column for reopening updates and, of course, animals looking for forever homes. Kitten season arrived late this year, so we have kittens like Daisy returning from foster care on a regular basis.



Prince came into the shelter because his owner's health was declining and they could no longer care for him. Prince was very loved in his previous home. He did need some time to adjust to shelter life, but he has come out of his shell. He is a 3-year-old tabby-with-white fellow who is quite laid back. He does have a crinkled ear from ear issues in the past. Potential adopters will have to watch that crinkled ear for any infections since it's folded over. Prince would love to find his second chance with you.



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Baxter had been running for a while before he was brought into the shelter as a stray. He was underweight and probably still needs to gain a few pounds. He's a 3-year-old Coonhound and true to the breed, Baxter will howl. He loves attention and will do anything for a cookie! Baxter uses that nose, like hounds often do, so he will need to be watched around doors and gates. Baxter does have a high chase drive and will go after cats, so a home without cats would be best. Baxter must meet all family members who reside in the home. So how about it? Would you like to have Baxter in your life and give him a forever home?

For more information about Veruca, Prince, and Baxter 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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## YOUNG EQUESTRIANS

# Ivy - fun comes in pint sizes

Michael Hillman

I am still struggling to recall the exact nature of the conversation that would eventually result in Ivy becoming my youngest, and smallest student ever.

I was dropping off copies of the paper at her grandmother's office, when Karen asked if I would be willing to let her granddaughter come over to look at the horses. Now I don't know what I was thinking, but at my age, when someone says 'granddaughter' I tend to think of 13- or 14-year-old girls. Always on the lookout for barn help, I said yes.

Then the pandemic hit, and Ivy became a distant memory. It seemed like eons passed between Karen's request and when she eventually brought Ivy over, but I do recall my initial thoughts when I first saw Ivy - "I'm going to need a pony!"

At 5 years and 10 months, (Ivy makes a point of including months when giving her age), Ivy is pint size to say the least. But what Ivy lacks in height she more than makes up in spunk and, dare I say, intelligence?

One normally does not apply the word 'intelligence' to a 5-year 10-month-old child, but in Ivy's case, she's earned it with me.

But let's get back to 'spunk.'

Ivy walked into the barn bound and determined to be a rider on day one - but her determination evaporated when she 'looked up' to discover Wesley 'looking down' at the pint-sized human in the barn aisle. Wesley's nose was just inches from the top of Ivy's head. Upon discovery that a head, half her size, was

about to eat her, Ivy dropped the bag of carrots she was holding and retreated behind her grandmother, from where she peered with the widest of eyes. We couldn't help but laugh.

Ivy was mesmerized as I took Wesley out of his stall and walked him by her to tack him up. Try as she might, Karen could not get Ivy to move. But as I've come to learn, all Ivy needs is a gentle nudge, and once nudged, the sky is the limit.

When asked if she wanted to pet Wesley, Ivy just shook her head "no". But when she saw Karen (a knowledgeable horsewoman in her own right) calmly walk up and start to brush Wesley, Ivy couldn't resist - and soon she was brushing too.

When I pointed to the bag of carrots on the ground and asked if she wanted to feed them to Wesley, she again shook her head "no." So, I picked them up and began to feed them. I had just finished the second carrot when I felt Ivy behind me - so I handed her the carrot. Wesley was a bit startled when a hand suddenly appeared at my waist with a carrot - but then again, a carrot is a carrot to Wesley. He no sooner nipped it, when the hand disappeared, and a wide-eyed Ivy watched in awe as it was consumed.

When Wesley went to seek out the third hand for more, Ivy retreated to the safety of her grandmother. Needless to say, any idea of her actually getting on Wesley's back would have to wait until another day.

But I saw something in Ivy that intrigued me and suggested that she

come out every week - which met with Karen's approval.

Ivy was much more self-confident the second time around. She marched right in and picked up 'her' brush and began to groom Wesley. Then learning began...

As I tacked up Wesley, I showed each piece of tack to Ivy and told her its name - quilt, saddle pad, gel pad, breast plate, saddle, and bridle. Ivy repeated each name after I said it. Over the next few lessons, I would hold up each piece of tack and ask her to name it, she stumbled at first, but you could see determination in her eyes to eventually get them all right. For some reason she kept forgetting the name of the breast plate. Apparently that got to her, so she spent the week memorizing it. As it turned out, the week she was going to prove herself, was the week I had decided not to use the breast plate. I had in 'my mind' finished tacking Wesley up when Ivy blurted out "you forgot the breast plate!"

I was stunned. Not only had she gotten the name right, but she was tuned in enough to notice I had done something different - and pointed it out to me. That impressed me. Needless to say, I put the breast plate on.

As for riding that day, Ivy, while bright eyed, had no intention in the world of getting on Wesley. 'None, nada, never going to happen'. Nothing her grandmother did budged her to 'yes'. So, I opted not to push it, and instead just rode around Ivy, who silently watched me with a wide-open mouth.

Ivy must have given it a lot of thought over the ensuing week, for when they showed up for her next 'lesson' she pro-



Every horse deserves a little girl. But for some reason, Wesley draws little girls like a magnet! Maybe its the way he kisses them?

claimed that she was "going to ride." But once again, when the time came to get on Wesley, Ivy froze. So once again I rode around them. When I stopped in front of Karen, I asked Ivy if she wanted to sit on Wesley with me - Ivy hesitated. Her lack of 'no' was taken as a 'yes' by Karen, who promptly picked Ivy up and handed her to me.

A thoroughly shocked Ivy was stiff as a board - for a few seconds. Then the grin began, and grew and grew, and grew. She was smitten.

When I asked Ivy if she wanted Wesley to take a step, I got an emphatic "no". Then I asked her if he could take 'only one step.' She didn't say 'no', so I allowed Wesley to take a single step. When Ivy started to breath again, I asked her she wanted to take two steps. Again, I got an emphatic 'no.' But again, my second offer didn't get shot down, so Wesley took two steps. So, it went until Wesley had taken five steps - at which time Ivy pointed to the other end of the field and

asked me to walk Wesley "over there." "That's a lot of steps Ivy. Are you sure you're ready?"

I didn't get a 'yes', but I got a definitive head nod, so off we went ... and went, and went. After almost 20 minutes of wandering around the field, I told Ivy it was time to get off. She shook her head no, "can we go a little longer please?" Now when a bright eyed spunky 5-year-old uses the word please, it's hard to say no. So off we went.

As we continued our ambling, I tried to figure out how to top the day's event, and in a flash. I knew exactly what to do. When I returned to where Karen was standing, I hopped off - leaving Ivy on Wesley's back, all by herself. An hour before that very act would have short-circuited her mind; Ivy now took it all in stride. I positioned her into the saddle and asked her what she wanted to do.

"Ride."

I turned to Karen and smiled. Karen positioned herself next to Ivy on Wesley's side and off we went on Ivy's first solo pony ride.

The following week Ivy's parents came to see if all the tall tales Ivy brought home were true. Ivy more than proved them true as she sat on Wesley - this time without any support from her grandmother's hand - and directed me where to lead Wesley - each request to turn left or right punctuated with a 'please.'

Ivy also showed off to her parents her pony club drills, a set of exercises to solidify a young rider's 'seat' which we had been working on. Such things as touching your toes while the horse walks, touching the horse's ears (something Ivy will need an extra 2 feet of arm length to do), the 'whirly bird', and of course the classic 'dairy princess wave.'

As I watched Ivy beam each time she went by her parents, I found myself wondering what I was going to do with her. As much as Wesley is a saint, he's a horse, not a pony, and there was only so much I could teach Ivy, whose legs didn't reach the end of the saddle's flaps.

After 42 years of owning horse, for the past few years I've been adamant that my three current ones would be my last.

Sigh.

If Ivy keeps it up, I may have to buy a pony. Probably a miniature Shetland pony at that!

Sigh ... just shoot me now.

To read other articles by Michael Hillman, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

## BARN HELP WANTED

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

# Thurmont gears up for 8th annual Gateway to the Cure

Proving not even a global pandemic can stop the Thurmont community's dedication to breast cancer awareness, Gateway to the Cure prepares to hit the ground running with support and activities.

Thurmont's Eighth Annual Gateway to the Cure campaign, is to be held throughout the entire month of October. In 2014, the town of Thurmont began the Gateway to the Cure Campaign to spread awareness about breast cancer to support the Patty Hurwitz Fund at Frederick Memorial Hospital. Since the beginning, the town's residents and businesses jumped into the campaign enthusiastically and have since raised over \$98,000 total, according to Thurmont Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder.

"If not for the pandemic, we would have exceeded \$100,000," she said.

Since the beginning, the town's residents and businesses jumped into the campaign enthusiastically raising \$4,500 in 2014, \$10,000 in 2015, \$14,500 in 2016, \$15,000.00 in 2017, \$18,000 in 2018, \$20,000 in 2019, and \$16,000 in 2020.

A staple of the campaign are pink light bulbs to be illuminated in solidarity every evening from 6-8 throughout the month of October. "People have come

from other areas to get pink light bulbs," Grinder said.

The pink light bulbs will be available at Cousins Ace Hardware, Hobbs Lumber & Hardware, and the town office for \$4 each starting Sept. 20. In addition, the Town Office will be selling Gateway to the Cure tote bags, T-shirts, ball caps, and cookbooks. Debuting this year will be a pink ceramic mug for sale. Many businesses throughout the community will also have 'pink' specials to help raise funds.

While the indoor ZumbaThon has been cancelled due to social distancing, the golf tournament and 5K walk/run are ready to go strong, Grinder said.

The Gateway to the Cure's third annual Golf Classic will be held at the Maple Run Golf Club Sept. 10. More information and to register can be found at [www.thurmontmainstreet.com](http://www.thurmontmainstreet.com)

The Gateway to the Cure Covered Bridge 5K, now in its 6th year, is still scheduled for Oct. 24 as it was deemed safe to hold because the participants are either spread-out over the course or tend to participate in cliques or small family groups. The 5K route begins and ends at Eyler Road Park. Participants will receive a T-shirt and awards will go to the top five male and female finish-

ers regardless of age. Those interested in participating can register at [thurmontmainstreet.com](http://thurmontmainstreet.com), or

by calling the town office.

The campaign has grown over the years and will surely continue

to grow as residents and businesses have continuously shown overwhelming support for the cause.

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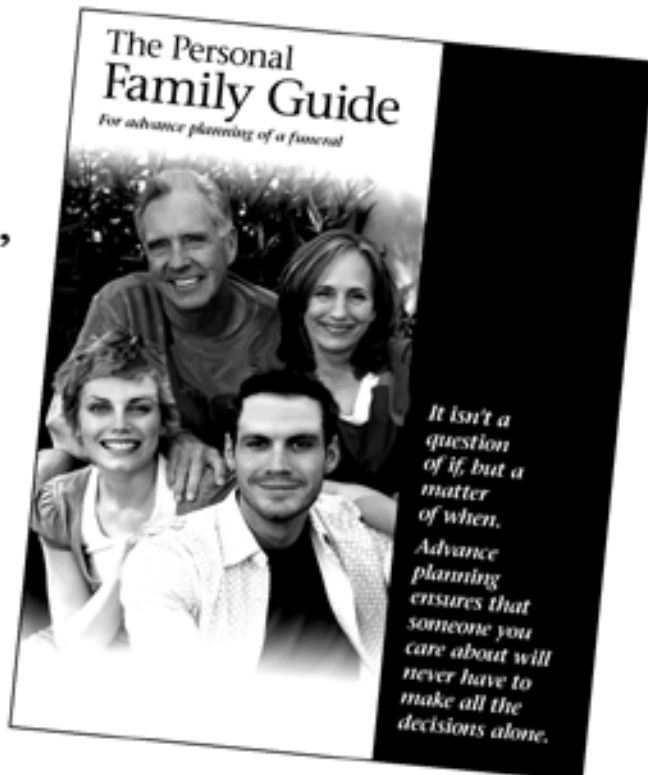
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## HEALTH NOTES

# Frederick Health partners to increase vaccination rate

Kelsey Shupe  
Frederick Health

As the COVID-19 pandemic surges through its second year, there is a simple, straightforward message being echoed by healthcare workers across the globe.

"People need to get vaccinated," said Dr. Cheryl Cioffi, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Frederick Health. "The vaccine gives everyone their best chance of being protected from serious illness and death from COVID-19. You never know if you are going to be the one that has the most serious complications from this, and it is simply not worth the risk" added Cioffi.

Based upon hundreds of clinic studies, receiving any one of the COVID-19 vaccines diminishes your chances of getting seri-

ously ill, even if you contract the virus. Statistics show that vaccinated individuals help stop the spread of the virus and protect the people in their immediate vicinity, particularly those at greater risk for severe illness from COVID-19. There are currently three vaccines approved for mass distribution in the United States: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. The Pfizer vaccine is currently authorized for ages 12 and older, whereas the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are authorized only for adults 18 and older.

Around 363 million shots have been given across the United States.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 98% of patients currently hospitalized nationwide are unvaccinated individuals and the number of

COVID-19 cases are the highest that they have been since February of this year. The United States is currently averaging around 100,000 new cases of COVID-19 a day. Another alarming statistic associated with the Delta variant is the ages of people currently being admitted into hospitals and clinics; young adults and children are testing positive for COVID-19 at higher numbers than at any point in the pandemic.

In a press conference earlier this month, Governor Larry Hogan said the Delta variant, a strain of COVID-19 that is between two and four times more contagious, accounts for most of the new confirmed cases in Maryland. The Governor also noted that every individual that died in Maryland during the month of June was unvaccinated.

Cioffi says that the true value

of the vaccine is being displayed as the Delta variant continues to spread, particularly among the unvaccinated population. "We are making progress in Frederick County, but there are still areas and populations where we aren't seeing the numbers that we'd like to see."

As of last week, just over 60% of the Frederick County was fully vaccinated. The national vaccination rate was roughly 50%. Dr. Cioffi says that while those numbers are trending in the right direction, there is still significant work to be done. Cioffi noted that the public health benefit of the vaccine is the main reason for its use. "This is how we end this thing, how we end the pandemic. Vaccines are how we get back to normal."

Frederick Health is not tackling this challenge alone. As part

of a grant sponsored by the State of Maryland, Frederick Health has partnered with the Frederick County Health Department, the Asian-American Center of Frederick (AACF), and Frederick County Housing and Human Services (HHS) to combat not only the rising Delta variant numbers, but also to improve Frederick County's overall vaccination rate. As part of their approach, this coalition has been targeting hard to reach communities or areas where the vaccination rates are below the national average. The primary focus of that campaign is twofold: education and access.

Educating the public, especially those that may have been misinformed about the COVID vaccines is critical. "The collective goal is to not only get as many Frederick County residents vaccinated as possible, but to provide answers to questions that people may have about the vaccines," said Shawn Dennison, Public Affairs Officer with the Frederick County Health Department.

Part of these vaccine outreach efforts include a mobile vaccine clinic that can be requested to show up at businesses, places of worship, or other community events. This mobile clinic offers all of the amenities required to vaccinate individuals.

To request a vaccine clinic or this specialized mobile clinic to attend a function or event, you can visit [frederickhealth.org/vaccine](https://frederickhealth.org/vaccine) and fill out the request form.


The mobile vaccine clinic is just one of the ways Frederick County residents can obtain one of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Throughout the coming months, the partner agencies will be hosting dozens of walk-in vaccination clinics across the county. These clinics do not require an appointment, insurance, or ID and are completely free. A trained healthcare worker will be onsite to administer the vaccine. The purpose of these clinics is to bring the vaccine to residents of Frederick County that may be facing challenges in obtaining the shot. As more evidence becomes available about the disparities in vaccine rollout, making the vaccine more accessible, especially to communities where the vaccination numbers are lagging, becomes paramount.

"These pop up clinics have provided convenient access to the vaccines in areas where people live and work," stated Dennison.

The first of these clinics have already been held at the National Night Out Events hosted across Frederick County on August 3rd.

"Our community partners have been an invaluable resource for this effort. In addition, we are always looking to engage, listen and respond when a community requests information about the vaccines. The more we understand the needs, the better we can respond," said Dennison.





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## The Maryland Iron Festival

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. will present the third annual Maryland Iron Festival in person during the weekend of September 18 and 19. In partnership with Cunningham Falls State Park, Catoctin Mountain Park, PopUp Frederick, Harriet Chapel, Frederick County Public Libraries and Visit Frederick. This will be an entirely outdoor, open-air event. Masks will be required for all attendees and will be provided free to all. (Please note: entry to enclosed activities will require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test done within 48 hours.)

Families and festival attendees of all ages will enjoy blacksmithing, woodturning, and casting demonstrations; ranger-led tours in Catoctin Mountain Park; tours of historic Harriet Chapel, "Feats of Strength" games and challenges; an artist and maker market; children's activities; activities from the Frederick County Public Libraries; Scales and Tales birds of prey program; an interactive display from Hagerstown and Frederick Railway Historical Society and more! The Museum of the Ironworker, featuring our new forensic facial reconstructions, will be open to one-way, limited group traffic (masked and vaccinated or negative COVID visitors only).

The event will feature live music on Saturday from The Caswells at 1pm and on Sunday family favorite Slim Harrison performs at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.. Sunday also includes a performance of Braided Lives, a music and poetry program by HALO Quartet and Elayne Bond Hyman at 1 p.m.. Bluegrass music will delight visitors throughout the weekend.

Food trucks including Uptown BBQ, Yumi Food Truck, and Snowball Waterfalls will be onsite over the weekend as will DNA Events bar who

will serve beer, wine, and craft beverages. A bake sale with homemade delicious treats from heirloom recipes will be set up for the weekend.

Festival visitors can also enjoy a hike along the Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery Interpretive Trail, which links the furnace to the historic village with a trail extension into Cunningham Falls State Park and visits to Catoctin Furnace's historic kitchen and pollinator gardens.

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, European 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.

In 1973, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., was formed by G. Eugene Anderson, Clement E. Gardiner, J. Franklin Mentzer, and Earl M. Shankle to "foster and promote the restoration of the Catoctin Furnace Historic District...and to maintain the same exclusively for educational and scientific purposes...

to exhibit to coming generations our heritage of the past."

Today, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. 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.

An important part of the historical society's preservation work are its seasonal festivals and heritage tourism holiday events. This year we are hosting:



Families and festival attendees of all ages will enjoy blacksmithing, woodturning, and casting demonstrations.

- Fall Fest - October 8 & 9: Spend a day celebrating autumn in historic Catoctin Furnace at the Annual Fallfest! Watch apple butter boiling over an open fire and purchase a pint fresh from the kettle. Free Admission.
- Spirits of the Furnace - October 16: "Spirits of the Furnace" is a guided night tour through the historic Catoctin Iron Furnace and Village, with stops in historic structures and along the landscape. Refreshments will be served. Visitors are encouraged

to bring a flashlight and wear shoes appropriate for walking on uneven terrain. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under.

Special thank you to event sponsors: First Energy and Woodsboro Bank.

The event is free but donations are welcome. All proceeds will be used for the ongoing restoration of the historic village structures, a critical need. For more information contact [info@catoctinfurnace.org](mailto:info@catoctinfurnace.org).

## Museums, Trails & Festivals Catoctin Furnace



**2021 Maryland Iron Festival:** Sept. 18-19. Join us for our free, outdoor festival featuring blacksmithing, music, crafts, food, beer & wine, games, and more! Masks required (free masks available). Neg COVID or vaccine required for enclosed events. 2022 Maryland Iron Festival dates: May 21-22.

**Museum of the Ironworker:** Exhibits including forensic facial reconstructions of 2 enslaved ironworkers and an under-the-floorboards archaeology exhibit. Open weekends 10-2. Masks required (free masks available).

**Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery Trail:** Self-guided tour packed with history runs from furnace ruins to an overlook near the African American Cemetery. Brochure available.

**Historic Kitchen and pollinator gardens:** Visit the gardens behind the historic Collier's Log House anytime during daylight hours!

Visit [catoctinfurnace.org](http://catoctinfurnace.org) for more information and hours



Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.  
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# HISTORY

## Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman

Chapter 42

Outstanding Points of Interest

Located among the foothills of the Catoctin spur of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Thurmont takes great pride in offering many points of interest. The scenic and historic is combined in so many instances ... Here a century old church, there a covered bridge in everyday use . . . Modern highways following Indian trails and an old stone house where the first friction matches ever made in America, had their beginning ... A mountain retreat used by the President of the United States . . . Trout streams located in the beautiful Catoctin Mountains . . . A national as well as a State park . . . all provide relaxation and variety to the visitor and resident alike.

This chapter is designed to provide some interesting facts and to better acquaint the reader with the many points of interest which the community has to offer, some of which have gained national recognition.

Catoctin Mountain Park

The broad sweep of the Catoctin Mountains stretches from the southern end of Frederick County to the rather abrupt slope of Carrick's Knob which dominates Emmitsburg. It is a pan-

orama of which the Nature lover never tires, unmovable but friendly. There are changing lights and shades of full sunshine as well as shadows created by the clouds, somber under stormy skies, but patiently re-minding the observer "We are here to stay." The beauty and strength of the mountains with the rich colorings of green, deep blue and, under certain atmospheric conditions, azure, charm the eye and refresh the mind, a picturesqueness constant and yet changing as the seasons come and go. The fresh green of spring and summer is followed by the rich colors of Autumn's tapestry, and in winter the snow covering the ground beneath the leafless trees suggests Nature's protection under winter's blanket.

Catoctin Mountain Park was first established in 1935, by the Federal Government as the Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area to show how sub-marginal farm lands and poorly managed forest lands could be converted into valuable recreational resources. Ranging in elevation from 700 to 1,880 feet above sea level, the park's 5,765 acres are on the easternmost ridge of Maryland's Appalachian Province. Park visitation has been increasing steadily, and the park is rapidly becoming one of the most popular areas in the State for hiking, fishing, picnicking, camping and

nature study. Several overlooks which command outstanding views of the valleys and ridges include Hog Rock, Wolf Rock and Chimney Rock.

It is here in Catoctin Mountain Park that the famous presidential mountain retreat, Camp David, is located. At this mountain retreat, many world leaders have been guests of the President of the United States and enjoyed the many forms of recreation which the camp provides.

Job Corps Conservation Center

Catoctin Mountain Park has a Job Corps Conservation Center activity which was the first such center to be established in the nation. This center is composed of about 29 staff employees, including a di-rector, teachers, counselors, work foremen, and others, and a complement of 100 job corpsmen.

The camp is located within the park on the Manahan Road; and visitors are welcome to stop there at the Center Director's Head-quarters for detailed information. Corpsmen are assigned to work projects which are approved and programmed in accordance with the park's master plan development schedule. The corpsmen are rendering favorable conservation service to the park while being taught useful trades and crafts as well as classroom subjects.

Catoctin Mountain Park is a unit of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Cunningham Falls State Park

The Cunningham Falls State Park of 4,446 acres, located in the heart of the beautiful Catoctin Mountains, is one



One does not truly appreciate the local topography, and how influenced the development of the lowlands, until it is viewed from atop Chimney Rock.

of Maryland's newest and largest areas developed for outdoor recreation.

It was created in 1954 when the Federal Government deeded to Maryland about half of the Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area. The Resettlement Administration had purchased it in 1935 as one of the 33 nation-wide federal demonstrations of submarginal land for public recreation.

The northern half of the tract, now called Catoctin Mountain Park, is still retained by the Federal Government and under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Many people have been under the impression that Cunningham Falls was named after an early owner, but this is not true. Dr. Harry D. Bowman, a friend of the author, has spent many hours of re-search on this subject and it is now an established fact that at no time was the falls owned by Cunningham. Records to support this claim may be found in the land records of Frederick County.

The first purchase of the land, which included the falls, consisted of 350 acres

and was deeded to Archibald McAfee, Sr. on September 16, 1807. A map in the Frederick Library, dated 1858, clearly shows that the McAfees lived at the top of the falls and the property was owned by John McAfee at this time. The McAfees referred to the falls as Hunting Creek Falls but all others called it McAfee Falls, after the owners.

On September 15, 1888, Archibald McAfee's widow had sale and the property including the Falls was purchased by her grandson Reuben McAfee, who maintained ownership until the property was acquired by the Federal Government in 1935, as part of the Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area. Later the State of Maryland acquired an additional 250 acres of land from the McAfees. This made a total of 750 acres which the McAfees surrendered for park use. At one time they owned over 1,000 acres of mountain land.

Just recently, through the efforts of Dr. Bowman and members of the McAfee family, the name "Cunningham" was dropped and today this beautiful waterfall is officially recognized by its original name, "McAfee Falls."

The Algonquian Indians gave the name of "Catoctin" to the high wooded ridges and tumbling streams which was once their favorite hunting grounds. Some claim the name means "the old hill or mountain", but others believe it meant "the place of many deer." At any rate, deer and other small game are still plentiful here, and some of the best trout fishing in Maryland can be found in the mountain streams.

Cunningham Falls State Park is maintained by the Department of Forests and Parks, and the area offers picnic sites, camping areas, bathing and boating facilities and parking areas.

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# Remembering Harold Craig

Dianne Walbrecker

Harold Craig was an institution in our little town. Between the Palms Restaurant, the Ott House, the Frederick News Post, the Emmitsburg News Journal, the Emmitsburg Library, and sitting outside his home on Main Street, as well as the Presbyterian and Lutheran churches, Harold made his presence known. His Letters to the Editor to local papers were numerous over the years. In fact, a quick search of the Frederick News Post for Harold's name turned up 110 results for Letters to the Editor. You could depend on Harold to praise the Democrats and to point out absurdities in politics as well as everyday life.

He was kind and generous of spirit but would not hesitate to tell you his opinion. His booming baritone voice was beautiful and would take over the sanctuary if you didn't sing out loud and proud yourself.

Harold's friends gathered on August 5th at the Presbyterian Cemetery to celebrate his life and share memories. The Color Guard of the Emmitsburg posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars began the service with a gun salute befitting his military service and closed with the mournful sound of Taps. Harold had served in the U.S. Army, Company "B" 759th Military Police Battalion stationed in Germany.

Harold lived next to the Vigilant Hose Company building on West Main Street and was a regular fixture on the street sitting in front of his house. He regularly walked across the road to the Palms or just two doors down to the Ott House. At both restaurants, Harold held court as he ate. Many local residents would stop by to say a quick hello or to engage in a political debate, never a quick venture.

Ben Schmid, a junior in high school who knew Harold from the Presbyterian Church, went to lunch with Harold frequently over the last few years. "Eating lunch with Harold was an amazing experience. We would sit there for hours talking about anything and everything. In fact, Harold would often burst out

singing. They are truly some of the best moments in my life," said Ben recalling his friend.

Harold was also a regular member of the North Frederick County Democrats. Bill O'Toole, a member of the Executive Committee and the Prognosticator Emeritus of the Hagerstown Almanack now involved in his 53rd issue, talks about how Harold will be missed at the meetings. "We could always count on Harold to pick up any slack in the conversation," said Bill laughing. "We will all miss him very much."

Pastor Jon Greenstone of the Lutheran Church conducted the service at the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Cemetery. He too had many fond memories to share. "Harold loved the Church. At one time or another, he attended most of the congregations in Emmitsburg. Though he never officially joined Elias Evangelical Lutheran church, he did attend and worship with us on many fine occasions. Harold's love of the old church hymns truly shined. One pleasant memory for me is singing with Harold while visiting with him at his regular station...in front of his stately Emmitsburg home -- just across the street from the Lutheran Parsonage," said Pastor Jon.

Rick Meyers, a friend of Harold's, said he was always telling people about his German heritage and trying to discern how closely you might be related to him. "Sooner or later, he would find a relative you had in common decades ago," said Rick.

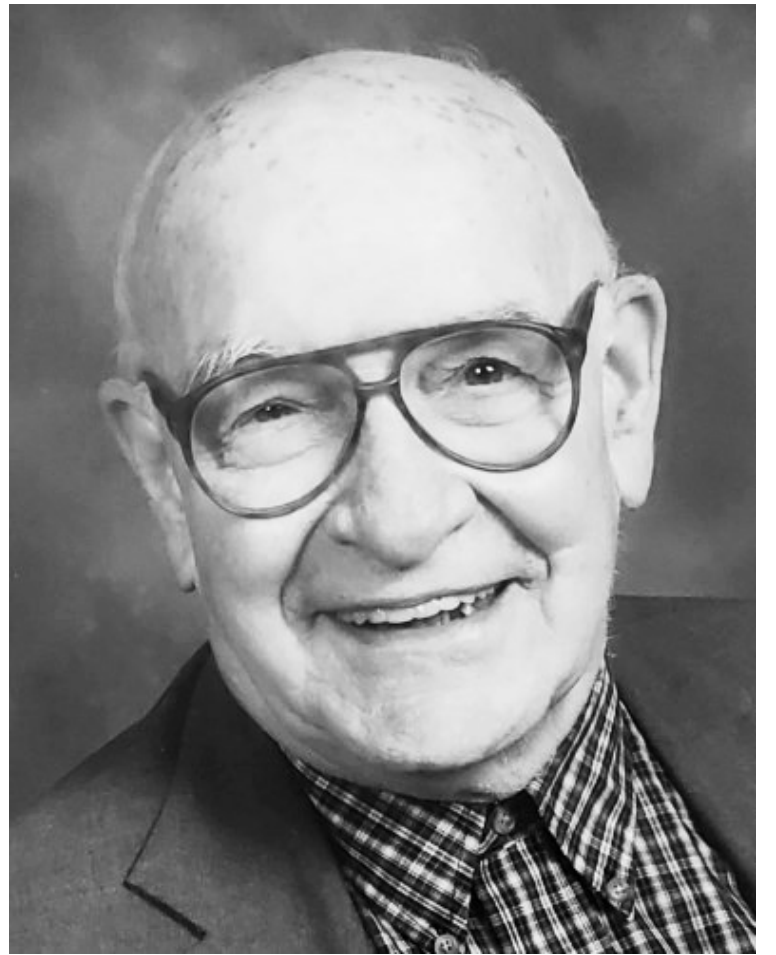
Cathy Bodin, a retired professor of languages at McDaniel College, is handling the sales of more than 1,000 of Harold's books. Profits from the sales of his book will go to Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center, EOPCC. "He has some amazing books, quite a treasure trove," noted Cathy.

Harold was always a delight, even when arguing with you. He felt strongly about politics, and anything else, was never shy with an opinion, loved to walk across "his" street to the local restaurant and had a contagious, hearty laugh.

Christy Gilliam wrote a moving tribute on the obituary page for Harold. "My Mom owned an

ice cream parlor in Emmitsburg in 2004/05. Mr. Craig caught 8-year-old me dancing around and belting out "fly me to the moon" by Sinatra; albeit dancing with a broom sweeping the parlor. He laughed and we all became quick friends. I never knew what it was like to have a grandfather. For the short time I resided there, he came into the store mostly everyday for coffee. I would be so excited to see him after school let out to ask him more about history and our families' possibly interlinking lineage. That beautiful gentleman shaped me and cultivated my brain. He was the driving force in me becoming my family's historian and to have a passion for law & history.

"He gave me tips with my German when he would hear me sing arias I was slated to perform. His article contributions to the Dispatch showed he was a tour de force who believed in change for the better while preserving history simultaneously. The very definition of a true independent revolutionary in my book. He even found time to influence a child to dream big and hold on; that the past was just as important as the future. He will forever have a lasting impact on me and my Mom. He made me believe that great men; moral, courageous, compassionate men really existed. There's a special place in heaven where he's flying around singing all his favorite hymns with his one true father. Thank you for existing, Mr. Craig. You changed lives for the better," she finished.



Harold Craig was an avid genealogist. Within five minutes of meeting him, he could tell you how he was related to you. And as he was related to Queen Elizabeth, you would also find out you were too.

## Emmitsburg VFW Auxiliary's Patriot's Pen Scholarship

Each year the VFW Post 6658 Auxiliary sponsors a contest titled "The Patriot's Pen," which is open to students in grades 6 through 8. Students are required to do a typed essay of 300-400 words based on the theme "How Can I Be A Good American?". Monetary prizes are

given the winners on local, state and national levels. Judging is based on knowledge of theme, theme development and clarity of ideas. If interested please contact Annette Wivell 301-447-3475 for an entry form. Entry deadline to VFW Post 6658, Emmitsburg, MD is October 31,

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# TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## Eli Bentley: celebrated clock maker

David Buie

Eli Bentley, a resident of Taneytown during the late 1700s and early 1800s, is probably Carroll County's best-known artisan – a maker of clocks, which are highly prized possessions of those lucky enough to own them. The Historical Society of Carroll County is proud to have five of them in its collection. Stop in at 210 E. Main Street, Westminster.

Bentley was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, about 1752, married Mary Hunter when

he was 20, and already had a reputation as a clockmaker before moving to Taneytown around 1778/79. Perhaps he had several motives for relocating. Chester County was close to Philadelphia and Wilmington, Delaware, and already a prosperous area with well-established artisans. He may have felt the market for his work would be better in a growing area like Frederick County, Maryland. Another influence may have been the Revolutionary War. George Washington and his troops were fighting and encamped near Bent-

ley's doorstep in 1777/78.

In 1782, Frederick County court records show Eli took 17-year-old John Riley as an apprentice, agreeing to teach him "the art and mystery of a Clock and Watchmaker also to do all kind of Silver Smit[h] Work..." The apprenticeship was to last four years. Fourteen years later, seven-year-old Elie Flint, a free African American boy, became an apprentice for an unspecified length of time; expected to learn similar skills.

Bentley bought and sold quite a few properties around Taneytown between 1779 and his death in 1822. At one point, he advertised a tavern for sale or rent at the intersection of the Philadelphia-Winchester road and the Baltimore-Pittsburgh road - the very center of Taneytown today.

Although known as both a silversmith and clockmaker, Eli Bentley is best remembered for his tall case clocks, which were probably his "bread and butter," with silversmithing and watchmaking and repair on the side. Well, over 50 of his clocks have survived. Most of us refer to this style as "grandfather clocks," rather than by the more formal name. Bentley did the intricate brass works and may also have painted or engraved the metal clock faces, but the wooden cases were constructed by a cabinetmaker. Major Alexander McIlhenny of Uniontown bought clockworks from Bentley in 1817 for \$60, then paid cabinetmaker



A portion of a tall-case clock made by Taneytown's famous clockmaker, Eli Bentley, for Michael Waggoner, a Revolutionary War soldier who lived near Taneytown.

George Christ an additional \$40 for a case. This was a huge investment at the time – an indication of McIlhenny's wealth. Most makers left their names somewhere on their clocks' faces, but sometimes they appear elsewhere – even on the pendulums. Identifying the cabinetmaker who built the housing can be more difficult.

Tall case clocks gradually went out of style as the 19th century progressed, replaced by smaller ones such as those mass-produced in a factory.

Eli Bentley lies in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Taneytown. The "plank" erected over his

grave in 1822 has long-since disappeared, so the site is unknown.

David Buie is a graduate of the University of Baltimore and Johns Hopkins University. He is an active member of the Historical Society of Carroll County, the Taneytown Heritage and Museum Association, Vice President of the New Windsor Heritage Committee. He can be contacted on his "Downtown Taneytown" FB page or via e-mail at [teambuie05@msn.com](mailto:teambuie05@msn.com).

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

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**12:45PM** – ON AND OFF FIELD INTERACTION WITH PLAYERS

**1:30PM** – GAME NO. 2 – KEYSTONE BASEBALL CLUB OF HARRISBURG VS. CHESAPEAKE NINE OF BALTIMORE

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## September 2

### Accidents

On Sunday last while driving from Jimtown to Thurmont in a buggy, Mrs. Amos Iler and daughter, Floretta, met with a very serious accident. While descending Powell's Hill a strap broke, allowing the straps to fly up and causing the horse to run away, throwing the occupants of the vehicle out and dragging Mrs. Iler about 20 feet and her daughter 12 feet or more. Mrs. Iler sustained a severe cut on the head by the wheel passing over her, had her arms badly cut and bruised and also suffered a slight fracture of the left hip. The daughter escaped with many painful bruises and scratches.

A machine from Baltimore, going at a pretty good rate of speed, arrived at 'Crow's Nest' Sunday. They didn't stop until they were inside the barn. Here they struck Albert Gernand's motorcycle and considerably damaged it. They gave as an excuse, "brake wouldn't hold", and, as they had no use for the brakes since leaving Baltimore, were unaware of the fact.

Elwood Snyder, met with a broken leg on Mills Ave. in Taneytown. He was riding a horse at a rather rapid gait, and in making the turn onto Mills Ave, the horse slipped on the concrete crossing and fell on the boy, breaking his right leg above the knee.

### More Power

The Commissioners of Thurmont have decided to install an auxiliary plant at the local powerhouse. An oil burning upright engine will be purchased from the Fairbanks-Morse Co. for this purpose and the work of installation will begin as soon as contracts can be completed.

### Postmaster Congratulated For Excellent Work

The Thurmont postmaster has received a letter commending his activity in the sale of government saving securities from the Treasury Department. "Your office is one where exceptionally good work has been done during the last six months in the sale of government saving securities", the letter states, and goes on to say "by encouraging people to save money you have helped to create new capital necessary for business expansion and commercial development."

The postmaster is in line for a place on the honor roll of those who are rendering special service in the popularization of government saving securities. He is anxious to win one of those bronze honor pins to be awarded at the end of the year and is calling on the patrons of his office to help him place enough government saving securities in the next three months to gain this recognition.

## September 9

### Fairfield Road To Be Constructed

Assurances have been given on good authority that the Fair-

field Road from Gettysburg to the Waynesboro Pike will be constructed next year by the state. The type of construction will be water bound macadam. About 14 miles will be built. The low-grade road around the mountain behind Fairfield will be the route followed. With the completion of this road next summer, every borough in Adams County will be connected with the primary road system of the state by at least one all weather road.

### Domestic Science To Sell Cakes

The Domestic Science Department of the Thurmont High School is now under the supervision of Miss. Francis Flory of Thurmont. Miss. Flory will try to make the department self-sustaining by the sale of its products. She will accept orders for cakes of all kinds, and the cost will be just enough to cover the cost of the materials. She of course will be compelled to produce a good quality of cake, otherwise it would reflect badly on the Department and her as its teacher. Therefore, she says, "they are guaranteed." Those who buy cakes will do well to give Miss Flory their orders and save themselves the work.

### Storms Fail To Break Drought

The heavy rain on Tuesday broke the drought, in part, but it fell so rapidly that it failed to do the ground much good. The corn crop, and late potatoes have already been injured beyond recovery. During the storm, lightning struck the Reformed Church, doing slight damage. At the time, the members of the Taneytown Suffragettes were holding their monthly meeting. Husbands of the ill informed women folk later said that the lightning was God's way of punishing women for keeping them away from their booze.

## September 16

### Death of Anie Slagle

Mrs. Anie Slagle, well known hotel operator of Emmitsburg, died at the age of 53 years. Mrs. Slagle, who was admitted to the hospital two weeks ago, had suffered from internal troubles for many years, several operations in former years proving to be of little avail. She underwent a severe operation several days before her death. She was born in Liberty Township Adams County, and her first husband's name, was Louis Mondorff.

After the death of Mr. Mondorff she became the wife of James Slagle and moved to Emmitsburg. Following the death of her second husband eleven years ago, Mrs. Slagle continue to operate the hotel known as the Slagle House which they had purchased from the owners of the Emmits Inn, one of the principal stops for travelers on the Baltimore and Pittsburgh Turnpike. Later Mrs. Slagle bought the old Western Maryland Hotel and at the time of her death was owner of both hostelries.

### Fire Destroys Home

The Home of Mr. Samuel Baumgardner, located between Emmitsburg and Keysville, was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of between \$7,000 and \$8,000. The fire originated from a defective chimney that had caught on fire. The neighbors hurried to the scene and managed to save some of the furniture. It is said there was only \$800 in insurance.

### Memorial Park for Thurmont

The people of Thurmont have established a fitting memorial to the man who served in the Great War. Future generations will commend the public spirit of the people of Thurmont as shown in the proposed dedication of a public park as fitting memorial to the man who enlisted in the world war. The suggestion is so much more appropriate than the simple erection of a pile of stones or a tablet of bronze.

The generosity shown by public-spirited townsman in conveying to the town appropriate sites for the imperishable memorial is commendable and the donors will be held in happy remembrance by future generations. A bronze tablet fixed to a slab of granite with an appropriate inscription could be placed at conspectus place in the park. It would be wise to secure a size of sufficient area, which will add to the attractiveness of Thurmont and demonstrate to prosperity the affectionate regard shown to the noble man who enlisted in the greatest war of ages, now ended in the destruction of the Huns.

## September 23

### Sunday Baseball

Sunday baseball is being played in some localities, not far from Taneytown. We trust that public sentiment here will developed itself so strongly against this manner of desecrating the Sabbath, that games will not be played in this community. Taneytown is supporting its home team, very generously, but we believe it will be best for continuance of this support that local players and enthusiasts refrain from giving Sunday games any encouragement, even by attendance.

### Road Contract Ordered

A contract for constructing two miles of highway from the Emmitsburg Road at Saint Anthony's Mother Station has been awarded. The highway is to be of concrete. The contract was given upon the commission



The old Western Maryland Hotel in Emmitsburg was at one time one of the finest hotels in western Maryland.

being able to obtain the right of way through certain properties along the proposed highway, considerable work of relocation being required.

### Arson Adverted

While engaged in threshing wheat, William Flickinger discovered a small package of matches, neatly tied together, hidden between sheaves. Mr. Flickinger is of the opinion that they had not been there long, and that their object was to cause a fire. He is offering a reward for anyone who can tell him who placed the matches.

### Great Frederick Fair

Nearly \$20,000 has been expended during the past summer to help make the Great Frederick Fair for 1921 eclipse all former fairs. A new concrete and iron Agriculture Building will house what the farmer shall exhibit; a rest room and new sanitary conveniences for women have also been provided, while autoists will also find additional conveniences for their comfort. An enlarged midway, big program of free vaudeville acts, balloon ascensions and big racing program will provide plenty of amusement. The railroads will sell tickets at reduced rates and run special trains.

## September 30

### Harney School Opens for Fall

Professor H. I. Feeser and daughter, Pauline Wisotzkey, opened the Harney Public School with 42 pupils. We believe the children were all glad to get back to school

again. Some say that it seems like a family reunion for all to get together again.

### A Family Affair

A family affair caused some public excitement occurred last Saturday night in front of Higgins grocery store in Taneytown. The facts, in brief, are as follows, Mr. and Mrs. William Sells, who have not been living together for sometime, have a little boy, Harry, about five years of age, who for several years has lived with his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. John Shirk, and it is reported to have been recently been adopted by them. The mother is reported to be living in Buffalo New York, while the father has been in the west. On Saturday evening, Mr. Sells unexpectedly appeared and tried to take possession of his son when Mr. and Mrs. Shark and the boy were about to leave for home, but was unsuccessful in the attempt. There was more or less a disorder, but nobody was hurt. It is said that the legal status of the case will now be determined.

### Whipping Post For Wife Beaters

The whipping post for wife-beaters has been revived in Baltimore. While this looks like a return to something like prison cruelties, there is nothing about it to suggest sympathy for criminals of this low-down sort. If it is true that the average criminal is a big coward when it comes to physical pain, then a sound thrashing in prospect may exercise a beneficial influence.

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



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## COOKING

# Have a grape time!

Kathy Jo Serfass  
Hollabaugh Brothers Farm Market

I love the end of summer, when peaches, corn, tomatoes, and lots of veggies are ripe. Apples are just starting to be ready for picking, and it won't be too long before fall squash will be here. However, September will always be the month of grapes for me. As a child growing up, we ate what was either ripe at the time or what we had frozen or canned. And so, September was the only time of year that I was able to eat grapes. My uncles grew them and we would always have them on the table for our Labor Day picnic. I could never decide if I liked the green, red, or purple ones the best – they were all so good! To this day, I still like fresh grapes the best, but with all of the varieties of seedless grapes that are available throughout most of the year, I have grown to like them in many different types of foods. I can't imagine chicken salad without them, and they are so yummy roasted.

It may come as a surprise that grapes are the world's number one harvested fruit. Over 72 million tons are produced annually in many different countries. Most harvested grapes are made into wine or converted into raisins. Less than 12% are eaten fresh, with the average American eating 8 pounds of grapes a year. While North America had an abundance of native grapes that were cold-tolerant and resistant to diseases, the grapes had low sugar content, high acid content, and contained

a chemical that gave them a nasty aftertaste.

The early European settlers found them very unattractive. However, the European grapes with which they were most familiar, were much more sensitive to cold and could only be grown in warmer climates. Finally, French-American hybrids were developed which has given rise to grapes that are delicious to eat, good for wine making, and hardy enough to be grown in cooler climates.

I've included some fun recipes for you to try that make many different uses of grapes. I often make the grape salad for picnics, and there is rarely any left. I like to use purple grapes in this dish. It's a definite crowd pleaser. I also love to make fancy grilled cheese sandwiches and hope you will enjoy this one using cheddar, chicken, and grapes.

### Creamy Grape Salad

**Ingredients:**  
4 pounds of seedless grapes – rinsed, pulled from stem, and dried  
8 ounces sour cream  
1 ounce cream cheese, softened  
½ tsp vanilla extract  
½ cup granulated sugar  
½ cup brown sugar  
1 cup finely chopped pecans

**Preparation Directions:** In a large bowl, mix sour cream, cream cheese, vanilla, and granulated sugar. Fold grapes into the mixture. Place mixture into a 9 x 13 pan. Mix brown sugar and pecans together and then spoon over the mixture. Chill and serve.

### Fancy Grilled Cheese with Chicken, Cheddar, and Grapes

**Ingredients:**  
1 thinly pounded chicken breast  
Olive oil  
Garlic salt  
Cracked black pepper  
2 slice of whole wheat bread (or your favorite bread)  
A pat of butter, softened  
1 Tablespoon mayonnaise  
2 ounces medium cheddar cheese, thinly sliced  
A handful of red grapes, slivered

**Preparation Directions:** Heat the olive oil over medium high heat in a small saute pan. Season both sides of the chicken breast with garlic salt and pepper and cook the breast about 5 minutes per side until cooked through. Set aside. Butter the outside of the pieces of bread (the sides that will touch the pan) Smooth mayonnaise over the inside of the bread slices. Top each piece of bread with slivered grapes and cheese and place chicken breast in the middle. Make a sandwich and carefully grill in a saute pan over medium heat with the pan covered. Cook until both sides are golden brown, crispy, and the cheese is melted, flipping once during cooking.

### Roasted Acorn Squash with Shallots, Grapes, and Sage

**Ingredients:**  
2 acorn squashes (about 1 ½ pounds each)  
2 Tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil  
Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper  
1 pound of mixed black and red grapes (about 3 cups)  
1 large shallot, thinly sliced (about 1 cup)  
3 Tablespoons packed small fresh sage leaves  
1 1/3 cups cooked spelt, wheat berries, barley, or other whole grain.

**Preparation Directions:** Preheat oven to 400 F. Cut squash in half lengthwise and scoop out seeds. Brush sides of squash halves with 1 teaspoon oil and season with salt and pepper. Place, cut sides down, on a rimmed baking sheet. Combine grapes, shallot, and sage in a bowl and drizzle with remaining 2 tablespoons of oil. Season with salt and pepper and place around the squash. Roast, stirring grape mixture once, until squash is tender and grape mix-



ture is caramelized, 35-40 minutes. To serve, fill squash with grain and grape mixture.

### Roasted Grape, Goat Cheese, and Honey Stuffed Sweet Potatoes

**Ingredients:**  
4 sweet potatoes  
2 cups red, seedless grapes  
1 teaspoon grapeseed oil, or another high heat oil  
¼ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper  
4 ounces goat cheese  
2 tablespoons honey, plus additional for drizzling  
Pinch of cinnamon and nutmeg

**Preparation Directions :** Preheat oven to 350 F. Poke holes in sweet potato with a fork and wrap each in aluminum foil. Bake for 45-60 minutes or until potatoes are tender to the touch. Unwrap foil and cut a slit down the middle of each potato. Let sit until cool enough to handle. Increase oven temperature to 450 F. Lay grapes on a non-stick baking sheet and drizzle with grapeseed oil and a pinch of salt and pepper; then toss to coat. Roast for 20-25 minutes, or until grapes begin to burst. Remove from oven and let cool. Once the sweet potatoes are somewhat cool, gently remove the skin with a spoon, trying to keep the potato skin intact. Add the sweet potato to a large bowl, then mash with 3 ounces of goat cheese, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, pepper, and honey. Taste to adjust seasonings if desired. Then scoop the mixture back into the potato skins. At this point you can re-warm the potatoes in the oven if they have cooled completely. Then top with remaining goat cheese. Add grapes on top and serve with additional drizzled honey.

### Fluffy Green Grape Salad

**Ingredients:**  
16 ounces crushed pineapple, undrained  
1 package (3.4 ounces) instant pistachio pudding  
12 ounces frozen whipped topping, thawed (or make your own – see recipe below)  
2 cups halved green grapes

**Preparation Directions:** In a large bowl, combine the pineapple and pudding mixture and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for 10 minutes. Fold in the whipped topping and halved grapes. Refrigerate until serving

### Whipped Topping Recipe: (makes 12 ounces)

**Ingredients:**  
2 ¼ cups heavy whipping cream  
1 1/8 teaspoon vanilla extract  
6 Tablespoons plus 2 1/4 teaspoons powdered sugar

**Preparation Directions:** Beat heavy cream and vanilla in a bowl on medium-high speed with an electric mixer until foamy. Gradually add powdered sugar and beat until stiff peaks form.

### Upcoming Events at Hollabaugh's

Family Cooking Class – Everything Muffins! September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 – 3 p.m. If you love everything bagels, you'll definitely want to try these delicious biscuits. We'll be using cream cheese and butter in the dough and making our own everything seasoning. The only problem is that they may not make it all the way home! \$45 per table, up to 5 people per table. Pre-Registration is Required.

Family Cooking Class – Blonde Apple Brownies - October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 – 3 p.m. Apple pies, apple dumplings, apple bread, apple turnovers, apple sauce – there are so many ways to enjoy apples. How about blonde apple brownies? As part of this class, you can sample several varieties of apples and choose which kind you would like to use in this delicious new way to enjoy apples. \$45 per table, up to 5 people per table. Pre-Registration is Required.

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



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# MOMS' TIME OUT

## Why didn't anyone tell me?



Kindergarteners cry on their 1st day of school, but it's the moms who cry on the 1st day of college.

Mary Angel

There are so many times in my life as a mom that I have thought this, both in jest and in all seriousness. I often tell my husband if he had told me how difficult the teenage years were going to be maybe I would have wanted so many kids. Then he teases me and asks what I thought would happen to those sweet little babies as the years passed. Then, we laugh and move on. Once again I am asking myself that question frequently.

You see, we moved our 20-year-old son (admitting he is 20 is hard enough) into his college dorm this past weekend. This was not my first child to go off to college and it will probably not be my last. I also know he has every intention of moving back home after college so that he can get a job, pay off his student loans, and save for a house. My point is that he, in theory, has not moved away for good. He also is going to a college that is close enough that he can come home on weekends or I could go and take him out to dinner once or twice in a semester. So why was it so difficult? Why didn't anyone tell me it would be this painful and joyful all at the same time?

This all started about a month ago when it was official he was going to Messiah University. Most of his friends already knew where they were going, but my son had run into several hurdles on the way to transferring from community college to a four-year institution. In this case I would ask, "Why didn't anyone tell me we should tour as many colleges as possible as early as possible?" I am sure my kids were probably warned of this in high school but neglected to share that info with me. Unfortunately for my second college bound child, or fortunately for my first, there were very few colleges that offered a good program in his major of choice, so he picked rather quickly. My current college student wants to be a high school history teacher and there are plenty of schools offering that major.

After he worked out all of hiccups and he was definitely transferring to Messiah, then we began the process of uploading the million and one documents they needed, filling out every digital form under the sun, and send-

ing transcripts from his community college. Soon it was the last few days before move in and I decided to look at some college move-in check lists on-line. Suddenly I realized I hadn't gotten him anything to move away for college. I am not sure if I was in denial or working too much or just waiting for him to ask. The bottom line was that I was unprepared to have my son move away from home. I quickly went to my boss and asked to take off a half day on Friday, explaining how unprepared I was to pack him up on Saturday. She graciously agreed, while she chuckled at my unpreparedness. Not only was I unprepared to move my son to college, but I was truly unprepared to let him go. Why hadn't anyone told me about these magical check lists that, if followed, would make moving day so much easier?

Then suddenly it was move-in day. There was a lot of packing and the washing machine hadn't stopped running for three straight days. As the three of us drove to Messiah there would be periodic interjections of wisdom to break the silence. We pointed out that he was close enough if he forgot anything terribly important we could bring it to him the next day. He noticed that he was also close enough to come home on weekends if he so chose. Luckily the drive was short enough that there wasn't time for any crazy suggestions or awkward silence. Before we left we had told him we would be happy to take him (and his new roommate) out to dinner after we moved him in, but that would be

entirely up to him. As we pulled up he said he would rather just hang out with his roommate and relax which we suspected and were fine with. Why didn't anyone tell me that someday he wouldn't need me anymore?

After the move was complete, everything was put away, and the bed was made we told him we were going to hit the road. He was sitting at his desk reading the next few days' worth of orientation agenda. He paused and said, "Now that my nerves about moving have subsided, I really don't want you to go. Would you mind having dinner with me and then going to the Candlelight Service?" (Insert tears from me as I type this). We were both shocked and happy to oblige. We decided to go to the cafeteria because of a time constraint to get to the service. It couldn't have worked out better that we were all able to find the cafeteria and navigate how it worked for his first time there. He definitely would have figured it out on his own, but it was one small gesture that meant the world to him. After a good meal (and a great cup of coffee) we headed over to the Candlelight Service. Why didn't anyone tell me how nerve racking this would be for everyone involved?

The Candlelight Service was an hour and a half and absolutely wonderful. At the end the announcer said he had one more tiny instruction for everyone. He gave us 5 minutes to say our goodbyes. He said it was okay to cry as long as we did it in the 5 minutes allotted. There were giggles and smiles and then the dam broke. As I was hugging my son, and keeping it together rather well I thought, I glanced over his shoulder and saw all of these moms crying. I am not sure if my husband realized, but he quickly hugged our son and took my hand and we began to walk away. In that moment my son looked at me and said, "Mom, would you like one more hug?" I held onto him a little bit longer that time, as if I was saying goodbye to my baby. Why didn't anyone tell me how hard it would be? Why didn't anyone tell me how proud I would be of him? Why didn't anyone tell me how much I would cry? Why didn't anyone tell me that writing an article about it would make me start crying all over again?

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



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## SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

# FCC forgives debt accrued during pandemic for students

Frederick Community College has forgiven debt accrued by nearly 350 students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We know many of our students have faced significant struggles during the ongoing pandemic, including financial challenges,” said Dr. Thomas Powell, interim president of FCC. “We are grateful to be able to offer this debt relief to help students recover from the pandemic and get back on track with their academic and career goals.”

In total, FCC is forgiving a combined \$222,000 of debt. The college is covering this debt with money from the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). HEERF, established and initially funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, is available to institutions of higher education to help students continue to learn during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We looked closely at how these funds could be best utilized and

felt we had an obligation to make sure it helped students in a very direct and tangible way,” said Dr. Cathy Jones, FCC vice president for finance and human resources. “Offering debt relief is a testament to FCC’s commitment to serving our students and the community.”

Students will receive a letter from the College if they meet the criteria for this debt forgiveness. To be eligible, students must have been enrolled at FCC between March 13, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

Joseph Chmielarski is one of the students whose debt has been cleared. He moved out of his parents’ house to live on his own right before the start of the pandemic. Over the last year, he has lost his job, started working 40 to 50 hours a week at a restaurant, and had to travel numerous times out of the state to help his family when relatives fell ill with COVID-19.

“I’ve spent the last year just trying to stay afloat and work enough to cover all my bills,” Joseph

Chmielarski said. “FCC literally saved me with this assistance. It’s incredible how they have stepped up and taken care of their students.”

If students have questions about this debt forgiveness, they can contact Jane Beatty at [JBeatty@frederick.edu](mailto:JBeatty@frederick.edu).

The total award of the Frederick Community College Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund for Institutional use is \$7,802,673 which is 100% funded by the US Department of Education.

## Library events

### Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

While the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library’s doors are open, they have less hours but may be available to bring out materials to your car during closed hours. Please call to make arrangements. The library’s new hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays 3 – 6 p.m., Wednesday 4 – 7 p.m., 2nd & 4 Saturday of the month 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Library is closed on Monday and Friday.

Adult Story Time with Joan – Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 7 p.m. Joan will be sharing short stories from several books virtually.

In the Kitchen - Wednesday, 1 p.m. Weekly program of recipes that are delicious and easy to prepare. Prior programs are also available.

Musical Thursday with Dave – Thursdays, 3 p.m.. Join Dave and his friends and listen to music from many different styles and genres.

Family Friendly Friday Night Fun – Friday, starting at 7 p.m.. Family Friendly Friday Night Fun can be a little bit of everything. Poetry, Music, or something else.

Saturday Story & Craft – starting at 11 a.m. Listen to a good

book and make a really fun craft. Then spend some quality time with Wee Build Imagineering, there are no limits to your creativity!

To join these events live, online, or learn more about them, visit the Franklin County Library System’s website at [www.fclspa.org/events](http://www.fclspa.org/events), or you can call the library at 717-74-2240.

### Frederick County Public Library

September is all about falling leaves, falling temperatures, falling into new routines and rhythms, and of course Fall! September is also “National Library Card Sign-Up Month” with your

library card being the ticket to new and well-loved books, movies, magazines, and so much more! Library cards are free for all Maryland residents and you can preregister online at [FCPL.org](http://FCPL.org) or visit any FCPL branch with photo ID and proof of address. Your library card also provides access to all of FCPL’s digital content. Starting in September, the New York Times will be available digitally through FCPL.org.

FCPL is excited to announce our return to full time hours starting September 1. Emmitsburg Branch Library hours will be Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Thurmont Regional Library will be open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sundays 1-5 p.m. Enjoy the additional hours for browsing books, studying, and access to WiFi. Study rooms are available at Thurmont Regional Library, as well as the outside deck and nature trail. Printing (20 cents a page) and computer usage are available at both the Emmitsburg Branch Library and Thurmont Regional Library. Meeting rooms remain closed at this time, although the outside deck at Thurmont Regional Library offers a scenic option!

Take advantage of the cooler weather and changing seasons while enjoying stories, music, and dancing at our outside storytimes! Storytime in Emmitsburg, geared from birth to age 5, is every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at Memorial Park. Thurmont Regional Library will host storytime for babies on Tuesday, toddlers on Wednesday, and preschoolers on Thursday, on the deck at 10:30 a.m. All ages are invited to all storytimes!

In addition to storytimes, library staff are busy planning outside activities and programming throughout the fall. Being offered virtually in September is “The American Way of War, From the American Revolution to WWII”; this is presented by the Institute for Learning in Retirement Courses for Older Adults in partnership with FCPL and Frederick Senior Centers. For more information and to register visit [FCPL.org/virtual-programming](http://FCPL.org/virtual-programming).

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Summer Reading Challenge! We hope you had the chance to rediscover some of the magical places and attractions that makes Frederick County such a vibrant place to live and explore. Even though summer reading is over, Fall is the perfect time to discover a new title, author, or series. We look forward to seeing in you the library this Fall!



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### Y LEADERS CLUB NORTH COUNTY DELEGATION AGES 12-17

The goal of the Y Leaders Club is to enhance the lives of our teens through volunteer efforts, service projects, leadership training, and fun recreational activities.

Every third Thursday beginning  
September 16  
5:30-7pm

The YMCA connects youth to the programs and resources they need to lead, learn, grow and thrive!

[FREDERICKYMCA.ORG](http://FREDERICKYMCA.ORG)



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### Catoctin FFA livestock show & sale

The Catoctin Area FFA Alumni & Supporters Livestock Show & Sale for market goat, beef, sheep and swine will be held on Saturday, September 11 at The Eyler Stables in Thurmont.

The livestock show will be held at 9 a.m. with awards presentation 6:30 p.m. and the livestock sale beginning at 7 p.m. Please come out to the livestock show and sale and support our 4-H and FFA youth exhibitors. On Sunday, September 12, the Dairy Goat & Dairy Cattle show will begin at 9 a.m. and the Decorated Animal Contest will be held at 12 Noon.

The log-sawing contest will also be held on Sunday, at 1 p.m., and will have women’s, men’s and a children’s division.

There will be various food vendors available to purchase food on Saturday and Sunday.

The Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show has been bringing our Thurmont & Emmitsburg communities together since 1957. Please continue to support our local agriculture and area businesses who have advertised in our past Community Show booklets. We thank these organizations who sponsor our annual Community Show: Thurmont Grange, Catoctin FFA Chapter, Catoctin Area FFA Alumni & Supporters, Maryland State Grange, and the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board. Next year, we look forward to bringing back the largest Community Show in the State of Maryland.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## School's open, COVID is surging

**Karen Yoho**  
Frederick County School Board

The FCPS school year began for students on August 18. As the first LEA (Local Education Agency) in Maryland to begin the 2021-22 academic year, we garnered a great deal of media attention.

While it was amazing to see the students and teachers in the classrooms, discussing, writing, reading, moving during a brain break, etc., etc. and going about the business of education, we know there is a great deal of anxiety and differing opinions surrounding our schools. We are still employing most of the layered mitigation strategies available to us, hand hygiene, ventilation, and mask-wearing, however, having all our students in school at the same time means we cannot provide distancing. In a typical year it creates more work for teachers to have a big class. Add in Covid and it can become unsettling for students, parents, and staff. Every school year presents its own unique challenges at the beginning, but Covid exacerbates

everything. It will take time, but educators will figure it out because that is what they do.

One topic of public contention is mandatory masks in our buildings. Although the number of emails supporting mask-wearing for all who are able to far exceeds the emails from those opposed, public comment tends to be far more utilized by the latter group. Fortunately, our Board meetings have not made the news as in other localities and Frederick County participants have been by and large respectful and orderly.

Last month's column finished with no decision yet made on masks. Let's look at where we were at that time. Throughout the spring, many staff members had obtained vaccines. Governor Hogan had lifted the state of emergency as of June 30. By the time our summer programs began, masks were optional. Life was good and for much of society it seemed like a return to normal. But even then, the Delta variant was quickly making itself known.

With 1,000 times the transmissibility of the original strain, it didn't

take long for Delta to become the dominant Covid strain. It started in the south, where rates of vaccination are lower, but eventually swept the nation. Maps of the USA on July 1st still showed a good bit of yellow, while on August 1st, a mere month later, almost the entire country was red. That was an indication of how quickly Delta had taken over.

One of the saving graces of the original COVID strain was that children were far less susceptible to the disease. The main danger was their ability to spread it to more vulnerable individuals. This last part has only increased with the Delta variant, as we're seeing in many states. But we're also seeing that this strain is infecting children at a much higher rate. The last week of July saw Covid rates rise 84% for children as 72,000 tested positive for the virus. As of the first week of August, at least 416 children 0 to 18 have died from Covid-19 according to data from the National Center for Health Statistics. The number of COVID-19 deaths among children is more than twice the number of pedi-

atric flu deaths reported by the CDC between 2019-2020, among the worst flu seasons since 2010. Having to quarantine is disruptive to a child's education. Even worse is having to be hospitalized for Covid, alone, without a parent by their side.

So, that brings us to masks. Again, we have states such as Florida to help guide decisions. Hillsborough County on the west coast of Florida that includes Tampa, recently instituted a mask mandate until September 17, at which time they will reevaluate. They started their year with masks as an option but due to the overwhelming numbers of cases, they felt they needed to put in an additional mitigation strategy. As of this writing, their dashboard showed they had 3,792 reported cases. In a category they call "Total Current District Impact" the number is 11,719. This is just one county in one state. In Maryland, our governor has left it to the local boards. Eighteen of 24 LEAs will require masks. Every doctor's office I've been in this summer, including the veterinarian, has asked that masks be worn. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends masks. These are medical professionals.

Every school system's goal is to have our students in school, five days a week, in-person for those who have chosen that option. Hybrid school is always there as a stop gap measure between full in-person and complete virtual for all. What we know is it is draining for our instructional staff and creates a great deal of extra work logistically for our building administrators and custodial staff. Academically it seems to be a less successful way to provide education for the majority of our students. And, not insignificantly, it creates a burden for working parents. On top of all that, on April 27 the State Board of Education voted that all Maryland schools needed to reopen for in-person instruction five days a week for the 2021-22 school year. To date they would have had no reason to alter that resolution, but FCPS may be the canary in the coalmine with our early start as we begin to show an uptick in Covid contacts. Eleven other school systems will begin on August 30.

We are all tired of COVID. We all want a return to normal. My hope is that we all pull together to do what we can to help our children.

## School Resource Officers return for new school year

With Frederick County public schools scheduled to open on Aug. 18, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) School Resource Officer (SRO) Program will be fully staffed with 16 dedicated officers allocated throughout the county.

"The Frederick County Sheriff's has built what has been recognized as a model SRO program. We have proved that our program is very effective in the terms of protecting students and staff at our schools during school hours and school sponsored events after school," said FCSO Sheriff Chuck Jenkins. "Our SRO's have become and will

continue to be role models for students. These SRO's teach classes and are considered valuable community members in the respective communities they serve."

Lt. Jason Deater, FCSO Patrol Operations assistant commander, leads the 16 SRO's, which includes three supervisors and one dedicated investigator. Those officers and their respective schools are: Supervisors: Sergeant Kevin Britt, Corporal (Cpl.) Travis Rohrer, Cpl. Chris Hadeed. Investigator - Deputy 1st Class (DFC) Harold Jones. The Catoctin High School FCSO is DFC Robert Davis.

Regarding any changes for the 2021-2022 school year, the Frederick County Board of Education (BOE) recommends and approves changes for each academic year based on recommendations from the superintendent. There have been no changes for this upcoming school year recommended and the BOE recently signed an updated memorandum of understanding with the FCSO.

To find more information about the FCSO SRO program, visit [www.frederickcosheriff.com/school-resource-officers](http://www.frederickcosheriff.com/school-resource-officers).

The Frederick County Sheriff's

Office (FCSO) is a full-service law enforcement agency; an arm of the court, and a keeper of offenders. In this regard, it exists to serve the more than 250,000 citizens of Frederick County with respect, fairness, and compassion. FCSO is committed to the prevention of crime; the protection of life and property; the preservation of peace and order; the enforcement of laws and

ordinances; the safeguarding of constitutional guarantees; and safekeeping of prisoners. The men, women, and officers of this office nurture public trust by holding themselves to the highest standards of performance and ethics. The FCSO is located at 110 Airport Drive East, Frederick, MD, 21701. Visit [www.frederickcosheriff.com](http://www.frederickcosheriff.com) for more information.



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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month, we asked our writers to highlight a professor who they believe encapsulates the spirit of the Mount.*

### Sophomore

A professor of theology

McKenna Snow  
MSMU Class of 2024

In the fall of my freshman year at the Mount, I was placed in an intro-level Catechism course. I was highly interested in the Theology major the Mount offered, so this class was a good place to start. I came into the class hoping for an in-depth exploration of the Catechism, as well as challenging and yet fruitful assignments.

Fortunately, the class not only met my hopes but exceeded them and helped solidify my inclination to major in Theology. I knew from the experience of this course that I wanted to go deeper in the study of the Catholic Church and God's relationship with man. The course content was very well-paced and well-presented; and the presenter, or professor, himself was especially admirable.

This course was taught by Dr. Barrett Turner, Associate Professor of Theology with tenure at the Mount. His teaching style was interactive, allowing students to ask and answer questions, and he provided ample responses to them. He was attentive and interested in learn-

ing the names of all the students, understanding their viewpoints, and teaching in a way that met each student where they were in regard to theological topics. During the year, I worked for the Theology Department as a work study student and was lucky to have conversations with Dr. Turner outside the classroom that allowed me to ask him my often-lengthy questions regarding the week's lectures and other questions I had about the Church. These conversations have been formative and helpful in my development as a theology major with an interest in writing and researching.

Dr. Turner lives in Emmitsburg with his wife and seven children. In an interview I conducted with him, Dr. Turner spoke about some of his favorite aspects of the area and the University. "The Mount, which of course did not always have an interstate running through it, remains a place of retreat for formation in God's truth for the sake of leaving to serve and love God and those made in His image in the world," he explained to me. "The connection between work and family, university and town has been healthy for my family. We attend Mass most often at the Seton Shrine, sitting near the bones of St. Elizabeth herself. We can even walk there depending on

the weather." The Seton Shrine is a beautiful church about five minutes from the Mount campus, and many Mount students love to attend Mass there as well.

Dr. Turner explained, "I began at the Mount as an assistant professor of theology in August 2015, right out of my doctoral studies at the Catholic University of America... My work is to teach Catholic theology at the undergraduate level to lay students, and to contribute to theological research through publishing." He has been a helpful guide to me regarding internships I have looked into as an editor for Catholic publishers and has helped me learn more about the various ways a theology major with an interest in writing can pursue his or her talents.

Regarding how a typical workday goes for him, Dr. Turner said that "it does vary according to the teaching schedule and with a large family. I try to remain flexible to help out at home as much as possible. A typical teaching day could be rising around 6:30, coffee and reading Sacred Scripture, getting ready for the day, going into the Mount to teach, Mass and/or lunch. The afternoon is devoted to office hours, grading, answering emails, and perhaps some writing/editing a publication I am working on for an hour or less. In

the evening, I will go home and eat dinner with the family and have time with them, plus [pray the] Rosary."

I come from a family with eight children, and I can attest to the importance of spending time together as a whole family, especially around dinner, and in making time to pray together. I find Dr. Turner's dedication to his family, and always being intentional about making time for them despite his busy schedule as a professor very impactful; his vocation as a father is an inspirational sight.

In regard to why theology is an important aspect to the Mount's curriculum, Dr. Turner said, "As St. John Henry Newman famously argued in his Idea of the University, no institute of higher education can be a university without the discipline of theology. Without an intellectual encounter with He Who Is, how can one tie together the investigation of all the things that are? This is why we teach theology: to know God and to know the world in relation to God."

In a question about advice offered to those interested in this field, Dr. Turner suggested to "be prepared to go through your graduate education for its own sake, because you will likely not find a position teaching theology at a Catholic university

these days... it is not a rewarding career from the perspective of temporal goods. The lifetime earnings are low, though schools often have retirement plans and tuition benefits for children." I found this to be such an honest, and actually encouraging statement about the nature of a theologian; it iterated Dr. Turner's expression on why teaching and studying theology occur in the first place: "to know God and to know the world in relation to God."

Dr. Turner reflected that it was incredibly hard work to arrive at his current position at the Mount, and none of it would have been possible without "the providence of God." Dr. Turner stated, "I have the great privilege of teaching theology as a layman. I am so happy to do this, even despite the obstacles and trials."

I took a higher-level theology course taught by Dr. Turner this summer which I sincerely enjoyed, and I am excited to take a bioethics course taught by him this fall. As someone pursuing theology, I am inspired by Dr. Turner's witness and am so thankful for all the guidance he has provided for me as I move along with my studies.

*To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

### Junior

Lost and found

Emmy Jansen  
MSMU Class of 2023

Over the years, I have had many conversations that go a similar way: "I thought I wouldn't like the Mount, but then I got here. . ." Prospective students and even first-years who've already deposited often have a sense of confusion about the university before the semester, but nevertheless, feel drawn to its doors. This is how it was for me. I didn't even know why I applied, but suddenly I was moving into a dorm in Maryland, hours away from family and friends. There is something that pulls us here, something beyond ourselves that we cannot quite put a name to.

But we end up exactly where we need to be. Those feelings disappear and we find our home along the mountainside. I knew this was a common path for students, but this miraculous journey of traveling lost and becoming found is something possible for professors and administrators as well.

Dr. Carol Hinds took this sort of a path. Leaving Kansas to find a position anywhere, she thought the Mount would be a place to pause for only a few years. Twenty-five years later, that pause became a full stop. This is shocking to me, and perhaps for many students, because after so many years, it's hard to imagine the university without her. She began as Provost, the chief academic officer of the university. She then transitioned back to being a professor in the English department and teaches courses in English and the Core Cur-

riculum that is unique to the Mount. Because of her involvement in Core, many students will have crossed Dr. Hinds's classroom before they've graduated.

Because the student population changes every four years, some pieces of history get lost. What a lot of students don't realize when they're sitting in class with Dr. Hinds is that she was one of the first females to hold a major administrative position at the Mount. We often forget that Mount St. Mary's was a men's college up until 1972. When Dr. Hinds was Provost in 1995, the alums of the college were almost entirely male. While female students had been attending for more than twenty years, it still sometimes felt like a 'male' college. She shared with me that one of her primary goals was to get more women in positions of leadership, and this has remained true to this day.

When professors get promoted to administrative positions, they frequently don't return to the classroom. When Dr. Hinds left her position to teach English courses again, she was warned how much she would hate it because of how much the students would have changed in the time she was gone. "But the students hadn't changed," she remarked to me. "Students are just as great as they always have been, especially Mount students."

One thing about Carol Hinds is that she is well-loved. I had heard raving reviews from upperclassmen so when it came time to register for courses, I selected her section for one of our Core classes. Their words of endearment could not have prepared me for what I would experience. Wrapped up in her wit and bluntness is a true passion for learn-

ing, which is not lost on many of her students. Whether it is intentional or not, I always feel myself called to be better when I'm around her. I know that I can study harder, achieve better things, and dream bigger than I had before. I'm called to a higher standard of thinking and being, which is what a liberal arts education is intended to teach you. Dr. Hinds is one of the most effective professors in this area, which is something I'm not sure she is aware of. The beauty of Dr. Hinds is that she's just being herself.

What I think students love most about Dr. Hinds is her honesty. In an era of biting our tongues and sugarcoating everything we say, the blunt truth is readily welcomed. You'd think students would run from it, but we cling to it. There is something so remarkably beautiful about someone being so true to themselves, anytime or any place you see them. I know that the Dr. Hinds I experienced in the classroom is the same one from 1995 and the same one that will be teaching this upcoming semester. There is beauty in consistency. There is beauty in honesty.

Even in the short time I spent one on one with her for this article, I was called to be more of myself, the authentic self that she presents every day. When I asked her what advice she'd have for students, it was simple: "Take advantage of everything." With so many opportunities, we are often overwhelmed with the proliferation of choice and instead choose nothing. She shared that if young people were to throw themselves into things, without fearing social approval or abandonment, we'd actually like it. Dr. Hinds encapsulates the liberal arts education that the Mount strives to cultivate for students, with well-roundedness and

overall thirst for knowledge in all disciplines. "Liberal arts minded people are never bored because they become engaged in whatever it is that's around them," she shared.

And it is because Dr. Hinds, like liberal arts minded people, is always engaged in what is around her that she is herself inside and outside of the classroom. When the pursuit of knowledge and questions about the human condition are your life's work, your work is your life. A casual conversation in the library or dining hall feels no different than discussions of texts in the classroom. There is only one Carol Hinds.

I know Dr. Hinds is exactly where

she is needed, just as I am exactly where I need to be. We may not have imagined the life that would be created from this university, but it is hard to picture a life without it now. As one of the oldest faculty members, I couldn't help but ask about her intentions at the Mount in the future, which many students have pondered anxiously. Her answer about her departure mimics my own, as with our stories of our arrivals: "Nothing else I could do would be more fun than this."

*To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

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# PROFESSORS THAT HAVE IMPRESSED US

## Senior

### A mentor and model

Harry Scherer  
MSMU Class of 2022

On one cold Emmitsburg morning in January 2019, I jumped from classroom to classroom, expectantly waiting for each professor to distribute the syllabus and lay out the academic vision for the class. It's a ritual I anticipate every semester, especially during my first year of college. At the end of my noon entry-level philosophy class that felt like it lasted for ten minutes, I turned to the woman sitting next to me and said, "wow, he's awesome."

The man I was referring to was Josh Hochschild. My 18-year-old self did not know his expertise, position, or story. I just knew that he had something good to say, and I had time to listen.

Since that time almost three years ago, Dr. Hochschild has become my academic mentor, the director of the philosophy, politics, and economics (PPE) program, of which I am a part, and the model I consult during those times when I wonder how it's possible to live well in contemporary higher education.

His academic credentials are

impressive in themselves. After earning a bachelor's degree from Yale and a PhD in philosophy at Notre Dame, he was offered a tenure-track philosophy position at both Wheaton College, an evangelical Protestant college in northeast Illinois, and at the Mount. After much deliberation, the then-Anglican philosopher took the position in Illinois in the fall of 2001. A few years into his tenure, he was received into the Catholic Church, "and," according to Hochschild, "there were many blessings associated with that, but staying at Wheaton wasn't one of them." Hochschild left Wheaton in the spring of 2005.

He then applied again to be a part of the philosophy department at the Mount and the late Dr. Trudy Conway brought him on board for the fall of 2005. "It felt like I had been stubborn and not listening to God, but He was patient with me." Hochschild feels "doubly indebted" to Conway because she welcomed him to campus twice. When he arrived on campus 16 years ago, he was excited to teach in the liberal arts core curriculum and to teach philosophy to the younger seminarians. After a year of living in Fairfield, he moved his family to the house in which they currently reside within walking distance to campus.

The philosopher identifies the university's core curriculum as one of

strongest attributes of our identity: "I care a lot about choosing good texts and a good sequence of courses, but as long as you're doing something with all the students together, you're helping them to think as part of a community." He suggests that this sort of cooperative and mutually beneficial academic culture is becoming more of a rarity in higher education and identifies the Mount's attention to the core curriculum as a "gift." Expanding the influence of university culture to that of our local and national culture, Hochschild says that this sort of common language can help build cohesion within a group of people who feel "increasingly alienated and feel like they don't share anything with their fellow citizens."

This sort of community-building has been a priority for Hochschild throughout his tenure in Emmitsburg. When asked about his distinctive contribution to the Mount, he pointed to "an emphasis on identifying the connection between our religious and academic mission." He does not see a chasm between the Catholic mission and the liberal arts mission of the university, but rather a relationship of intricate interdependence.

Hochschild not only hopes that the two missions resonate but has invested in action on and off campus that emphasizes their distinct impact. This sort of integration was a priority for

him while he was the dean of the College of Liberal Arts from 2009 to 2015 and while he and other faculty members were revising the core curriculum. "In a post-administrative career, it's the kind of thing I've focused on writing and teaching, working with students, arranging conferences, and inviting speakers." With passion and conviction, he reminded me that "the idea of a university grew from the heart of the Church...and the Mount is uniquely positioned to be a university to help people remember that."

In addition to Trudy Conway, Hochschild credits the late Dr. Sue Goliber, professor emerita of history, in helping him clarify his understanding of the relationship between the religious and academic missions of the university. Hochschild recognized that "often the biggest champions aren't even Catholic." This observation certainly applies to Goliber; while a Protestant, Goliber was "always a champion of the Mount being a Catholic university." This frequent reference to models and mentors was a consistent theme in my conversation with Dr. Hochschild.

It was these mentors who guided him in the ways of teaching college students. Today, he identifies, in an almost instinctual way, "the students" as the best part about teaching at the Mount. Hochschild does not view his relationship with students as one of informa-

tion provision, but rather as one similar to a craftsman and an apprentice. "We do stuff together and we practice habits together." The art of education for Hochschild is highly personal and far removed from the more mainstream mercenary model of teaching and learning. Dr. Hochschild's position as a philosophy professor is more than a job, but a vocation in the fullest sense of the word.

While continuing to discuss his place at the Mount, Hochschild identified the grotto as his favorite space on campus; "it was walking around there that I knew I was meant to be here, but I didn't know why." After 16 years, Hochschild now knows that the reason he was meant to be here was that so "[his] wife could become a Catholic and teach here... That's a good enough reason."

Dr. Hochschild's unyielding emphasis on his mentors seems to be an indication that he is a learner as much as he is a teacher. He knows how to learn, and for that reason he knows how to teach other people to learn. Decades from now, I suspect a student writer at the Emmitsburg News-Journal will hear about Josh Hochschild serving as a mentor and model of real learning and exceptional teaching.

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

## Graduate

### Emmitsburg boy

Angela Guiao  
MSMU Class of 2021

Mount St. Mary's University has been open for exactly 212 years. This year, exactly 2,362 students have been enrolled for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. The student-faculty ratio is 12:1 meaning that there is one professor for every 12 students enrolled at the Mount. If the math is done correctly, based off those statistics, it is safe to assume there are approximately 196 professors employed at the Mount today. But of those 196 professors, I believe one deserves very special recognition: Professor John Sherwin.

Professor Sherwin was born and raised in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He graduated from Mount St. Mary's University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting as a Summa Cum Laude and with a Master's in Business Administration as a Cum Laude. He also graduated with a law degree from the University of Maryland in 1991, passing the bar exam on his first attempt the same year.

However, his accomplishments don't end there. He also served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, where he received a Bronze Star which is awarded for "heroic or meritorious achievement or service." He has also earned his CPA (Certified Public Accountant) certification and his CFP (Certified Financial Planner) certification.

Professor Sherwin started his career as an accountant with Coopers and Lybrand, CPA where he would focus on bank acquisition audits. A few years later, he would move to Linton, Shafer, and Co, CPAs where he focused on tax preparation and governmental audits. Afterwards, Sherwin would rise to

become the Assistant Comptroller of the Frederick County Board of Education (FCBOE) in 1978 and eventually the Comptroller of the FCBOE in 2000.

Shortly after he began his career as an accountant, Sherwin was approached by Dr. Ray Lauer, who at the time was the Dean of the Business School here at the Mount, to teach an evening accounting course. Though at first he was unsure whether he would enjoy teaching, he quickly found that he liked it very much. As a result, he taught part time from 1976 to 2005 and full time from 2005 until the present day, a total of 45 years.

With such an impressive résumé, I was curious what he considered to be his greatest achievement. To this, he answered that his greatest achievement occurred on March 6th, 1993, the day he married his wonderful wife, Beth. Professor Sherwin and his wife have two wonderful sons, Bob and Michael, and two dogs, Lucy and Coqui.

Sherwin currently resides in Frederick, but still very much considers himself to be an "Emmitsburg boy." He describes growing up in Emmitsburg as "idyllic. It was and is a wonderful place to grow up." He was surrounded by friends, neighbors, and family, including his parents and three sisters.

At the Mount, Sherwin teaches several accounting courses, including intermediate and advanced accounting. Though his past students acknowledge that he is "one of the harder accounting professors," they all agree that he is the "best teacher if you actually want to learn accounting." They also note his "great sense of humor" and his ability to make accounting "enjoyable"; Sherwin ensured that students were well prepared for a future in the industry by the time they left his class.

When asked what he would like to be remembered for, Sherwin replied that he would like to be remembered as

a fair teacher who showed enthusiasm and a love for the subjects he taught.

Being that I myself am one of Professor Sherwin's previous students, I must say that Sherwin is an inspiration. His enthusiasm and love for the subjects he taught were translated into engaging and memorable lectures. He made accounting fun, which many would consider to be a feat in itself. But not only that, he made learning fun as well.

There is a common misconception that accountants are boring. But boring is something that Sherwin could never be. His class quickly became my favorite class. I never missed a day unless I absolutely had to, and it was not because he was strict about attendance. It was because I wanted to be the best. Sherwin made you feel that way, like you could accomplish any dream you wanted to, like you could be the best at anything you put your mind to. He showed this to students by constantly encouraging them to grab opportunities and take control of their futures.

If you walk into Professor Sherwin's office on the third floor of the Knott Academic Center, you will see his walls are covered with his student's achievements. There are many knowledgeable teachers in the world, but there are few who genuinely care for their students once they step outside of the classroom. Sherwin is one of the rare professors that are both.

Mount St. Mary's University has offered me a great number of opportunities, opportunities that I would not have access to had I gone to another school. Though, if I had to choose one opportunity that I am most grateful for, it would be the chance to have Professor Sherwin as a teacher.

A school's greatest asset is its students, but good students are a product of great teachers. And Sherwin is a great teacher. It was an absolute honor

to be able to take his class and to learn from one of the best.

On behalf of all previous accounting students, I'd like to thank you, Professor Sherwin, for preparing us to be great. Thank you for 45 years of teaching here at the Mount. It is because of teachers like you that students like me are able to achieve dreams that they once thought to be impossible. May you continue to inspire future

accounting students to reach their fullest potential.

When asked for one piece of advice everyone should hear, Sherwin replied, "50% of life is showing up, and 50% of life is knowing when to shut up."

So, thank you, Professor Sherwin, for always showing up.

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



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# HOME DECOR

## Taking time for yourself isn't selfish

Jess Crawford  
Cotton & Co, Keymar

It's that time of year, where Maryland doesn't quite know if it wants to still be Summer or if it's ready to transition into Autumn. We've endured some pretty intense Summer days, and also embraced some cool Fall-like mornings. There are subtle hints of the earliest of the leaves beginning to change colors, ready to welcome the changing seasons here in short order. However, no matter the season we're entering and exiting, it's universally back-to-school time. Some entered the classrooms early this year, some still have back-to-school on the horizon.

If you're anything like the mom that I am, or know any that are, I'm looking forward to back-to-school for my little ones this year, for a variety of reasons. My children were home last year, as were many of their peers. They've missed interaction between their friends tremendously, and for that, I'm grateful that our children are returning in-person to school this year. And I'm manifesting all the positivity that I can that our schools will remain open, as we all navigate and protect ourselves from the next wave of what-

ever this pandemic throws our way.

But I'd also be lying if I weren't also grateful for the opportunity to get my own two feet back on the ground, my head back on straight and putting a little more normalcy and routine back in our lives for the first time since last March. I have greatly enjoyed and treasured this extended time with my children, at school-ages where under normal circumstances, we would have been apart for the better part of five days a week. However, that being said, it's been a challenge juggling all of the hats of being a working-parent, homeschool mom, business owner, wife, caretaker and meal prepper, driver to all places, housekeeper, and managing all of the other duties of being the parent navigating their way through the ever-changing world of parenting during a pandemic. It's been a wild ride. And I know so many of you share the same sentiments. Lots of gratefulness but also lost of grief, frustration and sacrifice too.

So where do we go from here? One of my first promises and goals to myself, once my children enter school again at the beginning of September is to focus a little more on my own self-care. That's a buzzword that we hear so much about these days, but are you actually

embracing it and engaging in it? I think we can all agree, that this 2020-2021 saga has allowed us the opportunity to evaluate our lives from an entirely new perspective. To sit back and really think about the things in our lives that bring us joy and those that don't. The time we spend and how we spend it. And I hope this is a lesson we hold onto.

We live in a society that glorifies exhaustion. If you aren't exhausted, stressed and overworked, you aren't working hard enough. And that is exhausting in and of itself. How can you be your best self, parent, partner, friend, coworker, employee, family member, sibling, etc... if you are perpetually exhausted and over-extended? I had this Epiphany this year, that I'm going to challenge the American standard, and not guilt myself about taking time for myself. To be the better version of myself for my family and friends and for the business that I own and operate.

My store is a team of women, surrounded by wonderful supportive partners of their own, that work very hard to juggle their personal and work lives. And many of them feel the same way. As we enter back-to-school season, I encourage all of you that have felt overwhelmed in one way or another, to take time to give back to yourselves a little. To take time while the little ones are at school, and find a few moments to invest in yourselves.

I look at the shop, and the items we sell and the businesses we promote and I see self-care everywhere. I know I personally intend to pick back up on the home improvement projects that took a back-seat or pause during the last eighteen months, and finish them. To make these parts of my home, feel like home. I've jokingly told customers this year, 'if there's one thing I've learned this year, is that sometimes you just need to treat yourself.' But seriously. Do it! We've earned it. Treat yourself. Treat yourself to that new piece of furniture that will tie the room together. Go wild and paint something. Take a space in your home that's been needing a little TLC and make it happen.

We also support several local, small, woman-owned businesses



Trendy and seasonal clothing, fragrance and accessories available from our vendor Molly's Meanderings

that hand-create products to let you indulge in yourself. In need of some serious stress relief? Taking a long hot bath should be on your short list. We have local handmade soy candles, beauty products and bath bombs. Feeling a night out? We have a ton of trendy and classic clothing and accessories in-store. In the mood to treat yourself to something tasty? Whip up a gorgeous and delicious charcuterie board with one of our locally designed charcuterie boards and local tasty treats, available in our Maryland General Store.

This past year and a half, has been a decade. At the very least. I challenge and encourage all of you, to take time to indulge and invest in yourselves a little. Taking time for you, doesn't make you selfish.

Despite what our society dictates. It allows you to become the better version of yourself. Pick a new hobby, treat yourself occasionally, go to brunch with a friend, get your nails done or do an at-home-spa night (we have stuff for that too!). And if you're one of our many educators, allowing us time, and graciously teaching our children, join us for one of our Ladies Nights! We all need time to unwind.

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

### TLL kicks off fall season

Ryan Tokar  
Thurmont Little League

Thurmont Little League closed registration for its fall season on August 15th and practices began in late August for the majority of its players. It was a welcome site for many, however for others it seemed as if there was no off season to speak of due to the many tournaments and activities the players took part in throughout the summer.

The Thurmont Minors All Stars represented the league well this summer in two different tournaments. Managed by Jeff Kuhn, with assistants Gregg Warner, Justus Yocum and John Veronic, the team finished in second

place in the Pen Mar "Mayhem on the Mountain Tournament." However, it was their performance in the Emory Frye Tournament in Brunswick which brought home a Championship for Thurmont Little League after battling it out for several days against some of the top teams in the area. Congratulations to this awesome group of boys on their performance and for making TLL proud!

In late July, the Potter Baseball Tour made its annual stop in Thurmont. Coach Potter and his team travels up and down the coast doing service projects and teaching kids how sports and service go hand in hand in building character and doing the right thing.

TLL is happy to collaborate with Coach Potter on several activities each year. In the past they have hosted a charity kickball game and helped update the Thurmont Food Bank. This time around the crew, along with members of TLL, painted the exterior of the Thurmont Senior Center.

Speaking of Coach Potter, he also helped Thurmont secure a bid in the annual Cooperstown Dreams Tournament, which saw several of our 11 and 12-year old's fundraising for the past year in order to take the trip of a lifetime. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, TLL was forced to change up plans and head to Pigeon Forge, TN for The Ripken Experience

Tournament. Playing as Potter Pirates Black, the team from Thurmont spent the week in Tennessee playing 6 games over a 5-day span against great teams from all over the country. The team started the week with an opening ceremony that included inspirational words from former MLB player Ryan Klesko, participated in a skills competition featuring a Home Run Derby in which TLL's Brennen Conrad put on an excellent performance, and spent the week bonding and having fun as a team. All in all, it was a great trip and something these players will never forget. Each player took home a ring as a keepsake from the event.

Finally, on August 18th, TLL held its Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election. Results of the

election were not immediately available at the time of this writing, but there will be more details on the outcome in next month's edition. It was a wonderful year for the league financially as it bounced back well after the lost Covid season during 2020. Highlights included over \$5,200 raised on opening day from raffle baskets and spirit wear, \$3,000 from TLL Discount Cards and the most successful hit-a-thon in league history which brought in over \$22,000. TLL could not do any of this without the help of its community and volunteers, and is thankful for all of the support, especially during these challenging and uncertain times. We are looking forward to an exciting fall season ahead!

### Trinity UMC awards service scholarships

Trinity United Methodist Church in Emmitsburg is pleased to announce the 2021 recipients of the Jay C. Long Faith and Service Scholarship, the Jay C. Long Agriculture Scholarship, and the Trinity UMC Family Scholarship. This year's awardees each received a \$2,000 college scholarship. Jay C. Long Faith and Service Scholarship recipients include Abigail Finafrock, Aubrie Gadra, Haley Heberton, Noah Olson, and Kadyn Sass. Tyler Hauk was awarded the Jay C. Long Agriculture Scholarship. Madison Petry received the

Trinity UMC Family Scholarship (in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Eyler of Thurmont).

At the special service on Sunday, August 08, Trinity United Methodist Church (UMC) Pastor the Reverend Richard Baker and Certified Lay Pastor Merri Saylor praised these young men and women for their academic excellence and their commitment to serving their communities. Rev. Baker said, "We at Trinity United Methodist Church are so proud to be part of the journey these young people are making. We see great hope for their future

and the lives of all they touch. May God bless them on their journey."

The Jay C. Long Faith and Service Scholarship is awarded to candidates who show a strong commitment to improving the lives of those in their community and in the wider world, as well as exhibiting personal leadership qualities and academic success.

The Jay C. Long Agricultural Scholarship is given to students pursuing the study of agriculture or related fields. Candidates awarded this scholarship have strong academic credentials and have shown a keen interest in agricul-

ture through their involved in organization such as the 4H and Future Farmers of America.

Jay C. Long was a local farmer whose generous donation made these two scholarships possible.

The Trinity United Methodist Church scholarship is awarded to a family member of a Trinity UMC member who has exhibited a strong dedication to serving Trinity, the United Methodist Church, and the local community.

Scholarship recipients will attend colleges and universities in Maryland

and Pennsylvania and plan to major in a variety of fields, including, Engineering, Education, Ecology, Business, Communications, and Nursing.

At a reception following the church service and recipient recognition, Merri Saylor, chair of Trinity's Mission's Committee which administers the scholarship program, said, "Trinity is dedicated to supporting young people who strive for academic excellence, serve God, and their communities with compassion and love."

For more information about Trinity United Methodist Church, go to [www.trinityumc.yolasite.com](http://www.trinityumc.yolasite.com).



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**Into the Woods**, November 4-7. The Brothers Grimm hit the stage with an epic fairytale about wishes, family, and the choices we make. Presented by the Gettysburg Department of Theatre Arts and the Sunderman Conservatory of Music.

**Totem Pole Playhouse: A Christmas Carol**, December 9-19. The classic Totem Pole Playhouse adaptation of Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol returns to the Majestic Theater in December. Tickets on sale Sept. 2!

**Dancing with the Local Stars**, January 14. Adams County superstars have been sitting at home the entire pandemic itching to dance! All proceeds benefit the YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County and the Adams County Arts Council.

**Mountainfilm on Tour**, January 28. Back by popular demand! Experience a selection of culturally rich, adventure-packed and inspiring documentary films curated from Telluride's annual Mountainfilm festival.

**Reduced Shakespeare Co.: The Complete History of Comedy (Abridged)**, February 12. They've skewered history, the Bible and the world's most celebrated playwright.

Now, the Reduced Shakespeare Company tackles the subject it was born to reduce.

**A Tribute to Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul**, February 16. Musician, vocalist, and composer Damien Sneed (star of Gettysburg's 2020 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration) pays homage to the monarch herself with fresh renditions of her most cherished hits.

**L.A. Theatre Works presents Lucy Loves Desi**, February 25. Lucy Loves Desi: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Sitcom is the hilarious and true story behind one of America's most beloved TV comedies.

**Catapult: Magic Shadows**, March 6. An America's Got Talent finalist, Catapult is a magical production that features incredible dancers who work behind a screen to create shadow silhouettes of shapes from the world around us.



The Skerryvore trio create a unique fusion of Scottish folk, rock, and pop.

**Colin Mochrie presents HYPROV: Improv Under Hypnosis**, March 18. A brand new, mind-blowing, jaw-dropping, slide-splitting show where 20 volunteers from the audience are hypnotized on stage, then whittled down to five of the best who do improv scenes with Colin Mochrie **WHILE THEY ARE STILL UNDER HYPNOSIS**.

**Menopause the Musical**, April 12.

Four women at a lingerie sale have nothing in common but a black lace bra and memory loss, hot flashes, night sweats, and more!

**Kim Weitkamp: Family Humorist**, April 30. As the redheaded child of exhausted parents, humorist, storyteller, singer and songwriter Kim Weitkamp grew up enjoying the role of the middle child. Her stories and songs are the fruit of growing up free range.

## Way Off Broadway's Pajama Game

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre is preparing for a heartwarming romantic comedy this fall when its production of the Broadway classic *The Pajama Game* takes to the stage. Opening Friday, September 10th, the production was rescheduled from earlier this season.

In *The Pajama Game*, conditions at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory are anything but peaceful as sparks fly between new superintendent, Sid Sorokin, and Babe Williams, leader of the union grievance committee. Their stormy relationship comes to a head when the workers strike for a 7½ cent pay increase, setting off not only a conflict between man-

agement and labor, but a battle of the sexes as well.

Based on Richard Bissell's 1953 novel, *7½ Cents*, *The Pajama Game* took its Broadway bow at the St. James Theatre on May 13, 1954. The production was the first show produced by theatre legend Harold Prince, who would go on to be one of the most successful and prolific producers and directors in the industry. In addition to a young Hal Prince, the original Broadway production's creative team also included direction by theatre greats George Abbott and Jerome Robbins and choreography by Broadway new-comer, Bob Fosse.

The production, starring John Raitt as Sid and Janis Paige as

Babe, went on to run for over 1,000 performances and took home three Tony Awards, including Best Featured Actress (Carol Haney), Best Choreography, and Best Musical.

In 1957, Warner Bros. released a film version of the show featuring the original Broadway cast, with one exception. Doris Day was cast in the role of Babe Williams, replacing Paige in the movie.

Since it first appeared on Broadway, *The Pajama Game* has seen two revivals make it to the Great White Way. The first was in 1973, with Abbott returning to direct and Hal Linden taking on the role of Sid, with a featured

performance by Cab Calloway as Hines, the factory's efficiency expert.

The second revival came thirty-three years later in 2006 when the Roundabout Theatre Company produced a special limited run of the show starring Harry Connick, Jr. as Sid, Kelli O'Hara as Babe, and Michael McKean as Hines. The production, directed and choreographed by Kathleen Marshall, received nine Tony nominations, taking home two trophies (Best Choreography and Best Revival of a Musical). Notably, that year, Marshall also won the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for her choreography of the show.

*The Pajama Game* has music and lyrics by Richard Adler and

Jerry Ross and a book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell. Way Off Broadway's production is directed by Jessica Billones, with choreography by Dee Buchanan and music direction by Jordan Stocksedale.

The show runs September 10th through October 30th, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening, and select Sunday matinees. A complete performance schedule, as well as ticket prices and show times can be found on the theatre's website [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).

To learn more about *The Pajama Game*, or any of Way Off Broadway's productions, including the theatres upcoming 2022 Season, visit [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).

## GCCA launches 78th season membership campaign

**Peggy Magaldi**  
Gettysburg Community Concert Association

The Gettysburg Community Concert Association is pleased to announce the much anticipated and long-delayed 78th Concert Season. Music lovers are invited to celebrate the return to live concert performances by joining GCCA now during the membership campaign. The 2021-2022 concert season offers

four concerts in Gettysburg plus many more, free with membership, in Hagerstown and Waynesboro through a regional agreement.

Pianist Joel Fan opens the season on Tuesday, September 21, at the United Lutheran Seminary Chapel, 7:30 PM. Celebrated for his exuberant virtuosity and a bold repertoire, Fan re-invents the piano recital by illuminating the rare and unexpected - creating, in the words of the Baltimore Sun's critic Tim Smith, "one

of the most satisfying piano performances I've heard".

Beau Soir Ensemble (flute, viola, and harp) featured on Tuesday, October 26, at the R/C Gateway Theater 8 Gettysburg, is known for their exciting performance style and diverse programming. Beau Soir Ensemble's goal is to make classical music accessible and enjoyable, inspiring a new generation of music lovers.

The Delphi Trio (violin, cello,

piano) performs on Thursday, March 31, venue to be announced. Praised for "spot-on ensemble playing and a beautiful blended sound" ... San Francisco Classical Voice, the Delphi Trio has become a powerfully eloquent voice in the world of chamber music.

Rescheduled from a postponed March 2020 concert date, the Diderot String Quartet concludes the 78th season on Tuesday, April 26, venue to be announced. This young

quartet's calling card is their use of period instruments: gut strings without synthetic materials, no chin rests, shorter bows, flatter bridges, and standing to play, bringing a fresh approach to works of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Membership forms are available on the GCCA web-site. The 2021-2022 season offers four classical concerts for a \$50 membership with additional concerts in Waynesboro and Hagerstown included at no additional cost. Children to age 18 and older students with a college ID card are admitted free. For information call 717-334-7776; e-mail [info@gettysburgcca.org](mailto:info@gettysburgcca.org) or visit [www.gettysburgcca.org](http://www.gettysburgcca.org); write GCCA PO box 3193, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

The Gettysburg Community Concert Association 2021-22 season is supported in part by a grant from PA Council for the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of PA and the NEA, a federal agency; the Adams County Arts Council's STAR Grant Program which is funded by the Adams County Commissioners and the Borough of Gettysburg.

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# MOUNT ARTS

## All good things

Tristan Anderson  
MSMU Class of 2024

I've often heard that time flies during college. In the moment, you never notice how quickly time passes. Seasons change, classes come and go, and sliding under human perception, experiences you have change you. Sometimes as the end of the moment approaches, it becomes easier to view the different person standing on the other side. More than that, it becomes easier to see how much certain individual parts of that experience influenced that different person. As my time as the arts column writer concludes, I can find myself caught in similar patterns of reflection.

I remember strolling around Mount St. Mary's campus at the beginning of the last school year, aimlessly exploring like I often did at home. I was a freshman in new surroundings, and it only made sense to familiarize myself. At some point, I don't remember how or when exactly, I walked into the Knott building where most of my classes were and found a little paper mounted to a board. It caught my attention and naturally I was driven to look at it closer. It was an advertisement (albeit outdated, as the editor at the time would later explain to me) for the very paper I'm now writing for.

After a lengthy email conversation (since, during COVID, that was how anything social happened), I was given the chance to write for the arts section, which at the time I never thought would give me the opportunity it did. Up until that point, I never experienced the exposure from my writing, at least consistently, that the News-Journal gave me the opportunity to have. Sure, I had written some small snippets for a paper back in Lancaster that were published, but it was neither as challenging nor complex an ordeal as writing for a column. That word, column, meant frequently. It didn't mean that I had to test myself once and call it a day like I did for essays or competitions. It was a requirement to do the best I could every issue, so that readers (if they stumbled across my column) might have a little bit of enjoyment to brighten the darkness that surrounded them. I never thought about it, but I walked into what was potentially one of the largest responsibilities of my life.

I welcomed the responsibility at the time, even though I never really understood or considered it. It was a challenge that was new, and even in the process of my first article, opportunities to grow presented themselves. I faced an uncomfortable wall that I had to pass through. Interviewing, concise writing, conversational writing without being overly casual, and even timely organization were all skills that were new and required a great deal of learn-

ing to develop (the latter especially, as Harry and Emmy, with the patience of saints, know firsthand). I learned through countless phone interviews to balance questioning with listening, and through feedback to write professionally but not formally. Without the great people I met and the time I spent under their careful correction, I wouldn't be half the writer I am now. I hate reading my own work, but from time to time I remember what I wrote in the past and can see that as I write my style has changed, and all for the better.

This improvement, unlike so much of what is viewed as improvement, was not abstract theory delivered in class. Lessons can only help so much; it's living that counts more toward learning than anything. Thanks to the decision by a few of my peers, I was blessed with the chance to learn through living a role in the paper. Writing this column gave me an opportunity to use what I already knew before. More importantly, it gave me the chance to see what words were better for certain situations, what sentence length I should use, and more importantly, what rules to throw out to make the article different (like using parentheses). While classroom knowledge is sometimes useful, it hardly qualifies as always useful. Practical knowledge, on the other hand, is always useful due to the fact that it comes from practicing itself. Thanks to the arts column, I was able to finally write as

an author, not as an English student, something I hope is not just an illusion of my mind.

While I have learned quite a bit, this new knowledge is not the premier factor of this brief period that changed the path I walk, or the way I perceive the world around me. It was a part, and a large part, but not the largest. Along the way I met a wide variety of people that I don't believe I would have been exposed to otherwise. I've interviewed everyone from the optimistic college artist to the aspiring self-employed businessman, experiencing the world through their eyes a little at a time. Interviewing connects you to the fundamentals of another person's identity and experience, building a sort of bond that defies explanation. While it may seem like nothing greater than scrawling down words on a slip of paper, the process is closer to a system of trial and error. The author tests the perception of another against his own and pulls out that which is contrary to his experience, followed by integrating it into his own worldview or casting it aside. A different image is left behind at the end, and it is the image presented in a sketch to readers so that they may experience a similar effect. It is a widening of perception that I am glad to have experienced and hope to have given.

Less abstractly, another benefit that remains with me from all the interviews I completed comes to mind. In the course of asking all these questions, it sometimes feels like something is lacking.

That lack shows and is obvious to both parties, although neither really knows what it is or why it makes the process uncomfortable. At some point, I realized that this unsaid part was true curiosity. To have a successful interview, it's necessary to first succeed in getting to know someone (deeply, not just for an article). There exists a real element of genuine human concern in the process, something like viewing the other person as a puzzle that you want to understand. It is an appreciation for the individuality of the other, perhaps better explained as a desire to relate to another removed from your own experience. The product of the various interactions I participated in has resulted in a personal curiosity that helps me to truly be concerned in a non-superficial way with the interests of others, something I am infinitely

grateful for. There is a gap bridged in many conversations that I never noticed before, one that I can say has changed my life for the better.

If the reader will allow for another overused expression, I have heard it often said that all good things must come to an end. I don't know (and can never know) if this run of mine was good for both of us, but I can hope. What I can know is that I leave happy, grateful, and a more complete individual than before. I have tested and grown my skills, made friends, and experienced for a time what being an author really meant. I can look back with satisfaction and hope the next arts writer will have as wonderful an experience as I have.

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




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# CATOCTIN SPORTS

## Fall sports return

Mia Ferraro  
CHS Class of 2022

Catoctin High School welcomed back our athletes and coaches to the fall sports season on August 11th. The season is expected to differ greatly from the previous in regards to FCPS' new safety guidelines. After the shortened and delayed fall season of the 2020-2021 school year, the fall teams returned to a full schedule, less restrictive (but still effective) COVID safety policies, and the approval of play-offs and state championship tournaments.

Athletic competitions begin September 3rd. This athletic season consists of the following sports: cheerleading - coached by Stephanie Munday; cross country - coached by Dave Lillard (boys) and Lois Strickland (girls); field hockey - coached by Miriah Stone; football - coached by Mike Rich; golf - coached by Jeremy Johnson; soccer - coached by Kevin Felichko (boys) and Megan Olson (girls); unified tennis - coached by Charmane Nesbitt; and volleyball - coached by Wes Fream.

With a clear and steady improvement over the last few seasons, the CHS girls soccer team is back and prepared to make their mark on another season. "My goal for our team this season is to win!" Senior athlete Emily Williams said. Williams had played soccer with the Catoctin Youth Association in addition to club soccer for years prior to joining the CHS team in her freshman year. She looks forward to enjoying the wider opportunities given by the COVID safety guidelines. "Last year we couldn't ride the bus, and we had to wear masks. This year the team can ride the bus, which will be so much fun," she said, then added, "and no masks make the conditioning easier!" Two years ago, the girls soccer team scored their first regular season win in three years, with Williams having scored the final goal. They returned last season with a refreshed sense

of motivation, and finished with two victories. The team prepares to build off of this progress in the new season. "I am super excited to start playing games; I love the competition and leading my team," said Williams. The team's first match of the season will take place at the high school on September 9th against Liberty High School.

New runner and freshman Kylie Foster joined the cross country team with the goals of strengthening her endurance, improving her running skills while reducing her mile time, and building relationships with the other team members. "As competitions begin," she said, "I am most looking forward to gaining experience while meeting others who share the same interests." According to Foster, practices range from a variety of workouts, with each one exercising a different part of the body. Depending on the day, practices may consist of slow long-distance runs, running hills, weight room training, and critical velocity training. Foster has enjoyed learning from coaches Lillard and Strickland as she familiarizes herself with the cross country team. "The coaches are fantastic and are always pushing you to do your best," she said.

This will be Lillard's second year of coaching at CHS after joining the community with 20 years of coaching experience under his belt. He works closely alongside Strickland, who is now onto her fourth year of coaching at Catoctin. In addition to cross country, Lillard and Strickland both coach indoor track in the winter and track & field in the spring. The pair leads the teams with a strong sense of community and teamwork. "What I enjoy most about joining the team is the people," Foster expressed. "I have enjoyed meeting all the members and being able to form friendships with them. Everyone on the team is super supportive!"

After policies regarding COVID prevented her team from advancing



Catoctin High varsity volleyball team

ing into play-offs, senior athlete Paige Romeril returned this season with the determination to win the volleyball state championship. "To get there, we are going to take it one game at a time and play our hardest," she said. Romeril has been playing volleyball for nine years and has played on the CHS varsity volleyball team since freshman year. "The big goal for our team is to win states," Romeril said. She is also looking forward to making up for lost opportunities of last year, including team dinners and hangouts. "I am really looking forward to having a student section at the games this year," Romeril added. "We always have a big turnout at the games but last year we missed out due to COVID-19."

The varsity team ended the regular season last year with an overall record of 6-4, and the junior varsity team ended with a record of 5-3. "The JV and Varsity teams were both very competitive and I truly believe that we had a very good shot at a state championship," coach Fream expressed in last year's volleyball banquet speech. "COVID has robbed us of this opportunity but it did not stop us from getting to enjoy the game of volleyball, and more importantly, one another."

This season, the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) gave their approval for fall play-offs and state tournaments, fueling the volleyball team's dedication. This will also mean that the team can compete against non-FCPS teams. "I am super excited to compete against new teams that we have never played before," Romeril expressed. The first varsity volleyball match of the season will take place at the high school on September 9th against Frederick High School.

### New COVID Safety Policies

The policies regarding COVID-19 in place this season for FCPS athletics differ significantly from those of the last fall sports season. FCPS guidelines for athletics are established by the FCPS Return to Play (RTP) subcommittee. They are based on guidance from the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland State Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Frederick County Public Schools.

Last fall sports season--as well as the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year--all student-athletes, coaches, game management staff, and spectators were to wear face coverings at all times inside school buildings. This season, face cover-

ings are required indoors with the exception of athletes actively participating in athletic competitions, practices, organized training activities, and weight training exercises--in which case face coverings are optional.

During the 2020-2021 athletic seasons, face coverings were mandatory for coaches, game management staff, and spectators at any outdoor event. This policy applied to athletes as well when possible and safe. Masks were therefore discouraged on hot days as regarded as an unsafe condition. This season, however, face coverings are optional to any person at an outdoor athletic event but are recommended to all when physical distancing can not be maintained, except for athletes actively participating in any athletic activity.

All student-athletes and coaches are required to wear face coverings on FCPS buses to and from an athletic event, as they were for the 2020-2021 athletic seasons. A maximum of 22 passengers were allowed on one bus when transported to an athletic competition last season. There are currently no FCPS guidelines this season regarding social distancing or limiting passengers on buses, except that the seat behind the driver should always remain empty as space allows. A new policy states that seating charts are required and must always be prepared by school staff prior to boarding the bus.

FCPS states that "the health and safety of FCPS student-athletes, coaches and all athletic stakeholders will continue to be FCPS' top priority and drive all decision making." Athletes, coaches, and fans alike are excited to take advantage of the new opportunities while being safe. While FCPS guidelines may be updated at any time, the community anticipates a somewhat smooth return to traditional high school sports. For Frederick County updates regarding COVID and vaccines, text "FredCOVID19" to 888777.

To read past editions of Catoctin Sports, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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MOUNT SPORTS

# Mount St. Mary's women's soccer 2021 season preview

Sam Barber  
MSMU Class of 2022

The athletic prowess at Mount St. Mary's over the better part of the past ten years has been nothing short of spectacular. The Mount St. Mary's women's soccer team is one of the teams that has seen a staunch upward trajectory over the past five seasons. This upcoming season has the potential to be one of the most historic campaigns in program history. Spearheading the buzz around the team is third-year head coach Tori Krause.

There are plenty of reasons to be excited within the program, however, the same cannot be said within the conference as the opposing coaches are not as optimistic regarding the Mountaineers. However, according to Coach Krause, the roster is absolutely loaded on all fronts: "We are very excited to have been able to bring back our entire roster from last year, and especially, Liz [Rockhill], our leading scorer." Krause continued by saying, "she was our first all-conference player since 2007, so we expect her to continue leading our attack."

Maria Bunomono will also continue her steadfast success with the Mount. "Maria has always been a leader. She has probably played the most, if not close to the most minutes of anyone on the team so we expect her to lead both the defense and start of the attack," exclaimed the coach.

A team with graduate-level experience is bound for success, however, the team is deeper than it appears on the surface. Two returning players are set to make waves this season. Senior Maddie Tchou could land herself in the Most Improved Player conversation. "Maddie Tchou has always been a significant player for us. She may not do anything flashy but behind Maria, she has played close to the most minutes of anyone. She has continuously improved, so I expect her to have another great season".

One of the most exciting players to keep your eyes on this season will be Isabella Wendler. Wendler has developed into one of the most versatile players on the team. During her freshman campaign, she found the back of the net three times off seven shots on goal (SOG). She tied with Rockhill for most goals on the team. Krause is one of many that hold Wendler in high regard: "Isabella started her freshman year off with a bang- scoring her first two collegiate goals in the first 90-seconds that she played and earned one of our program's two All-Rookie team selections."

Understanding that a team is not made of solely their core players is crucial in determining the success of the season. The Mount is loaded on that front, as second-string goalkeeper Maggie Barron is back for her sixth year. Other players worth mentioning that will make an immediate impact are sophomore Kayla Pennington, who was named to the Northeast Conference All-Rookie

Team a season ago and Madie Bee. Bee, who is a transfer from Temple, will have two seasons of eligibility remaining. During her time with the Owls, she saw considerable time as she earned her first collegiate brace during her sophomore campaign. The utilization of Barron, Bee, and Pennington will be crucial to Krause's squad down the stretch.

Staying towards the theme of player importance, no class serves a more important role on any team, in any sport, than the freshman class. The future foundation of programs is built upon the freshman class. Although building longevity is of utmost importance to Mount St. Mary's, this year's incoming class is a small one, however, Krause remains incredibly optimistic despite the small ensemble. "We have a really small freshman class, we only brought in three players, but we expect them all to make impacts this year. We have a very experienced team, so it will take them some time to learn our system of play, then we expect them to dive right in."

The Mountaineers' three freshmen hail from Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Drew Camp will add to the depth in net while Emily Street and Kelsey White will bring more experience to both the offense and defense.

During the 2020 season, the kryptonite of the team was finishing out close games down the stretch. Mount St. Mary's found themselves on the wrong side of two contests that were decided by one goal. This was a big stressor for the coaching staff: "We are looking to put away a few more chances throughout games to grow these leads a little more so we are able to more comfortably finish out games."

An exciting anecdote that could benefit the team is how competitive the NEC is from top to bottom. It



Maddie Tchou looks to play an instrumental role in this years season.

is obvious that winning a conference title and punching their ticket to the Big Dance is a goal; however, there is one goal that would be truly historic: finishing above .500. "We hope to finish above .500. It is something no Mount women's soccer team has ever done, so we are looking to try to break another record this year by doing that," says Krause.

The Mount finished 4-5 overall and 3-5 within conference play last season.

The experiences throughout the season are not just for the players, but for the coaches as well. Krause, who was a 2014 graduate from Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina, has a lot to look forward to this season. "The NC trip stands out. One, because we are going down and playing my alma mater which makes it a special weekend. Also, because as a long road trip, it will help us prepare for the longer stretches that happen during conference play."

Preseason polls are a feature of collegiate sports that are loved by fans, but often brushed aside by the coaching staff. The Mount's coach-

ing staff is no exception to this sports phenomenon. In the preseason poll, the Mount was tabbed to finish ninth in the conference. Krause does not believe it is an accurate representation of where this team is capable of finishing. "No, I do not think anyone would say ninth-place is an accurate pick for their team. We finished tied for fourth in the spring and returned our entire team, so I think it is fair to say we were surprised by the poll."

For NEC women's soccer history buffs, the last time the Mount was slated to finish ninth, they finished third, which was last season. "We were picked to come in ninth and ended up third, making our first conference tournament in 21 years," stated Krause.

Central Connecticut State, who is vying for their fourth consecu-

tive NEC title, was the overwhelming favorite over FDU and Sacred Heart, compiling nine of the eleven first-place votes. The Blue Devils have dominated the conference for the better part of half a decade.

The conference expanded to eleven teams this year, as the Howard University Bison joined as an associate member for women's soccer. The Bison's primary conference is the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

Mount St. Mary's will open the 2021 regular-season with a road bout against the Radford Highlanders. Their first home match is slated for Aug. 21 against former NEC foe Robert Morris. Tip-off for each match is 7:00 and 1:00 p.m. respectively.

To read past editions of Mount Sports, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

# The power of not knowing, maybe

Jefferson Breland

In August's Complementary Corner, I wrote I would address some of the ideas I introduced about unnecessary suffering in Part 2 of the article. I bit off more than I could chew for this month's column, so Part 2 will be spread out over the next month or two or three. There are many ways to create more peacefulness in our lives.

Last month, I suggested that Shakespeare's Hamlet was a Buddhist; that, of course, is highly unlikely. What prompted this ridiculous suggestion is that Hamlet in his reasonably famous "To be or not to be..." monologue posits life is full of ups, downs, knocks, trouble, heartache, etc. This is essentially the Buddhist principle of life is suffering. He also implied and I paraphrase, death is the way to end the "heartache and thousand natural shocks..." To this I said, "Maybe."

The context for my statements involves a discussion of necessary suffering versus unnecessary suffering. Necessary suffering is comprised of things that happen around us or to us, such as physical injuries or the death of loved ones. These are examples of things which we don't have control over, generally speaking.

Unnecessary suffering generally involves our wanting things to be different than they are and getting upset about them: The car in front of us on the road is going slower than we want, taxes, not giving ourselves enough time to get to an appointment, someone not thanking us for holding the door open for them, Amazon Prime shipping taking more than two days, someone texting while driving, and

there are many, many more examples.

Unnecessary suffering arises from our brain via our thoughts. We create it in our bodies based on our ideas about how things should be. It is unnecessary because we actually don't need to suffer in the presence of most of the people or events in our lives that raise our blood pressure. If we change the way we think about people or the events in our life like the "slow" driver ahead of us on the two-lane road with nowhere to pass for the last ten miles, then we can remain calmer, be healthier, and arrive happier.

There is a Buddhist adage that goes, "If the world is a rocky and thorny place, which is easier? To cover the whole world with leather or to put shoes on our feet?" The premise being that if we can change how we relate to the world it is easier than changing the whole world.

Here is where "maybe" may be of help. "Maybe" is one of my favorite words. "Maybe" opens a world of possibility. "Maybe" helps me create more brain space. It allows me more time to consider my thoughts. When I use the word "maybe," I do not immediately default to my well-practiced retorts, reactions, opinions, and favorite curse words. "Maybe," when used sincerely, creates a more peaceful world moment by moment. It also creates a healthier body and mind moment by moment.

When we create a more peaceful internal emotional world, we effect the world around us as well. Several months ago, I mentioned the HeartMath Institute in reference to their Heart Coherence work. They have done scientific studies where they have measured the electro-magnetic

field produced by the human heart. This field surrounds us and influences others who are physically near this field. You may have experienced this. When someone is in a mood-fearful, happy, angry, sad, or worried - you may have felt this field of energy affecting your mood. If you stood next to a smiling person, you may have noticed you were smiling and weren't sure why. This is because emotions influence body chemistry. Emotions are "energy in motion" and are contagious and may be more contagious than any virus or bacteria.

As I have mentioned last month, we create unnecessary suffering when we attach meaning to stuff other people say to us. It is important to remember that nothing is personal unless we make it personal. Just because someone says something, it doesn't make it true. More often than not, what someone says, says more about them than who or what they are speaking about. Who knew the school yard phrase, "I'm rubber and you are glue. What you say, bounces off me and sticks on you" was a wisdom saying. Of course, in these days of social media, words have a way of running amuck and it is even more important to remain calm and choose our response.

It is important to remember that we have a choice of how to respond to any situation. The writer Viktor Frankl said, "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

Frankl came to this thought while a prisoner in a German concentration camp during WWII and observed

men who were on the verge of dying giving the little food they had to those they thought might survive. In the presence of the brutality of their situation, they chose compassion and life for others.

There is an ancient parable from China that illustrates the power of choice. It is called, "The Taoist Farmer." This version is from the writer Alan Watts.

Once upon a time there was a Chinese farmer whose horse ran away. That evening, all of his neighbors came around to commiserate. They said, "We are so sorry to hear your horse has run away. This is most unfortunate." The farmer said, "Maybe." The next day the horse came back bringing seven wild horses with it, and in the evening everybody came back and said, "Oh, isn't that lucky. What a great turn of events. You now have eight horses!" The farmer again said, "Maybe."

The following day his son tried to break one of the horses, and while riding it, he was thrown and broke his leg. The neighbors then said, "Oh dear, that's too bad," and the farmer responded, "Maybe." The next day the conscription officers came around to conscript people into the army, and they rejected his son because he had a broken leg. Again all the neighbors came around and said, "Isn't that

great!" Again, he said, "Maybe."

"Maybe" is powerful because it is a self-declaration of "I don't know" in this moment. "I don't know" offers us the opportunity to reexamine our beliefs as well as our emotions and the opportunity to choose new beliefs and emotions. It is the beginning of new learning. "I don't know" allows us to think like beginning students of our own lives. It is an opportunity to make choices that expand possibility and free us from our past behaviors and perceptions. When we change the way we look at things, the things we look at change.

In my example of the driver of the car in front of me that was not driving as fast as I wanted them to, I declared them to be an angel; a messenger sent to help me slow down and practice being peaceful. Is it true? Maybe. What I do know for certain is I have a lot more angels in my life and a lot less unnecessary suffering.

*Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg and Towson. If you would like to know more about how Jefferson helps people please call him at 410-336-5876, email him at jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com, or visit his website www.jeffersonbrelandacupuncture.org.*



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# HEALTH AND FITNESS

## Keep moving with the changing seasons

Linda Stultz

Soon the season and weather will be changing but that doesn't mean we should slow down. It doesn't matter what time of year it is, we need to keep moving. A sedentary lifestyle contributes to a lack of energy and possibly developing or worsening health problems.

I have written about the importance of an active lifestyle in almost every article because it is so essential to a long, healthy way of life. Changing seasons and weather can affect how we feel. When the time changes and it gets dark early we tend to sit watching TV more. During the summer when it stays daylight longer it is easier to get more exercise.

Sitting is the fastest way to lose energy, flexibility, strength and a sharp mind. Leading a sedentary lifestyle is an easy habit to develop but will quickly take away your ability to live the life you enjoy. We all have to make adjustments in our workload and activity level as we get older but that doesn't mean sitting in your favorite chair all day watching TV. Getting a little more sleep

and maybe taking a few more short breaks during the day is natural as we age. We find we cannot keep going as long or work as hard as we use to but sitting and watching the world go by is definitely not the answer.

Retirement is a time to enjoy the hobbies we always wanted to do but did not have the time while working, enjoying more time with family and friends and just taking a little time for ourselves. Doing all the things I just mentioned can keep our bodies moving and healthy, even if we slow down just a bit. I realize sometimes health problems affect how much we can do and may slow us down faster than we anticipated. Even if you find yourself facing something you did not intend, try to find a way to keep motivated and do whatever you can to get some exercise. Moving will usually help you feel better and get back on your feet a little faster, even if you can only start slowly.

Getting older cannot be slowed down but feeling older definitely can. Regular exercise like walking, swimming, dancing and golfing will keep your muscles and bones in good shape. Going to the gym or meet-

ing friends for an outing will keep you active in both body and mind. Seniors who participate in organized activities like going to the senior centers, playing cards, bowling or anything that gets you out of the house and involved with others seem to have more energy and feel younger.

Many people who sit at home and do not interact with others find themselves feeling depressed and losing the energy and mobility they use to have. The best advice I have ever heard for someone who is thinking about retiring is to make a plan for what you are going to do. Be sure to have a hobby or something that will keep you busy and engaged in life. I know it sounds great to have nothing to do and be able to just relax but I also know that a person can feel lost when they wake up one morning and have no job to go to. All of a sudden you feel you have no purpose and realize you don't know what to do now. Everything I have been writing is not just geared toward seniors. Everybody, no matter what age needs to exercise and lead an active lifestyle in order to keep their health



thriving. Children, teens, adults and seniors will all benefit from keeping busy and moving. The sooner you start moving the longer you will be able to live the active life you enjoy and be able to keep going with ease as you age. Any questions or ideas please contact me at 717-334-6009.

Remember, Keep Moving, You'll be glad you did.

*Meals are part of a healthy eating plan along with exercise so Keep Moving and call me at 717-334-6009 if you have any questions or have any ideas that I can share in future articles.*

## Wellness in the garden

On Saturday, September 25 from 8:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. the Adams County Master Gardeners will be offering a morning of This event takes us into the garden to learn techniques that will help you relax, de-stress, and learn a bit about gardening! Our morning in the garden will take you through the following stations: Qigong, yoga, fall gardening, and fall container gardening. In the Qigong and Yoga classes you will be moving and practicing movements. These movements will help you to relax and focus on healing and calmness. In the Container Gardening class you will be taking home a completed fall container for your porch or patio, and the fall gardening class will give you an opportunity to

learn much about vegetables and what to do in the fall vegetable garden. Join us for a fun filled and active morning!

Here are some details of the day: Qigong: Katrina Warnick is a certified medical qigong practitioner in the Gettysburg area. She provides comprehensive services to guide and help clients feel the confidence and support they need to achieve overall wellness and well-being. For this event Katrina will be teaching the basic concepts of Qigong and introduce learners to a set of movements they can do to improve their overall health and wellbeing. The class is appropriate for students of all ages and anyone wanting to learn more.

Yoga: Yoga is a spiritual discipline based on an extremely

subtle science, which focuses on bringing harmony between mind and body. It is an art and science of healthy living. Yoga is widely practiced for health and relaxation. Aurora Bonner is a yoga instructor in the Gettysburg area. You will participate in the yoga class and learn why this practice is encouraged for relaxation. All ages are welcome.

Fall Gardening: Kelly Kuhn is a Penn State Master Gardener of Adams County and will be sharing her knowledge on practices for the fall vegetable garden. Season extenders and putting the garden to bed for the winter will be discussed.

Container Gardening: Often thought of as a spring activity, fall and winter can bring beautiful colors to the porch or patio as well. Mary Ann Ryan, Consumer Hor-

ticulture Program Coordinator, will show you how to combine fall plants to make beautiful containers. She will also talk about soil medium, fertilization, and watering. In this class you will be making your own planter to take home.

Registration begins at 8:45, classes begin by 9:15 and you will meet us in the garden at 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. There is a small fee of \$35 that

includes the materials needed for the hands-on workshop.

*For more information call the Adams County Master Gardener Guru Mary Ann Ryan at 717-334-6271.*

*To register for any these classes, go to <https://extension.psu.edu/trees-lawns-and-landscaping/home-gardening> or call 1-877-345-0691.*



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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of August

Professor Wayne Wooten

For September, the moon is waning crescent in the first week, reaching new on September 6th. The waxing crescent lies to the upper right of Venus in evening sky on September 9th. It is first quarter on September 13th. The waxing gibbous moon passes below Saturn on September 16, then below brighter Jupiter on September 17th. The full Harvest Moon is on September 20th. The Autumnal Equinox begins fall on September 22nd at 1:21 p.m. The moon is last quarter on September 28th.

Fall gives us our best meteor showers. Around October 20th, Halley's Comet debris strikes us with the Orionid Meteor Shower, and about November 17th, the Leonid Meteor shower peaks. Then about December 14th, we get the Geminid display, usually the best of the year. Dani is lucky to catch this meteor is the evening sky; most appear after midnight, when our side of the planet faces the debris streams head on.

Mercury is out of view, too close to the Sun in September. Venus dominates the evening sky in the SW, passing just above Spica on September 5th. Mars too lies behind the Sun this month. Jupiter and Saturn put on a fine show in the SE at sunset. Jupiter features its four Galilean moons in small scopes, all in a row around its equator, and its Great Red Spot is still active. At dusk, fainter Saturn lies due south, just west of Jupiter, and rings are tilted widely open for great telescopic views now. Its large and fasci-



Once again, we are entering peak meteor season. On October 20th, Halley's Comet debris strikes us with the Orionid Meteor Shower.

nating moon Titan is also easily seen in small scopes.

From the Dipper's handle, we 'arc' SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo. Brilliant Venus passes above Spica on September 5th. Note that Spica is now low in the SW, and by September's end, will be lost in the Sun's glare due to our annual revolution of the Sun making it appear to move one degree per day eastward.

To the Greeks, Spica and Virgo were associated with Persephone, the daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. In their version of "Judge Judy", the beautiful young daughter falls for the gruff, dark god of the underworld, Pluto. He elopes with her, much to

the disapproval of mother Ceres, and they marry in his underworld kingdom of Hades...a honeymoon in hell...really, he does love her as well, and the marriage itself works well. But it is the reaction of Ceres that creates alarm. Very despondent over the loss of her young daughter to a fate as bad as death, Ceres abandons the crops, which wither.

Soon famine sets in, and humanity appeals to Jupiter to save us all. Calling all together, Jupiter hears that Ceres wants the marriage annulled, Persephone loves them both, and Pluto wants his mother-in-law to stop meddling. Solomon style, Jupiter decides to split her up, not literally, but in terms of time. In the compromise (aren't all marriages so?), when you can see Spica rising in the east in March, it means to plant your peas. For the next six months, she visits upstairs with as very happy mama, and the crops will prosper. But now, as

Spica heads west (to the kingdom of death, in most ancient legends) for six months of conjugal bliss with Pluto, it is time to get your corn in the crib. This simple story, told in some form for as long as Noah's flood, was one of the ways our ancestors 7,000 years ago knew the solar calendar and when to plant and harvest. As you watch Spica fade, thank this star for agriculture, and even our own civilization.

To the south, Antares marks the heart of Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Romans) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Near the tail of the Scorpion are two fine open clusters, faintly visible to the naked eye, and spectacular in binoculars. The clusters lie to the upper left of the bright double star that marks the stinger in the Scor-

pion's tail. The brighter, M-7, is also known as Ptolemy's Cluster, since he included it in his star catalog about 200 AD.

East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye. Like the clusters, it shows up well in Dani's smartphone shot...the things these new gadgets can do!

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the NE sky. Binoculars reveal the small star just to the NE of Vega, epsilon Lyrae, as a nice double. Larger telescopes at 150X reveal each of this pair is another close double, hence its nickname, "The Double Double". This is fine sight under steady seeing conditions over 150X with scopes 4" or larger. Between the two bottom stars; the Ring Nebula, marked "M-57" on the Skymap, is a smoke ring of gas and dust expelled by a dying red giant star while its core collapsed to a white dwarf. A similar fate is expected for our own sun in perhaps five billion more years.

To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. At the other end of the "northern Cross" that makes up the body of Cygnus is Albireo, the finest and most colorful double star in the sky. Its orange and blue members are well resolved at 20X by any small scope. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear September evenings. Binoculars should be taken to the deep sky gazes to sweep the rich portion of the Galaxy now best placed overhead in this area.

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## Farmers' Almanac

*"Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken."*

—Bill Dodds (1952 - )

### Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Showers, mild, (1, 2); rain (warm, humid (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) with more showers, thunderstorms (11, 12, 13). Cooler, less humid (14, 15); fair and milder (16, 17, 18). Rain (19, 20, 21) turning fair, very warm (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

**Severe Weather Watch:** The Hagerstown Town and Country Almanack sees tropical storm and hurricane activity in the region from the 10th through the 13th and the 26th through the 28th of the month.

**Full Moon:** The Harvest Moon is the Full Moon that falls closest to the Autumnal Equinox (usually in September) at a time when the moon rises soon after sunset on several successive days. According to tradition, the extra light from

the moon during that period gave the farmer more time in which to finish up his chores and bring in the harvest. In 2021, the Autumnal Equinox occurs on Wednesday, September 22nd and signals the beginning of Autumn. The Full Moon closest to that date occurs on Monday, September 20th and is therefore, 2021's Harvest Moon of 2021.

**Holidays:** Labor Day falls on the first Monday of the month which is September 6th. On September 11th, America was attacked like never before and has never been the same since. We must honor those who perished then on Saturday, September 11th. And we must never forget to honor all of the brave first-responders who also perished trying to minimize the loss of life. Citizenship Day is observed on Friday, September 17th, Rosh Hashana begins on Tuesday, September 7th and Yom Kippur begins on Friday, September 16th, both at sunset.

**The Garden:** Fall is a great time to plant and divide perennials and shrubs for next year's garden. By

planting in the fall, your plants do not endure the stressful summer heat during establishment and have time to form sufficient root systems before the onset of winter dormancy. Don't retire the lawn mower when the growth of your lawn slows down this fall. As long as the grass continues to grow, you should continue to mow it. You can help leaves break down more easily by running the lawn mower back and forth over the pile. Put the shredded leaves directly onto the garden or compost pile.

**The Farm:** Best days for planting root crops (24, 25); weeding and stirring the soil (4, 5); planting above-ground crops (10, 11); harvesting all crops (17, 18); best days for setting hens and incubators (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12); transplanting (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); the harvesting and storing of grains (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 28, 29, 30).

### J. Gruber's Thought for Today's Living

*"A classroom is not the only place where a person can learn"*

# COMPUTER Q&A

## PC maintenance

Aysè Stenabaugh

Let's be honest, maintaining your computer is probably the furthest thing from your mind until something goes wrong. Similar to performing maintenance on a vehicle, having yearly maintenance done on your computer can help detect hardware problems, resolve security issues and increase performance. Over time with and with use Computers can become bogged down with unwanted software, pop-ups and error messages. These issues can often be resolved without needing to purchase a new computer. We've included information about a few of the things that we at Jester's Computer Services recommend you maintain and are included in our clean-up service which we offer for a discounted price every March and September.

Software which may or may not have been installed intentionally often hinder performance by being configured to always run at startup or to run in the background unnecessarily. Over time you may accumulate software that you no longer use or that becomes out of date and should be updated. Identifying and removing software that is malicious can resolve slowness and unwanted pop-ups or notifications. Sometimes these programs can easily be uninstalled but other times it may take a skilled technician to locate and remove harmful software.

Updates are important to keep your device running smoothly. They help to ensure that any security risks that have been found and resolved are applied to your device. If your programs are out of date they may not function properly and sometimes they can even negatively affect the performance of your computer. Many dislike updates because the result can sometimes include change however keeping your device vulnerable can end up much worse. Most often updates don't provide many changes especially if they are done regularly. During our Clean-up, we update both your operating system and common software to the latest versions.

Hardware, or your device's physical equipment, can wear out over time. Most commonly we see hard drives (where all your personal data is stored) fail after 5-7 years but doesn't mean they can't and won't fail sooner. When you have your computer maintained, good technicians will check your hard drive to see if there are any signs that your hard drive is failing and if necessary, recommend a replacement before any data is lost. An even better technician will be honest with you about whether or not its worth replacing the hard drive or the entire computer all together. Computers can also over-heat and should be blown out inside to remove dust and dirt buildup that could cause hardware to fail prematurely.

Temporary files that can include files you opened but did not save, old update files that no longer have a use and temporary files created while browsing the web. None of the aforementioned include your personal data files and are simply taking up storage space on your hard drive. Data

files won't slow your computer down but they do take up storage space and when a hard drive becomes too full the operating system will stop functioning properly and the device will become unusable until space is recovered.

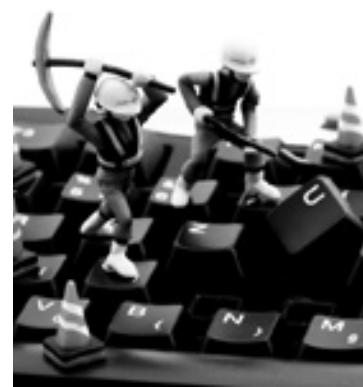
Registry errors can be caused when you install and then uninstall a program or perform software updates. Since both happen regularly, these errors are unavoidable. You may not even notice that there is a problem but once the errors are resolved, background operations can run more smoothly resulting in a better user experience. Even with yearly maintenance most computers we see accumulate over a thousand or more registry errors, just another example of why regular

maintenance is a good idea.

Malicious software that is installed on your device may not be obvious to the average user. While viruses and potentially unwanted programs can appear unexpectedly on your computer, often users unknowingly allow them in. An active antivirus no matter how good, won't always prevent a user from installing software that could have legitimate purposes but that most would consider an unwanted or malicious program. At Jester's Computer in addition to our technicians removing any viruses or malicious software we provide educational materials to help you prevent common issues and, for those than need more help we offer one-on-one support by appointment.

Pop-ups, errors & conflicts that you encounter can often be resolved by regular maintenance as well. Investigat-

ing these problems can sometimes lead to prevent of a potentially bigger issue. Often, we remember how simple computers used to be while disregarding just how frequently we use and rely on our devices today this has become even more obvious since the start of the pandemic. Since most of the things we use computers for also incorporate using the internet, maintenance is even more vital than it was in the past.



If you haven't had your computer maintained in the last year, Jester's Computers would love to support your technology needs! All September long you can take advantage of our clean-up special which provides a \$20 discount off our regular \$99 price. To reach us find us online at [www.jesterscomputers.com](http://www.jesterscomputers.com) on Facebook or by calling or texting us at 717-642-6611. We are open 9 .am.

to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday with extended hours until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Appointments are not required however we are asking all guests to please wear a mask during drop-off and pick-ups. Most of our services including clean-ups are typically completed within 24 business hours or less unless special order parts are required!

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# HUMOR

More totally useless facts you never knew

- Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least 6 feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.
- The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as substitute for blood plasma.
- No piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times. (try it)
- The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.
- A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brothers' first flight.
- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class.
- Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
- Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.
- The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer.
- Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined.
- Marilyn Monroe had six toes.
- All US Presidents have worn glasses. Some just didn't like being seen wearing them in public.
- Walt Disney was afraid of mice.
- The three most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca Cola, and Budweiser, in that order!
- And the best for last.... Turtles can breathe through their butts.
- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
- In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all

the world's nuclear weapons combined.

- On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.
- On average people fear spiders more than they do death.
- Ninety percent of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants.
- Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.
- Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.
- Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.
- It's possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.
- No word in the English language rhymes with "MONTH".
- Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.
- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
- All polar bears are left handed.
- In ancient Egypt, priests plucked EVERY hair from their bodies, including their eyebrows and eyelashes.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
- "Go." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.


- A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
- The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
- Americans on average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.
- Money isn't made out of paper; it's made out of cotton.
- The 57 on Heinz ketchup bottle represents the varieties of pickles the company once had.
- Your stomach produces a new layer of mucus every two weeks - otherwise it will digest itself.
- The Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper.
- The dot over the letter "i" is called a tittle.
- A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top..
- 40% of McDonald's profits come from the sales of Happy Meals.
- Every person has a unique tongue print.
- During the chariot scene in 'Ben Hur' a small red car can be seen in the distance.
- On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily.
- Chocolate affects a dog's heart and nervous system; a few ounces will kill a small sized dog.
- Most lipstick contains fish scales.
- Orcas (killer whales) kill sharks by torpedoing up into the shark's stomach from underneath, causing the shark to explode.
- Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
- Ketchup was sold in the 1830s as medicine.
- Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.
- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in '87 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first class.
- Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.

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<p align="center"><b>COACH BAG &amp; MONEY BINGO</b> <b>September 12</b></p> <p align="center"> <b>\$25 Per Person</b> Doors Open @ 11 a.m. Bingo Games @ 1 p.m.</p> <p align="center"><b>28 Games Total</b> <b>12 Games - \$100</b> <b>14 Games Coach Bags</b> <b>Half Time - \$500</b> <b>Final Game - \$1,000</b></p> <p align="center">Tip Jars ~ 50/50 ~ Door Prizes Kitchen ~ Cash Bar ~ ATM</p> <p align="center">Tickets available at door or call <b>Tammy or Jim Wolf</b> <b>717-642-5075 or 717-420-6209</b></p>	<p align="center"> <b>September 18</b> <b>8 a.m. - 2 p.m.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Registration Fee: \$15</b></p> <p align="center">Includes 1 Meal Additional Meal Tickets \$10 Kitchen open for additional food Dash Plaques to 1st 100 registered Trophies awarded @ 1 p.m. Music/DJ by Joe Brown</p> <p align="center">Call: 240-674-1235 / 301-667-1545 Door Prizes ~ Games ~ Chinese Auction Swap Meet ~ 50/50</p> <p align="center"><b>VENDORS WANTED!</b> (Contact numbers listed above) Mail all pre-registration forms to: <b>9 Brown Ave., Thurmont. MD 21788</b></p>
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**Thurmont Event Complex**  
13716 Strafford Dr., Thurmont **301-1271-7550** [www.thurmonteventcomplex.com](http://www.thurmonteventcomplex.com)  
Both events will benefit the Thurmont Community Ambulance Service

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# HUMOR

- Upper and lower case letters are named 'upper' and 'lower' because in the time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the 'upper case' letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the smaller, 'lower case' letters.
- There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.
- There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with: orange, purple, and silver!
- The name Wendy was made up for the book Peter Pan, there was never a recorded Wendy before!
- Leonardo da Vinci invented scissors. Also, it took him 10 years to paint Mona Lisa's lips.
- If you pour a tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion, it will instantly go mad and sting itself to death.
- If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.
- The mask used by Michael Myers in the original "Halloween" was a Captain Kirk mask painted white.
- The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law, which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.
- The first product Motorola started to develop was a record player for auto mobiles. At that time, the most known player on the market was the Victrola, so they called themselves Motorola.
- By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you can't sink in quicksand.
- Celery has negative calories! It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with. It's the same with apples.
- Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying!
- The glue on Israeli postage stamps is certified kosher.
- Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a space suit damages them. (sorta obvious)
- Back in the mid to late 80's, an IBM compatible computer wasn't considered a hundred percent compatible unless it could run Microsoft's Flight Simulator.
- Ever wonder why full-length golf courses have 18 holes ... .. and not 20, or 10 or an Even dozen? Well during a discussion among the club's membership board at St. Andrews in 1858, one of the members pointed out that it takes exactly 18 shots to polish off a fifth of Scotch.

By limiting himself to only one shot of Scotch per hole, the Scots figured a round of golf was finished when the Scotch ran out.

- During the 13th century, the word girl meant any young person, whether male or female.
- The sewing machine was patented on July 17, 1790.
- At the end of World War 1 the average price for a gallon of gasoline was 25 cents. Thirty years later the average price had risen only to 26 cents a gallon.
- The largest desert in the world is on the continent of Antarctica. The yearly precipitation is only about 2 inches of snow for most of the continent.
- The coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was in Antarctica? It was a startlingly 128.6 degrees Fahrenheit below zero!
- The worlds first general use electronic computer was completed in 1946. Called ENIAC, it contained about

18,000 vacuum tubes and measured around 8 feet tall and about 78 feet long!

- The Pacific Ocean contains about 25,000 islands.
- To protect their eyes from blowing sand, camels have three sets of eyelids.



*Thurmont's Annual Gateway to the Cure*  
**COVERED BRIDGE 5K RUN/WALK**  
**Sunday, October 24**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**Eyler Rd. Park, 15 Eyler Rd., Thurmont**

**2 Ways to Register:**  
 1. Register at [RunSignUp.com](http://RunSignUp.com) & enter Gateway to the Cure  
 2. Call Thurmont Municipal Office M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 301-271-7313



**\$35**  
**Per Person**

All participants will receive a T-shirt. Pre-registered entries will receive their shirt at the event. Sign-ups 10 days or less prior to the event will have their shirts mailed.  
 All proceeds benefit the Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund.

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**Ott House Pub**  
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**Palms Restaurant**  
16-20 W. Main St., 301-447-3689



**Pizza Hut**  
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But there's a way forward.

**A WAY FORWARD TOGETHER**

Our lives have been turned upside down by COVID-19, leading not only to threats to our physical health but also to our mental health. If you or others you know are struggling with depression, alcohol or drug misuse, trauma, or thoughts of suicide, there's a way forward. Call 2-1-1 or visit [awayforwardtogether.org](http://awayforwardtogether.org) for assistance and guidance. You're not alone—help is available now.

Visit [awayforwardtogether.org](http://awayforwardtogether.org) | Call 2-1-1

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