

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 15, NO. 2

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

FEBRUARY 2023

MYFAIRFIELD.NET • EMMITSBURG.NET • MYTHURMONT.NET • TANEYTOWN.NET

## NEWS

### Developer Pulls Plug On Frailey Farm

Economic downturn made development untenable. **Page 2**

### Trailer Limit Ordinance Tabled

Residents turned out in force to oppose limits. **Page 3**

### Recycling Service

#### Costs Vex Council

Mounting costs could bring an end to recycling center. **Page 4**

### Habitat For Humanity

Construction to begin on home in Taneytown in the Spring. **Page 5**

### Catoctin Winter Bird Count

The overall drop in the number of birds counted was a sobering 24%. **Page 25**

## COMMENTARY

### Words From Winterbitt

February reflections & Presidents' Day. **Page 10**

### The Bulwark

Will the GOP walk the Fair Tax Plank? **Page 11**

## ARTICLES

### The Book Of Days

The life and times of John of Gaunt. **Page 13**

### Ecology

Lessons for early conservation efforts. **Page 14**

### Science Matters

Is race a real thing? **Page 16**

### Village Idiot

Interested in gardening but don't have land? Call Jack... **Page 17**

### Gardening

Planning for your Spring garden. **Page 18**

### Pets

Whoever said money can't buy love never paid an adoption fee. **Page 20**

### History

'Inky' Rodgers' reflection of life at St. Joseph's College. **Page 26**

### Cooking

Overcoming the February culinary bore. **Page 32**

### Four Years At The Mount

Making the most of the rest of the winter. **Page 34**

## Chad Umbel inducted into VHC's Hall of Fame

At its annual award and recognition ceremony on January 7, the Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) paid tribute to members for their dedication and service to the community.

This year members of the department chose outgoing Fire Chief Chad Umbel and William Sanders for the Hall of Fame award, the highest award in the company.

During Umbel's induction, former VHC President and Master of Ceremonies Tim Clarke said of Umbel: "he is without a doubt one of the most respected professional firefighters currently applying his trade in Frederick County. Umbel was recognized for facilitating the smooth transition within the organization from a more senior leadership to a more youthful leadership with minimal disruption in operational and organizational effectiveness. In being inducted into the Hall of Fame, Umbel joins his father Austin, who was inducted in 2003.

Also inducted into the Hall of Fame, albeit posthumously, was William Sanders, who was recognized for his 30 years of dedicated service to the fire company.

According to Clarke, Sanders "dedicated and volunteered tons of time in free accounting services to make sure our organization was smart with our money and investments. He ensured the VHC had a solid business and property replacement plan." Clarke closed with saying that Sanders' "lived a very long and fulfilling life and his legacy will live on for an eternity.

The Member of the Year Award was presented to Mary Lou Little for her contribution and dedication to enhancing the VHC's fundraising efforts and attracting new supporters. Little became part of the VHC following the merger of the VHC and the Emmitsburg Ambulance Co back in 2017. Little "creatively improved those efforts this past year as we begin our capital campaign towards the purchase of a new tower truck," Clarke said.

This year's President's Award was presented to the VHC Auxiliary. In presenting the award, President Tom Ward said: "coming out of the pandemic people were hungry to head out and spend time at events. Instead of narrowing down considerations for this award to



Chad Umbel celebrates with his father Austin, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2003.

names, I found the best rather, to recognize a group of individuals. Not one event VHC hosted won't find at least one member of this group present and offering their time. They are our "go to" for a large portion of fundraising and community events. They are responsible for directly supporting our organization and making us a financial success."

This year, Doug Yingling was the recipient of the Chief's Award for his tireless efforts in not only handling his on-call requirements, but in enthusiastically accepting additional assignments to include mentoring, Quartermaster duties,

and handling of all the requests for service from mutual aid organizations

During the banquet, the VHC's Auxiliary presented a toy size replica of a 2024 Ford Explorer that the Auxiliary is purchasing and donating to the fire department. The new Explorer will be used as the new VHC duty/command vehicle. This vehicle will be replacing the current 2001 duty vehicle which is in dire need of replacing. In addition to the donation of the duty vehicle, the Auxiliary also made a donation of \$10,000 to properly equip the vehicle.

## Mount Hope Maple Madness returns

Cold winter days practically call for hot off the griddle pancakes smothered in fresh, warm maple syrup for hearty weekend breakfasts. Partner these delicious pancakes with local craft vendors and maple sugaring tours and you've got a morning full of fun for the whole family.

Mount Hope Maple Madness has returned for two Saturdays!

All are invited to discover the generations-old technique of how everyone's favorite syrup makes it from the forest to the kitchen table Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> for Strawberry Hill Foundation's Mount Hope Maple Madness at Camp Eder.

An all-you-care-to-eat pancake breakfast will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. and tours through the maple sugar making discovery will be held from 8 until 10:30 a.m. Fans of the maple festival can still expect crowd favorites and an amazing time in the great outdoors.

Maple Madness is a seasonal community favorite that's been happening for over 26 years.

During the pandemic, Strawberry Hill held private tours throughout the maple wonderland the last Saturday of February, but nothing can compare

with the full hands-on experience of Maple Madness. And this year, the event is back in full swing for two Saturdays instead of one.

Contrary to popular belief, the first sign of spring is not the appearance of a robin but is noted as the running of sap through maple trees, and currently maple sugaring is kicking into high gear in this area. It's a process that goes back hundreds of years and has a rich (no pun intended) history.

All ages are encouraged to experience this tradition brought to life by Strawberry Hill naturalists. Demonstrations will exhibit the tree tapping process, detail how trees are tapped, view sap-collecting methods past and present, and see the boiling process that produces delicious maple syrup.

This year's Maple Madness will be a throw-back to the days before covid. After much discussion and deliberation, Strawberry Hill decided to bring back the two Saturday option for Maple Madness.

The annual Maple Madness Festival began in 1997 as a small pancake breakfast to raise money for environmental education. Over the years Strawberry Hill has developed their maple-sugaring program



Strawberry Hill Naturalists will be giving demonstrations on how to tap a Maple tree for its sap.

and built a strong connection with Camp Eder and as a result, the pancake breakfast has grown into a festival that serves hundreds of visitors each day.

Strawberry Hill serves more than 6,000 school children annually, providing important hands-on learning experiences. They work hard to keep field trip fees low enough to

be accessible by public schools, and fundraisers like Mount Hope Maple Madness are a community-centered way toward that goal.

For more information about Strawberry Hill Foundation, as well as to purchase tickets in advance for Maple Madness, please call 717-642-5840 or visiting [www.strawberryhill.org](http://www.strawberryhill.org).

Postal Customer

PRE-SORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Gettysburg, PA  
Permit No. 53

# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Developer pulls plug on Frailey Farm

Citing deteriorating economic conditions, and the high cost of building in Emmitsburg, the developer of the proposed Fairley Farm development has dropped his development plans.

The 118-acre farm, which abuts the western edge of Emmitsburg and sits just south of Frailey Road, has been the focus of development talk for the last year.

The farm, of which 15 acres is already within town limits, was identified in the Town's 2015 comprehensive plan to be eventually annexed for residential housing growth. The farm is designated as R-1, low-density residential community development, which allows, on the average, four units to the acre.

Jeff Ott, of OPI, Inc. was the latest to take a stab at its development. At the October 24th Town Council workshop, Ott proposed a 350 unit mixed of townhomes and small and large lot single homes. The entrance price for the townhomes Ott speculated would be \$300k, while single family homes would go from \$400K to \$500K.

The Council looked favorably on Ott's range of housing types and price points that were designed to encourage first time homebuyers while accom-

modating different types of home designs. Unfortunately, Ott hit a brick wall when it came to concerns over the development's impact on traffic.

Historically, the farm's annexation had been tied to a southwest bypass designed to accommodate rising area traffic. Prior town administrations planned to use the annexation to provide the land needed for a bypass to alleviate traffic congestion on the square.

The southwest bypass would start on Seton Ave just opposite the entrance to the National Fire Academy, then run northwest, bisecting the Frailey Farm, before it joined Rt. 140 just opposite the entrance way to Brookfield.

But Ott said he and his team had all but nixed that idea due to extensive costs and the significant density load it would bring. Ott said the only way to pay for a bypass would be to expand the development to 500 units, which the town staff denied.

Instead, Ott proposed two options to residents to access the development without having to go through the Square: lengthening and widening the Lincoln Way, and/or running a road through the middle of Myer's Com-

munity Park, cutting the park in half, north and south.

Commissioner Joe Ritz said widening & lengthening Lincoln Way was "a non-starter," for him. It's an old style 1800ish back alley, Ritz pointed out, designed for the leisurely pace of horses and carts. It's not suitable for a two-way thoroughfare.

Commissioner Amy Pollitt weighed in against a connector road through Myer's park. Pollitt expressed concern over dividing the park in half, and said a connector road would impact the lives of South Gate residents who would find their homes suddenly on a major road with through traffic. Not dissimilar to what residents in Brookfield faced in 2002 when the developer of the Sliver Fancy farm proposed running a northern bypass through Brookfield. The proposal spawned the Citizens Organizers to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE) movement, ushering in several years of strife within the community.

While Ott has dropped his bid, it is understood that other developers have begun to cast about for a workable solution to the farm's eventual development.

*Emmitsburg*  
NEWS-JOURNAL

P.O. Box 543  
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

301-471-3306

www.emmitsburg.com

Emmitsburg.net, Taneytown.net, Woodsboro.net  
Mythurmont.net, Myfairfield.net, & Walkersville.net

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.

Senior Advisors:

Eric Glass, Taney Corporation  
Greg Reaver, Emmitsburg Glass

Executive Editor: Michael Hillman, editor@emmitsburg.com

Managing Editor: McKenna Snow - MSMU Class of 2023

Assistant Editor: Claire Doll - MSMU Class of 2024

News Reporters:

Emmitsburg - Melissa McKenny  
Fairfield & Carroll Valley - Alex Hayes  
Thurmont - Tara Hayes  
Taneytown - Michele Brown

Graphic Design and Layout: Brian Barth, timebombstudios.com

Advertising: Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

Letters to the Editor, notice of upcoming events, news stories, and interesting and creative articles are welcome and may be submitted via regular U.S. Mail to P.O. box 543, Emmitsburg, MD 21727, or by email to editor@emmitsburg.com.

## Second round of ARPA funds applied to water projects

The Town Council approved the Town staff's recommend that the second tranche of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, \$1,576,610, received by the town in August of 2022 be spent on water infrastructure improvement projects.

Among other things, ARAP money can be used for investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure projects. The Federal government launched ARPA in 2021 to help municipalities overcome financial challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Municipalities have until the end of 2024 to obligate the money and spend it by the end of 2026. If the funds are not obligated or spent, the money must be returned to the Federal Government.

Once all the payments are completed the town will have received a total

of \$3,152,038, according to the Town Manager, Cathy Willets.

The first payment of \$1,575,429 was received in July of 2021 and used to install a new water clarifier and fund the replacement for the Creamery Road sewer pump station. The sewer pump was paced at the top of the town priority as it was 55 years old and was difficult to maintain due to inability to get replacement parts. The town hopes to bid the work out by summer and begin work on its actual replacement soon after.

The water clarifier made the list as Rainbow Lake, Emmitsburg's principle source of fresh water, experiences large amounts of algae in the summer. Clarifiers are designed to remove the vast majority of the algae and particulates in water before the water reaches the water treatment plant.

The estimated cost for the pump station was \$3,657,000 and the water clarifier \$2,360,000. To pay for the new pump station, the town received a loan from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for \$1,987,000. In addition, the USDA provided additional grants totaling \$863,000, leaving the town with a budget shortfall of \$807,000 for the pump station. Unfortunately, due to circumstances out of the Town's control, the new estimate for the pump station is approximately one million more than the original estimate. Staff is working with USDA to secure additional funding.

To help pay for the water clarifier, the town received a \$1 million grant from the State of Maryland, leaving a project budget shortfall of \$1,360,000 for the water clarifier. To complete the two

projects the town needed to find a total of \$2,167,000 more in funding. The answer came in the 1st round of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The town staff hopes to repeat their success by suggesting the second tranche of ARPA fund by allocated to covering any shortfall in funds from grants associated with the replacement of the 10-inch water line from rainbow lake, the replacement of the North Seton water line, and the cost of the replacement of the DePaul water line. The replacement of the North Seton Ave. waterline is estimated at \$1.2 million and the DePaul St. waterline is \$1.1 million.

Willets told the Town Council the town has already applied for grants to help defray the cost of the replacement of the North Seton and DePaul water

lines, and intends to apply for a grant to replace the 10-inch pipe water line from Rainbow Lake with a 16-inch pipe.

The necessity of replacing the DePaul Street and North Seton waterlines stemmed from numerous reports being received from drinking-water were complaining of a persistent brown colorization of their tap water. DePaul Street and North Seton Waterlines are made of the old ductile iron pipe that is prone to tuberculation which is a known source of discolored water.

Town Staff recommended that the 10-inch water line from Rainbow Lake be replaced with a 16-inch because the 10-inch line is not big enough for the town, and the town is not meeting fire flow capability. Initial estimates for the replacement of the line is \$10 million.

## News Briefs . . .

### Town Passes One Resolution and Two Ordinances

At the January Town Council passed one new resolution and two ordinances.

Resolution 2023-01 was a bond reduction request for the Irishtown Road Project. A performance bond is a financial guarantee that the terms of a

contract will be honored. If one party to a contract cannot complete their obligations, the bond is paid out to the other party to compensate for their damages or costs. As of the January meeting the contractor met all requirements, which

included connecting water lines, sewer line testing, sidewalks, streetlights, crosswalks, and road signs.

Ordinance 2023-02 was for an amendment to Title 17 Changes to Zoning Fees and Ordinance 2023-03 was for an amendment to Title 16 Changes to Subdivision Fees. Both of these ordinances cover new construction, annexations, forest conservation changes and zoning changes.

During new construction or annexation, the town commonly has to pay lawyer fees to review items the developer or contractor proposes. The new ordinances will make the developer or contractor pay for estimated costs for attorney fees or engineer fees. Town staff did not feel that it was fair for the community to pay for costs not associated with the town.

**Every Client Matters**

Family Law  
Civil Litigation  
Criminal Defense  
Agricultural Law  
Civil Appeals  
Business Law

40 Citizens Way, Suite 202-1  
Frederick  
301-662-7710

**ANDREW TOMS**  
LAW OFFICE

**EMMITSBURG**  
GLASS COMPANY  
A reflection of quality

**A Proud Sponsor Of**  
**The Emmitsburg News-Journal**

www.emmitsburgglass.com **301-447-2245**

# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Carroll Valley tables trailer ordinance

Carroll Valley leadership is pleading for citizen input as it continues to discuss how many trailers should be allowed on a property.

The council faced a room full of residents at its Jan. 10 meeting, most of whom were concerned about a proposal that limits the number of trailers allowed on a property to two. Staff and maybe one or two residents are usually the only people who attend the council's monthly meetings. Council spent the first 45 minutes of the meeting listening to several

citizens speak in opposition of the proposal.

The suggestion the borough planning commission presented to the council limits residents to two trailers, one in the front of the property and one elsewhere on the land. Borough Council Manager Dave Hazlett said this proposal increases the number of permitted trailers. In May, council approved an ordinance that states only one trailer per property is allowed unless the parcel is more than 2 acres.

"Council understands and agrees that it is not being enforced,"

Hazlett said. "Until the matter is resolved, there will not be enforcement of the trailer provision."

Council unanimously decided the alteration before them is unpopular with citizens and asked the planning commission to revisit the issue at its Feb. 6 meeting.

Volunteering for and attending the planning commission meetings is about as unpopular as the proposed ordinance, council leaders noted. The commission, which serves as a recommending body to council, has two vacancies.

"We never, ever have a butt in a

seat at those meetings," Hazlett said.

Council leaders encouraged those in attendance to consider applying for the open slots or attending meetings when able to provide input. Later in the meeting, Hazlett noted he received one email from someone in attendance who was interested in serving.

Hazlett acknowledged attending meetings does not work for everyone's schedule. He invited those with ideas to email him at [manager@carrollvalley.org](mailto:manager@carrollvalley.org). Hazlett said he forwards all communication with elected council members.

"I will share every single bit of information I have at my disposal," Hazlett said.

Hazlett noted he also communicates with citizens through social media. Sites such as Facebook are often filled with vitriol, but citizens of Carroll Valley tend to buck the norms, Hazlett said.

"I just want to say thank you for being kind," Hazlett said.

The borough planning commission will meet 7 p.m., Feb. 6 in borough hall. The council will consider the commission's recommendation at its Feb. 13 meeting, which will also be held at 7 p.m. in borough hall.

## Liberty names Barlow chair, awards raises

Walter "Mickey" Barlow will once again serve as chair of the Liberty Township Board of Supervisors.

The three-member board unanimously named Barlow to the post during its January reorganization meeting. Bobby Keilholtz will serve as vice chair.

Supervisors named Barlow roadmaster and Keilholtz assistant roadmaster. At their meeting the next day, the township's board of auditors awarded Barlow and Keilholtz a 10 percent raise. The auditors were unsure how much each earned per hour.

Barlow reported he is evaluating the township's 2023 road maintenance plan and will make

a final determination when cost estimates are received. He noted Bullfrog, Gladhill, Irish-town, Sanders, and Wenschof roads and Old Waynesboro Pike are scheduled for repairs. The township budgeted \$81,550 for repairs this year. Pecher Road is also slated for repairs, Barlow said, but the estimated cost is high.

Auditors commended Barlow for his work as roadmaster during their meeting.

The township's part-time police chief, Sherri Hansen, will earn \$31 an hour in 2023. Sgt. Chris Rodsen will earn \$24 an hour and part-time officers will earn \$23 an hour.

Hansen praised Officer Cory Ammerman for extinguishing a kitchen fire on New Year's Eve. Ammerman spotted the blaze while on patrol, Hansen said, and minimized the damage before the fire department arrived.

Supervisors also commended Rodsen for securing a \$58,000 grant that funded a new police cruiser and the outfitting required by the department.

Supervisors approved an amendment to the township's police contract with Highland Township that states either township can end the contract with a 90-day notice. The three-year contract states Highland will pay Freedom \$18,900 in 2023,

\$19,656 in 2024, and \$20,442.24 in 2025 for police coverage.

The supervisors unanimously approved the following additional appointments as part of their reorganization meeting:

- Secretary/Treasurer Wendy Peck will earn \$25 an hour
- Alternate Secretary/Treasurer Jessica Ilko will earn \$20 an hour
- Administrative Assistant Hannah Beckett will earn \$17 an hour
- Bruce Pecher, part-time road crew employee, will earn \$21 an hour
- Solicitor John Lisco's fee is \$130 an hour
- Alternate Solicitor Zack

- Mills' fee is \$110 an hour
- KPI Technologies will serve as township engineer for \$119 an hour
- KPI Technologies will serve as sewage enforcement officer for \$69 per hour
- Pennsylvania Municipal Code Alliance will serve as zoning officer for \$50 per hour
- Barbara Ruppert and Rich Luquette will serve four-year terms on the planning commission
- Donna Powers will serve a three-year term on the zoning hearing board
- John George will serve a one-year appointment on the township's vacancy board

## Fairfield school board discusses courses, trip and safety

Fairfield Area High School will no longer offer driver's education.

Kristina Mathews, high school counselor, told the district's board of directors at its January study session that students can independently take the course through the National Highway Safety Administration at a cost of \$74.95 per student.

Superintendent Thomas J. Haupt told the board few districts offer driver's education and finding teachers certified in the subject is challenging. Mathews said enrollment in driver's education has decreased significantly since Fairfield stopped requiring the class three years ago. Haupt classified the savings in dropping driver's education as "minimal" and added students have expressed more interest in an independent study.

"The technology option is certainly more agreeable to kids," he said.

More students took the class this year than in recent years since the district made it known it would be the last year, Mathews said.

The district will also no longer offer an internship through Quad Graphics due to low enrollment, Mathews said, and pre-calculus will be dropped so the school can offer advanced placement calculus. Mathews said advanced placement calculus is weighted higher than pre-calculus so it helps students earn

a higher grade point average. She added dropping pre-calculus is not expected to hinder students' preparation for the advanced class.

### Trip Abroad

The board also heard from foreign language teachers Ute Cline and Tara Phillips about a student trip to Germany and Spain planned for June 2024. Cline and Phillips are excited about the opportunity, which will be the first time Fairfield is taking students to both countries on the same excursion.

Cline said Fairfield has a close relationship with a high school in

Frankfurt, Germany, so students will stay in their German peers' homes and attend their classes. Frankfurt students will visit Fairfield in April, Cline said, for a similar experience. Cline is still seeking families to host the Germans and anyone interested should contact the district office.

### Athletic Safety

Board Vice President Jack Liller commended district staff for its athletic safety protocols. Liller said he contacted Haupt about district policy after Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin suffered a cardiac arrest

during a game on Jan. 2.

Haupt said the district has eight automated external defibrillators (AED) strategically placed throughout the campus. The district is considering purchasing portable AEDs, Haupt said, to increase response time. District staff regularly change batteries to ensure the AEDs work when needed, Haupt said.

"I would have bet dollars to donuts that if we had one, it was

out-of-date," Liller said. "We have eight so kudos to them."

Liller said he also learned athletic trainers are assigned to sporting events where the possibility of injury is high. The board encouraged everyone to become certified in CPR. Haupt said the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association is debating whether all coaches should be CPR certified.

# THURMONT NEWS

## Simmer Farm annexation voted down

In a lopsided vote of 834 to 157, town residents turned out in force to vote down the annexation of Simmers Farm into town limits.

All day long residents trickled into the Fire Company's activities building to make their voices heard. However, according to one election judge, at 3 p.m., the trickle turned into a rush and stayed that way until the polls closed at 8 p.m. At 7 p.m. the line to vote stretched all the way from the registration desk to the entrance door.

While the vote was decidedly against the annexation, the final tally did not reflect conversations taking place outside the entrance of the

activities building where neighbors freely exchanged views on why they voted the way they did.

When a general query was asked of a group who had cast their votes if they were 'for, against, or ambivalent' on the annexation, half said that while they had voted against the annexation, they were ambivalent over their vote. Those decidedly 'For' and 'Against' were evenly split.

"Development has to happen, and will happen," said one resident, "I just don't want it now. We had too much development over the past few years. Let's digest what we've done and give it a few years before we do more."

Another ambivalent voter said that he only voted against the annexation because "I bike along the road where the development will be going in. If they could have found another location, I would have voted for it. We need the senior living options the development would bring."

Those voting against the annexation cited concern with the pace of growth in general in Thurmont, which they felt was killing the small town environment that they had either grown up with or moved to Thurmont for. Others cited traffic as their primary concern, and where "unable to fathom how the town would deal with all the traffic the

development would bring."

Pro-development voters, for the most part, said they had followed the proposed development for the past few years, and expressed frustration with those "who 'came out of the woodwork' to oppose the development. They had years to weigh in on this during all the planning and zoning meetings," said one resident whose home abutted the proposed development, "yet they never showed up. This was not fair to the developer who followed the rules."

While the results of the referendum put a halt to the annexation of the remainder of the farm, it did not put a halt to the development of

the seven acres of the farm that are already within town limits.

At an informational meeting on January 12, Daniel Cross, the developer, told the assembled audience that if the annexation was voted down, he intended to move forward with some sort of development of the in-town portion of the farm which is currently zoned for R-5 high density housing.

Cross said he would seek public comment on a lower density plan on that part of the new neighborhood on the remaining portion of the property, with a mixture of ground floor primary bedroom homes suitable for senior living, multi-family starter homes for families, single family houses, and the Senior Assisted Living Facility.

## Apples Church annexation approved

Just two days before residents voted unanimously to reject the annexation of Simmer Farm into town limits, Town Council voted unanimously to approve the annexation of Apples Church into town limits. Unlike Simmer Farm however, the Apples Church annexation does not invoice any future development.

The church, which currently owns 4.6 acres, requested the annexation to gain access to town water and sewer services. Once the church is connected to the municipal water and sewer services, it is not expected

to use a lot of water or be a burden to the service.

In addition to the church's 4.6 acres, an additional quarter acre adjacent to the church's property will also be annexed. The quarter acre, which is already town property but not within the town limits, houses one of the town's water wells and town staff wanted to use the Apples Church annexation to incorporate that land into the town limits. The annexation will provide a total 4.881 acres for the church.

Mike Mathis, President of the Council of Apples UCC, represented

the church at the meeting, offering to answer the commissioners' questions as well as any questions during the public hearing. "We would really like to be part of the Town," he said.

Mathis said that the church will be celebrating its 200-year anniversary in 2026, which the church hopes to celebrate with the Town while within the town limits.

In November, the Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the church's petition and found it consistent with the Town's Master Plan and voted unanimously to approve it, recommending that the property

be zoned 'institutional.'

"The existing town well, pump station and church property are all uses that are permitted within the institutional zoning district," Town Planner Kelly Duty said. The church property was previously zoned agriculture.

After it was approved by the Town, the annexation plan was sent to the Frederick County and Maryland State Planning Departments for comment and recommendations.

The State Planning Department agreed with Thurmont's Planning and Zoning Commission in their

findings, such that the proposed annexation is consistent with the Town's Master Plan and is within Thurmont's municipal growth boundary. The State also commented that the proposed 'institutional' zoning district "is not substantially different from the current county zoning from a use perspective," according to Kelly. The State also provided protocol advice for the Town to use with the approval of the annexation resolution.

The County had no comments on the proposed zoning change.

The town held a public hearing before their vote on January 10, during which no one contributed.

## Recycling services costs vex Council

Mounting town recycling costs and the future of the town's recycling services was on the minds of the Town Council at their Jan 24 meeting. The councilors are considering removing the Moser Road recycling dumpster to cut costs, but will wait to make a decision until Mayor John Kinnaird meets with County Executive Jessica Fitzwater to discuss reimbursement.

Frederick County currently reimburses Thurmont \$10,000 each fiscal year. However, Chief Financial Officer Linda Joyce predicts recycling will cost \$38,220 in the 2023 fiscal year before the County reimbursement, which is an increase from the previous year's cost of \$20,495.

"The main reason it's increased is we've had to increase the number of pick-ups," Joyce said. She went on to

explain that the cost of the hauler plus the gasoline surcharge raised the per-pick-up price from \$170 to \$375. The Town has also increased pick ups from once a week to twice a week.

Kinnaird added the issue to his agenda with an already-scheduled meeting with Fitzwater after the meeting. The Council agreed to wait until after the meeting with Fitzwater to come to a final decision on the dumpster's fate to see if the County could offer any financial assistance.

The Town was forced to increase the number of pick up per week as the dumpster was frequently overflowing with recycling. "Over the Christmas holidays on two different occasions, we went down there and there was more recycling and trash laying on the ground around the container than

there was in the container, and the container was full," Kinnaird said.

The staff time and used to clean up around the dumpster were not included in the estimates for recycling costs. "I know over the last month, we've probably got 14 or 15 hours in staff time and equipment usage picking up the trash that was down there," Kinnaird said. "And then if it goes in our dumpster, then we're paying to have that hauled away and have the tipping fee on that too." Joyce said that the tipping fee, which is the fee paid to use a landfill, is higher for dumpsters than it is for other containers.

If the dumpster is removed, the Town believes only businesses and apartments, who don't have curbside pickup, will be impacted. However, businesses and apart-

ments usually have alternate dumpsters on the property for them to use. Commissioner Bill Blakeslee pointed out that there is no limit to the curbside pick-ups, so most Thurmont residents would not be impacted at all. "If you overfill your container, you can stack it up there and they'll take it," he said.

The Council believes that part of the problem is non-Thurmont residents

using the dumpster, which leads to the Town paying for services for those who live, and pay taxes, elsewhere. Kinnaird pointed out that even though residents may have to drive farther to recycle larger items, they could actually benefit from the dumpster removal. He said, "Short of that, to our residents, other than just a courtesy to them, they're not getting a whole lot out of it other than paying additional taxes to cover the costs that we're incurring because of the County."

 <p><b>CONFISCATED BOURBON</b> <b>KENTUCKY OWL</b> 750 ML Available</p>	 <p><b>HEAVEN'S DOOR</b> <b>BOURBON &amp; DOUBLE BARREL WHISKEY</b> 750 ML Available</p>	 <p><b>PENELOPE BOURBON</b> Available in 3 Varieties 750 ML</p>	 <p><b>APOTHIC WINE</b> 750 ML Available in 3 varieties <b>LOWER PRICE</b></p>
 <p><b>LUKSUSOWA VODKA</b> 1.75 Liter Available <b>LOWER PRICE</b></p>	 <p><b>JOHNNIE WALKER BLUE LABEL</b> 750 ML &amp; 1.75 L</p>	 <p><b>MALIBU COCKTAILS</b> 4 PAK 4 VARIETIES</p>	 <p><b>FRESCA MIXED VODKA SPRITZ</b> 4 PAK 2 VARIETIES</p>
 <p><b>Crown Royal SALTED CARAMEL</b> 1 BOTTLE 750 ML PER CUSTOMER</p>	 <p><b>Paul's Pit Stop</b> DISCOUNT BEER, WINE &amp; LIQUOR Website: <a href="http://m.paulspitstop.net">m.paulspitstop.net</a> 150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg <b>301-447-6262</b> Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.</p>		 <p><b>Blue Chair BAY PREMIUM RUN MOCHA CREAM</b> 750 ML Available</p>

## TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Community Village development ordinance under review

The City has recently updated several items in its recent code review to help simplify and clarify ordinance requirements, but City staff told the Council at the January Workshop they have been hearing a lot of concerns from developers and builders related to the alley requirement in the Community Village code.

Wieprecht said that if the City really wanted to see development done in a more traditional way, as opposed to “just the standard 34 foot wide streets and 10,000 square foot lots,” then the alley requirement would need to be addressed.

The city code for Community Village development states, “Driveways, except as hereinafter provided, shall be prohibited in any front yard setback area of a single-family detached dwelling, semidetached townhouse, condominium or apartment building, and

any driveway access shall be provided from use-in-common alleys or lanes only and not streets.”

The intent of the Community Village ordinance was to encourage development reflective of a true, old style community with closer packed homes, which would promote a small town community environment, while minimizing the footprint of the development. Minimizing the development's footprint, Wieprecht said, will reduce the cost to the city through street and infrastructure maintenance while maximizing the tax base and proceeds from the water and sewer services the city will be providing.

Wieprecht suggested that the City should consider an alternative Village Ordinance that would allow developers to still build old style communities, but not require rear loaded garages in alleyways.

While the alleyways do take away from the amount of land developers have to build upon, and therefore reduces the number of homes that could be developed, that is not the primary issue for developers. Instead the main concern was over the increased storm water management issues that come with the increased impervious surfaces associated with the alleys, and the lack of customer interest in having detached garages. “People want their garages attached to their homes, not behind them, it's hard to sell a house with a detached garage,” Wieprecht said.

Wieprecht reminded the Council that there are currently three subdivision developments under consideration that have been designated to be built under Village Ordinance requirements, that currently do not have alleys in their site designs.

Mayor Wantz echoed Wieprecht's concerns, adding that alleys not only increase the square footage of impervious surfaces, but increase the amount of city services, e.g. snow plowing, that the City needs to perform, and questioned if having alleys in a development was in the City's best interest. “People want a rear yard, not a rear alley,” Wantz said.

Councilman Hand said while he liked the idea of a hybrid option for Town Home developments, where an alley would not be necessary, he didn't want homes in Taneytown developments to take on a cookie cutter appearance, which the alleyway requirement was designed to prevent. “Variety in the presentation of the front houses are important, when the City is trying to maintain a small town ‘vibe.’”

At the Regular City Council meeting, Wieprecht expanded upon the

‘catch-22’ of the Community Village ordinance: “The community village is a type of development that can be applied or overlaid to several different zones – R-7,500, R-10,000, and R-20,000, it's a designation that overlays one of the above mentioned districts. While there are some non-residential uses permitted in those 3 districts, like doctors' offices, churches, etc., most of what one thinks of as commercial, like retail stores or restaurants would need to be in something other than one of those residential districts, but community village isn't an option in our commercial districts.”

Wieprecht said the town staff will come up with some suggested changes to the ordinance to make it more feasible for developers and the City and present it to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their consideration.

## Habitat for Humanity to begin construction in Spring

At its January 4th workshop, the City Council was briefed on Habitat for Humanity's efforts to start building its much anticipated duplex home on Baltimore Street.

“We hope to start construction in early spring,” said Scott Swartz, of Habitat for Humanity.

According to Swartz, Habitat For Humanity wanted to start building in 2020, but “COVID threw a big monkey wrench into our plan.”

When the pandemic began to wane, “we tried to restart, but were unable to get enough volunteers. So we put it on hold again,” said Swartz. A third attempt to start the project was also put on hold due to sky-high cost of lumber and building supplies, which, as Swartz stated, “impacted our ability to provide affordable housing which is our goal.”

According to breakdown of pre-COVID and post-COVID cost provided by Swartz to the Council, the cost for each unit of the duplex increased by \$42,000 due to COVID supply issues. The cost

increases were “mind boggling,” said Mayor Wantz as he read over the detailed costs increases.

Looking to reduce costs where they could, Swartz asked the City Council if they could offer the project a reduced rate for hooking up to the Town's sewer and water system. “As of right now, we are at \$17,000 in fees, of which \$16,000 is just hooking up the water & sewer systems.”

Swartz acknowledged that it was not normal for a developer to come in and ask for a reduction in fees, but as Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, he hoped the Council would consider it.

Swartz went on to talk about how hard it is for many these days to buy a house, especially in Carroll County, “People with families often have to decide between having a roof over their head or feeding their families. All we are trying to do is make it a little bit easier for just one family.”

The home to be built will be a LEED certified home. A LEED-certified home is a green

home, designed to have a positive impact on energy efficiency, environmental performance and human well-being. Key benefits to LEED Certification include reductions in a building's environmental impact by reducing the use of energy, water and other resources and creating a healthier indoor living space.

Mayor Wantz said there was currently no city program to give the relief requested, “This is a unique request” Wantz said, “but it's also a unique program, something that Taneytown hasn't had before.”

The property on which the duplex will be built was donated to Habitat for Humanity back in 2016. “Habitat for Humanity,” Swartz said, “tries to make enough money from each house to fund the start of their next house.” In this case however, due to the cost increase, “we are just going to break even, if we are lucky.”

Councilman Dan Haines said he did not think this was an unreasonable request. “This is a unique request coming from unique circumstances [the impact of

COVID]” Haines went on to note that Habitat for Humanity is not your typical builder, but was doing something for the greater good and that Taneytown would benefit from it. He said he would be in favor of offering the relief asked.

Councilwomen Judith Fuller however pointed out that while she was sympathetic, that the city's cost had gone up as well, and the City needed to cover its cost.

Swartz also asked for a waiver to the City sign ordinance to allow them to put up a bigger sign to list all the local business and commu-

nity members who have donated time, money and materials to make this project a reality. “The current sign ordinance would not allow us to do justice to everyone who has pitched in.”

Swartz also said Habitat for Humanity was in talks with another landowner in Taneytown and if they can seal the deal, hopes to build a little veterans' village in Taneytown.

The council agreed to consider Habitat for Humanity's request for reduced permit fees and plans to take the subject up at its February meeting.

## Chaney to fill Council seat

Six resumes were sent to the city to fill the last two years of the Joseph Vigliotti's seat on the City Council. Vigliotti resigned his council seat following his election to the Carroll County Board of Commissioners representing District 1, filling the seat previously held by Stephen Wantz, who was term limited as a Commissioner and made an unsuccessful run for a seat in the House of Delegates.

The City advertised to solicit resumes from those interested in filling the seat, and six letters of interest were sent to Fuller who then circulated them to the members of the council for their review.

At the November 3rd City Workshop, Mayor Wantz asked if council members had made their decision on who was the most qualified.

Councilman Haines said everyone who applied for the job was exceptional, and focused his decision on

‘community involvement.’ Based upon that criterion, he nominated Christopher Tillman to fill the vacant seat. However his nomination was not seconded by his fellow councilman.

Councilwomen Diane Forster then nominated Beth Chaney, who is currently a member of the Park and Recreation Board. Chaney's nomination was seconded by Councilman Haines. Her nomination was unanimously

approved by the members of the council and she was sworn in at the January City Council meeting.

The last time the Council followed this process to fill a vacant council seat was back in June of 2021 when they selected Leroy Hand to fill Councilman Darryl Hale seat following his resignation upon being selected as the City's planning and zoning director.

Lock in a great auto rate with Erie insurance

Barnes Drager Insurance  
464 E. Baltimore Street  
Taneytown  
www.barnesdrager.com



Erie Insurance



410-751-0001



Cupid can't get your car in top-top shape for your Valentine date. But...



We can!

Call or come in and Make an appointment!

Taney Service Center  
94 York Street, Taneytown  
410-756-9256 or 410-840-9029



“A little hard to find, look for a cheesy sign”

## GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

### Congressman David Trone

One of the frustrations that led me to leave business for public service was the propensity of government to make decisions for short-term rather than long-term gains. People in business know that chasing short-term gains is not a strategy for long-term success. In the public sector, we'll all benefit if investments are made for the long-term on things that matter rather than to chase votes or publicity in the short-term.

Those who think long-term investments by government do not pay off should look at stark evidence in recent years in some key areas. Money spent on education is already producing higher achievement and opportunity for the next generation of Americans. Investments in criminal justice reform are providing a second chance for justice-impacted individuals. And our commitment to improving mental health and combating the opioid crisis is preventing needless suffering

and tragedy. As these examples show, investments often mean redirecting money we are already spending rather than simply spending more.

Investments can have even more dramatic payoffs, especially in basic science and medical research. What we've accomplished is only a fraction of what we're capable of — and our continued success will depend on the commitment of leaders at all levels of government.

Perhaps the best example of what science and medical research can achieve in modern times is the COVID-19 vaccine, responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of lives and preventing the pandemic from being far worse than it could have been. The prevailing sentiment is that the vaccine was developed in a matter of months. In reality, the science and technology behind the COVID-19 vaccine, namely mRNA, has been researched since the 1970s.

It is a marvel of scientific achieve-

ment that this technology was applied to a successful vaccine so quickly. But this was only possible due to decades of research and investment. The Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that the federal government has spent at least \$19.3 billion on COVID-19 vaccine development. That is a small amount compared to the estimated \$16 trillion that the pandemic cost us in the United States. We saved an astronomical amount in dollars and in lives because of our investment in research.

All of us in Maryland should be incredibly proud of the life-saving research conducted at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. These dedicated scientists and public servants have been the driving force behind many advancements in health and medicine, including promising treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's, and other diseases that impact our families, our communities, and our economy. But the facts

show that their contribution is hampered by the federal government's inadequate investment in their work.

In the early 2000s, NIH was funding approximately 35% of research requests submitted to them. In recent years, that number has dropped to 17%. If we seriously invested in the remaining 83% of requests — or even 25% more than we are now — the positive impact that would have on the health of the entire world would be unimaginable. But to do that, it will take money. That's why I've long been an advocate of doubling the budget of NIH and making a real, lasting investment in life-changing research and the thousands of jobs that come with it.

As it probably is for many of you, the work of NIH and medical researchers across the country is personal to me. When I was diagnosed with cancer in 2018, my life was saved by an incredible team of doctors, caregivers, and researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine. Since then, my wife and I have sought to

show our gratitude to them by supporting their work, investing in research for cancer, heart disease, and the treatment for addiction that my nephew Ian relied upon for so many years. I've also partnered with friends across the state to improve research on Alzheimer's disease, which took the life of my father and millions of Americans just like him.

But even the most aggressive and generous private philanthropic support of medical research can only go so far. That's why I've made it my priority in Congress, as well.

We owe it to future generations of Americans to deliver a brighter future than was left for us. And I wholeheartedly believe that investing in medical research and advancement in healthcare is critically important to making it happen. Doubling the budget of NIH is one piece of the puzzle. But in order to be successful, we must reframe our vision of what is important for our future and invest in those who are behind it.

### Thurmont Mayor John Kinnard

As everyone must be aware, the referendum opposing the annexation of the Simmers property was successful and that project is now halted. This is a great example of residents getting involved in the processes regarding growth of our community. Moving forward I hope that more residents make themselves aware of what is happening

with our Master Plan, and Planning & Zoning topics before the need for public referendum arises. The agendas for Planning & Zoning, Board of Appeals, and the Board of Commissioners are all posted on the Thurmont.com website. The agendas identify the topics being discussed and those that action will be taken on. These agendas can be viewed

on the video streaming page along with videos of past meetings.

This spring and summer will see several public works projects starting. The first will be the replacement of the water line on Old Pryor Rd. This work will include the replacement of outdated water mains and the installation of a new line tying into the Hillside subdivision. Only residents on Hillside Circle and Old Pryor Rd. will be impacted by this work. Next we will be upgrading the Storm Water Catch Basins on Frederick Rd. The basins will be rebuilt and may require single lane closures on Frederick Rd, so please follow traffic control measures during this work. Once the Catch Basins are completed we will be milling and repaving Frederick Rd. This work will also require lane closures during the work.

A new ball field will be constructed at East End Park feature lighting for nighttime games. Construction of this new field should not impact residents. A new pavilion will replace the existing one at East End Park. This will involve removing the old pavilion and pad then installing a new pad and a metal pavilion. Later this year we will begin with a large project on North Church St. This will involve replacing all the water and waste water lines on North Church St. and will also involve installing new water service lines and lateral lines where needed. This will require long-term line closures during the project with limited inconvenience to residents in the area as the work progresses. Once completed, North Church St. is scheduled to be resurfaced.

Please keep in mind our neighbors, friends, and family members in need of food and warm clothing over the win-

ter months. Donations of non-perishable food, sanitary items, baby food, diapers, and cash donations to the Thurmont Food Bank will help ensure nutritious meals are available to those in need. Donations can be dropped off at the Food Bank at 10 Frederick Road. Clothing donations to the Thurmont Clothes Closet at Thurmont United Methodist Church will help families keep warm. Donations can be dropped at the donation box at the Clothes Closet. Any jackets, coats, warm clothing you donate will be greatly appreciated.

Luckily we have managed to dodge any accumulating snowfall, but that will probably end soon. When it snows please try to keep vehicles off the streets wherever possible so our snow crews can clear the streets to the curb. As much as you want to clear your driveway try to wait until the trucks are finished so they don't plow your driveway shut. Sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours of the snow stopping or within 36 hours if more than 8" of snow accumulates. Snow cleared from sidewalk, driveways, etc. cannot be placed onto any streets. If you would like to volunteer to help senior citizens with snow removal please contact the Thurmont Police at 301-271-0905.

As always, I am available at jkinnard@thurmont.com or at 301-606-9458 if you have any questions, comments or suggestions. I hope everyone has a great February!

**GA GATEWAY AUTOMOTIVE**  
**24 Month / 24k Mile Warranty**  
**Full Service Auto Repair**  
**Tires & 4 Wheel Alignments**  
**Custom Exhaust Bending & Repair**  
**ASE Certified**   
 Family owned & operated for over 45 years  
**210 BOUNDARY AVE., THURMONT**  
**301-271-4444**  
 Find us on Facebook  [www.gatewayautomotiveinc.com](http://www.gatewayautomotiveinc.com) 

**Thirty4** Aaron Reckley  
 detailing Detail Artist  
 Paint Enhancements  
 & Ceramic Coatings  
**301-453-5477**  
 Call/Text  
 Thurmont T4detail.com  

## Need Help Paying Heating or Energy Bills?



### The Office of Home Energy Programs Can Help!

Energy assistance is available to all Maryland residents who are eligible. Let us help make your energy costs more affordable.

Call  
**1-800-332-6347**  
 to see if you qualify and to apply.



You do not need a Turn-Off Notice or to be off-service to apply.



# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

It's hard to believe that it's already February! The Maryland General Assembly is in full swing, with many new faces representing Frederick County in Annapolis, thanks to new district lines. I was honored to be in Annapolis to witness the historic moment when Governor Wes Moore took his oath of office. One of his first acts was to propose his budget, with increased levels of funding for education and transportation among other initiatives.

We are working on a budget here in Frederick County, as well. I say "we" because hundreds of residents have shared their priorities for the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1. We kicked off the new year with a series of listening sessions. I hosted meetings in all five council districts, from Thurmont to Brunswick, and was joined by the local County Council member and at-large members.

Scores of people turned out at each event, many speaking at a public meeting for the very first time. Parents asked for our oldest schools to be renovated

or replaced. Farmers spoke about the importance of preserving agriculture. Residents spoke passionately about the difference a library would make in their community. Seniors advocated for additional staff to support the 60,000 people over age 60 who live in Frederick County. Some speakers asked for trails to connect towns and neighborhoods so people could get places without a car. A few homeowners requested lower property taxes, while others said they would pay more in taxes if it meant more funding for education. Some complained that new houses are being built so fast that schools are overcrowded.

If you came to the town hall at Catoctin High School, or another location, thank you for taking time to share your priorities with me. If you chose to submit your thoughts through our online portal, please know that I will read all the comments as I begin the difficult task of drafting the County's budget. If you would still like to share your ideas and priorities, you can do so at [FrederickCountyMD.gov/BudgetPublicHearing](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/BudgetPublicHearing).

show that 47% of all the 9-1-1 calls for behavioral health could be diverted from the emergency department when the Crisis Stabilization Center opens.

There are more opportunities to be heard before the budget is adopted. In March, you will have a chance to use an interactive tool to decide which budget requests you would, or would not, fund. There will also be another public hearing in March. Then in April, I'll present my budget to the County Council. The Council will hold its own public meetings, including another public hearing on the proposed spending plan.

### Mental Health

One item that I am pleased to include in the next budget is continued funding for a new Crisis Stabilization Center. The center will allow people who are struggling with substance use disorder or mental health challenges to access treatment 24 hours a day, and in many cases prevent them from needing expensive emergency room care. One out of every five admissions at Frederick Health Hospital relate to behavioral or substance use issues. Statistics

supported in part by the County's share of legal settlement payments from opioid manufacturers and distributors. Those payments will total nearly \$12 million over the next 17 years.

### Design Our County Flag

Are you an artist or graphic designer? Have you ever imagined your design flying from flag poles? Frederick County's 275th anniversary planning committee is holding a contest to pick a new design for the official county flag.

Residents of any age are invited to submit original designs that illustrate a message of unity. Former residents are also eligible to compete. Designers are limited to a single entry per person. A selection committee will score each design. The top three submissions will be announced in April, and the public will vote on which of the three designs will become the official flag of Frederick County.

The winning design will be unfurled at the county's 275th Anniversary Jubilee on June 10. You can find entry forms and contest instructions at [FrederickCountyMD.gov/275flagcontest](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/275flagcontest).

Frederick County's in-house construction crew in the Division of Public Works will begin work on the center this month, and should be ready to open late this summer. The Frederick County Health Department will oversee the center. Staffing will be provided by the Mental Health Association of Frederick County.

Our Federal delegation, which includes U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, as well as Congressman David Trone, came to Winchester Hall in late January to learn more about the Crisis Stabilization Center. They presented a check for \$699,000, which will allow Frederick County to purchase the equipment needed to open the center. The funds were approved as part of the most recent Congressionally Directed Spending package. Frederick County received a second federal grant of \$850,000 last fall to help stand up the Crisis Stabilization Center.

Day-to-day operational costs will be

## County Councilman-At-Large Renee Knapp

To keep you informed about what is happening on the Frederick County Council each month, I am grateful for the invitation to write a column for this community newspaper. As a councilmember elected at large, I have the opportunity and the responsibility to represent the interests of residents from every part of the county.

As Frederick County is the largest county in Maryland by area, one of my initial priorities for the next four years is to make sure everyone from each of the five County Council districts feels that they have ways to effectively communicate their thoughts and ideas to me and the other councilmembers. Additionally, I will be looking for ways to enhance communication coming from the County Council, so that residents can be more aware of upcoming issues of interest. As we all choose to receive news and information through an increasing variety of methods, this is becoming a bigger challenge. This is another reason why I'm grateful to communicate with the many readers of this newspaper in the years ahead.

Members of the 2022-2026 Frederick County Council are already working well together and looking for opportunities to collaborate in ways

that will benefit our residents, despite any philosophical differences. One of the first issues to come before this council deals with communication. Although no legislation was proposed, in December we discussed the possible ending of public comment by phone during council meetings.

During the pandemic, Frederick County expanded the ways residents can provide public comment to include speaking to the council live by phone, or by leaving a recorded message which is played during the meeting. This accommodation, executed so well by Frederick County government staff members, allowed for meaningful public comment during council meetings to continue through the duration of the pandemic.

Now that Winchester Hall is open once again for all to attend public meetings, the council considered if it is time to end this accommodation. After some discussion, it was decided that we would take the next few months to see if residents feel there is value in continuing this method of public comment. Your thoughts on this issue are the most valuable, and I hope you will share them by sending an email to [councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov). When the council

revisits this issue, I will be supporting the continuation of public comment by phone to expand access and convenience for participation in our local government. This access is particularly important for our growing population of senior residents, residents with disabilities, and residents with transportation challenges.

Another opportunity for communication with Frederick County government was initiated by County Executive Jessica Fitzwater in January. A Budget Town Hall was held in each of the five council districts so that residents could share their priorities for the upcoming budget. I hope similar forums continue in the future for a couple of reasons. Although we are one Frederick County, we know there are unique local issues in each county district and issues that affect the entire county. This a proactive way for the county government to engage with the public, keep in closer contact, and to hear the concerns and ideas brought up by residents. The other aspect I like about periodic town hall events is that we elected officials are there to listen to you. As a councilmember, I have the opportunity each week to provide comments at the end of County Council meetings.

When people take the time and make the effort to come to a town hall event to express something important to them, my job is to actively listen to as many people as I can, and to provide comment when asked. A common theme at each of the Budget Town Halls was an interest in having more events like them in the future.

If you couldn't make it to any of the events, you can still submit your budget priorities or watch the recorded meetings by visiting [www.frederickcountymd.gov/BudgetPublicHearing](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/BudgetPublicHearing).

If you have suggestions for ways you would like to receive information, feel free to email them to me at [rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov) or to the entire Frederick County Council at the email address list above.



**Over 18 Years In Business!**  
**FAST, FRIENDLY CUSTOMER SERVICE**  
**CONVENIENT HOURS**

New Tags & Registration Issued "On the Spot" (restrictions may apply)  
 Tag Renewal ~ New-To-State Registration  
 Boat Registration ~ Duplicate Titles ~ Tag Return

**No Appointment Needed**  
**6 Convenient Locations:**

  
 Bypass The MVA

**Westminster**  
**Union Bridge**  
**Taneytown**  
**Eldersburg**  
**Owings Mills**  
**Columbia**

  
 Bypass The MVA

Affordable • Confidential • Experienced • Knowledgeable • Professional • Reliable



**The Connectors**

Katie Stevens | Becca Tucker | Jodie Bollinger | Shana Knight | Solash Aviles

**301-600-1058 | DiscoverFrederickMD.com**

The Frederick County Office of Economic Development's Business Retention & Expansion team connects businesses with resources to succeed.

- Federal, State and Local Resources
- Small & Underrepresented Business Services
- Industry Specific Resources
- Entrepreneurial Assistance
- Workforce Services    • Marketing Assistance
- Site Selection Assistance    • Financial Incentives



## FROM THE DESK OF...

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

February is Black History Month. Groundhog Day is February 2nd. Every year the Super Bowl is played on a Sunday in February. This year, the Super Bowl LVII (58th) is being played in Glendale, Arizona, and will take place on Sunday, February 12th.

February 14th is Valentine's Day. It is a day to pause to remember loved ones. Mark your calendar for the 8th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance – Under the Sea scheduled for Saturday, February 18th, 6 to 9 p.m. at the Fairfield Fire & EMS Banquet Hall. The cost is \$50 per couple and \$15 for each additional child. Seating is limited. To register visit [www.cvdaddydaughter.eventbrite.com](http://www.cvdaddydaughter.eventbrite.com). For further information, call the Carroll Valley Borough Office at 717-642-8269.

Don't miss the Mom-a-Razzi, Bubble Magic Show, awesome DJ, finger foods and desserts served all night, fabulous raffle prizes, and more! Hope to see you there! I will be the guy with the camera. It is a fantastic event! February 27th is "Fat Tuesday," the day before Ash Wednesday and the last day of Mardi Gras. It was the custom of the German immigrants who settled in Penn-

sylvania to use up all the fat in their house before Lent by making the fastnacht. It is a square doughnut without a hole, fried in lard. I hope you enjoy your fried cakes.

Our local Adams County Library – Carroll Valley Branch is offering several February activities:

February 2nd (Intro class) and February 16th at 2 p.m.: Bring your diamond painting project and join other diamond painting enthusiasts! New to diamond painting? Come to the introduction class that will be held once a month.

February 2nd 6:30 p.m. Teen/Tween – Book Club: You are invited to join our new tween book club! Bring a snack to share. February's selection – A Wrinkle in Time by Hope Larson/Madeleine L'Engle. Ages 10-19. Registration required.

February 2nd 6:30 p.m. – Whipped Hot Chocolate: Soothe your sweet cravings by making some refreshing and delicious whipped hot chocolate! Ages 11-18. Registration required.

February 6th 6:30 p.m. – Barks and Books: Reading to a therapy dog helps to build confidence in new or reluctant readers. Bring your child to the library to read

to Danny, our favorite KPets pup!

February 9th 6:30 p.m. – Potluck Dinner: Bring a covered dish and your appetite to the library for an evening of food sampling! We will have a Valentine's Day theme. Ages 16 and over. Registration required.

February 13th 6:30 p.m. – Valentine's Day Bingo & Craft: Come to the library to make a Valentine's Day craft and play a few rounds of Valentine's Day bingo! Ages 5-10. Registration required.

February 15th 2:00 p.m. – Adult Book Club: Join us for good company and conversation! February's selection – Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford.

February 16th 6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime Dogs, Dogs, Dogs!: Join us and our favorite therapy dog, Danny, for a fun doggy story time, a craft, and a snack (for the humans)! Registration required!

February 23rd 6:30 p.m. – How do animals stay warm in the winter? Join Mrs. Spalding for fun and educational experiments to discover how different kinds of animals keep warm in their winter habitats. Ages 5-10. Registration required.

If you haven't done it yet,

renew your dog license with the County at [www.adamscountypa.gov](http://www.adamscountypa.gov). On the homepage, click the link 2023 Dog License Available. All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed in Pennsylvania. Annual licenses are \$8.50 and lifetime licenses are \$51.50. For dogs that are spayed or neutered, the annual license is \$6.50. Discounts are available for senior citizens and owners with disabilities. Under Pennsylvania law, owners who fail to license and/or immunize their dogs could face fines of up to \$300 per violation for each dog. Cats are not required to be licensed. They must have a great lobbyist in Harrisburg — I guess.

Winter can be hard on animals, both domestic and wild. We want to help but also, we must be careful about how we provide that help. For example, should we feed the deer population during winter? According to Pennsylvania Game Commission, the answer is "No." It is believed that during winter, the deer move less and rest more to conserve energy and safeguard their fat reserves.

Setting up a feeding area can lure deer away from their protected areas, using their fat resources for little gain. If you have an animal friend such as a dog or cat, clean their legs, feet, and stomachs after an ice and

snowstorm. Remember, our trails are treated with salt and chemicals. These items are ingested when the animals clean themselves. If you park your car outside, bang your car's hood to frighten any animals away before you start your vehicle. During cold weather, some animals (cats, squirrels, etc.) climb under the hood to spend time next to the warm engine.

I wish to thank our residents for answering the Borough's call for individuals to fill the vacancies on the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, Public Sewer Advisory Committee, and Zoning Hearing Board. The Council will make the appointments at their next meeting on February 14th. Our residents' willingness to share their knowledge and expertise will benefit our community.

Borough meetings in February are Planning Commission (February 6th), Borough Council (February 14th), and Public Sewer Advisory Committee (February 27th). The Borough office will be closed on Monday, February 20th. Please reduce your speed to ensure your loved ones, friends, and neighbors will be safe. If you have any questions, call me at 301-606-2021 or email [MayorRonHarris@com-cast.net](mailto:MayorRonHarris@com-cast.net).

## Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Happy February! A cold snap occurred at the end of December into early January causing pipes to freeze and power outages to occur throughout the township. There were thirteen trees down on just one of the roads within the Township and trees down on power lines that took more than 12 hours to get cleaned up. We hope that everyone was able to remain safe during that time. Because of this particularly harsh weather incident, I talked with FREMA about setting up an additional emer-

gency station locally that would be able to provide heat, food, water, and shelter to those in need during natural disasters. Right now the Fairfield Fire Department usually acts as an emergency shelter. When more accommodations become available, we will let everyone know.

We are looking forward to working with Freedom Township through an intermunicipal agreement to maintain the roads in both of our communities. Some Liberty Township roads have deteriorated edges and some shoulders have washed

away. We are working to repair these problem areas soon. Potholes are most common during this time of year, so we have a truck loaded with asphalt ready to patch them. Be mindful that these cold patches are only a temporary fix.

Liberty Township is participating in the Pick Up Pennsylvania event which runs from March 1 – May 31. Last year over 60,000 people participated in Pick Up Pennsylvania from March through May picking up over 2.2 million pounds of trash. This program is crucial because litter negatively impacts the environment, waterways, property taxes, home values, businesses and the safety of neighborhoods. Cleaning up litter and making small improvements to our shared community spaces helps create safer, healthier and more livable neighborhoods. Anyone interested in participating in Liberty Township should call the township office and arrange pickup of free work gloves, safety vests,

and trash bags to help collect litter from along township roadways. Collected trash can be disposed of at the Liberty Township municipal office dumpster.

Through the efforts of Sergeant Roosen, Liberty Township was recently awarded a grant from the Bryan Justice Assistance Grant Program with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to fund the purchase of a 2023 Ford Police Interceptor. The vehicle was recently delivered, and we expect it to be upfitted soon and put into service next month. Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Association recently donated \$5,000 to help offset the cost of replacing the computers, scanners, and printers in our police vehicles. We are grateful for the generous contributions that are being made to our police department to improve services within the township and the surrounding communities.

With the 2019 DOTGOV Act, Liberty Township was issued a new government web-

site address. The web page is still hosted by Adams County, but now can be reached directly at [www.libertytwpadams.gov](http://www.libertytwpadams.gov). Please access our website to find information on meetings, permits, and to search our online ordinances.

Please be advised that unpaid Fairfield School Taxes are now in 10% penalty phase. Second Notice for 2022 School Taxes were sent out by mail in January. These school tax payments will be accepted until March 31, by US mail or in the drop box at the township municipal building. Any payment after that date must be made to the designated Fairfield School District tax collection agency. The 2023 Real Estate County and Municipal Tax bills and Per Capita Tax Bills will be mailed out by Adams County during the first week of March. Discount payments of 2% will be accepted until April 30. The Liberty Township Tax Collector will hold office hours on April, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27 from 12-3 p.m. at the Municipal Building located at 39 Topper Road in Fairfield. Tax payments can also be submitted by US mail or placed in the township drop box.

I would like to announce that I am running for re-election as Township Supervisor this year. Thank you all for your support and faith in me as a township Supervisor and as a person. If I am re-elected, I will continue to serve the township with the best interests of all in mind.

**MELISSA M. WETZEL**  
CPA, PC  
— Certified Public Accountant —



**Get assistance by phone**  
**Monday - Friday**  
**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Saturday**  
**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Office open for scheduled appointments only!

301 W. Main Street,  
Emmitsburg

**301-447-3797**  
[melissawetzelcpa.com](http://melissawetzelcpa.com)  
[info@melissawetzelcpa.com](mailto:info@melissawetzelcpa.com)



**Village Book & Table Restaurant**

• BREAKFAST  
• LUNCH  
(Including Platters)

29 W. Main St., Fairfield  
**717-642-5650**



**Open 7 Days A Week!**  
Mon. - Sat. 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Sun. 6:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Evening Hours:**  
Tues., Wed., Thurs. 5 - 7 p.m.



# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Jim Martin

January opened with plenty of action to usher in 2023. There was much dialogue among US House Representatives to select a new Speaker of the House. Some in the House and in the media were anxious to label the process as a catastrophe. Perhaps they did not know that there is such a provision in our constitutional law that allows for orderly debate and negotiation through that process. In the end a new Speaker arose along with amended rules and guidelines by which legislation must conform. I look forward to these much needed rules that can set the stage for better legislation.

It seems fitting that January also opens the year by honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr challenged all of our hearts to rise to our nation's highest ideals. I truly believe Dr. King looked to honor God in his peaceful quest to bring equal rights to our nation. A former pastor of mine often summarized the nation's discrimination environment as not a "skin problem", but a "sin problem". Dr. King truly understood this behavior and realized the cure was to love our neighbors as ourselves. Dr. King reflected on this in one of his

famous statements; "Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that". The companion quote is also appropriate: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that." Our Lord (The Light) often used this spiritual principle to bring peoples' attention to their sin.

Moving to the secular realm, attention also needs to be given to stewardship of our nation's resources, particularly our forests and wood lands. There are many reasons for wise forest conservation. Forests are extremely important in maximizing the capture of our rainfall. Minimizing water runoff helps to recharge our ground water and enhance stream water quality. We must not forget that a community's water quality and supply are a reflection of the quality of its environment, its desirability and its value.

Also, if managed properly forests become a renewable resource for building materials and numerous paper products. So, when managed with common sense practices, forests provide a wealth of benefits. To help make that happen, new federal legislation is being proposed that will greatly reduce the risks of forest fires, enhance water conservation, utilize over mature trees that would otherwise

be relegated to non-use, allow for thinning cuts that produce better quality lumber, healthier forests and pulpwood for paper production. It is hoped that this legislation, which was born out of western forest management challenges, will be replicated across the nation. Last year this legislation failed to pass, but Senator Daines, coauthor of the legislation is optimistic that the Republican controlled House has the votes needed to pass the legislation this year. Please help bring this advantage to Pennsylvania (Penn's Woods) by encouraging your US Congressman to vote for the "Root and Stem Act".

Speaking of Pennsylvania, January ushers in perhaps the largest agricultural expo under roof in our nation, the Pennsylvania Farm Show. County Commissioners across Pennsylvania are regularly invited to the PA Farm Show for Elected Officials Day. On this day The PA Department of Agriculture hosts a huge luncheon for the elected officials. It features various guest speakers and remarkable presentations of agricultural success stories. This year PA Governor Josh Shapiro made a most anticipated announcement, the official reappointment of Russell Redding

of Adams County as the PA Secretary of Agriculture. The Governor said that no one else even came close to being his choice for Secretary and, fortunately for PA and Adams County, Secretary Redding accepted the appointment.

Secretary Redding spoke of the direction the state is taking agriculture under his leadership. With his leadership and support of the PA legislature, new opportunities to make smaller farms more sustainable and programs to incentivize young farmers and professionals to enter the agricultural industry are in place. This is so very encouraging after hearing of European nations setting goals to eliminate the dairy and meat producers by 2030. As Russell Redding has said, that is a discussion we need to have. We wish Secretary Redding the very best, having oversight of PA's largest industry, Agriculture.

Moving to the local stage, in January the Adams County United Way is entering the final leg of their Annual Fund-Raising Campaign. With your help the goal of \$175,000 is well within reach. As of this publication United Way only needs an additional 20% of the goal to reach the finish line by March 15, 2023. That goal is easily attainable if each Adams County resident or business gave \$6.00/ by March

15. Due to the COVID disruption of our economy, United Way revenues fell short of expenses. To help eliminate the shortfall, join me as I avoid the drive-thru for a fancy cup of coffee and donate that amount to the United Way (perhaps multiple times). By many doing a little, a lot can be accomplished. Send or bring your donations to the United Way Office. Their address is as easy as "123" - 123 Buford Ave., Gettysburg, PA 17325. These funds go back into the community to help neighbors in need.

In several weeks the United Way will be back in action helping lower-income individuals prepare their 2022 Income Tax Returns. This help is for those with income less than \$60,000/year. Appointments must be made as there will be no walk-ins. Call 717-334-5809 now for an appointment, which will start the week of February 7 for eligible participants. This program is known as VITA and it is under the supervision of a tax professional. Hundreds are assisted by this program every year, saving families hundreds of dollars.

Finally, please check out the new look of the Adams County website. Also note, for a more secure experience, the website has been moved to a slightly different web address, adamscountypa.gov.

## County Notes

### Apply Now for 2022 Property Tax and Rent Rebate

Pennsylvanians who are eligible for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program can apply now for rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2022. Applicants do not need to pay anyone for assistance. FREE help is available by contacting my district office. The program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The annual income limit is \$35,000 for homeowners and \$15,000 for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for certain qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue automatically calculates supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners. The deadline to apply is June 30. Rebates will be distributed beginning July 1. For more information visit [www.revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms](http://www.revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms).

### Apply Now for 2023

**Pennsylvania House Scholarships** College-bound high school seniors in need of college assistance can now apply for one of two scholarships awarded annually by the Pennsylvania

House of Representatives. Each year the program presents a four-year scholarship to two Pennsylvania graduating high school seniors with plans to attend a Pennsylvania college, university or career school as a full-time student. The students must have attained a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average in high school. Other factors taken into consideration for the awards are a student's commitment to community, leadership qualities, extracurricular activities and financial need. Apply now through the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Application deadline is April 1. The scholarship is privately funded by individual and corporate donors; no tax or other public funds are used. Scholarships are awarded through an independent panel of judges chosen by the foundation.

### Better Tax Benefits for PA 529, PA ABLE Savings Programs

The tax benefits for contributing to PA 529 and PA ABLE accounts are getting better in 2023, as higher Pennsylvania state Personal Income Tax deductions are now in place for both programs. PA 529 account owners may now deduct up to \$17,000 of contributions to their accounts, or \$34,000 for couples filing jointly, provided both spouses

have at least \$17,000 of income. The PA state income tax deduction for 529 contributions is available to any PA taxpayer, making gift contributions an attractive benefit for family members or friends. PA ABLE account owners will also be able to deduct up to \$17,000 for contributions to their accounts. The PA 529 College and Career Savings Program is designed to help PA families save for future educational expenses, while the PA ABLE Savings Program is a tax-free way for Pennsylvanians to save for a wide range of disability-related expenses while maintain-

ing government disability benefits. To learn more about PA 529, visit [pa529.com](http://pa529.com) or call 800-440-4000. To learn more about PA ABLE, visit [paable.gov](http://paable.gov) or call 855-529-2253.

### Does Your Home Contain Radon?

An estimated 40% of Pennsylvania homes have higher levels of radon than national safety standards, due to the state's geology. However, residents can perform a simple test to detect this gas, which is considered the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon is an odorless, invisible

radioactive gas that occurs naturally from the breakdown of uranium in soil and rocks and enters homes through cracks in the foundation or other openings. High levels of radon tend to be found in basements, but the gas can be found anywhere in the home. Winter is a good time to test for radon, because doors and windows are generally closed, providing more accurate results. Simple radon test kits are inexpensive and available at home improvement and hardware stores. To learn more about radon and how to test your home, visit [www.dep.pa.gov](http://www.dep.pa.gov)



5580 Fairfield Rd., Fairfield  
**717-642-5844**  
[mountainviewrealtpa@gmail.com](mailto:mountainviewrealtpa@gmail.com)  
[www.mountainviewrealtpa.com](http://www.mountainviewrealtpa.com)

Jale Dalton  
Broker  
Licensed in PA & MD  
717-420-0743

Charles Dalton  
Realtor  
Licensed in PA  
717-420-0744

Alexandra Welty  
Realtor  
Licensed in PA  
717-420-0728

Cheryl Freeman  
Realtor  
Licensed in PA  
717-496-3013

Doris Normand  
Office Administrator  
717-642-5844

**FANTASTIC REAL ESTATE MARKET!**  
**GIVE US A CALL IF YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL!**

**250 Waynesboro Pike, Fairfield, PA**

**A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY! A BEAUTIFUL SETTING - ROLLING HILLS - PEACEFUL**

**4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on 88 acres of land.**  
 Located on the Mason Dixon Line: 88 acres of gently rolling, acreage. A perfect setting for an enduring estate & could be a vineyard, a wedding venue, or whatever you dream. Approx. 70 open ac., 18 ac. of woods, w/some creekfront. Existing 2 unit rambler, outbuildings, well & septic. Subdivision & preliminary engineering done. Needs individual wells & suitability for online or community sewage.

\$2,500,000

\*\*\*\*ACTIVE LOTS\*\*\*\*

**9 & 11 Sidetrack Tr., Carroll Valley, PA**  
Great opportunity! 2 building lots, 1 ac. ea., wooded, creek, touches golf course. Owner will consider any & all offers!.....**\$39,900**

**4 Fernwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA**  
0.86 ac., perc appr. lot for a Drip Irrigation Septic. 12 mi. to Gettysburg.....**\$27,900**

**5240 Fairfield Rd., Carroll Valley, PA**  
Very nice 0.54 wooded lot. Minutes from Liberty Mountain Ski/Golf resort. Close to historic Gettysburg. Well needed **\$29,900**

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

**5 Deer Tr., Carroll Valley, PA**  
Very nice lot, close to Carroll Valley Golf Course & Liberty Mt. Resort. Years ago this lot failed perc test. Chance buyers could do another perc test.....**\$7,000**

**4 Fir Tr., Carroll Valley, PA**  
Nice 0.79 ac. lot perc appr., for elevated sandmound septic system. Property wooded & sloped. Close to ski & golf resort. Only 12 mi. from historic Gettysburg.....**\$12,000**



Choose When You Want To Play!

THURSDAY NIGHTS  
Great Food! Huge Jackpot!  
Doors Open @ 5:30 PM  
Bingo Starts @ 6:45 PM

TWILIGHT BINGO  
1st Friday Of Every Month!  
Food! 3 Jackpots! Larger Payouts!  
Doors open @ 5:30 PM  
Bingo starts @ 8 PM

Fairfield Fire & EMS

Follow Rt. 116 To Fairfield  
Turn Onto J. Harry Kane Blvd.

# COMMENTARY

## Words From Winterbilt

### February perceptions

Shannon Bohrer

February is the shortest month of the year and contains three well known holidays, Ground Hog Day, President's Day, and Valentine's Day. Early in the month the ground hog, Punxsutawney Phil, predicts the weather. While Presidents Day celebrates all of our presidents, George Washington, and President Abraham Lincoln, who were both born in February are the ones most celebrated. Unlike the first two holidays, Valentine's Day is a global holiday with incredibly old origins. Growing up I remember all three of these holidays, specifically Valentine's Day because it was celebrated in grade school, with the exchange of cards with classmates.

Our thoughts on the shortest month of the year are varied and some of the variations are also interconnected and yet also distinctive. Many people think of February as the beginning of the end of winter, and others like to think it is a transition month, not winter but also not spring. It is common to have significant snow in February, and also mild spring like days. So, February can very often can fit into both winter and spring, and often does.

The prediction of February's weather

is related to Ground Hog Day. Of course, using a ground hog to determine the future weather, for the next six weeks, is neither logical nor scientific. Long range data shows that Punxsutawney Phil only being correct between 36 to 39 percent of the time. Punxsutawney Phil's poor prediction rate is often belittled, but compared to the professionals, it is not that bad. On average, the 10-day weather forecast from professional meteorologists has an accuracy rate of 50 percent, and Punxsutawney Phil's, for 42 days has an accuracy rate of 36 to 39 percent.

While Presidents Day is a celebration of all our presidents, we generally focus on two presidents, our first president, George Washington and our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln. The belief of many historians is that they are our most famous Presidents. General Washington defeated the British to help create our country and Abraham Lincoln defeated the Southern States Insurrectionist to save the nation that Washington helped create.

George Washington was reported to have said that he could not tell a lie, which means he might not be electable today. He also stepped down from the president's office after just two terms, setting in motion a continuum of government not dependent upon one person, or party. President Washington set

the bar high which is why he is held in high regard and rightfully so. I wonder what he would think of the country today.

President Abraham Lincoln is widely known for leading the country during the civil war, his Gettysburg address and freeing the slaves. Historians agree that he was integral in saving the union. His administration held the country together during the civil war, not an easy task. What we are as a nation today, has a direct relationship to his presidency. Lincoln, like Washington, possessed many admirable traits. One of his best known was his honesty. When Lincoln was a young man he walked miles – just to return a few pennies.

*"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom"*

—Thomas Jefferson

Presidents Day is a time of reflection for not just their service, but their values, what they accomplished for our country and their contribution to our nation. When you reflect upon our past presidents, it is amazing how much they influenced our lives centuries later. It is also amazing how high they set the bar, and at times, how far we have strayed.

How many current politicians would say they cannot tell a lie, or would return any sum or money, for

any reason? While we honor all of our presidents, the idea of not telling a lie or being honest, like Honest Abe, seems like an old history lesson. Even Punxsutawney Phil is honest, he might not be the best weather predictor, but there is no evidence that he lies.

February is the only month with a holiday that celebrates love. On the surface Valentine's Day seems unique and not really connected to the other holidays. The day is unique in that is celebrated worldwide. The celebration is about expressing your love for others. What other holiday is known for a celebration of love? Candy, flowers, and cards with devotion of love, what's not to like about it? Of course, given our humanitarian values that includes respect and love of others, one would expect the holiday to be popular. Maybe the idea of the expressing your love should be practiced all year. Treating everyone with respect and telling someone that they special should not be limited to one day a year.

The month of February offers wisdoms with the three holidays we celebrate. Ground Hog Day is more than just a weather event. As humans we often see ourselves as different, or on a higher level than animals. Yet as humans the animals, domestic and wild, enrich our lives. Many animals, especially our pets are connected to our mental wellbeing. Can you image life with no animals? As Will Rogers once

said, "If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went."

We have Valentine's Day as a reminder to express our love and caring for those around us. Love and caring for others are important emotions that enriches our lives and should be acknowledged more than one day each year. Just as our pets make our lives better, having friends, and sometimes family members, adds meaning to our lives. What would your life be without your significant other, your children, friends, and pets?

Then we have Presidents Day, a day to reflect on the individuals that have founded and guided our country. The impact and influence these leaders had on our country affects us to this day. The freedoms we enjoy, that we often take for granted, are a direct result of many of our founding and former Presidents. Events over the last several years is a lesson that our freedoms are not guaranteed, and Presidents Day - is a reminder to pay attention. As President Lincoln said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

If you like animals, love your friends and family members, and enjoy living in a democracy, February is a reminder of all three.

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

## Tumbleweeds

### Cancel Culture not very woke

Mark Greathouse

Censorship...cancel culture...shadow banning...visibility limiting...wokism. What are these often-unjust and at times criminal cultural anomalies derived from? What are woke standards of morality? For today's op-ed, I've lumped leftist dogma, cancel culture, and wokeness together as a one-in-the-same construct.

When I see woke cancel culture in action, I think of the perpetrators as only partially educated. They've generally been shielded from contrary viewpoints. The ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu spelled out how to control people, "keep their minds empty and bellies full." Decades have been spent corrupting our education system to the point where supposed academic elites deem themselves entitled to determine what we should and should not know. Censorship and its various manifestations are a byproduct of this phenomenon. The greater the censorship the faster the transition to tyrannical all-controlling governance. Let me be clear, the far right is also often guilty of censorship. The difference is that the political left is more inclined to shut down dissenting debate.

In my tumbleweed research of America's frontier west, I found it reassuring at how homesteaders, ranchers, merchants, and more saw education as vitally important. By today's "standards," frontier education was minimalist (e.g., no gender or race studies). It was often delivered in a one-room school housing multiple grade levels and replete books across essential

subjects with curricula delivered by someone perceived to harbor enough knowledge to be viewed as a teacher. Their version of social media was via newspapers, personal conversations, and telegraph. There was a de facto censorship of sorts, as long-held values that were rooted in biblical teachings and a sense of respect and common decency were integrated within the culture. Apparently, education back on the frontier effectively reduced the number of folks stupid enough to fall for what we call cancel culture.

So, what on earth has happened to mess things up over the past 150 or so years? There is a certain illiteracy endemic to wokism by virtue of lack of exposure to opposing views. "Constructivism" is the fertilizer for wokism. Have you ever heard of George Berkeley? He's the father of constructivism which essentially postulates that knowledge is created by individuals reacting to information they receive as opposed to being from a commonly-accepted, morally-bound objective state. Thus, information has no meaning in reality of itself but is what the individual perceives. Common sense becomes a mere personal social construct. For example; constructivism today forms the bedrock upon which censorship by government becomes easy so long as the government-approved message is accepted. Shadow banning or visibility filtering by social media is also an example. Constructivism is the premise for Newspeak in George Orwell's classic dystopian novel 1984, as control of information is the slippery slope to tyranny.

Morality? Yours, mine, or theirs?

Morally bereft constructivist woke whim of the day versus traditional faith-based morality? It's like the proverbial house built on sand that crumbles in the storm versus the house built on rock that stands solidly. The wokist cancel culture is atheistic and thereby without any rock-solid moral values.

Where constructivism goes especially awry is when a small segment of counter-culture individuals has an outsized influence on public discourse, falling back to emotion-driven rationales when intellectual reasoning fails them. The outcomes these woke folk deliver provoke serious kerfuffles. It's easy to win a debate if other side is silenced (beaten into submission), and the woke leftists are well-practiced at silencing dissent from their views. A great example was the vainglorious bureaucrat Dr. Fauci who wouldn't tolerate dissent from his opinions supposedly couched in "science" that changed constantly and which arguably resulted in far greater life loss for COVID victims. Free speech for wokists but no one else simply doesn't cut the mustard.

Ironically, wokism is espoused by a small minority of our nation's population but garners a large voice thanks to its acolytes in media, academia, politics, government, corporations, and education. What do the likes of Meta, American Express, Amazon, Walt Disney Company, Levi Strauss, Bank of America, Apple, Nike, Starbucks, NBA, NFL, and many more organizations have in common? They've all caved to the woke cancel-culture agenda such as it is. They lack the spine and moral fortitude to resist the minority wokist gaggle. For example, blatant federal government induced censorship collusion with big tech was strikingly unveiled

with Elon Musk's release of revelatory internal Twitter emails. It's a sad state of affairs, when industry elites collude with government and the minority cancel culture to shape what Americans are supposed to believe. Heaven forbid there should be any sort of syncretism, the reconciliation or fusion of differing systems of belief as in philosophy or religion.

Illiteracy among the woke is alarming in its narrow cultural focus. Lao Tzu's philosophy is delivered today by self-serving bureaucrats and politicians like Dr. Fauci, President Biden, Adam Schiff, Alejandro Mayorkas, and their ilk. Woke cancel culture thus preaches to a rabble made brainless and gullible by a fawning, failing, education system bought and paid for politicians and by a decidedly leftist news media. The cancel culture mostly uses uncertainty and fear as a socio-political bludgeon.

In an era of entitled spoiled brats, wokists are experts at forming social media lynch mobs. Per Karl Marx's playbook, they relentlessly attack religion (e.g., many Portland rioters used Bibles as fire starters) and family (e.g., abortion on demand, LBGTQ promotion, and schools preempting parental rights in child raising). It's far more than toppled statues, profanity-laced graffiti, burned out neighborhoods, and changed school and sports team names. Woke's constructivist roots have been growing for decades and folks would have to be blind or uneducated to not see how it parallels the underpinnings of Communism. Not to be paranoid, but Americans ought to be looking over their shoulders warily at China. For a sneak preview, folks need only consider California with its seemingly inexorable slide toward being the next Cuba or Venezuela.

As wokists and their liberal compatriots seek to divide the nation over cultural, political, racial, and gender lines, we dare not forget that our nation's motto is E Pluribus Unum (out of many one) not Me Primum (me first). And we should take Benjamin Franklin's warning to heart "a republic, if you can keep it." Indeed, our mettle is being tested by the small mob of well-funded, media-supported wokists in our midst. As to the wokists themselves, they're arguably intellectual and cultural cowards.

What do we do about it? We stop appeasing the woke crowd; we challenge woke indoctrination in our colleges and K-12 schools by securing equal time for opposing views (cancel the cancellers); we stop dumbing down our education system in the name of "equity" (aka, lowest common denominator); we boycott the corporations caving to wokists; we express our opposing views through social media, op-eds, and letters to editors; we don't feed the coffers of wokist universities by enrolling our children into their indoctrination echo chambers; we promote exceptionalism in resistance to a world of participation trophies; we seek office ourselves or elect legislators that stand firm for our rights as enumerated in the U.S. Constitution; and we support parents being in charge of their children rather than government-run schools.

Make no mistake, cancel culture will die if resisted and resist we must if we are to keep our republic. Folks need to be seriously questioning the heritage they are leaving for future generations.

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

# The Bulwark

Will the GOP walk the Fair Tax plank?

Jim Swift

Not all of Kevin McCarthy's concessions to the House Freedom Caucus have been made public, but one that has gone largely unremarked deserves more attention: The new speaker of the House has agreed to grant the "Fair Tax Act" a vote on the House floor, its first since its conception in 1999 by talk-radio host Neal Boortz and Georgia politician John Linder.

The Fair Tax Act would replace income, payroll, gift, corporate, and death taxes with a federal consumption (sales) tax. To ensure that the legislation actually replaces rather than adds to existing taxes, the bill includes a provision that the new tax would expire in seven years if the Sixteenth Amendment, which allows for federal income taxes, is not repealed. (Keen-eyed readers will notice that this creates the bizarre possibility of federal tax revenue going down to zero after seven years, if income taxes are not collected but the Sixteenth Amendment remains on the books.)

The bill's backer in the current Congress is Georgia Rep. Earl LeRoy "Buddy" Carter, who voted for McCarthy for speaker on all fifteen ballots last week. Carter is not a member of the Freedom Caucus. However, the Fair Tax (or "Fair-Tax") Act is popular with members of the Freedom Caucus: McCarthy had to promise a floor vote on it in exchange for their support in the speakership contest. Politico's Sarah Ferris reports that bringing the bill to a vote was a demand from all twenty holdouts.

Whether McCarthy will deliver on this promise is unclear. On paper, the bill sounds like a mes-

saging win for Republicans: Abolish the IRS using this one neat trick! You never lose with the base by bashing the IRS. But the political reality is more complicated—as is the math.

The Fair Tax idea has never really had any serious support because it's not a serious proposal, but a bit of niche talk-radio kitsch from a generation ago. Yet it has become a right of passage for Georgia Republicans to introduce it as the panacea to big government—by means of a federal 23 percent tax inclusive sales tax. (That 23 percent number is misleading—calculated the normal way, the tax exclusive rate is actually 30 percent.) If a federal sales tax were to match current government tax revenues, the actual rate would have to be higher.

Sound regressive? It is! But don't worry, like any talk-radio proposal, there's an equally wacky solution to the problems posed by the wacky tax proposal itself: the "prebate," a monthly check mailed to taxpayers. The Fair Tax organizers frame it this way: "This gives every legal resident household an 'advance refund' at the beginning of each month so that purchases made up to the poverty level are tax-free. The prebate prevents an unfair burden on low-income families."

I know what you're thinking: Mailing hundreds of millions of checks twelve times a year sounds complicated. But don't you worry, talk-radio listener, because the big brains behind the Fair Tax have got you covered. . . with a smart card. Per the most recent House version of the bill: "The Social Security Administration may provide rebates in the form of smart cards that carry cash balances in their memory for

use in making purchases at retail establishments or by direct electronic deposit."

Oh, good, the money can go out by electronic deposit. Whew. Who knew that getting rid of the IRS meant turning one annual tax return into twelve opportunities for the federal government to fall down while spraying the American people with a money hose? Cross your fingers!

Bruce Bartlett, the former deputy assistant secretary of the Treasury, eviscerated the Fair Tax in a Wall Street Journal op-ed in 2007, when then-Gov. Mike Huckabee was campaigning on the idea. (Bartlett also wrote an in-depth research paper for Tax Notes, if you care to take a deep dive.) He concluded: "The FairTax is too good to be true, and voters should not take seriously any candidate who supports it."

Indeed, nobody has ever taken the Fair Tax seriously.

Not in the years after the Tea Party wave, when the House Ways and Means Committee under Paul Ryan and Dave Camp dedicated years and numerous hearings to the subject of tax reform.

Not in 2011, when Texas Gov. Rick Perry briefly campaigned in support of the Fair Tax, only to quietly walk back his support and switch to a flat tax proposal.

Not in 2017, when the Republican-controlled Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Not in the last Congress, when Jamie Dupree wrote in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the proposal was "barely breathing," with 21 co-sponsors, a big step down from the 75 supporters it had in 2016. (The version now apparently destined to come up for a vote in the House has 11 backers so far.)

No, not until the desperate Kevin McCarthy needed to cut every possible deal to become speaker did the



Fair Tax get taken seriously.

Do moderate House Republicans really want to be forced to vote on the Fair Tax? Shouldn't a major overhaul of the tax system of the world's largest economy be subject to in-depth hearings by the House's tax writers? The Bulwark asked the new Ways and Means chairman, Rep. Jason Smith, about the Fair Tax legislation and its future in his committee, where it was referred after its introduction on Monday. He wasn't sure, answering: "I've been chairman for thirty hours," before walking away.

The Fair Tax has never been popular in the Senate, having never garnered more than eight senators as cosponsors. (The Fair Tax Act of 1985, which had 11 cosponsors, was a different proposal entirely.) Assuming the Fair Tax has the votes in the House—a big, unwieldy assumption that could come crashing down at any moment—it will be dead on arrival in the Senate.

In light of all this, why promise a vote on such a loser? Going straight to the floor poses risks, given the slim GOP majority. It's a lose-lose situation: Vote yes, and the House Republican Conference looks frivo-

lous, to say nothing of the messaging gift they would give Democratic speechwriters in 2024 ("Republicans want to instate a 30-plus percent federal sales tax!"). Vote no, and invite primaries by far-right candidates who will accuse you of siding with Democrats when given a chance to abolish the IRS. There's a reason Republicans have never brought any of the previous versions of the Fair Tax to a vote before.

It's possible that McCarthy agreed to a floor vote expecting moderates to break ranks and the bill to fail by a spectacular margin. That would drive a stake through the heart of the Fair Tax. But this interpretation probably gives him too much credit.

What's likelier is that McCarthy knew this was a promise he could break. He never said anything about when he would bring the bill to the floor, and he has plenty of more important votes ahead. It is certainly not lost on him that some of these upcoming votes could occasion a rebellion that might threaten his hard-won speaker's gavel.

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

# Good Day, Neighbor

Valentine to caregivers

Dorothea Mordan

Traditions come from somewhere. Saint Valentine is a composite of historic religious figures that includes St. Valentine of Viterbo, St. Valentine of Rhetia, and others who share martyrdom because of their beliefs. Their life-works, and stories have combined into the legendary St. Valentine, patron saint of such disparate areas as love, epilepsy and beekeeping. St. Valentine is thought to have been a priest and physician. In his life as an early Christian priest he married couples according to that faith. This was in the 3rd century, A.D. during the end of the Roman Empire, and so was against the laws of that time. As a physician, St. Valentine was said to have cured blindness, including that of a daughter of the jailer where he was held at the end of his life.

Changes in society's tolerance, religious or otherwise, happen over long stretches of time. Christianity, once established, was just

as capable of producing leaders who would martyr nonbelievers, as did the Roman Emperors who fed Christians to the lions. Social change has long inspired humans to kill. It was, and still is, bad behavior.

The almost 2000 years since St. Valentine's death have delivered us a holiday to celebrate love and chocolate. The story of St. Valentine, though, is at its heart, the story of a caregiver. One reason his story persists is that we each need acceptance and understanding. What is more proof of that than having a day to celebrate your partner in love and life.

Caregivers have the same objective as the St. Valentines of the world—to shake up society, hoping to bring change for those in need. Whether it is medical, spiritual, or economic, the groups that inspire them are usually the underserved and forgotten. Consider if you need what the St. Valentines of the world do.

The impact that caregivers have, is an inspiration for cultural shift

from "me" to "we". A large amount of our current public political debate is centered on what is good in it for ME. Just by saying that private business/medical practice and our social structure and economy would be better than a social safety net organized by the government doesn't make it so. The reverse is also true. The government, no matter how well intentioned, cannot replace communities where people work together to solve problems. When we do not work together for improved quality of life for each other, we get more government intervention—like the intersection where one too many traffic fatalities happen. We ultimately agree to impose a traffic light and a speed limit. When we get too many bureaucratic details invading our everyday lives, we start mini revolts to give voice to our person grievances. Again, it is about me.

Caregivers see an imbalance and take the pressure off where they can.

Some caregiving is obvious. 24 hour nursing care for friends and loved ones who need specialized care. Mental health professionals helping any one of us with invisible

traumas. Teachers. Each of us has been to school, and had to find our path to understanding the world we live in. Teachers show us how to look at life from different perspectives as we find our way. Counselors. Each of us has been the giver or receiver of bullying, peer pressure, misunderstanding. Counselors guide us to addressing the root of the problem, so we have a chance of solving it.

The support staff in our public school system give their all everyday to take care of our kids and back up our teachers in the front lines. Administrators, secretaries, school nurses, custodians, food service professionals, bus drivers—thank you Amy!—librarians, and everyone with a title I haven't learned yet, are the daily first responders for our kids.

Some caregiving is more subtle. Just as we each have things that make our blood boil at the mere mention of a different opinion, we each have the ability to take the energy out of empty arguments. An argument based solely on having an opposing opinion is pretty empty, but that's just my opinion.

A thoughtful person with a full grocery cart sees you have few items and lets you go ahead.

The person who doesn't lose patience with you when you are having a bad day, about to lose your own patience.

Each of these is an example of an impact on our daily quality of life that has the unsung attribute of costing zero while taking the pressure off of our shared public argument about private versus government order. A lot of what any of us can find annoying is rooted in how our well planned life is ruined by the social order around us. We each have opportunities to take the pressure off, to be Radar of the 4077th M\*A\*S\*H.

There is no one size fits all solution to any human problem. Community-based or government-funded, we each do the best we can. Caregivers see us at our best and worst. They take care of us anyway. Let's take care of them, and ourselves.

Happy Valentine's Day to you.

To learn more about *Woodsboro's own Dorothea*, visit her site at *chandlerdesignslimited.com*.

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## The God Who is love

Fr. Timothy Barkley  
St. James Orthodox Christian Church

God is love, according to St. John, for love is of God. "Love" is the only noun that is directly equated with the person of God. God is just, holy, good and many other things, but these are attributes of God. Love is not an attribute of God. God is love.

It must be easy, then, to know all about God. We just have to know what love is, and then we know what God is. Love has characteristics; thus, God has these same characteristics. It's a math equation:  $x=y$ , therefore  $y=x$ . If you know what "y" is, then you know all about "x."

But God is not an object of our speculation, to be pinned to a piece of Styrofoam and studied. God is the active subject; we are the objects of God's creative and sustaining energies. No human conception can quantify God. No created reality can fitly or even dimly describe the essence of the uncreate God. There are no earthly categories that can make even remotely comprehensible the mystery that is the essence of our God. (Isa. 55:8-9)

God is "ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible." All that we truly know about God is that we truly know nothing about God. To know God, we must "un-know" everything. The knowledge of God, to the extent

that He can be known, is found in hesychastic silence.

Expressing the knowledge God starting with our created categories, even categories used in God's self-revelation – "love is this, and God is love; therefore, God is this and not that" – is to reduce God to a created concept, to diminish God to a product of our rationalization. Defining God in terms of human conceptions, even our most sublime notions, is to exalt ourselves and our created being to a place of supposed superiority over God by containing and constraining God within our mental energies. We make an idol of our own imagining and bow down to worship it.

As the people of Israel were delivered from slavery in Egypt, God demonstrated by the ten plagues and the final deliverance of Israel through the underworld entanglements of the yam suph that the God of Israel was supreme in all the earth, one by one humiliating the demons who had arrogated to themselves the worship of the people of Egypt – worship that was due to God alone. The people of God despoiled their captors and walked out of Egypt laden with the gold jewelry of their Egyptian former masters.

God cut a covenant with the people of Israel: He would be their god and they would be His people. He gave Moses the terms of the covenant, as a supreme ruler would dictate the terms of a suzerainty treaty with the vassal kingdom. The people of Israel vowed obedience to the

commands of God, and the elders of Israel ate and drank in the presence of God. Blood of sacrificial animals was shed, and peace offerings made. God became one with the people of Israel. (Exodus 24)

Moses went up into the presence of God for forty days and forty nights, receiving a sublime revelation of the things of heaven (Heb. 8:5) to be the lifeways of the people of Israel. Israel was to be a light to the nations, a witness to the blessedness of the nation whose God is the Lord, so that nations would stream to her and join themselves to her. (Deut. 4:5-8)

Israel, impatient with Moses's delay, demanded that Aaron, God's high priest, make them an idol god after the manner of Egypt and the nations around them. (Ex. 32:1) They wanted a god that would fit into their categories. They wanted to be a reflection of their neighbors, not a light to them.

So they brought Aaron their gold jewelry – the very gold that God had entrusted to them when He rescued them from slavery in Egypt – and with that gift of God, Aaron engraved a golden calf, proclaiming to the people of Israel that this was the god who had brought them out of slavery in Egypt. (Ex. 32:4) Aaron did not proclaim a new deity; he reduced the "ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible" glory of Israel to the cozy likeness of a calf that eats grass. (Ps. 106:20)

The people of Israel wanted a familiar god, a comfortable god who would accept them as they "ate and drank, and rose up to play," (Ex. 32:6) not the holy, frightening, thundering, fiery God of Moses. Their calf god was a thing of beauty, made from the sacrificial giving of the people, significantly connected with important events in their sacred history. It made present to them the sense of the divine in a most approachable, non-demanding, non-threatening way and made them relevant to their contemporaries. They could come to their god just like they were, could "play" in front of their god, and their god was happy with them.

The true God of Israel, upon witnessing the perfidy of His covenant



people, would have wiped them off the face of the earth, had it not been for the intercession of Moses, who stood boldly before God and called upon God's abundant longsuffering and forgiveness. (Ex. 32:11-14) God relented, and Israel was saved.

Moses was a type of Jesus, standing in the breach before God and pleading for love and mercy despite the unfaithfulness of the people. And because God truly is a god of love and mercy, we too are given a chance to repent, to change our ways, to forswear our sins and once again walk in the ways of God. But we must receive God on His terms, and not on our own, to know the love that is God.

We have seen the fulness of the Godhead in the face of Christ, the Son and living Word of God, the Light begotten of the Light. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments," he said. (Jn. 14:15) The person of God with whom we have to do has normative standards for the relationship.

When Jesus ascended to the

right hand of the Father, He sent us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. The Body of Christ, the Church, is the pillar and foundation of that truth, entrusted with the written Word of God, as it has been taught through the centuries of the witness of His Body. We are not left alone.

God is love, and love is known in Jesus, in His Body, the Church, called to be a light to the nations. We the Church must prove ourselves worthy of that calling, faithfully making present the God who is love. We must not kowtow to the demands of culture, presenting them a comfy golden calf for their worship. The Church, the Body of Christ, must intercede for the people, and prophetically call them to repentance, to the worship of the true God who is love.

To learn more about St. James Orthodox Christian Church in Taneytown, visit them online at [www.stjames-orthodoxchurch.org](http://www.stjames-orthodoxchurch.org) or better yet, join them for Sunday service.

**St. James Lutheran Church**  
109 York Street, Gettysburg

**31st ANNUAL FASTNACHT SALE**  
Sunday, February 19 - 8 a.m. to noon  
Monday, February 20 - 3 to 6 p.m.  
Tuesday, February 21 - 5 to 10 a.m.

**\$9 Dozen**  
These are the old fashioned fastnachts made by hand. Pre-order online (preferred) at: [StJamesGettysburg.org](http://StJamesGettysburg.org) and select Order Fastnachts, or phone 717-337-1372. We always make extras to be sold, but if you want to be sure to get some, we recommend submitting a pre-order. Payment at Pickup

**CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Connecting God & Community

**Celebrating Sundays at 10:30 a.m. & Wednesdays at 7 p.m.**  
Meeting in person with children's ministry, as well as online on Facebook and at [ccaog.org](http://ccaog.org)  
**PLEASE JOIN US!**

[ccaog.org](http://ccaog.org)  
301-447-4224

303 West Lincoln Avenue  
Emmitsburg  
(Next to the town pool)

**John Talcott**  
Senior Pastor  
**Dana Talcott**  
Children's Ministry

**POT PIE DRIVE THRU**  
COUNTRY HAM & CHICKEN  
Sat., February 25th  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**\$8 QUART** Please place orders by Sun., February 19  
Bake Table  
To order call church 301-898-5290  
Leave message with name, phone # & order  
or call: Carmi at 301-401-0633

**St. John's Lutheran Church** 301-898-5290  
8619 Black's Mill Rd., Creagerstown  
(Take 15 N. or S., get off at Thurmont exit and follow Rt. 550 to Creagerstown.)  
(Take 134 N. or S., turn onto Rt. 550 at Woodford to Creagerstown.)

Sunday Worship  
9:30 a.m.

**Graceham Moravian Church**

Sunday Services  
10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School  
9:15 a.m.  
Phone: 301-271-2379  
8231-A Rocky Ridge Road,  
Thurmont  
[www.gracehammoravian.org](http://www.gracehammoravian.org)

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**  
LOVE  
FREEDOM  
TOGETHER  
CELEBRATE

Served With Grace Dinner Feb. 06

## THE BOOK OF DAYS

## John of Gaunt



Edward the Third's fourth son, John, born at Ghent, or, as it was then spelt, Gaunt, during his father's expedition to Flanders, in February 1340, and called from that circumstance, John of Gaunt, has obtained a greater name amongst celebrated princes than his own merits would perhaps justify, probably in some measure from his inheriting the popularity of his elder and greater brother, the Black Prince.

John, when two years old, was created Earl of Richmond. After the death of the great warrior, Henry Duke of Lancaster, in 1360, John of Gaunt, who had married his daughter the princess Blanche, was raised by his father, King Edward, to that dukedom. In the adventurous expedition which the Black Prince made into Spain in 1367, his brother John accompanied him. Two years later, accompanying the Black Prince on a march which he made through France to the English possessions in the south, John took the command of the army, on his brother being obliged by the state of his health to return to England. Immediately afterwards John of Gaunt married the Spanish princess Constance, eldest daughter of Don Pedro, whom he had first seen at Bordeaux in 1367; and, as her father had been murdered by his rival, the usurper Don Enrique, the Duke of Lancaster assumed in his wife's right the title of King of Castile and Leon. In the continuous wars with France which followed, John of Gaunt was a brave but not a successful commander, and they were put an end to by the truce of 1374.

The Black Prince died on the 8th of June 1376, two years after this peace. Since his return to England,

he had espoused the popular cause against his father's government, and thus became a greater favourite than ever with the nation. His brother of Lancaster, on the contrary, was unpopular, and supported the abuses of the court. After his death, John of Gaunt became all powerful in the parliament, and high in favour with his father the king; but in his hostility to the opposition which had been supported by the Black Prince, he quarrelled violently with the Church, and especially with William of Wickham, Bishop of Winchester, whom he persecuted with inveterate hatred.

It is believed that the Duke's hostility to the bishops was the main cause of the support he gave to John Wycliffe, the great Church reformer, by which he certainly did good service to the English Reformation in its first beginning, and gained popularity among the Lol-

ards. But even here he proceeded with the intemperance which especially marked his character. The prelates, provoked by the encouragement thus openly given to innovators in Church doctrines and government, cited Wycliffe to appear in St Paul's Church, before Courtenay, Bishop of London, to answer for his opinions. He came there on the 19th of February 1377, supported by the Duke of Lancaster and the Lord Henry Percy, Marshal of England, in person, with a formidable array of knights.

The bishop was highly offended by this bold advocacy of men who came there to be tried as heretics, and high words passed between him and the Duke, who is said to have threatened 'to pull down the pride of him, and of all the bishops of England,' and to have talked of dragging him out of the church by the hair of his head.

A great crowd of citizens, who were present, spewed an inclination to take part with the bishop, and, further irritated by some proceedings in parliament which threatened their municipal rights, they rose tumultuously next morning, and rushing first to the house of the Marshal, broke into it, and committed various acts of violence. Not, however, finding Lord Henry Percy there, they hastened to the Savoy, the palace of the Duke of Lancaster, where 'a priest chancing to meete them, asked of some, what that business meant. Whereunto he was answered, that they went to take the Duke and the Lord Percy, that they might be compelled to deliver to them Sir Peter de la More, whom they unjustly kept in prison. The priest sayde that Peter de la More was a traytour to the king, and was worthie to be hanged. With which words they all cryed,

"This is Percy! this is the traytour of England! his speech bewrayeth him, though hee bee disguised in apparel." Then ranne they all upon him, striving who should give him his death wound, and after they had wounded him, they caryed him to prison, where he dyed.'

The Bishop of London now arrived and appeased the rioters, but not till the great courtiers against whom their wrath had been

excited were in great terror. The Duke and the Lord Henry Percy happened to be dining with a Flemish merchant named John of Ypres; 'but the Londoners knew it not, for they thought that he and the duke had beene at the Savoy, and therefore with all hast posted thither. But one of the dukes knights seeing these things, in great haste came to the place where the duke was, and, after that he had knocked and could not get in, hee sayd to Haverland the porter, "If thou love my lord and thy life, open the gate I" with which wordes hee got entrey, and with great feare hee telles the duke that without the gate were infinite numbers of armed men, and, unlesse hee tooke great heede, that day should bee his last. With which words, when the duke heard them, he leapt so hastily from his oysters, that he hurt both his legges against the fourme. Wine was offered to his oysters, but hee would not drinke for haste. Hee fledde with his fellow Syr Henry Percy, no maniac following them, and, entering the Thamys, never stinted rowing untill they came to a house neere the manor of Kenington (besides Lambeth), where at that tyme the princess was, with the young prince, before whom he made his complaint.'

The Londoners were summoned before the King, who effected a reconciliation between them and the Duke; but, old Stow adds in his quaint manner, 'in the meane space some men ceased not to make rymes in reproeh of the duke, and to fasten them in divers places of the city, whereby the greater fury of the people might be kindled, the dukes flame blotted, and his name had in destestation.'

This was one of the last public audiences given by King Edward III, who died on the 21st of June following. At the beginning of the following reign, the hostile feeling between the Londoners and John of Gaunt continued, but his power had greatly declined, and for a while he took little part in public business.

In Wat Tyler's rebellion, when the insurgents had obtained possession of London, they proclaimed the Duke of Lancaster as one of the arch-traitors, and burnt his palace

of the Savoy to the ground. John of Gaunt was at this time in Scotland, employed in a diplomatic mission. He had not long returned from a hostile expedition to France, the ill success of which had increased his unpopularity. From this time forward the Duke was involved in frequent quarrels with his nephew the young king, and they became more and more difficult to reconcile, until at last Richard was glad to get rid of him by allowing him to carry an army of ten thousand men to Spain in order to recover by force the kingdom of Castile.

He landed at Corunna in the month of July 1385, and marched through Galicia into Portugal, where the King of Portugal not only joined him with an army, but married Philippa, John of Gaunt's eldest daughter by his first wife. He was at first successful against the Spaniards, but eventually having lost the greater part of his troops by famine and disease, he was obliged to make his retreat into Guienne, and was glad to conclude a treaty with the de facto King of Castile, by which John of Gaunt abandoned all his claim to the throne of Castile and Leon, in consideration of a large sum of money, and of the marriage of Henry Prince of the Asturias, the heir of Castile, with his daughter by his second wife.

On the return of the Duke of Lancaster from the Continent, he appears to have become suddenly popular, perhaps on account of his hostility to his nephew's favourites. He had been always accused of aiming at the English crown, and of a design to supplant the young King Richard; and it is said that he incurred Richard's final displeasure, by pressing the king too urgently to acknowledge his son Henry of Bolingbroke, heir to the throne.

From this time John of Gaunt lived retired from court until his death, which occurred at Ely House, in Holborn, on the 3rd of February 1399. It is hardly necessary to add, that within a few weeks afterwards his son became King of England, as Henry IV.

To read more selections from the Book of Days, visit [Thebookofdays.com](http://Thebookofdays.com).

# NEED A NEW ROOF?

Make Your Plan *Bulletp*ROOF



(301) 676-5188

GAF MASTER ELITE

BPERoof.com

Since 2018



PROUD PARTNER

We do this every 'Shingle' Day!™

# ECOLOGY

## Finding balance: lessons from early conservation efforts

Anne Gageby  
Environmental Education Manager  
Strawberry Hill Foundation

During William Penn's time, about 99 percent of Pennsylvania's nearly 29 million acres were forested. Within a few generations, our forests had been whittled down to around half their original size. Within that half existed a nominal selection of wildlife as entire game populations had been quickly extirpated or brought to the brink of extinction. By the late-1800s logging, unregulated hunting and trapping, and rapacious farming techniques had turned our beautiful state into a ghost of its former self. Fixing the damage was a seemingly impossible task, one that fell to a handful of conservationists and government organizations such as the newly minted Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania Forestry Association. It would be a long road to walk.

It's hard to imagine a Pennsylvania forest from three hundred years ago. Before European settlers alighted on our shores, our forests were incredibly rich in biodiversity, having the fortune to be a mixture of forestry zones. Elk once roamed our lush Pennsylvania woods in droves. The skies were filled with flocks of the now-extinct carrier pigeon. Bobcats, fishers, river otters, and bald eagles all thrived in our woods.

Early colonists pushed further west in ever-expanding waves of settlement which required more resources year over year. Hunters and trappers took as much game as they could in a day with no regard for animal repopulation. Regulations for hunting and

trapping were uncomplicated – there simply were none. No oversight and no game-specific hunting seasons led to ecological injuries that would last for decades.

Mountain lions were a common predator in the Commonwealth until a perfect storm of habitat destruction and loss of prey (primarily elk and white-tail deer) led to their eventual decline, aided by predator eradication programs of the 1800s. These programs were a potential boon for poor families as they had no bag limits and paid handsomely for every kill brought in. A good hunter could provide for his family with the bounty he collected.

His opportunities weren't limited to mountain lions. All big game predators suffered at the hands of economy and fear. The North American wolf population was estimated to have been around one million at its height. European settlers wore a mantle of religious fear and deeply rooted mistrust of wolves, not surprising when examined through the lens of Church teachings. Wolves were the very essence of evil. And in 18th century Pennsylvania, they were literally right outside your door.

It's easy to assign blame to the animals themselves. After all, mountain lions, bears, and wolves have long been notoriously mischaracterized as inherently and pressingly dangerous. And yet no one can say the same of our beloved turkey. Wild turkeys once thrived in the United States. Some estimates put a total of around ten million birds within the Appalachian region alone. By the 1930s wild turkey numbers had dropped to their lowest recorded numbers due to severe



overhunting and were on the brink of extinction. By this point in America's history, the few remaining pockets of wild turkeys were reduced to the most inhabitable locations.

Overhunting and trapping were one line in a list of problems facing our early nation. Logging had quickly become the backbone of American society. Lumber was harvested for shipbuilding, railroad expansion, fuel, tanning, and more. Timber barons grew unimaginably wealthy since our country's focus was on development, not on the sustainability of natural resources. In 1907, Teddy Roosevelt noted that the dizzying pace of deforestation had depleted the country's timber to the point that "the country is unquestionably on the verge of a timber

famine which will be felt in every household in the land."

Around the turn of the century, the conversation began to shift toward conservation. In 1902, the U.S. Geological Survey submitted a report to President Roosevelt that described the grave damage inflicted upon American forests by industrial logging companies. The worst, in the minds of the surveyors, was the alarming rate of operations. "Within less than a decade every mountain cove will have been invaded and robbed of its finest timber, and the last remnants of these grand Appalachian forests will have been destroyed," the report noted.

If the problem had simply been a matter of losing greenery, the argument might have ended there. Instead, the country was slowly opening its eyes to

the jagged, bitter truth: logging companies had done unthinkable ecological harm. The loggers had stomped through previously untouched forests with a careless ferocity, leaving miles of torn-up soil, crushed trees, and scarred, burnt land in their wake. Their waste had piled up in chaotic stacks leaving massive broken trees to rot along the muddy, sullen forest floor. Without trees to act as riparian buffers, watersheds became sludgy messes of soil runoff and waste. Industrial pollution poured into waterways and swaths of farmland became uninhabitable. Creeks and rivers, once crystal clear and pure, became wastelands that could no longer support flora or fauna. These areas became known as Pennsylvania's "deserts."

On a national scale, the conservation movement, which was in its infancy during the turn of the century, started slowly shifting the conversation to responsible resource management. Instead of asking the public to save the forest, it asked the public to consider ethically and sustainably using the forests' resources for the benefit of all. The Public Trust Doctrine helped further this dynamic shift in thinking.

The Public Trust Doctrine has roots that go back to Roman civil law. Today, it's an essential part of American wildlife law and establishes a trustee-style relationship of authority, one that gives the government the legal ability to hold and manage wildlife, fish, and waterway on behalf of the public. At its core is the idea that natural resources are deemed universally important and that everyone should have access to said resources for the purpose of fishing, trapping, hunting, and traveling.

If we were to overlay an image of Pennsylvania today with an image of our state from a hundred years ago, the difference would be breathtaking. The modern, new-growth forests we see today are a banner of hope, one born of hard-learned lessons over many generations. As Teddy Roosevelt noted, "The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method." Today, Pennsylvanians are now "walking Teddy Roosevelt's talk."

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

**Vinores FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Vinores Financial Services is committed to helping people, business and estates pursue their financial goals. We offer access to a wide range of financial products and services. By working with a skilled financial professional, you will be able to identify your needs and make sound financial decisions to help work toward those goals.

Once we understand your long-term plans, we will customize strategies to implement your vision and objectives. By illustrating your current financial situation we can better work with you in developing the road map best suited to reach your goals.

**Plan for Tomorrow**

**Call Us Today & Let's Start Planning For Tomorrow**

Meet our investment team including a Financial Planner and Advisors.

David Rectenwald  
Eric Vinores  
Ed Gills

**Vinores FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**Services**

- Retirement Planning
- Estate Planning
- Personal Finance
- Financial Planning
- Exit Strategies
- Annuity Products
- Income Planning
- Farm Estate
- Transition Planning
- Retirement
- Education Savings Accounts
- Investment Management

209 E. Main St., Thurmont • 301-304-6004  
VinoresFinancial.com

View Form CRS

Securities offered through Grove Point Investments, LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisory Services offered through Grove Point Advisors, LLC. Grove Point Investments, LLC & Grove Point Advisors, LLC are subsidiaries of Grove Point Financial, LLC. Vinores Financial Services is not affiliated with Grove Point Financial, LLC or its subsidiaries.

Serving Frederick for over 50 years

Family Owned & Operated

**ZEBROSKI MOTOR CO.**

Specializing in RV & Motor Home Repair & Inspections  
Transmission & Power Steering (BG) Flushes  
Winterize Your RV ~ 24 Hour Towing Service

10518 Woodsboro Pike, Walkersville  
**301-845-8460**  
jzebroski0404@gmail.com

**QUALITY AUTO REPAIR!**

**24 HOUR TOWING**

**WE REPAIR DENTS AND DINGS FROM SCRATCHES TO ROLL OVERS!**

**PROFESSIONAL, COURTEOUS SERVICE FROM THE OFFICE TO THE SHOP!**

**Complete Auto Body Service!**

ALL Major Insurance Carriers Accepted  
Lifetime Warranty On All Repairs  
Car Rentals Available On-Site  
All Makes And Models

SERVING OVER 20 YEARS IN THURMONT

**MIKE'S AUTO BODY Collision & Towing, Inc.**

12917 Catoclin Furnace Rd., Thurmont

**301-271-7626**

# Watershed Alliance finds contaminated water streams

Chris Little  
Watershed Alliance of Adams County

In August the Watershed Alliance of Adams County found that the majority of Adams County streams it tested were contaminated with E.coli at levels exceeding those recommended for recreational use by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

During the swimming season (May 1 through September 30), the maximum E. coli level shall be a geometric mean of 126 CFU per 100 ml. The geometric mean for the samples collected in the water body should not be greater than 126 CFU per 100 ml in any 30-day interval. There should not be greater than a 10% excursion frequency of 410 CFU per 100 ml for the samples collected in the same 30-day duration interval. (Fecal coliforms/100 ml) For the remainder of the year, the maximum fecal coliform level shall be a geometric mean of 2,000 CFU per 100 ml based on a minimum of five consecutive samples collected on different days during a 30-day period.

PADEP's bacteriological assessment method states a site is 'attaining' when the E.coli geometric means is less than 126 CFU/100mL. A site is 'not attaining' when E.coli geometric mean is greater than 126CFU/100mL. A site is considered not meeting criteria when 10% of sample results are greater than 410 CFU/100mL. These sites require additional samples and information before an assessment decision is made.

Supported by a grant from the South Mountain Partnership, the Watershed Alliance tested twenty-one sites on ten Adams County streams five times during August and found that with the exception of four sites, every location tested was contaminated by E.coli at levels exceeding those recommended by the PADEP for recreational use. Recreational uses include wading, swimming, fishing, etc.

"Places like Laurel Lake where public swimming is encouraged are required to test the water to make sure it isn't overly contaminated," said Cliff Frost, leader of the Watershed Alliance's pathogen-testing initiative. "However, Adams County has many streams where people like to wade, fish, or swim, and most of these places aren't tested regularly for pathogen indicators. We wanted to take a look at those stream locations to see if they were safe for recreation. We were surprised to find that most of them, at least last August, were not."

The only stream to be validated for recreational use in the News-Journal's distribution area was Middle Creek at Strawberry Hill.

The results of Marsh Creek below Natural Dam was less than 126 CFU/100mL, but one sample was above the 410 CFU/100mL limit, which means that the PADEP and EPA would consider these waters possibly not attaining for recreational use, and further study is required to

make a determination.

Toms Creek at Old Swimming Hole, Tom's Creek at Carroll Valley Park and Marsh Creek at Sachs Coverage Bridge had geometric means between 130 and 200. These sites are considered not attaining for recreational use and impaired from pathogens.

Middle Creek near Shoops Rd., Little Marsh Creek at Iron Bridge, Marsh Creek at Lions Club Area, Toms Creek at Covered Bridge, Middle Creek at Gordon Road, Toms Creek above Mt. Hope Road Bridge, and Marsh Creek Fly Fishing Area had geometric means greater than 200, and all had at least one measurement greater than the 410 CFU/100mL limit.

These sites are clearly not attaining for recreational use and are impaired because of pathogens. Unfortunately, we observed very high recreational use by the public at several of these sites during our sampling and at other times.

The results of the Watershed Alliance study were forwarded to the PADEP for review. "Our hope is that the DEP will use our findings to inform future water-testing and treatment initiatives," said Frost.

Why test for E.coli?

E.coli is one of many different kinds of fecal coliform bacteria, and like all such bacteria occurs naturally in the digestive tract of humans and other mammals, where it aids in the digestion of food. Fecal coliform bacteria such as E.coli are also excreted in the feces of humans and other mammals, which is how they make their way into our streams and rivers. E.coli can be washed into our streams through agricultural or storm water runoff, through failing or inadequate septic systems, and through animal feces deposited directly in the stream, which happens naturally among wild animals, but is exacerbated when herd animals are allowed open access

to streams.

An animal dying in a stream is another possible source of E.coli contamination downstream. It's important to note that E.coli and other fecal coliform bacteria do not necessarily cause disease (i.e., they are not necessarily pathogenic). However, E.coli is considered an indicator bacterium because it typically occurs in association with more pathogenic organisms. Thus, the higher the E.coli levels in water, the greater the risk of humans becoming ill. (Of course, there are species of E.coli that are dangerous to varying degrees.)

Many common animal pathogens are invisible to the eye, but can cause sickness in humans, sometimes even death. Generally, these pathogens come from inside the digestive systems of animals like humans, cows, deer, etc. They get into the water mainly through feces—for example, when household septic systems fail or when farm animals are permitted to enter streams.

The usual way people become infected with these pathogens is by ingesting contaminated water. However, some pathogens can enter the bloodstream through cuts or sores on the skin. People may be infected from swimming in a polluted river or lake, especially during warm months.

The best way to avoid getting sick from contaminated water is to stay out of it, especially if you have cuts or open sores on your skin. If you do choose to enter the water, avoid getting water in your mouth, and be sure to shower after you swim, and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before you eat.

The Watershed Alliance's pathogen-testing project was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau



Members of the Watershed Alliance of Adams County test samples taken from local streams for contaminants.

of Recreation and Conservation. The grant was awarded through the South Mountain Partnership, with management oversight by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

The Watershed Alliance of Adams County is a partner of the South Mountain Partnership, an alliance of organizations working to preserve and enhance the cultural and natural assets of the South Mountain Landscape in Central Pennsylvania. To learn more about the South Mountain Partnership, visit SouthMountainPartnership.org.

The Watershed Alliance of Adams County is a member-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing and protecting

the water resources of Adams County. For more information about the Watershed Alliance and its pathogen-testing initiative, visit AdamsWatersheds.org.

This Watershed Alliance's pathogen-testing project was also supported by the Adams County Conservation District, Adams County Trout Unlimited, Friends of Toms Creek, and more than a dozen volunteers from the local community.

For more information on this project, including locations sampled, please visit the adamswatersheds.org

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

Get your weeds & crabgrass under control with our

## CUSTOM 5 STEP LAWN CARE PROGRAM

Feed your lawn essential organic nutrients  
**Help your lawn thrive!**

**Environmental ENHANCEMENTS** 301-241-3719  
Go to: [www.eellservices.com](http://www.eellservices.com)  
to find out how we can help you!

LAWN & LANDSCAPE Licensed Certified & Insured

# BAKER TREE SERVICES, INC.

**1-800-383-4595**  
147 Water Street, Thurmont

Licensed & Insured  
MD Tree Expert Lic# 904 • CTSP Cert# 1437 • ISA Cert. Arborist# MA-4258A

[www.bakertreeservices.com](http://www.bakertreeservices.com)  
treecare@bakertreeservices.com

VISA, M.C., A.M.E.

**LOS AMIGOS MEXICAN RESTAURANT**

*Finest Authentic Mexican Food*

<p><b>\$3 Off</b> Any Purchase Of <b>\$25 or more</b> With Coupon Only Cannot combine with any other offers. Valid Monday - Thursday <b>Expires 2/28/23</b></p>	<p><b>Buy 1 Entree</b> <b>Get 1 1/2 OFF!</b> Buy 1 Entree at Regular Price &amp; Get 1 50% Off! With Coupon Only Cannot combine with any other offers. Valid Monday - Thursday <b>Expires 2/28/23</b></p>
---	---

205 Frederick Rd., Thurmont  
**301-271-8888**  
For Take Out or Delivery visit [LosAmigosOnlineOrder.com](http://LosAmigosOnlineOrder.com)  
11 a.m. - 10 p.m. @losamigosthurmont

# SCIENCE MATTERS

## Is race a real thing?

Boyce Rensberger

You're not a racist. You know that deep down inside, all people are pretty much the same, no matter the color of their skin or the shape of their eyelids. But you are curious about differences among the groups that we call races.

Why do most people from Europe have pale skin? Why is the hair of most Africans tightly curled? Why do most Africans and most Europeans — and their descendants in this country — have eyelids shaped alike but so different from an Asian's eyes?

Do these variations reflect deeper, more fundamental differences between people usually call races? Scientists have long asked the same questions and, after centuries of probing and failed attempts to set up a workable classification system, today's researchers generally agree on three conclusions:

- There are many more differences than the ones we usually think about. Most of those other differences are more than skin deep.
- Many of these differences have been good for the human species. They have opened the doors to evolutionary change that allowed us to occupy most of the globe.
- The third conclusion, and probably the hardest to grasp is this: There is no

biological basis for race. We all use the word as if it meant something obvious. We sometimes imagine that Blacks, Whites and Asians belong to different groups that developed long ago. We continue to use "race" to refer simplistically to cultural or social groups. And that's fine, but according to nearly all anthropologists today, any presumed biological basis for "race" is a presumption invented to fit a misunderstanding about how human beings evolved.

Centuries ago, European scientists argued that races were natural divisions of the human species imposed by a supernatural creator or by natural selection. Some even argued that races represented a series of evolutionary stages, some "more advanced" than others. The thinkers of old knew of very few differences among peoples and did not understand how evolution works. In fact, the concept of race was developed long before 1859, when Charles Darwin published his discoveries about how evolution works.

In 1735, Carl von Linne, the Swedish naturalist better known as Linnaeus, said there were four races. Over the years, dozens of other classifications have been proposed, some arguing that there are as many as 31 or even 37 races. In other words, scientists could never agree on how to define a race.

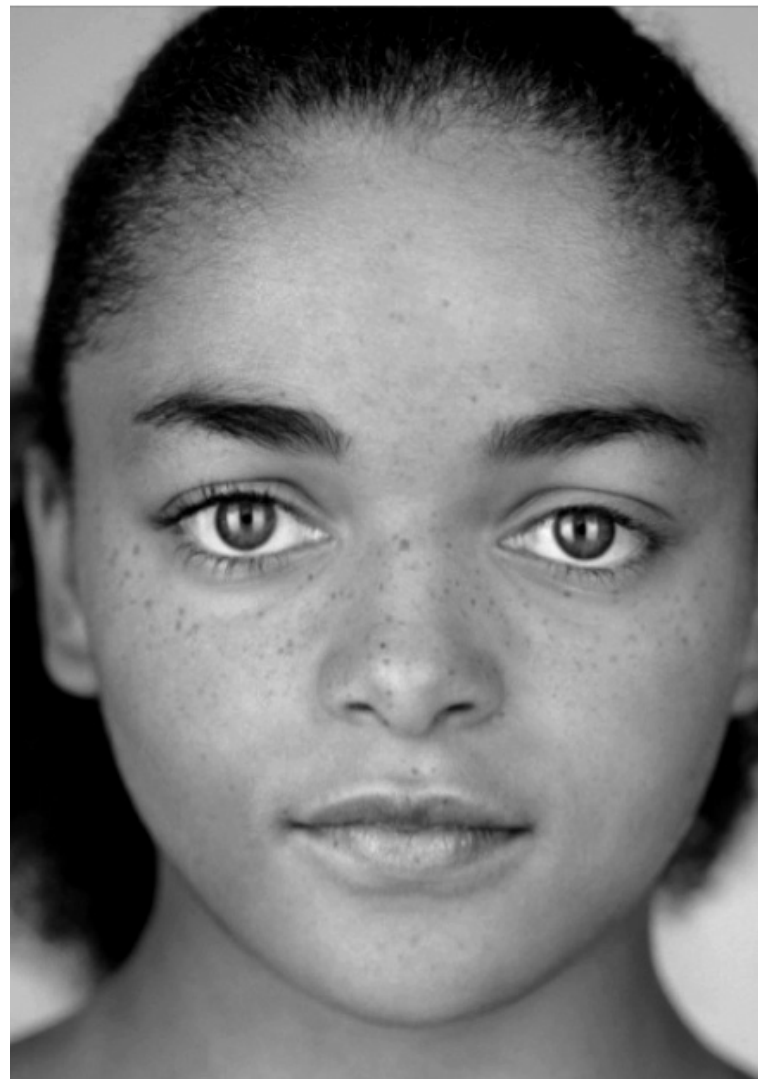
Today's researchers know of many differences under the skin that do not correspond to racial categories used in popular culture. Even today, the more that researchers study people worldwide, the more they realize that if they take into account all the hidden differences, there is no correspondence to what we commonly call race.

If you consider each feature by itself, you see that a person of one socially defined race can be more like a person of another "race" than that person is like someone of their own race. Take blood for example. African Blacks may have any of four major blood types: A, B, O and AB. The same is true of European Whites and of Asian peoples. If you're a type O, your blood is more closely related to that of any other type O person — regardless of race — than it is to a type B or type A of your own race.

If you need a blood transfusion, you want a donor of the same blood type, not the same skin color. That's also true of organ transplants. Your closest genetic match for a donated kidney, for example, could easily be somebody of another "race."

Still, many of us think skin color is a major factor in pigeonholing people. It is true that most Africans and their descendants have skin that is darker than that of most Europeans and their descendants. But millions of people in India, once classified as members of the "Caucasoid," or "White," race, have darker skin than most Americans who call themselves Black. Does their black skin mean they should be grouped with black Africans? Or does their straight hair mean they should be grouped with Europeans? Also, some supposedly "Negroid" people living in Africa today (such as the !Kung San, once called Bushmen) have skin no darker than that of many Italians and Greeks. And there are people in New Guinea who are as black and woolly haired as any African but have no known ancestral links to Africa. And what about the so-called Australian "aborigines," who have very dark skin and straight, sometimes blond hair?

Here's yet another angle to think about. If you want to classify all black Africans in one group, how



do you deal with the fact that within Africa live several kinds of people with much more dramatic differences than skin color? There are the world's smallest people, the Mbuti pygmies of Zaire, who average 4 feet 7 inches and whose size is like that of a group in the Philippines called the Negritos. And there are the world's tallest, the Tutsi of neighboring Rwanda, who average 6-feet-1—close to the average for the very pale-skinned Scandinavian peoples.

And there are deeper differences among Africans. One, for example, explains why East Africans dominate marathon running while West Africans dominate sprints. The two populations have actual differences in muscle physiology, even different ratios of what are called "fast twitch" and "slow twitch" muscle cells. East African muscles are more like those of Scandinavians, who excel at distance events such as cross-country skiing. There are other differences as well.

Genome sequencing among sub-Saharan Africans has revealed a startling fact. There are more genetic differences between any

two groups of Africans than there are between Europeans and Asians or between Europeans and any group of Africans. If we want to impose racial categories on Africans, we would have to say there are several different races of black Africans.

All these findings have led most anthropologists to conclude that it makes no sense to think that races are biological categories. The overwhelming conclusion of researchers, in short, is that no single physical feature distinguishes any race. You can classify traits but not people. People are bundles of differing combinations of traits.

*Next month in part 2 will discuss why people differ by color and other traits.*

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

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

**INDOOR YARD SALE**  
**FEBRUARY 18**  
**8 A.M. - 1 P.M.**

*Fort Ritchie*  
 COMMUNITY CENTER  
 14421 LAKE ROVER DRIVE,  
 CASCADE

THEFRCC.ORG

MORE THAN GO SPACES!

**RENSBERGER AND Family LLC**  
**BUILDER**

1 South Main Street, Woodsboro  
 Joel Rensberger, Owner  
 MHIC# 4286161 • MHBR# 6677 **301-370-4042**  
 www.cerensbergerbuilder.com

**Custom Homes**  
**Historic Restorations**  
**Major Home Remodels**

**FrederickCustomHomes.com**

**CRUISE PLANNERS**  
 MORE THAN JUST CRUISES

**SCOTLAND AUGUST 2023**

THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

You will be visiting:  
 Edinburgh \* St. Andrews \* Pitlochery  
 Inverness \* Dunrobin \* Thurso  
 Orkney Islands \* Durness \* Ullapool  
 Gairloch \* Isle of Skye  
 Loch Lomond \* Glasgow

Military Tattoo Performance Included

Barb Cline, ECC  
 Your Personal Travel Professional  
 240-575-5966  
 CruisePlannersFrederick.com  
 BarbClineTravel.com



# THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## The dirt

Jack Deatherage

Brian McKenny is of the opinion that we need to build a garden before anyone will turn up to help with it. This opinion is echoed by various acquaintances who've been down similar roads. My oldest, continuous internet friend, a homesteader, writes, "a community garden should be funded thru group efforts, not philanthropy. If the community has no stake in it beyond writing a check, there will be no effort. And if they write that check, they have the expectation they are paying for a service and they'll just sit back and wait for their weekly vegetable delivery. I've been up against this attitude too many times to count!"

I've ignored the homesteader more times than I can remember, and still admit she is often correct. However, there are a variety of community garden themes to chose from:

- Allotment- leased from, but built and maintained by the town government (most likely option)
- Communal- Supplementing Food Banks And Charitable Outreach Programs
- Children's- introducing gardening practices, sciences
- Educational- open to libraries, schools, church groups, children's clubs and Master Gardeners for teaching the How, Where, What, When, Why and Who of gardening
- Experimental- trialing various new species/cultivars in local growing conditions
- Market- (to raise money to sustain the garden) supplying rarely available produce
- Senior Citizen- requiring raised beds so old people, such as the DW, wouldn't have to bend, stoop, or kneel very often
- Seed Saving- growing, preserving and distributing seeds
- Pollinator- bees (native and domestic), flies, butterflies, humming birds, moths
- Native Plant Propagation- sowing, growing, seed saving, distributing natives

I'm hoping Brian's head is on straighter than mine because I want to incorporate all these types of community gardens into the

one we're going to build once the powers that be okay our design and plan, assuming we manage to produce them! If Brian is as scattershot as I am, we definitely need some sober minded people to step up and call us to heel. Now would be the time to get involved in the planning!

So far, the current brain trust (may the gods have mercy as I'm half the trust) has settled on a long, narrow flowerbed paralleling the sidewalk along Cedar Avenue. This would be primarily an annual flowerbed, easily converted back to sod if the project fails due to lack of support. Next, we'd build a couple 4' X 10' beds for the librarians use. If the library chooses not to take advantage of the beds I suppose the towns' homeschooling families or church groups might. Moving deeper into the lot, Brian suggests we each build two beds for our use.

The town's current community garden plots are leased for \$20, refundable if the plots are cleaned up at the end of the season. I'm thinking the new garden's leased beds would also cost \$20 for the season, but the money would go toward upgrades the following year. The garden will eventually need a storage shed and an elevated water tank capable of supporting a drip irrigation system.

I'd eventually like to establish permanent beds which the current community garden doesn't allow. Perennial flowerbeds, as well as an asparagus bed- perhaps one of the rarer cultivars for spears that would be sold at the market to help cover the costs of the garden.

There has to be an herb bed for serious cooks. Fresh herbs snipped from the garden on market day and dried herbs created as the season progresses!

Building tater/garlic beds is a way to utilize a newly made bed. Working up the soil for spring spud planting lets me see the soil in greater detail. After summer harvest I add compost or sow a quick growing cover crop before I have to churn the bed again for a fall planting of a few gourmet cultivars of garlic. The garlic is harvested the following summer and the bed rebuilt for a fall crop of leafy greens, brassicas or another cover crop. The third year, the ground is amended and ready for whatever vegetables or flowers one might be interested in. This is one of the few ways I succession plant a garden bed throughout an entire year!

Commissioner Amy Boehman-Pollitt - the Citizens Advisory

Committee liaison who brought the new community garden idea before the board of commissioners, is gathering suggestions for revitalizing the town's farmers market. It has been suggested that a community garden near the farmers market could spur interest in both the market and the garden. That is definitely in my mind as I plan the new garden.

During the latest committee meeting discussion about the new garden, the need for soil testing came up. The University of Maryland Extension site says ALL soil in the state is deemed to contain lead, Pb for those who paid attention in high school chemistry. (I wasn't one of them.)

The University of Maryland Extension site lists the University of Delaware for testing soil. The U of D lab offers two tests I think would serve the garden- "Home Lawn and Garden Soil Test - Includes Lead Screen" for \$17 which would provide general information concerning the entire garden area. And the "Soil Lead Screening Test" for \$15, which I seriously recommend for individual garden plots to protect the gardeners from potential lead poisoning and the town from avoidable lawsuits.

Tattoo Don, pillar of the community and a founder of the Emmitsburg Business Alliance asked how many tests were needed and how much each test would cost. He thought the community garden project might be something the business community would be willing to support financially.

I'm in a panic over accepting donations! I'm pretty sure there



Whether you're looking to grow your own vegetables this summer or just want to enjoy the fellowship of others who like to get their hands in the dirt - join Jack as he kicks off the next iteration of Emmitsburg's community garden!

are laws pertaining to such things. If I'm not much of a gardener, I'm less of a 501(c)(3) bookkeeper! Until someone knowledgeable about the laws concerning non-profits appears to deal with the legal aspects I'll not be accepting cash donations. However, I did ask town manager Cathy Willets if handling donations might be a task the town staff could manage. She's checking with the town's accountant and attorney. I'd much rather the gardening community and the town staff avoid that paper-chase if at all possible.

Since last month's ENJ, I've gotten one offer of help to organize the community garden- an out of townner who used to work a plot in Baltimore's Druid Hill Park. The deeper I dig into this project the more questions I'm coming up with. It would be nice to have a few more advisers on board.

Brian and I seemingly have

the dirty end of the garden handled. We have various hand tools, a rain barrel, drip irrigation system, plenty of flower and veggie seeds, starting trays, books, online resources and the promise of two rototillers. What we don't have is a community to tell us what it wants garden wise. We need all the help we can get in planning and organizing the garden! One volunteer is a start. Do I hear two?

I can be reached via the post office at: Deatherage, PO Box 417, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Or by phone at 301-447-2151 (if the answering machine picks up, please leave a contact number-speak slowly and clearly - English is a struggle for me, all other languages are beyond me), or Email at jackdeathjr@juno.com

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

**GETTYSBURG TRADING POST.COM**

**717-334-3979**

**2222 York Rd., Gettysburg**

**EMMITSBURG Tattoo COMPANY**

2 West Main Street  
Hours: Tues. - Fri. 12-9 p.m., Sat. 12-8 p.m.

**301-447-6837**

EmmitsburgTattooCompany@gmail.com Walk-Ins Welcome!

# THE MASTER GARDENER

## February garden task: planning for Spring

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

As a Horticulture Program Coordinator, my favorite duty is working with the Master Gardeners. And within that duty, I am able to teach a few of the Master Gardener training classes. I tell you this because the last few weeks were my scheduled classes to teach, and what a rush! Teaching folks that have a passion for gardening at all levels is so fulfilling.

The last few classes were focused on plants – trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and landscaping – my passion. Teaching these topics inspires me to look at my own yard and garden and determine what projects to work on when Spring arrives, what plants to introduce to my landscape, and what annuals and vegetables I should grow.

If you're like me, your garden journal may not be filled with notes from last year's growing season. I always have great intentions, but my journal usually gets written in this time of year, when inspiration begins for the season. I reflect on the past year, missing some of the things I wished I would have taken notes about, but do my best to recall the successes and failures of the previous season. This journaling can take me days to complete, as I can be a bit of a daydreamer. Daydreaming

about what I would like to do this coming gardening season is often where my mind goes, instead of what I did in the past year. That said, it's important to review what has been done so that we can learn from our mistakes or failures as well as our successes.

One of the big projects my husband and I embarked on last year was transitioning a goat meadow to a pollinator meadow. In the past we created a different area that now has many native grasses with asters, goldenrod, and assorted species of perennial sunflowers. We developed this first meadow by planting seeds.

In this new meadow we wanted drifts of plants with more diversity. After much discussion, we decided on a much different approach. We decided to plant plants instead of spreading seeds. This would allow us to control the locations of the groupings of plants and better manage the areas in which these plants are planted.

This took some time to really evaluate how seeds were going to be started and grown. Certainly, we weren't going to purchase finished plants – way too expensive. So, seeds were purchased by species so we knew exactly what we were growing and could choose what we thought would be the best plants for that area.

The first thing we did was divide and conquer. My husband

took care of the meadow preparation, and I managed the seeds and plants. Here's what we did... he worked tirelessly on getting rid of the weeds that were there by using a bit of herbicide and covering with large tarps, and I separated the packets of seeds after they arrived by best time to plant and seed stratification needs. This meant that some of the seeds needed a cold treatment, while others did not. All seeds were purchased in the fall, packets separated and marked with like needs, then stored in a cooler outside in a protected area. The idea was that I could check off that cold treatment box.

I began sowing the seeds that needed the cold treatment in mid to late March. All seeds were planted in seed flats with drainage. I followed the instructions on the packets as far as depth of planting. The flats then went outside after sowing into a cold frame for germination. This is the system I followed for all the species of seeds. April I planted more seeds and May even more, until the cold frames were filled with flats of seeds. As those seeds germinated (and not all did well – it's in my garden journal!) I kept a close eye on them to determine their next step in life – which included transplanting to containers. For the most part, those containers were quart sized, or 4" pots.

I reused old containers saved from planting projects in the past and used a soilless potting mix. Then those newly potted



To ensure your meadow meets the needs of all pollinators, provide a rich diversity of plants in it.

plants went into a holding area where they grew until they could be planted in our new meadow. Depending on the species, they were in that holding area from one month to as long as the entire summer. As the seedling trays diminished due to transplanting, space was allowed for more seed flats. This process went on until late June at which time the weather was no longer conducive to planting in the meadow or planting seeds. The goal was to get the growing process from seed to meadow in one season.

Although I didn't take great notes at the time, I have pretty good recollection of what went well and what didn't – enough to make decent notes in my journal now. These notes are important because I will be repeating

this process again this year. I have a list of plants that didn't germinate, a list that indicates the time they were seeded and transplanted into containers, and when they were planted into the meadow. I am anxious to see how this pollinator meadow will look this year.

In addition to journaling and catching up on note taking from last year's growing season, this time of year allows us time to research plant selections. As with many gardeners, the seed catalogs as well as emails from seed and bulb companies are pouring in. I could spend hours looking online and through catalogs. If you decide to order plants or seeds it would be good to place the orders sooner than later to ensure the nurseries have what you want.

I typically order my vegetable and annual seeds online. After noting what veggies did well and what was less successful, I begin to decide what I want to grow again this year. Planning the vegetable garden also fosters my passion for plants and gardening. I typically try something new in the garden, and have been mixing herbs, annuals and vegetables in the same spaces. There's lots of information about companion planting – what to grow with what – and this has been the direction I have been going over the last few years. I'm still trying to determine whether one type of plant deters insects from another, but mixing herbs, annuals and vegetables surely makes for a beautiful vegetable garden. If nothing else, the insects love the plants that are growing right alongside the vegetable plants. And since insects are needed for pollination so we can have fresh vegetables, it's a win-win!

This planning is the inspiration for my gardening season. Other types of chores that can be done this time of year include cleaning your garden tools, trimming off any broken branches on trees and shrubs, feeding the birds, and growing houseplants. (Which we have a series starting Feb. 9 – go here for more information: [www.extension.psu.edu/easy-to-grow-houseplants](http://www.extension.psu.edu/easy-to-grow-houseplants), [www.extension.psu.edu/tropical-plants](http://www.extension.psu.edu/tropical-plants),

**Valentine's Dance**  
The Emmitsburg Valentine Dance is back!  
Join us for an evening of fun & music!

Music by: **Sticktime**  
Must be over 21 to attend!  
Doors open 6 p.m.

**Saturday, February 11**  
7 - 11 p.m.  
VHC Activities Building  
17707 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg

**\$25 Per Person \$40 Couple**  
BYOB - Setups provided • Snacks & desserts provided  
Tickets available online at [emmitsburgevents.com](http://emmitsburgevents.com) or call Dianne at 301-676-1561 or Cliff at 301-447-1712

**HAWKINS LANDSCAPING**

- Patios/Walks
- Retaining Walls
- Paver Driveways
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Firepits
- Outdoor Landscape Lighting
- Planting
- Seeding/Sodding

301-898-3615 Fax: 301-898-1150  
8408 Links Bridge Rd. Thurmont  
Email: [DavidJr@Hawkinslandscaping.com](mailto:DavidJr@Hawkinslandscaping.com) [HawkinsLandscaping.com](http://HawkinsLandscaping.com)

**PATRICK ARENTZ GENERAL SERVICES**  
Landscaping & Light Excavation Services  
Topsoil & Mulch Sales • Lawn & Field Mowing  
Shrub Trimming  
Junk & Debris Hauling  
Lot Clearing & Demo  
Storm Clean-Up

[www.arentzs.com](http://www.arentzs.com)  
**717-642-6802**  
License # PA002802

**Cub Cadet**

**PUT SNOW IN ITS PLACE.**

**Cub Cadet X SERIES SNOW THROWERS**

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS, VISIT [CUBCADET.COM](http://CUBCADET.COM)

**HARRINGTON & SONS**  
427 E. Main St., Emmitsburg  
**301-447-6666**  
[harringtonandsons.com](http://harringtonandsons.com)  
Winter Hours:  
Mon. - Wed. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Thurs. & Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sat. 8 a.m. - Noon

# THE MASTER GARDENER

www.extension.psu.edu/succulents-and-cacti.

So, all this journaling and planning this year can be attributed to the training of the Master Gardeners. Their inspiration and desire to

learn more about gardening and plants started my winter journey towards spring planting.

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

## Frederick County Master Gardeners February Seminars

**February 4:** "Seed Starting & Transplanting" Join us for an overview of basic vegetable gardening. Learn how to plan, locate, plant, and maintain your vegetable garden. Find out which plants are best started from seed and when.

**February 18:** "Elements of a Pollinator Garden" Learn the four elements that are essential to creating a garden that attracts and sustains pollinators year-round. We will offer advice on building your own pollinator-friendly habitat, including lists of plants.

**February 25:** "Right Plant,

Right Place: Design Fundamentals" Use basic design principles in your flower gardening to add interest and increase impact! Learn about basic landscape design concepts that can be easily applied to any garden; including shape, color, texture, framing, rhythm, focal points and other considerations.

All seminars are free and start at 10 a.m. and run until noon, and take place at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue), in Frederick.

You can register online for these and other courses at <https://bit.ly>.

## Small Town Gardener

February: the shortest month, and the most useful

Marianne Willburn

It's time to pay attention. February is here – the quiet prelude to Spring. This is the month where I get tough with myself and methodically face indoor tasks which will hurt the growing season's upcoming display if I don't.

**Seed Orders** – Because even your old high school coach is buying seeds these days, and there are only so many seeds out there. Timing is everything.

**Plant Orders** – Because, ditto. And before you know it, May will be here and "out of stock" will greet you when you finally get around to getting hold of that gorgeous *Alocasia macrorrhiza* 'Lutea'.

**Plants in Storage** – They may be too dry, too wet, or growing out of their bags and alerting you to too-warm temperatures in your holding areas. You may even have a pest problem if it's been too warm.

**Houseplant Pests** – February really is the month for trials and tribulations. We're still several months from getting your Long-Term Commitments back outside (if you give them a #houseplant-vacation), and much can happen in that time – you simply have to pay attention this month. Many gorgeous specimens have lost their proverbial bloom after realizing that no, indoor conditions were not just a temporary measure, and they're in it for the long haul. Give them a bit of love.

It's always a good idea to think ahead, but this year, inflation and supply chain issues are shifting that concept into mantra status. At least around here. If you're feeling overwhelmed (I am), write down the things you really don't want to live without this growing season. It may be less than you think.

Perhaps you can live without them, use the seeds you have, and sharpen your propagating skills this year. If so, it's wise to make a decision to that end instead of passively and guiltily letting the decision-making point go by. It's a spirit-refreshing superpower.

As for those houseplants and tender storage plants? Absolutely you

can let those once lovely houseplants walk one-by-one down the long green mile. You can refuse to check on the plants in cold storage to see if they need some moisture (they probably do).

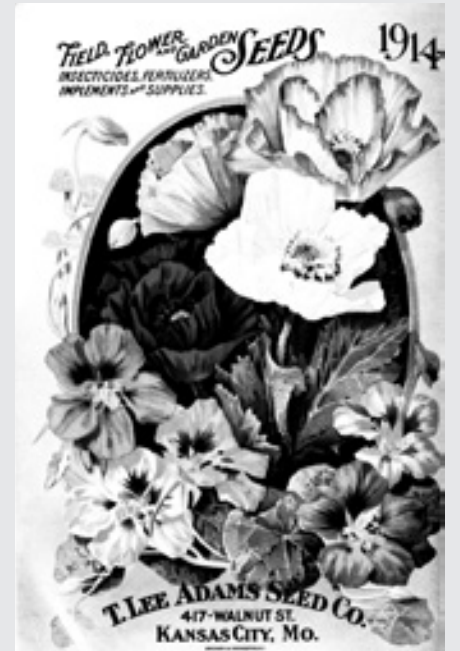
Yes, you can let them all perish, or at least see what survives if you do nothing, but I'd counsel against it if possible. You've already spent a great deal of time, money, and most of all, energy, getting them where they are. See them through till the spring and then let your experience of "Why did I do that to myself!?!?" inform your decision-making process next autumn instead.

As for the winter garden, there are many who do not garden in February, or do not choose to aim for a four-season garden. And while I understand this attitude in climates where gardens are covered in two feet of snow for the majority of winter, for me, February is a too-short month that allows me to take care of things that are so much more difficult to do when the weather warms up and everything needs my attention.

Yesterday was a good case in point. Bright. Fine. Probably 38-42F. Wrapped up warm with a good pair of gloves and a warm hat, I added to the habitat nest near the chicken coop with a pile of fallen branches and sticks, pruned the 'Gardenia' rambling rose that wants to run over the top of the wired run, and removed the dead vines of *Dioscorea bulbifera*, that with fallen twigs and rambler laterals, creates an efficient catch all for a million leaves, seed pods and branches from the massive sycamore above.

What a job. There was a fair amount of swearing. I questioned, as I always do, the need for rambling roses in a garden.

And yet, how much more difficult had I left this to spring, with emerging bulbs to tread on, and budding, ancient rose canes to feel pity for, and wet, mushy soil to hold up my rake instead of allowing me to sweep up the sticks I tossed on the ground whilst atop a wobbly ladder? Plus, keenly aware of 526 other time-sen-



sitive tasks to do as the planting season raged around me. . . .

This also allowed me to assess the gnarled skeleton of my chaste tree and decide if that really was the shape I wanted, or if it would add more as a much smaller shrub. The answer was yes, the chainsaw came out, the deed was done – more fodder for the nest. I cleared the remains of *Persicaria virginiana* from around a budding but small *Corylopsis* (which would have ruined the spring show), pulled the remains of a rotting cold frame out from rampant *ajuga*, and took a long hard look at the Allegheny *viburnums*, now stripped of leaves, and decided that they too, would be drastically cut back in a few weeks' time.

And in doing so, I got my blood pumping and my back moving – which is crucial in the winter when it would otherwise be atrophying at my desk. But above all, I remembered how beautiful the winter landscape is, even when the garden is technically not. I couldn't be without February in my gardening year – how curious to find myself sad it is a short month. My twenty-something self would be shocked.

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

Marianne Willburn is an author, speaker and columnist and blogs at *GardenRant* and *MarianneWillburn.com*.

**WEEDS TAKING OVER?**  
Land + Forest Conservation can help you get your property back!  
Brush and Weed Control  
Tree and Brush Mulching Services  
Stump Removal • Excavation  
Call 717-253-5548,  
email [landandforest@gmail.com](mailto:landandforest@gmail.com)  
or visit our Facebook page

**PONDSCAPES**  
Create a Sanctuary in Your Own Backyard!  
• Watergarden Design  
• Installation & Maintenance  
• Custom, Quality Stone Masonry  
• Koi Ponds, Streams and Waterfalls  
• Natural Stone Patios, Walls & Walkways  
WATERGARDENS ...  
Lower Stress Look Beautiful  
Attract Wildlife Raise Property Values  
...Just relax and enjoy!!  
Owners Paul & Stacie Zelenka  
240-446-2846  
[www.PondscapesMaryland.com](http://www.PondscapesMaryland.com)  
or email us at: [pspondscapes@msn.com](mailto:pspondscapes@msn.com)  
MHIC #88198

**Ward Business Group LLC**  
• Lawn & Landscaping  
• Welding & Fabrication  
• Snow Removal  
• Firewood  
301-607-1099  
License #W18832105  
Locally Owned

**HOBBS**  
LUMBER & HARDWARE  
Over 70 years in business!  
We have a large selection of Lumber & Building Supplies!  
15 E. Main Street, Thurmont  
Located Across From PNC Bank  
301-271-2233  
M - F 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Closed Sunday

# WHOEVER SAID MONEY CAN'T BUY LOVE...

## Something is missing

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

She has a nice house. A reliable car. A steady job. She knows she's got a great life. Yet, still, she feels as though something is missing.

She watches Dr. Phil and checks out the dating websites, but somehow, in her heart, she knows that isn't it.

It's something else.

It bugs her sometimes at night when she's trying to sleep. She watches out the window as the moon passes by, clocking the hours she's not at rest, and she feels somehow incomplete. It's an intangible thing and it drives her crazy.

Some days she thinks the moon might almost agree with her. She remembers the movie she saw years ago that said: when the moon tells you something, believe it.

She's always been told she's too analytical. She has trouble shutting

her mind off enough to get a good night's sleep. She dreams, sometimes vividly, of odd situations and happenings.

Despite all the thinking and tossing and turning, she still feels it.

Something is missing.

She's driving home a few weeks later and is detoured off her usual path. She's irritated. Why should road construction mean a detour? Shouldn't it just mean one lane of traffic instead of an altered path? She wanted to get home in time to see her favorite show.

She's still grumbling to herself as she's following behind all the other re-routed cars like a lemming in a stream when she comes upon a building. She has seen signs for it in her travels, but has never passed by before. It's the animal shelter.

If asked, she won't be able to answer what it is that makes her turn in at that exact moment. She had wanted to get home. She had plans

of a microwaved meal and some Netflix. Maybe it was just to get out of the line of traffic. Off the beaten path, so to speak.

But, animals? Really? Sure, she'd had pets growing up and she loved them a lot, but when she graduated from high school, she'd been so focused on making something of herself, getting a career, keeping up with whoever the Joneses are. She had no time to even consider a pet.

She pulls into a parking space and sees him in the window. A black-and-white cat with the most shrewd, green-eyed expression she'd ever witnessed on another being. She feels an odd kinship with the animal, as though they both have the ability to think alike and analyze all options. She knows it's insane, but she swears they make eye contact as she puts her car in park and enters the building.

It's almost like he's watching her enter the building.

She tells the people she meets that she'd like to see the cat in the window. She's told he's a boy and rela-

tively young and hasn't been at the shelter long.

When he's brought into the bonding room, she shivers. It's not from cold.

He stretches his front paws toward her feet and never takes his eyes off hers. He ignores the toys in the room for the comfort of her lap and the purring begins immediately. Somehow the tone and the vibration quiet her mind and she thinks she could sit in this room with this cat for the rest of the week.

He's soft and sweet and it only takes ten minutes to know he's hers. Innately. Naturally. Undeniably.

She's approved to adopt him that night and promptly flips out because she has nothing – literally nothing – in her home for a cat. The people at the shelter help calm her down and suggest where she can go and what she needs to buy.

She returns an hour later and he's ready to come home with her.

She's been told there are no accidents in life and that everything hap-

pens for a reason. She wonders about that detour on this seemingly random Tuesday and what it was that made her stop at the animal shelter.

She dozes off that night with a white paw against her cheek and purring in her ear. The moon passes by over their heads, and she takes a quick look and maybe sends up a silent thank you, but doesn't really dwell on the sight because for the first time in a long time, she falls asleep quickly and doesn't dream.

The next morning she's awakened with a small meow and a feeling of something clicking into place and she thinks she just may have found the missing piece of her life at the Animal Shelter.

The question is, can you?

*To learn more about Beeswax, Markar, Maude, Pokey, Aphrodite, Pinkeyor or Magpie visit them at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter. For more information on them call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).*



Beeswax came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about his past. When he arrived, he had some kind of wax, either from a candle or wax warmer all over his tail. Some of it was even on his feet! We got the wax cleaned off, but the name Beeswax had stuck. This guy is super sweet and looking for his forever home. Could that be yours?



Markar came into the shelter with a whole lot of other cats who were left abandoned in a home without food or water. He is a loveable guy who really enjoys attention. He's a 1-year-old boy who would love to find a forever home where he never has to worry about being left alone again. Could you give Markar that?



Maude came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her. We think she's about 7 years old and we know she is super sweet, but can be a bit of a sassy girl (as her photo displays). Don't let that fool you, though, she is a really nice girl. She loves getting treats and wet food! Maude can get talkative when she wants her treats - who doesn't? Do you have the right spot for this nice girl?



Pokey is a 3-year-old orange boy who came into the shelter as a stray. We noticed he wasn't feeling very well and we discovered he had a bad urinary tract infection with a partial blockage. The vet flushed his bladder and he was put on pain medication. Pokey is doing much better but he will need to be on special urinary food for the rest of his life. Can you show Pokey what second chances are all about?

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

**BUDDY'S PLACE**

**Dog Grooming For Every Buddy**

9 Middle St., Taneytown  
(Right next to the Taneytown Post Office)

Stephani Rickerd & Aslan

Tuesday - Saturday By Appointment Only!  
**410-756-1200**

Check us out on Facebook @BuddysPlaceDog Grooming

# NEVER PAID AN ADOPTION FEE. . .

## Julie – current longest ‘resident’



Bethany Davidson  
FCAC Humane Educator

has been with us for 252 days and counting. Staff and volunteers have come to love Julie for her unique look and personality. While her breed is listed at pit bull mix, we often wonder what she really is. Part Boston terrier? Pig? Alien?

Some have described Julie as the perfect dog for a cat person. She knows exactly what she wants and is full of lovable quirks. For example, she can't wait to get outside. Once there she walks around, sniffs, tries to engage the other dogs in play and then BOOM! She's done. And once she's ready to go back to her kennel, she'll pull you all the way there. She knows exactly which house is hers and how to get there. In an office, Julie enjoys looking out the window or just relaxing at your feet. Julie knows "sit" and walks fairly nicely on a leash. She pulls a bit but is adjusting beautifully to walking on a harness. She loves her frozen kongs, Nyla bones and can destroy a squeaky toy like a champ.

Julie would be a great addition to a multi-pet household. She has done great with other dogs and resembles a puppy when she tries to engage in

play. She is our go to dog for parallel walks and dog testing. She has also previously lived with cats and has no issues that we've seen.

With all these great qualities, you might be wondering why she's still searching for a forever home. Perhaps the biggest challenge Julie needs to overcome to find a new family is her fear of strangers. When she first arrived, she got a lot of attention from potential adopters, however, her reluctance to quickly bond led them to move on to other dogs. Julie is all smiles with us now, but it took several weeks for her to warm up to staff and volunteers. In order to earn Julie's trust and really start to get to know her, a prospective adopter might need to go on a couple of dates with the adorable senior. Julie is excellent with her body language and is easy to read if you're a dog savvy individual.

Because she can be wary of new environments and people, we think Julie would do best with kids who are older (10y+) who can respect her boundaries and approach her in a way that will make her more comfortable.

The second reason...allergies.

Julie has had some issues with allergies and ear and skin infections. We have tried a variety of things to resolve them. We have recently transitioned her from our standard diet to a limited ingredient salmon diet to see if her issues were related to a food allergy.

It's our hope that we can find a loving home for Julie to start the next chapter of her life before she hits her one year anniversary of as a shelter dog. If you'd like to set up a first date with Julie in hopes of ending her days as FCAC's longest canine resident, go to [vistfac.as.me](http://vistfac.as.me) to book visitation.

One of the most common questions we're asked at Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center is how long we keep animals. The answer is short and sweet, until they are adopted or placed with a rescue. One current example of that is our spunky little senior, Julie, who also happens to be FCAC's longest canine resident.

Julie arrived in May after the death of her beloved owner and

### Looking for Adams Co. Cat Fosters!



Adams County SPCA and Best Friends Animal Society are still looking for people like you who are willing to open their hearts and homes to an Adams County cat or kitten! Help a foster cat while they wait to be transported to an adoptive home or partnering organization. Fostering an adoptable feline in your home, even for just a short time, is a great way to help save a homeless cat's life in Adams County.

We'll provide all the supplies needed to care for your furry houseguest, including food, litter and veterinary care. You just provide the love, attention and laughs.

When you're ready to foster

a feline ball of fuzz from Adams County, contact us. A short stay with you can mean a lifetime of difference for a homeless cat in need.

If you know someone that may be interested in fostering or volunteering with us, please forward this email or have them email us directly at [fosteradam-sco@bestfriends.org](mailto:fosteradam-sco@bestfriends.org) or visit us at [www.adamscountyspca.org](http://www.adamscountyspca.org)

As a foster you get all the perks of a pet without the long-term commitment!

One life fostered is one life saved!

We look forward to hearing from you!

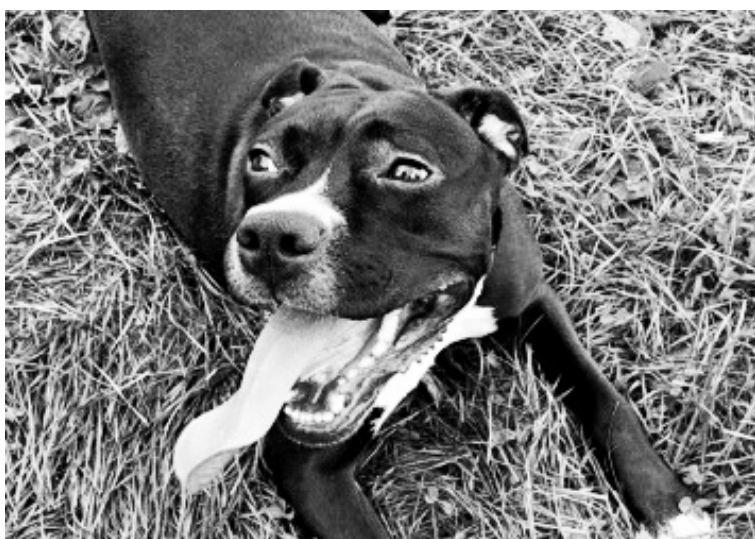
-Best Friends + Adams County Foster Team.



Aphrodite was surrendered to the shelter when her owner could no longer care for her. She is a 2-year-old terrier mix who needs a little time getting used to people. She may require more than one meeting with her potential adopters to establish a relationship before she goes into her new home. Once Aphrodite is comfortable, she will seek out attention. Aphrodite may be too much for small children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Could you take this gorgeous girl home with you?



Pinky is a sweet, happy-go-lucky girl that loves attention! She came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't have a lot of information about her. She is 2-years-old and about 36 pounds and we don't think she'll get much bigger. Pinky absolutely loves squeaky toys and belly rubs. Because she has a high chase drive with cats, a home without felines would probably be best for her. Do you have the right spot for Pinky?



Magpie came to the shelter as a stray, and was very scared when she first arrived. With some time, baby talk, and treats Magpie learned to trust the staff. She has since come out of her shell and is a very silly girl! She is a "velcro" pup with her people and wants to be wherever you are! Magpie loves to play in the outside play yard! For more information about Beeswax, Markat, Maude, Pokey, Aphrodite, Pinky, or Magpie, 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.



**Catoclin Veterinary Clinic**  
Caring vets for your family pets  
Jonathan S. Bramson, VMD  
Susan P. Keane, DVM  
Brooke M. Ridinger, DVM

4 Paws Place, Thurmont  
**301-271-0156**  
Fax: 301-271-3242

[catoclinvetclinic@gmail.com](mailto:catoclinvetclinic@gmail.com) [www.catoclinveterinaryclinic.com](http://www.catoclinveterinaryclinic.com)  
[www.facebook.com/catoclinvetclinic](http://www.facebook.com/catoclinvetclinic)

## Reifsnider's Farm Supply & Hardware Store



**TREBUTE**  
EQUINE NUTRITION  
Feed For Horses

Pre Season Early Order

**Baler Twines**  
(plastic/sisal)  
& Net Wraps

We Sell  
**DRYSHOD**  
WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR  
**Boots**





Kalmbach Feeds For  
Dogs, Cats, Sheep, Goats,  
Chickens and Cattle.

Animal Bedding  
Saw Dust & Shavings  
Animal Health Supplies

We carry everything from tools to paint!

• Tools • Household Goods • Fencing & Gates  
• Plumbing & Electrical Supplies • Paint & Painting Supplies

2080 Francis Scott Key Highway, Keymar • **410-756-6066**  
M - F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

# FIRE & AMBULANCE COMPANY AWARD BANQUETS

## Vigilant Hose Company



President Tom Ward, Robert Hardman, and outgoing Chief Chad Umbel presenting Robert Hardman with his award for 60 years as a member of the Vigilant Hose Company.



President Tom Ward; board member Mary Lou Little; and outgoing Chief Chad Umbel. Mary Lou received the Member of the Year award.



Incoming Chief Josh Brotherton, Assistant Chief Douglas Yingling; Deputy Chief Jim Click; present outgoing Chief Chad Umbel with a token of appreciation for his years as Chief of the fire department.



President Tom Ward, incoming Chief Josh Brotherton, Auxiliary President Patty Kuykendall, and outgoing Chief Chad Umbel receiving the Auxiliary's annual donation to the fire department which is the purchase of a new 2024 Ford Explorer to be used as their duty vehicle (very small version given to them to get the idea) plus a \$10,000 check to equip the duty vehicle as needed.



Auxiliary Officers: Front row (L-R): Jo Ann Boyd, Treasurer; Joyce Glass, Secretary; Sharel Boyle, Vice President; Patty Kuykendall, President. Back row: Mary Ann Wivell Co-Historian; Alice Boyle, Financial Secretary; and Diana Hoover, Co-Historian.



Administrative officers - Front Row: Tom Ward, President; Doug Wivell, Vice President; Pam Ellison, Secretary; Sharon Keeney, Assistant Secretary; Steve Hollinger, Treasurer; Bill Boyd, Assistant Treasurer. Back Row: Board of Directors—Ed Little; Pam Bolin; Scott Maly; Cliff Shriner; Mary Lou Little; Kenny Clevinger; Tim Clarke



Operational Officers: Front Row (L-R) Chief Josh Brotherton; Deputy Chief Jim Click; Assistant Chief Douglas Yingling; Captain Matt Boyd. Back Row: EMS Captain Frank Davis; Lieutenants Alex McKenna, Dave Zentz, and Josh Kehne

### Administrative Officers for 2023

President: Thomas Ward  
 Vice President: Douglas Wivell  
 Treasurer: Steven M. Hollinger  
 Asst. Treasurer: William Boyd, Jr.  
 Secretary: Pam Ellison  
 Assistant Secretary: Sharon Keeney  
 Chaplain: Pastor John Talcott III

### Board of Directors for 2023

Pam Bolin, Tim Clarke, Kenny Clevinger, Mary Lou Little, Scott Maly, Randy Myers, Douglas Orner, Ed Little, Cliff Shriner

### Line Officers for 2023

Chief: Josh Brotherton  
 Deputy Chief: James Click  
 Asst. Chief: Douglas Yingling III  
 Captain: Matt Boyd  
 Lieutenant: Alexander McKenna  
 Lieutenant: David Zentz  
 Lieutenant: Joshua Kehne  
 EMS Captain: Frank Davis

### Auxiliary Officers for 2023

President: Patty Kuykendall  
 Vice President: Sharel Boyle  
 Treasurer: Jo Ann Boyd  
 Secretary: Joyce Glass  
 Financial Secretary: Alice Boyle  
 Co-Historians: Diana Hoover & Mary Ann Wivell

### Fire Police for 2023

Captain: James Barto  
 1st Lieutenant: Stephen Orndorff  
 2nd Lieutenant: Samuel Cool

## Rocky Ridge Fire Company



Administrative Officers: Barry Burrier, Dale Kline, Paulette Mathias, Kelsey McClure, Bonny Hurley, Pastor Jim Russel, Jerry Free.



Board of Directors: Ethan McClure, Jamison Mathias, Donald Kaas, Dennis Mathias.



Bonny Hurley was last year's top responder for the fire company.

### Administrative Officers 2023

President: Barry Burrier  
 Vice President: Dale Kline  
 Secretary: Paulette Mathias  
 Asst. Secretary: Kelsey McClure  
 Treasurer: Bernard Wivell  
 Asst. Treasurer: Bonny Hurley  
 Chaplain: Pastor Jim Russell  
 Asst. Chaplain: Jerry Free

### Board of Directors

Wesley Burrier  
 Craig Hovermale  
 Donald Kaas  
 Eric Martin  
 Dennis Mathias  
 Jamison Mathias  
 Ethan McClure

### Line Officers for 2023

Chief: Alan Hurley  
 1st Asst. Chief: Kevin Albaugh  
 2nd Asst. Chief: Jim Rice  
 Captain: Larry Humerick

### Auxiliary Officers for 2023

President: Betty Ann Mumma  
 Vice President: Nancy Summers  
 Secretary: Pat Riggs  
 Asst. Secretary: Brianna Kaas  
 Treasurer: Linda Northrup  
 Asst. Treasurer: Nancy Baker  
 Chaplain: Bonnie Sanders  
 Historian: Jerry Free

# FIRE & AMBULANCE COMPANY AWARD BANQUETS

## Thurmont Volunteer Ambulance Company



**Administrative Officers:** Lowman Keeney, Denny Ott, Joyce Stitely, Judy White & Glen Muth.



**Board of Directors:** Dennis Stitely, Harry Welch, Dianne Kelly, Tammy Wolf, & John Ruppel.



Vice President D.J. Ott thanks Beth Ruppel for his service to the company.



D.J. Ott is embraced by his father Denny Ott.



Lowman Keeney presenting a check to Peyton Davis, Presented of the Rocky Ridge Youth Association.



County Councilman-at-Large Renee Knapp and District 4 Councilman Kavonte Duckett showed their support for the Ambulance Company's volunteers.



Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird had the honor of swearing in the Company's 2023 leadership.



Members of the Rocky Ridge 4-H Rocky Ridge Youth Association who prepared and served the food at the banquet.

**Administrative Officers for 2023**

President: Lowman Keeney  
 Vice President: Dennis Ott, Sr.  
 Secretary: Joyce Stitely  
 AsstSecretary: Shirley Stackhouse  
 Treasurer: Judy White  
 Assy Treasurer: Glen Muth

**Operational Officers for 2023**

Chief: Dennis Ott Jr.  
 AsstChief: Jen Frushour  
 Lieutenant: Renae Collidge  
 Lieutenant: Brooke Ott  
 Sergeant: Hilary Blake  
 Sergeant: Keegan Coolidge

**Board of Directors for 2023**

John Ruppel, Tammy Wolf, Harry Welch, Denis Stitely & Diane Kelly



Dennis Ott and Beth Ruppel.



The Reifsnider family: Heather, Andrew, Eleanor, Sabrina Mathias & Faith.



Jamison Mathias was this year's Honor Member.



Devin Youngerman beaming after receiving his Junior Member of the Year Award.



Ethan McClure was the recipient of the Charles Mumma Firefighter of the Year Award

*2nd Saturday of each Month*

**Bingo!**

Begins Saturday, January 14  
 Doors open 5 p.m. ~ Games start 7 p.m.  
 Guaranteed Jackpot \$300

Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Co. & Ladies Auxiliary  
 13516 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge  
 Activities Building

[rrvfc.rockyridgevfc.com](http://rrvfc.rockyridgevfc.com)




# **EMMITSBURG SILO HILL SUNOCO**



*Join us as we  
celebrate  
our*

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**



**Saturday, February 25th**

In return for your loyalty over the past  
25 years, the first 250 cars will get

**\$25 of FREE GAS!**

*Please stop by the station for details  
on the timing of the gas giveaway!*



**We owe our business to you  
and look forward to serving you  
for another 25 years!**





## Catoctin Christmas Bird Count

Kathy Brown  
Frederick Bird Club

December 17, was the 74th year of the Catoctin Christmas Bird Count (CCBC). The CCBC covers a 15-mile diameter circle in north Frederick County with Thurmont as the epicenter. The territory is divided into 8 sectors and includes a few towns and a lot of open country including state, national and local parks, forests, numerous waterways, fisheries and seemingly endless farm fields. The Frederick Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, has sponsored the Catoctin CBC for many years. It is a very tangible example of citizen science and a great way to enjoy a winter's day in beautiful northern Frederick County.

On count day the weather was mild and the morning was partly sunny – ideal for winter birding. The teams were all experienced and most knew their territories well. In short, I expected a good day for everyone.

The majority of the birds seen during winter counts are year-round residents, like chickadees, cardinals, hawks, and woodpeckers. By the time of the count, our migrating summer residents, the original “snow-birds,” have already headed south for warmer territories with open water and plentiful food. We do enjoy a few winter-only visitors, that migrate from the colder north primarily due to lack of food. Our most common winter visitors are Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows that can be seen at the base of many bird feeders throughout the winter.

My count partner and I began at dawn in the lovely small park at Roddy Covered Bridge. The location has safe parking, a stream, tall trees, berry bushes, open fields and (always appreciated), a clean comfort station. The birds were actively feeding after a long, chilly night. Various woodpeckers, chickadees, Carolina Wrens and goldfinches zipped through the trees making an accurate number count a challenge. But the spot was unusually productive and the day was off to a good start.

We spent the rest of the morning driving and, where possible, walking

through our territory. “Counters” count every bird seen and heard, so the ability to ID birds by sound is very important. Some birders are very skilled at sound ID; sadly, I am not one of them. After a quick lunch break, we were off again, but all the birds seemed to have disappeared! The rest of the afternoon was frustratingly unproductive.

Overall, this year's results were not as good as last year for most bird species. There were good numbers for vultures, pigeons, mockingbirds and two beautiful and appreciated species: Eastern Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings.

Two years don't make a trend, so I compared averages for each species for the most current ten years with averages for the prior ten years. Many of our common species show significant population declines and some species are increasingly rare or no longer found in Frederick County. A few species like the Bald Eagle and Common Raven continue to show impressive population gains. The CCBC's first Bald Eagle was reported in 2001; this year 14 were reported. Ravens were first observed in the 1973 count; this year 29 were sighted.

Red-shouldered Hawks are also doing very well (up 57%), but Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk and American Kestrel numbers are all lower by 35% or more.

The population numbers for our two common winter visitors, Juncos and White-throated Sparrows, are fairly steady, but average numbers for another handsome winter visitor, the White-crowned Sparrow, have declined 66%.

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

Northern Bobwhite and the non-native Ring-neck Pheasant are no longer found in Frederick County. Results for other grassland birds are mixed, but most resident sparrows show steady population declines.

Looking at the total number of birds seen and/or heard during the count really brings home the loss. This year 9,176 individual birds were counted. The average for the most current 10 years is 9,347; the average for the preceding ten years was 12,351. The overall decline is a sobering 24%.

Many things are contributing to bird population declines including habitat loss, window-strikes, pesticides and herbicides, free-roaming cats and even light pollution. But climate change is now recognized as the biggest ongoing threat to birds – and yes, humans.

This year, a severe drought in the southwest led to the driest two decades in over 1,200 years; extreme heat plagued Europe, China and India; tornadoes and hurricanes were stronger and more frequent; central Appalachia suffered widespread flooding; and the US experienced its most active wildfire season in more than a decade. And without concerted action it will only get worse.

But there is hope. A recent article in Audubon Magazine highlights the expected impact of the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the largest and most comprehensive climate legislation in US history. A total of \$369 billion will be invested in



The dapper White-crowned Sparrow is easily recognized by its boldly striped head, colorful pink or yellow bill, and unmarked gray breast. This handsome bird is suffering an alarming decline in its population due to ingestion of neonicotinoid pesticides. The Catoctin region saw an alarming 66% drop in its number from last year's count.

energy and climate programs, resulting in an estimated 40% reduction in US green-house emission levels by 2030. Many of us will drive electric cars, buildings and targeted industries will be more energy efficient, and climate-smart agriculture and ranching will reduce emissions and improve carbon storage in soil and trees.

These changes will take time, but there are seven simple actions Audubon encourages everyone to do now to help birds and our planet: make windows safer; keep cats indoors; reduce lawn and use native plants; avoid pesticides; drink shade grown coffee; avoid single use plastic; and join the Citizen Science Effort.

This year I want to add one of my own: Support national, state and local officials who have the courage to make the difficult decisions required if the beautiful world we call home can be preserved for future generations.

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

Strawberry Hill Presents

## Mount Hope Maple Madness

Saturdays  
February 25th &  
March 4th  
8-11am

**Sweet Deal Package**  
Breakfast & Tour  
\$15 Adult  
\$10 Child (Under 12)  
Under 3 Free



To Purchase tickets visit  
[www.strawberryhill.org](http://www.strawberryhill.org)

Breakfast  
Tree-to-Table Tour  
Crafters



## Business Service

12 Water Street, Fairfield • 717-457-0551

We are a proud supporter of the Emmitsburg News-Journal

### Personal & Business Tax Preparation

*So stop in and see why others have switched  
to us for their tax preparation!  
Fees can be withheld from your refund!*

**Monday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday by appointment  
Extended hours during tax season - Open Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. for your convenience!**



### Tags & Titles

New Tags & Registration  
Tag Renewal ~ Tag Return

New-To-State Registration ~ Duplicate Titles  
Insurance Compliance ~ Notary Public

# HISTORY

## “O Tempora, O Mores”

Ann 'Inky' Rodgers  
Part 2

The study hall was below the music room in the square building on the second floor. It was a large square room with the fire escape building at one side. It was bright and cheerful like a sun parlor filled with large beautiful ferns. A small table and chair on a platform amid the firms in the front center was the Dean's throne for lectures, meetings and inquisitions. The individual desk and chairs were placed in long rows and filled the rooms. We sat according to class. The desktops were covered with green felt to promote silence. They were four large white pillars that supported our heavy class schedules. There was a piano for school and class singing and an organ for hymns.

The study hall was a general meeting place for the student body and the Dean's talks and school singing with the Dean playing the piano. Her favorite songs were: 1) The Minstrel Boy To The War Has Gone; 2) All Together, All Together; 3) Tenting Tonight, Tenting On The Cold Damp Ground; 4) Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, The Boys Are Marching; 5) Row, Row, Row, Your Boat and 6) The Battle Hymn Of The Republic.

For class signing one year we had a new young teacher. Some of our class decided to exchange names and at room call the teacher didn't know the difference. The Dean appeared on the scene one day and discovered the trick. The teacher was mortified. We were sufficiently punished by the Dean.

During study period familiar pranks of mine were reading for bidden books

— covered with schoolbooks covers and writing letters home on composition paper. I managed to keep occupied and out of trouble until I was caught in action. Then out came the dry Latin and that would cause me to dose in an upright position. I translated the nap as resting my eyes. But I never got any sympathy from my fatigue. There were 'God Sees Me' pictures hung everywhere.

The college and high school playroom where on the first floor below the study hall. It was a very large square room. Here jazz music, dancing and mail were the favorite pastimes. All the various holiday parties were held here with much decoration and refreshments. The charity fairs, banquets—also indoor gym lessons for the student body.

There were three playrooms with a piano in each room; one room exclusively for the seniors on the second floor across from the library near the Dean's office. The senior's playroom was more for reading, writing and lounging. The senior's main privilege was uncensored mail, coming and going.

A playroom for the elementary school was on the first floor across from the cloth room and below the Dean's office and stationary. Here games were played with fancy dancing a specialty. It was similar to the large playroom except on a smaller scale.

The box room was below the large playroom in the basement in the square building. It was furnished with old school desks with our numbers for each student. We kept our personal food boxes stored there, such as ham, cheese, crackers, relishes, candy, nuts, and cakes, also canned food. Some-



St. Joseph's College, circa 1900

time there were raids on the box room by different students. Hot bread and molasses was served there at 3:30 p.m. and it was delicious.

The chemistry laboratory was in the basement near the box room. And what odors!

We liked to take the mercury and redecorate our gold rings, pins and medals into silver jewels. The quicksilver was on the loose quite often

The refractory was a nod-in and bowing out job. The top of the bell for law and order. I quote: "Order is Heaven's First Law". If one was a delicate pet you feel heir to a remnant of beef steak or special tidbit from the Dean's table. I all my seven years of residence I never was pet enough to receive a special morsel relish from authority.

We made a delicious hard sauce called 'goo' or 'gu' (by mixing butter and molasses into a thick paste plus a drop of vinegar to make it light in color) to go with a fresh round bread. We had butter for breakfast but it was never present for dinner except for bootleg method. We stored the leftover breakfast portion of butter under our teacups - so dinner wouldn't be neglected and be more appetizing. It was generally discovered and removed. What a disappointment when we arrive for dinner to find our butter missing.

Speaking of cups - I printed nicknames of teachers in ink and decorated my own cup. The Dean spied it and gave it to the strictest of all the teachers. When I arrive for class - what a shock I had - the cup was put on display and a severe lecture followed and after class scrubbing the powder admits tears was put to work. I never etched and sketch china after that episode.

Tea and coffee were flavored in advance with sugar and cream. What delectable bananas for Sunday breakfast. We remove the skin with our fork and ate the banana with our fork. We may delicious banana sandwiches. Our apples for a quarter and we dipped each bite in salt.

When the menu call for beef and

lamb stew we always had a slice of bread for the foundation. Not to mention the tenderest of calves liver and bacon for breakfast on Saturday. We had the most delicious fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, butter, milk, cream, homemade bread, cake and pastry. All kinds of fowl, beef, lamb and pork raised and produced on the school farm plus garlic in the springtime for good measure. Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday with rings, metals and thimbles. My fate was always the thimble. Special feast days called for banquet meals.

Reading aloud in the pulpit was also on the menu such as "The Lives of the Saints", a course in etiquette - but worst of all for the digestion was a serving of the monthly and examination marks read aloud. Mine were more on the failing side as was my face red. It was like adding insult to injury to let the public know you were a stupid dumb bell. What mortifications! What horrors! The Dean's theory: "success without good conduct scarcely deserves notice must less reward" also "A little learning is a dangerous thing". On bowing out of the refractory I often dropped a forbidden fruits from my mini blouse or bloomer leg - a tattletale display. We were not permitted to take food out except in our stomachs.

During the flu epidemic we rated for meals a day plus immediate nourishment - to build up a resistance against the fatal germ.

The scullery was at the end of the refractory, where the dishes were washed.

The cooking school was near the refractory. The students prepare a dinner and then enjoy their lesson and banquet style.

The infirmary was on the second floor above the refectory. It was a large square sunny room. It was my only hope of escaping and unwanted mid-year examination. My excuse - a severe headache and a stomachache for ailments. Something unseen and a hidden factor, and no thermometer or detector to tell the infirmarian how much misery I possess. The infirmary was always

sympathetic (even though faking was suspected) and generous with the cure-all - namely castor oil. The tasteless, odorless variety had not been discovered or invented. So it took long medication and a brave soldierette to become bilious with a pink tongue. What price faking. It was never worth the dose. Because you had a four in one complaint in the end. Examinations, floating liver, plus castor oil's difficult handicaps. The infirmary was for the delicate, good, and blue women girls. The bad students suffered in silence and fainted in route.

The art room was on the third floor above the infirmary and the most cheerful and busy place. Monogram China, beautiful hand-painted church vestments, portraits and pictures of all shapes and sizes were works of the students.

Private rooms for the college students were above the art room on the fourth floor.

The clothes room was located under the senior's playroom and library. Each student had a close number, mark within indelible ink, also name tape. There were individual clothes closets and drawers with your number. We were not allowed to borrow or wear each other's clothes but we managed to exchange a frock or two.

The library was on the second floor - looking out on the stone courtyard. It was bright and peaceful.

The stationary was on the second floor across from the Dean's office above the small playroom. Law and order was carried out there. Religious articles, toilet articles, souvenirs of all kinds of schoolbooks and stationary equipment where sold to the students at a dear price -no cut rate. We could only enter one at a time on our purchasing tour. Sometimes we were put out without any results.

The Dean's office was an inside square dark room. I was always very frightened when sent to the Dean's office for misbehavior during classes. When the students have phone calls you talked from the Dean's office - no privacy.

If you want to buy American...buy Antiques from

**MEMORY LANE**  
ANTIQUE MARKET

Antiques ~ Vintage Items ~ Collectibles ~ Furniture ~ Militaria

**Seeking New Vendors!**  
**Sign up for 2 months**  
**and get the 3rd month FREE!**  
**Offer for new vendors only!**

520 E. Baltimore St., Taneytown 410-982-5599  
Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Closed Tuesday  
www.memorylaneantiquemarket.com • info@memorylaneantiquemarket.com

"Your Community Cemetery"

Traditional Plots  
or  
Columbarium  
available for your  
loved ones final  
resting place.

**EMMITSBURG MEMORIAL  
CEMETERY**  
ESTABLISHED 1845

**301-456-3233**

 **SENIOR  
Benefit**  
Services, Inc.

**SERVING YOUR MEDICARE  
AND RETIREMENT NEEDS**

- Specializing in insurance and financial needs for retirees
- We practice "Safe Money" principles for retirement plans
- Offering most major insurance carriers
- Our services are FREE

Providing our clients with hands on personalized service

Ask for Karen or Shawn

112A Main Street, Thurmont • 301-271-4040



# HISTORY



The large lavatory was on the second floor. Students came from all directions and distances to shampoo and bathe. There were private rooms and dormitories on the third and fourth floor of that building.

The chapel is the most beautiful shrine I've ever seen. It was very light and so was the confessional curtains - with the confessionals in front of the pews. Every Thursday morning was the appointed time for soul cleansing with the Dean in attendance. The students went to chapel by ranks and genuflected by a snap signal. The organist played the most beautiful hymns in the choir sang like angels. The visitor's chapel was on the left side of the main altar.

On Saint Joseph's feast day - March 19 - there is always a great celebration with solemnly mass and a priest (from the boys college) who look like Saint Joseph with the white beard always gave the sermon

Holy Agony Chapel was below the large chapel in the basement. It was dark and mysterious. To find your way to a confessional was quite a job. The feel and touch system method.

Thursday was the general holiday for the week instead of Saturday. It was the thorough cleaning day for our alcove,

desk, soul and body.

The normal was room number 13 on the third floor above the oratory. It was a very large classroom and was used for the college teaching course.

The assembly hall was on the third floor above the museum. It was the college study hall and room for the science of religion lectures. Oral examinations of the college were held there - with the college student body and all the teachers in attendance.

Scopes were prepared for all examinations. 50 type written questions that covered the entire book. A sure cover-all and what a great headache and brain-storm to get control of the knowledge.

Oral examinations were fierce and dreaded. I suffered premature heart attacks and mental collapse followed by premature gray hair. I was always a target for the professors and could never shake off my fear. What little I knew could never be uttered.

The college classrooms were near the assembly hall on the third floor.

One day during metaphysics class, that uninteresting abstract dry study - a miniature music box was hidden in an empty student's desk drawer and played its jazz tune to enlighten our dull, heavy minds to something vital

and concrete. Well, to say the least, the new professor was startled and couldn't speak. In walked the Dean to observe class teaching and was greeted with the jazz music instead of philosophy. I should never forget that moment. I was instantly accused and told to stop it - but for once I was not guilty - and furthermore did not know at the time who did the daring deed. It was quite a merry-go-round because I couldn't locate the toy - and it had to play itself quite undiscovered. I enjoyed the episode thoroughly and was proud of not being guilty for once - but it was hard for them to believe I was an innocent victim.

Blue ribbons and medals were given to the girls who were of sterling character and were known as the Children of Mary. They were the examples of the student body. The green ribbons and medals were worn by the aspirates. Good conduct awarded you the blue ribbon. It was given twice a year on special feast days.

Favorites were generally good and delicate students. They had late sleep, special diets, extra nourishment at 3 p.m. and at bedtime. Also special class courses and privileges.

**continued next month**

## Doris Jane Fitzgerald



1959, their grandson Christopher J. Demmon (son of Donna and TJ) in 1991 and grandson Douglas J. Knox (son of Dawn and Donald) in 2011.

Doris is survived by nine children, Donna J. Demmon (and Thomas J., Thurmont), Dennis A. Fitzgerald (and Dianne, Huntsville, AL), Dawn E. Knox (and Donald, Taneytown), Diane M. Stottlmyer (and David, Thurmont), Debra F. Oster (Thurmont), Daniel T. Fitzgerald (and Heather, Emmitsburg), David M. Fitzgerald (and Bonny, Emmitsburg), Darrell J. Fitzgerald (Frederick), Dean C. Fitzgerald (and Brady, Thurmont). Doris is survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and close cousin Georgette Stutely.

Doris Jane Fitzgerald of Thurmont went home to heaven to be with her Savior Jesus on January 20, 2023.

Doris was born on June 6, 1931, in Frederick, Maryland, to Dorothy E. Wastler. Doris was lovingly raised by her grandparents Charles B. and Margaret "Mommy" Wastler in their home on Roddy Road, Thurmont.

Doris married her high school sweetheart Donald "Mike" Fitzgerald in 1948 after they graduated together from Thurmont High School. In the early 1950s, just a few hundred yards from her grandparents, Mike and Doris hand built a log home where they raised their nine children. Doris resided her entire life of 91 years on Roddy Road.

In 1963 Doris and Mike established the well-liked Shamrock Restaurant which the family operated for fifty-seven years. Doris was fondly known at the Shamrock as "Mrs. Fitz" by many employees, friends, and patrons. She had a uniquely close friendship with her mother-in-law Naomi Powell Fitzgerald who cooked at the Shamrock in the early years.

Doris was very active in the Mother Seton School PTA and as president and member of the Church Council of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Thurmont. She volunteered at the Victor Cullen Center, Sabillasville, helping handicapped adults.

Doris was predeceased in 2016 by Donald "Mike" Fitzgerald, her husband of sixty-seven years. They lost their first son Douglas E. Fitzgerald, age 1, to leukemia in 1949. They lost an infant daughter in

The family expresses deepest appreciation to their sister Debra Oster for her faithful, devoted and loving management of their mother's care for many years. Doris will be lovingly remembered and missed by her caregivers: Bonnie, Jenn, Lavina, granddaughters Kathleen and Erin, Paulette, Sipive and special friend "Snickers". Tremendous appreciation is also extended to brother Dennis and his family for the many weeks he spent away from sweet home Alabama to be by Mama's side day and night since before Christmas.

Like her husband before her, Doris will be laid to rest in a beautiful casket hand-crafted by many members of her loving family, particularly son Dean and grandsons Dillon, Declan, Rowan and Liam. The cherry wood was actually selected years ago by her late husband Mike.

A Mass was held January 26 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church followed by a fellowship luncheon. A graveside service was held at Saint Anthony's Shrine Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mother Seton School, Emmitsburg, and Our Lady Of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, Thurmont.

Expressions of sympathy may be offered to the family at [www.StaufferFuneralHome.com](http://www.StaufferFuneralHome.com).



## MYERS-DURBORAW FUNERAL HOME

*Dedicated assistance for families during times of loss.*

We provide a dignified and meaningful funeral or memorial service for every family's loved one.

*We view our service as a sacred trust!*

- *Compassionate Care* • *Knowledgeable Guidance*
- *Attention to Detail* • *Unparalleled Professionalism*
- *Grief Counseling* • *Pre-Planning Available*
- All Services and costs are clearly itemized and explained at the time arrangements are made.

For Questions, more information or to schedule an appointment  
Call: 410-756-6688 or 301-447-6244



136 E. Baltimore St.  
Taneytown  
410-756-6688

210 W. Main St.  
Emmitsburg  
301-447-6244



Licensed in Maryland and Pennsylvania  
[www.myersdurborawfh.com](http://www.myersdurborawfh.com)

Licensed Insured

## REAVERS WOODWORKING

Quality Hand-Crafted Cabinets/Furniture  
Brian P. Reaver, Sr.



Shop: 301-788-7143  
Fax: 301-447-1750

- Kitchens, Armoires
- Hutches, China Cupboards
- Computer Stations
- Entertainment Centers
- Fireplace Mantels
- Vanities, Gun Cabinets
- Children's Furniture
- Corner Cabinets, Bookcases
- Dressers, End Tables... etc.

Visit us online at: [www.emmitsburg.net/woodworking](http://www.emmitsburg.net/woodworking)

# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## February 2

### Flu

As the flu and other forms of sickness have been keeping the people busy, very naturally there is little news other than that related to the sick. And to tell the story in full, nearly every home would have its quota. Fortunately, there are only a few serious cases, but literally hundreds of mild ones keeping the physicians on the jump.

### Coal Shortage In County Acute

The coal situation in the County is daily becoming more acute. On Saturday Emmitsburg was reported to be entirely without anthracite coal. It is reported that Ladiesburg is practically without hard coal and that several other towns in the county are in a like predicament.

It was reported by one dealer from Emmitsburg that he had received a letter from the coal dealer, through whom he buys most of his coal, stating that it expects to ship two car loads to Emmitsburg the first part of this week. Emmitsburg residents are now burning corncocks and wood in lieu of hard coal.

The number of Emmitsburg house owners with no coal or a very small quantities on hand, is said to be large, there are approximately from 45 to 46 tons of hard coal in each carload, so that the shipment now in route should give Emmitsburg nearly 100 tons of coal. Coal is everywhere being doled out in small quantities this year, so that this amount should do much to alleviate shortcomings.

As of yet no other Frederick county town has reported an entire lack of coal, but it is known that a number of localities are running short, and is expected more will be in the same class as Emmitsburg unless some immediate steps are taken to alleviate the situation.

### Blizzard Snowfall

#### Totals 10 Inches

A total of 10 inches of snow fell during the snowstorm, which hit the County Thursday night. The

storm was accompanied by heavy winds, which caused the snow to drift as fast as it fell. The high winds that accompany the storm developed into a blizzard. Every state and county road was blocked due to the drifting of snow.

The Frederick to Thurmont Trolley lines were not clear until noon and the first trolley did not arrive into Thurmont until one on Friday afternoon due to the heavy drifting that had taken place along its tracks. Snowplows did not open up the state Road from Frederick to Emmitsburg until late at night.

### Another Piece Gone

Last Thursday Ross Eigenbrode got the index finger of his left hand in the way of a running saw at the plant of the Thurmont Manufacturing Co. and was relieved of a part of the first joint. Some months ago the joiner at the same factory, and on the same hand, amputated the first joint of his little finger. Mr. Eigenbrode says he hopes to become accustomed to these operations in time. If he does not become so, he is liable to form the habit and by the time he has finished his span of mortal life, he will have been pretty thoroughly pruned.

### Not Murder

Rumors were freely circulated in the vicinity of Foxville early last week that Melvin Burham, found dead in his home Sunday morning, supposedly due to suicide, had instead met with foul play. While no evidence indicating that the young man had been murdered have been brought to light, persons living in the neighborhood of his home declare considerable mystery surrounding the circumstances of his death. The tragedy has been the sole theme of conversations in the mountain town since the body was found.

The State's Attorney seems inclined to think that the theory of foul play was started by someone in the neighborhood who had no direct information to go on. However, he said, the authorities have not been notified of the circumstances of his death and in the absence of anything of a definitive

nature, except the suicide theory, no investigation has been made.

### New Bowling Alley For Thurmont

Mr. Rouzer has started work on the foundation of a building in which will be placed a bowling alley. The structure will occupy the entire driveway between the Mackley building and Mr. Rouzer's property. The building will be one story in height and the front is to contain the shaving parlor of Quinn Florence and the bowling alley in the rear.

### School Building Vandalized

Mysterious depredations have been committed at Taneytown's Washington school property, more or less regularly since last November. The efforts being directed apparently towards setting the building on fire, or at least disabling it so that school cannot be held. Several stoves have been broken, windows smash, and in other ways the property interfered with. Apparently, somebody has a key to the building. This is a very reputable business, and it is hope that the criminal will be found and punished.

### Ran Off Road In Fog

Mead Patterson, of Emmitsburg, escaped injury Wednesday evening when the roadster in which he was riding ran off the Emmitsburg Road just south of town and upset at the side of the highway. He was caught under the machine, and was unable to extract himself. Oliver Weybright saw the overturn car and the plight of Patterson. The machine was easily turned over on its side and Mr. Patterson freed, no worse for the experience. The accident occurred when it heavy fog obscured the highway.

## February 9

### Flu

The general health condition of communities remains much the same as a week ago, there being an abnormal number of cases of flu and allied diseases, keeping posi-



tions busy day and night.

### Farmers Cut Ice

The coming of the cold spill on Monday and Tuesday brought joy to the heart of many of farmers who happened to have an pond on their place. Ice froze the surface of a number of ponds to a depth of five or six inches and several farmers gather their first ice of the winter. Once before this winter the advent of a cold spell caused the ponds to freeze over, but the farmers waited for it to get better, or some of them did, but a thaw came, breaking things up.

This is not the case this time. As soon as the surface of the ponds became hard, a number of farmers commenced cutting ice and storing it in their ice-houses. Several farmers in the vicinity of Woodsboro and Lewistown were busy cutting ice until the snow drove them in late Tuesday afternoon. The ice crop throughout the county has been the lightest in years, according to some farmers.

### County Schools

#### Serve Hot Lunches

Between 15 and 20 one-room schoolhouses in Frederick County are now serving hot lunches to students. It is through the effort of the teachers in these various schools that the children are provided with hot lunches at noon.

Among the schools which have recently adopted hot lunches is New Midway. The efforts of the teacher at that school in serving hot lunches is meeting with considerable success, and parents of students seem well pleased with the results.

It has been determined by experiments that hot lunches are beneficial to students and that splendid results are obtained from the use of some sort of hot food at noon.

This supplements the cold lunch is carried by the children. In some schools hot chocolate is also distributed.

It is said that children are improved both mentally and physically by the use of hot lunches, particularly during the winter

months. They seem able to do better work and are kept in better physical conditions by being allowed something hot at noon each day. Many of the students in county schools walk a considerable distance to and from school each day, and, it is said, they really needed some sort of hot lunch at the middle of the day.

The serving of hot lunches to school students develops a spirit of cooperation and community pride that has been found to be quite beneficial. The children all eat their lunches together and each day a lesson is given in table etiquette. It is said that there is a noticeable improvement in the manners of the children in schools where hot lunches are being served.

### New Thurmont Furniture Factory

Another meeting of Thurmont citizens was held in the Community Room last Friday evening, when a report was made as to the progress in securing stock subscriptions for the proposed furniture factory. The committee reported that up to that date about \$14,000 worth of stock has been subscribed, leaving \$11,000 yet to be subscribed to make it possible to go on with the suggested plans.

The committee has not been able to solicit all the citizens and are hoping that by Friday evening of this week, when another meeting of the citizens will be held in the Masonic's room, this will have been accomplished, and another report will be made. It is earnestly hope that the citizens will respond to this call for subscriptions and make it possible for Thurmont to have an enterprise that gives every promise to not only being a profitable investment to the stockholders, but will mean so much in an industrial way to the community.

### Womens Smokers Suspected

Women smokers are suspected of having caused the heavy increase in losses from fires due to "matches and smoking" in the United States during the last year.

For many men, the news is not unexpected. The increase in fires

It isn't a question of if,  
but a matter of when.

Making funeral arrangements in advance ensures that someone you care about will never have to make all the decisions alone. It's a simple thing to do if you know who to talk to. Please send for our Informative Personal Family Guide to help answer any questions you may have. It's free and you'll learn why making these arrangements is for your family's sake.

**BLACK'S**  
FUNERAL HOME  
17324 Sunshine Tr., Sabillasville

240-288-1300

Yes, I'd like more information on advance planning  
(There is no cost or commitment.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Black's Funeral Home, 17324 Sunshine Tr., Sabillasville



# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

from women folk infringing upon a man's domain of smoking, follows on the heels of the increase in auto accidents when women felt themselves equal to men in understanding the complexities of driving an autocar.

We firmly believe that the country would be better off if both the 18th and 19th amendments were repealed and men could once again enjoy the fruits of 'John Barley Corn' and women return to their natural role of housekeeping.

## Plans To Improve Church Property

Recommendations for extensive improvements to the Zion Lutheran Church in Fairfield were made on Sunday by the Pastor Reverend Ralph Baker to the congregation.

In his address, "A Vision For A Greater Zion Lutheran", Mr. Baker outline plans for building a new parsonage, frescoing the church, installing new floors, cementing walks about the church, and digging a cellar under the church and placing in it a kitchen and social room.

The congregation voted to increase Mr. Baker's salary from \$1,200 to \$1,500 a year and a motion was made for the appointment of the committee of 25 to investigate the cost and feasibility of conducting the proposed improvements.

## February 16

### The Flu Epidemic Still Growing

The influenza epidemic throughout the County has grown to alarming proportions, and is still growing. Along with the flu, there is a great increase in cases of pneumonia, diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, and like diseases of lesser importance.

The County Health Board says the disease is mainly in a mild form, yet there may be more cases before the epidemic is over. There are a large number of unreported cases, without doubt, in almost every community, and it is this that makes the exact situation one of great concerns.

The flu epidemic is taking its toll

on the youngest. John Krieger, son of John and Olivia Krieger, died on Sunday morning. He was 2 years in three months and two days old. He had been ill with influenza only 48 hours. George Rice, infant son of Milton and Annie Rice, died at the home of his parents in Mountindale on Wednesday.

Clearing weather is hoped for, to help relieve the situation, especially as February is usually the worst month of the year for pulmonary diseases in this section.

### Three In One Family Die

One of life's little tragedies, the kind that are seldom known to the outside world, and scenes of which is laid out among the sequestered nooks near Emmitsburg, has been disclosed by Miss Florence Garner, public health nurse.

About three months ago, the father died, leaving besides his widow, two single children and one married child. The life of a little family in the country, moved along sorrowfully, until about a month ago, when the son, Walter, age 19, succumbed to an attack of the flu and pneumonia. No more with heard of the family until Miss Garner received word from concerned neighbors that nursing was an absolute necessity if the lives of the others were to be saved.

She visited the home of the stricken family on Thursday and found the mother and three sons in critical condition. She found Carl, the married son, striving to render the necessary care to his mother and brothers. He almost succumbed to effects of pneumonia himself.

Following their immediate removal to Montevue for treatment the mother soon died, leaving two children, Russell 15 and Ralph 10, alone in the world, with the exception of the one married brother.

While the home of the unfortunate family was described as comfortable, their circumstances could not be called good. Neighbors have been doing all they could to assist.

### Urge Road Repairs

The county commissioners, together with a delegation from Thurmont and Walkersville, appeared before the State Road Commission in connection with

the request of the residents of those districts to address long overdue road repairs.

Thurmont residents have asked for a new road between Graceham and Rocky Ridge, about four miles in length. It is understood that 2 miles of the road in question were recommended by the commissioners last year but that nothing was done about it at the time, consequently the Thurmont delegation said that an additional two miles should be included in the program outlined by the State Road Commission.

Meanwhile, a delegation from Walkersville, made up of about 20 taxpayers, asked for a hard road from the Walkersville and Briggs Ford Pike to the crossroads near the farm of Solomon Devilbliss, about a mile and three quarters in length. It was pointed out that this improvement was much needed in that locality.

## February 23

### Influenza Cases Declining

Influenza has had a sharp drop throughout the County this week, and health officials say the disease is on the wane. Cases of pneumonia, typhoid fever and measles, also show a decline. Influenza cases were several hundred a day less than ten days ago.

### Great Weather

Monday of this week was a real Spring day. So much so that a poor deluded wasp was fooled into coming from his Winter quarters into the cold light of day. We noticed him as he promenaded on the sunny sidewalk and attempted to lift him out of harm's way; but he was too much of a contortionist for us and we quickly dropped him, and left him to his fate, which we notice later over took him

### Error

Our attention has been called to an item in the Eyler Valley items last week in which it was stated that Miss. Ruth Eyler was suffering from the mumps. This seems not to have been the trouble and we have been asked to correct the statement. Apparently, rumor in

those parts is that she is instead in the 'family way'.

### Could Have Been Worse

On Tuesday night a Ford car going east on Main Street in Thurmont was attacked by a sled on which were two boys. The encounter took place in the middle of the Square, but the Ford, being heavier by a few pounds was able to sustain the battering of its slippery antagonist, but failed too land a knockout blow.

The sled, coming down Church St. ran into the front wheel of the Ford, was turned by the car and landed the boys against the running board. The boys, the sled, and the car came out of the ruckus without any damage but - oh boy! Scared? Well I'll tell the world!

The driver of the car stopped to pick up the mangled bodies and rushed them - well, wherever they were needed most - the hospital or the undertaker - when to his great joy, upon making inquiry, found that they were on their way back to the top of the hill and ready for the next venture. However, shortly after the accident, Mayor Rouzer decided it was a little too dangerous and forbade coasting on the street.

### Traveling Road Show Travels On

A traveling show came to Taneytown last week, intending to stay three nights, but failed for two nights to have an audience, then left, in a bad humor. Taneytown has never been a good show town for traveling shows, especially when not well advertised, and some free common shows have not helped the situation any. In this particular case, the flu epidemic, very cold weather, no streetlights, and poor advertising, produce the results.

### Free Publicity Is Not Free To Us

This paper likes to accommodate various forms of publicity, in the interest of the general good; but it does seem to us that ready-made promotion articles are rather numerous, and that the County newspaper should not be regarded only for the free use that it many be made of. We can ensure a lot of publicity seekers (free of charge) that it still cost us a lot of money to publish even a little County weekly.

### Funeral of Lewis Rhodes

J. Lewis Rhodes, one of the most prominent residents of Emmitsburg, died at his home Saturday evening of heart troubles. Rhodes had been in failing health for some time and suffered an attack just before Christmas.

Rhodes was born in Adams County, a short distance north of Emmitsburg in 1897. He succeeded his father in the milling businesses in that vicinity, but later removed to Emmitsburg where he has been identified with the Emmitsburg Savings Bank, being elected President.

He was nominated by the Democrats for the Maryland House of Delegates in 1918. Two years ago he was elected one of the three Commissioners of Emmitsburg and held this position up to the time of his death. He was an active member of the Reformed Church and Sunday school of Emmitsburg, being an Elder in the church and the treasurer of his congregation.

### Motorcycle Fire Alarms Emmitsburg

The entire town of Emmitsburg was alarm when a motorcycle caught fire in front of the garage of the Emmitsburg Motor Car Co., Sunday morning. The machine was being filled with gas in front of the garage when it's only caught fire.

The tank on the machine exploded and it was feared that the flames would spread to the large tank in front of the garage. An explosion of this tank would have endangered the entire town.

The Emmitsburg Fire Co. was summoned and the flames distinguish without causing much damage to property in Emmitsburg. The motorcycle, however, was completely demolished.

The clothes of Gerald Shorb, Nightman for the Emmitsburg Motor Car Co., who was filling the tank of the motorcycle, caught fire, but the fire was put out without him sustaining any other injury other than some burns about the hands, which are not considered serious.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.



**Tony Little & Jane Moore with Real Estate Teams** LLC Broker: (301) 695-3020

Although times are a little uncertain, now is still a great time to buy or sell as rates are at an all time low.  
**Call us and see how we can help!**  
*"Don't Settle For Less...Get A Little-Moore!"* **301-662-2468**  
 Littlemoore@Littlemoore.com or www.littlemoore.com

---

**Welcome our newest team member!**  
**BUCK WIVELL**

We'd like to introduce you to the newest member of the Little-Moore Team with Real Estate Teams.  
 Buck Wivell was born and raised in Emmitsburg and is the youngest of 13. He graduated from Catoctin High School and Mount St. Mary's University. He became a licensed Realtor in 2022 and had previously been working in the Glass Industry for 22 years.  
*He is here to assist you with all your real estate needs!*  
**410-997-4602**

**Tracy's Auto Repair**  
 Auto & Heavy Truck Repairs

All Makes & Models Welcome

**Welding • Exhaust • A/C • Tires  
 Engines • Transmissions • Brakes  
 Maryland State Inspections**

101 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont  
**301-271-0050**

# FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

## February 2

Throughout the 277-year history of Frederick, violent weather has played an important role. Most notable, of course, have been the numerous floods of Carroll Creek.

However, on February 2, 1876, a freak windstorm struck, causing significant damage, but few injuries.

The 135-foot, 20-year-old steeple of All Saints Episcopal Church, at 106 West Church Street, was toppled. It fell on the roof of the Central National Bank Building next door, which at the time also housed the president of the bank, Col. George R. Dennis, and his family. All escaped without injury. The steeple was later rebuilt at a cost of \$3,500.

Some damage was recorded at the Maryland School for The Deaf and Dumb (now the Maryland School for the Deaf) and at Montevue Hospital. Another church steeple was blown down in Jefferson and the roof of the Lutheran Church in Mechanicstown - now Thurmont - was also destroyed. Many roads were blocked by fallen trees and farmers all over the county suffered immense damage to orchards and farm buildings.

## February 9

In the early years of this great nation, prominent men in all walks of life passed through Frederick on their way to and from our nation's capitol. Even before the District of Columbia became the seat of our national government such men as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson spent a night of rest here.

On February 9, 1829, President-elect Andrew Jackson was an overnight guest at Talbot's City Hotel in the first block of West Patrick Street. He was on his way to Washington from his Tennessee home - The Hermitage - for his inauguration.

The Frederick-Town Herald of Saturday, February 14, 1829, said: "The President-elect arrived in Frederick early on Monday afternoon last. He was escorted into town by a number of his friends, who met him at the county line, and his arrival was announced by the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells.

"The whole scene, from first to last, was one of much noise and confusion, as we understand, for we witnessed no part of it ourselves, except when the old Hero was dragged along the street in the most unhandsome style.

"He left here on Tuesday morning for Washington, carrying with him, we apprehend, no very favorable impression of our town, should he form his opinion of us from the manner of his reception on the present occasion."

And we learn, notwithstanding the badness of the roads, he had the good fortune to reach Washington in safety early on Wednesday."

It can only be assumed that his apparent mistreatment in 1829 did not keep him from returning to Frederick eight years later on March 8, 1837, on his way back to The Hermitage at the end of his two terms as President of The United States. It also did not keep him from appointing Roger Brooke Taney, who had practiced law in Frederick from 1801 to 1823, to numerous federal posts, including Secretary of The Treasury and Chief Justice of The United States Supreme Court.

## February 16

One hundred and sixty-three years ago politics was considered entertainment. It permeated every facet of life in Frederick. The many local newspapers carried numerous articles every week about the political happenings, not only in Frederick, but in the state and nation. And it wasn't just in the commentary columns either. Here's a classic example.

"At about 10 P.M., on February 16, 1860, fire erupted in the rear portion of the City Hotel in the unit block of West Patrick Street. It apparently started when the stove in a rear room on the third floor, which hadn't been lit for weeks, was ignited in anticipation of a paying guest.

"The stove pipe fell against the lathing at the inner edge of a dormer window. It quickly spread to other rooms and the back staircase.

"All of the city's fire companies rushed to the scene, but were initially hampered by frozen fire `water plugs.' But that problem was quickly resolved and the fire was extinguished in short order.

"A thick layer of snow on the roof, and the fact there was no wind, slowed the progression of the flames and aided the firemen.



All Saints Church - Photo by Audrey Bodine

"The property was fully insured and the Baltimore Fire Insurance Company and the National Fire Insurance Company paid the claim in short order.

"The owners were reimbursed a total of \$743.80, which, unfortunately, did not cover the contents of the several rooms that were heavily damaged, or the loss due to water damage."

The Examiner concluded its story on the fire by saying: "Great complaint is made of the neglect of the Corporate authorities (Frederick's elected officials) in suffering the fire plugs to get frozen - but what of good can be expected from a "democratic" administration?"

We suppose that the fall-out from the frozen fire plugs was as great as that from the fire itself.

## February 23

Governments are always looking for additional revenue in their efforts to provide more and better amenities for

their citizens. And sometimes a wind-fall drops into their laps.

Such was the case on February 23, 1989, when the Frederick Towne Mall on West Patrick Street's Golden Mile was sold. This transaction, the largest in county history, netted almost \$600,000 in recording fees for Frederick County and the State of Maryland.

The transfer tax of one half of one percent amounted to \$254,978, and went to the state for its open space program. The balance of \$336,354 went to the county and represented nearly a full penny on the property tax rate.

The Edward J. DeBartolo Corporation, with headquarters in San Francisco, and Equitable Real Estate Investment Management, Inc., were the purchasers.

If the name DeBartolo sounds familiar, it should. DeBartolo is the owner of the San Francisco 49ers National Football League team.

The new owners planned extensive renovation and additional major stores at the Mall, but years later the mall was still anchored by three department stores - J. C. Penny's, The Bon-Ton, and Montgomery Wards.

At the time of the sale, Charles S. Nicewarner, of the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, said the sale price of \$51 million was nearly \$20 million more than the assessed value. What that meant was that other properties along The Golden Mile were going to face reassessments that would substantially increase their tax value.

On the same day the two purchasers also bought the Country Club Mall in LaVale, for \$51,616,140, and the Valley Mall in Hagerstown, for \$61,173,000.

The largest single real estate transaction prior to this one in Frederick County also involved The Frederick Towne Mall. In 1983, this same property was sold to The Patrician Group, out of New York, for \$31.5 million. At that time the transfer fees totaled \$368,954.

To read past selections for John Ashbury's All Our Yesterdays, visit Emmitsburg.net.

**The Taney Corporation**  
Manufacturers of Wood Stairs & Stair Parts  
Locally owned continuously  
for over 50 Years  
5130 Allendale Lane, Taneytown • 410-756-6671  
Visit us at [www.taneystair.com](http://www.taneystair.com)  
A sponsor of the Emmitsburg News-Journal

**STRATEGIES FOR THE USE OF HOME EQUITY CONVERSION MORTGAGE (HECM) IN RETIREMENT**

Call Today for More Information

**James McCarron** | NMLS: #134-401  
Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Specialist  
Office (877) 756-5006  
4 York St, STE. 3  
Taneytown, MD, 21787  
jmccarron@mutualmortgage.com  
mutualreverse.com/james-mccarron

Scan to Apply

Borrower must occupy home as primary residence and remain current on property taxes, homeowner's insurance, the costs of home maintenance, and any HOA fees. The Lifestyle Home Loan is a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage for Purchase. Mutual of Omaha Mortgage, Inc. dba Mutual of Omaha Reverse Mortgage, NMLS ID 1025894, 3131 Camino Del Rio N 100, San Diego, CA 92108. Subject to Credit Approval. These materials are not from HUD or FHA and the document was not approved by HUD, FHA or any Government Agency. For licensing information, go to: www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. Delaware Lender License 028575; Maryland Mortgage Lender License 29676; Pennsylvania Mortgage Lender License 72912; Virginia Mortgage Broker and Lender License NMLS ID 98025894 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) 100948712 Equal Housing Lender

### Pay Off A Mortgage

Eliminating a mortgage in retirement increases cash flow. A HECM does not require monthly mortgage payments. Borrower must occupy home as primary residence and remain current on property taxes, homeowner's insurance, the costs of home maintenance, and any HOA fees.

### Stand-By Credit Line

A retirement strategy where the homeowner uses the credit line as a bucket to draw from during bear markets.

### Long Term Care Protection

Set up a credit line and let it grow untouched, to use only if needed.

### Emergency Back-Up

Set up a credit line to use only as needed.

### Tenure Payments

Tax-free lifetime income stream, thereby reducing the need to make withdrawals from tax portfolios. Consult a tax specialist.

### HECM For Purchase

Use the HECM to purchase a new home ("right-size"), and invest the difference for retirement.

### Divorce Settlement

Use the HECM to buy out a spouse's portion of the home without selling or withdrawing funds from portfolio.

# TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## A walking tour of Taneytown

David Buie

Part 2

Last month readers of this column were introduced to the Traipse App. Traipse can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. The user can tour historic Taneytown's Main St. using the Traipse App. Once the app is fully integrated, users can enjoy a detailed self-guided tour and find fascinating facts, riddles, brain teasers, and puzzles about their surroundings. Last month's article began the tour in front of City Hall/Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company at 15-17 East Baltimore St. and ended at The Opera House Building/Record Office at 109 East Baltimore St.. This month we will examine the tour walking up from Antrim to the Square, and in March, we will turn left on Fredrick St. and look at the remaining buildings on the tour.

### Antrim, 1844 - 109 East Baltimore St.

While many in Carroll County know Antrim 1844 as a nationally recognized bed-and-, very few know the story behind the man who built that handsome home.

Andrew Galbraith Ege was born to Michael Ege III and Mary Ege of Boiling Springs, Pa., in 1812. He was educated at the Academy of Dr. McGraw in Cecil County, and later at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg. His father was the prosperous owner of the Carlisle Ironworks in Boiling Springs, which he and a brother inherited in 1827 upon their father's death.

In 1834, at twenty-two, he ventured south to Frederick County, and married Margaret McKaleb, daughter of Major John McKaleb, one of Taneytown's successful merchants. After their wedding, the couple returned to Carlisle, where Andrew became active in Whig Party politics. In an article on June 3, 1835, the Carlisle Weekly Herald noted that A.G. Ege had been appointed secretary of a group of Whigs opposed to "corruption and misrule." The Eges were still in Pennsylvania in 1837, and Andrew continued his involvement in politics,

including celebrating the 61st anniversary of American independence. Andrew was listed as the "Secretary" representing Dickinson College at the celebration. Four years later, he took part in a funeral procession honoring the memory of Wm. Henry Harrison, late President of the U.S. Presumably, his income during his years in Pennsylvania came from the iron furnace operation he inherited. Unfortunately, it wasn't sold until the late 1840s after he moved to Maryland.

In 1841, tragedy struck the Ege/McKaleb family when Margaret's only brother died. In January 1843, her father died, leaving Margaret as the sole heir of his 420-acre estate in Taneytown. Also included in her inheritance was a home built in 1803 by her grandfather. It is unclear exactly when the young Ege family began life in Taneytown, but by August 1845, Andrew, Colonel James Shellman, and Colonel Thomas Hook, all of Carroll County, intended to run for the Maryland House of Delegates on the Whig Party ticket. A Baltimore newspaper referred to Ege as "Major A.G. Ege," but a search of military records provided no insight into a military career unless he was active in a local militia group at some point. Later in life, he was referred to as "Colonel." He attended a picnic in Kansas in 1859 where he "and several Mexican War veterans made speeches saying peace was here at last, and there would be no more wars." That implies that he might have been a Mexican American War veteran, but during those war years 1846-1848, he seemed to live in Maryland.

Once Andrew and Margaret settled in Taneytown, they began constructing an impressive home, which took several years. Benjamin Forrester, a talented Baltimore builder and sculptor William Henry Rinehart, was involved in creating Antrim. No longer the owner of the Carlisle Ironworks, Andrew's life was that of a lawyer and gentleman farmer who operated a large plantation with slave labor. According to the agricultural portion of the 1850 U.S. census, Ege's improved land alone was valued at \$15,000, and another \$5,000 for the unimproved acres. He owned 14 horses, 12 milk cows, and 18 other cattle with a value close to

\$2,000. His acreage yielded 900 bushels of wheat plus rye, corn, oats, potatoes, and hay, while the cows produced 1,000 pounds of butter during the prior year.

By 1850, 38-year-old Andrew had built a solid political reputation in Carroll County and among Maryland legislators after serving a term in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1845 to 1846. He was active in a movement in the state, "urging reform and adoption of a new, or alteration of the constitution of Maryland. He gave a decided preference to conventional reform."

In 1851, tragedy again struck the Ege family when Margaret died at age 37. The following year, Andrew married Matilda Craighead, and in 1854, he moved his family west to the border between Missouri and Kansas. His steamboat and stage journey ended in St. Joseph, Missouri, where he quickly entered a partnership in the real estate business with Gen. Meriwether Jefferson "Swamp Fox" Thompson, of Confederate fame. Over the early years, as the settlement of Kansas grew, he became very successful and eventually became the owner of over eight thousand acres of land and other valuable property. Among other real estate ventures, he laid off an addition to the city of St. Joseph, MO, just across the Missouri River from Troy, Doniphan Co., Kansas, which he called home from 1856 until his passing in 1876. Although parts of the historic plantation have been sold off, the expansive grounds separate the Greek Revival home from the downtown area.

### Hesson House, ca. 1875 - 202 East Baltimore St.

Home of Daniel J. Hesson (1861-1941) was a prominent business owner who ran the Hesson Department store on the square's northwest corner for 55 years. Hesson served as the President of Taneytown Sav-



The Taneytown Savings Bank (left) and the McKinney Drug Store (right) are shown as they appeared in the early 1900s.

ings Bank until his death and was also head of the Taneytown Garage Company and Key Grain and Feed Company. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Taneytown Grain Company. In addition, Hesson served a term in the Maryland House of Delegates and another term in the Maryland State Senate. This house is a classic example of Carroll County residential architecture with its stone foundation and brick walls. Its painted center gable and two-story bay towers also display Gothic and Greek influences.

### Myers-Dubrow Funeral Home - 136 East Baltimore St., Southside

Charles O. Fuss came to Taneytown in 1878 from Uniontown, where he had been raised and had learned the furniture-making trade from his father, David Fuss. He opened a furniture and casket business on George St. in Taneytown and soon expanded to include service to the community as an undertaker. Trade flourished, and he moved to the current location at 136 E. Baltimore St.

In 1914, C.O. Fuss's son, Merwyn, returned home from Ohio, where he attended Findlay College and the Cincinnati College of Embalming. He joined his father in the business and, in 1919, became a partner in the firm. Fuss & Son stopped manu-

facturing furniture to concentrate on funeral services and furniture sales.

With the death of C.O. Fuss in 1930, Merwyn became the sole proprietor. The funeral home saw many changes in 1932 with the remodeling the chapel, casket display room, and preparation room. In 1938, John H. Skiles became employed with the firm. In 1941 he graduated from the McAllister Institute of Embalming in New York City.

As of 1958, furniture sales were discontinued, and the building was remodeled to meet funeral home needs. John H. Skiles and John M. Skiles, Merwyn Fuss' son-in-law and grandson, took over the business after Merwyn retired. Skiles Funeral Home was renamed in 1972 because of a change in Maryland state law.

In 1977, the business again expanded with Dutch Wilson's Funeral Home in Emmitsburg. However, with the passing of John Skiles in 1993, it was left to John Skiles, the original owner's great-grandson, C.O. Fuss, to continue the business. John retired from the company in 2007. Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home, P.A. purchased Skiles Funeral Homes in Taneytown and Emmitsburg.

For more information, contact David Buie at [downtowntaneytown@gmail.com](mailto:downtowntaneytown@gmail.com).

**THE BEST PARTS... LOW PRICES... FAST SERVICE.**



Save on the parts you need for your car, truck, van, suv or tractor. If you can't find what you need for your foreign or domestic vehicle, we'll get it.

**PREMIUM BRAND NAME PARTS**  
 BATTERIES • SHOCKS  
 SPARK PLUGS • WIPER BLADES  
 AIR & OIL FILTERS • MOTOR OIL  
 MUFFLERS AND MORE!

**We Rebuild Starters, Alternators & Generators Full Service Machine Shop**

**TANEYTOWN AUTO PARTS**  
 11 FRANKLIN STREET, TANEYTOWN  
**410-756-2611**  
 Daily 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. • Closed Sun.

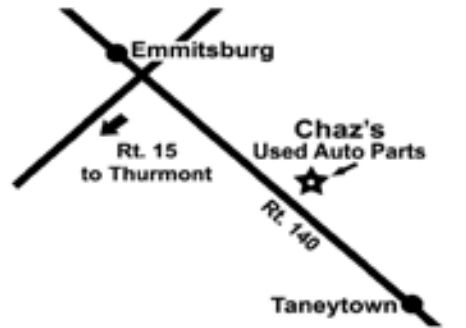
**Chaz's Used Auto Parts U-Pull-It**

**Over 10 acres to pull from!**

\* Bring your own tools \*

**We buy junk cars and scrap metal!**

Pick up or drive in available  
**Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**



6035 Taneytown Pike, Taneytown  
 888-212-8775  
 License # J085900



# COOKING

## Winter wonder (what to do) land!

Sonya Verlaque  
FCC Culinary Program

After the holidays and back to the work and school grind, February can feel like the longest month of the year and a culinary bore. Taking advantage of the cold weather, you can stroll and snack down the streets of Frederick for Fire and Ice on Saturday, February 4th where over 100 Ice sculptures will be on display from 11am on, during the day. But that leaves 27 other days to feed yourself and others. I would like to speak to the person who came up with the idea that dinner should be served Every Single Night.

My middle little recently declared that he does not like pizza. Unless I make it, which means the dough. This takes a bit of forethought, but we've found and adjusted a simple pizza dough recipe that can make one large pie or four small ones, for independent topping. Using a mixer is a way to speed things up and avoid kneading for an unreasonable amount of time (may my Italian grandmother forgive me), so you can turn out this dough in time for dinner pizzas.

National Pizza day is February 9th, so you will be ready to go.

### Pizza Dough

#### Ingredients

- 2 1/3 cups all-purpose flour or bread flour divided

- 1 packet instant yeast (2 1/4 tps)
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tbs olive oil plus additional for brushing the dough
- 3/4 cup warm water

Preparation instructions: In a mixer (or large mixing bowl), whisk together 1 cup of flour, the yeast, sugar, salt, and garlic powder. Add 2 tablespoons olive oil and the warm water and mix well on low for 2 to 3 minutes. Then add in another cup of flour, mixing on low until the dough comes together, it will be sticky but should be able to form a ball. Only use the additional 1/3 of a cup if your dough is very wet. Later, when the dough is fermenting (proofing) it will absorb the water more. Now, turn the mixer up to medium and mix until it is elastic, for about 3 minutes.

Prepare a large, clean bowl by very generously brushing with olive oil. Transfer the dough ball to the bowl and also brush the top with olive oil so the entire ball is coated, or turn it a few times in the bowl. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap (or a kitchen towel) and set aside in a warm place to rise until doubled, which will take about an hour. To push your dough a little faster, you can put it in an off oven with just the light on.

Once the dough has risen, punch it down then transfer to a floured

surface. You can be very authentic and knead it for a minute, then roll the dough into a large circle. Or you can divide it into 4 balls and people can make their own personal pizza. Then place on a pizza pan or stone. Poke the dough all over with a fork, then brush the dough with olive oil. To make the pizza, preheat the oven to 425F.

Top the dough with pizza sauce, mozzarella cheese, and the toppings of your choice. Bake the pizza at 425F for 12-15 minutes until the cheese is melted and dough is baked.

The most obvious holiday in February is Valentine's Day, often revolving around decadent deserts. If you are like me and prefer to stay at home instead of battling crowds for dinner reservations, here is a desert that looks fancy but can be made a day ahead of time and refrigerated for a day. It is vanilla pastry cream, chocolate ganache and whatever fruit you enjoy, layered in a martini glass or a glass bowl shows the layers and looks like more work than it is.

### Pastry Cream

This vanilla pastry cream is smooth and rich tasting, goes great with even plain fruit and feels like a real treat. This recipe also makes enough to fill one 10 inch tart shell, or several individual wine glass servings. (adapted from the Salamander Resort Summer Fruit Tart class).

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups Milk
- 2/3 cup sugar



- 4.75 tbs cornstarch
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 whole large egg
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 2 tbs butter

Preparation instructions: In a bowl, whisk together half the sugar, cornstarch, whole egg and egg yolk and set next to the stove, on a towel where you will be heating the milk. Heat the milk and other half of the sugar together in a saucepan over medium heat, just before it simmers. Temper (pour slowly) the hot milk into the egg mixture while whisking constantly, and then return the entire mixture back into the pot.

Cook mixture while continuously whisking, until it thickens and bubbles. (The speed that it thickens depends on the heat, I am a chicken and heat mine very slowly so it doesn't curdle or burn.) Once thickened, remove from heat over to the towel your bowl was on and stiff in butter and vanilla and stir until the butter is melted. Pour the pastry cream through a fine sieve into a shallow pan and then cover with

plastic wrap directly on the surface of the pastry cream (so it doesn't form a skin) and refrigerate to chill and use later.

### Medium Chocolate Ganache

Chocolate ganache is made up of just chocolate and heavy cream but changing the ratios of how much chocolate to cream. A medium ganache is great for pouring or dipping items in, it coats well, is very shiny and is still a little soft.

#### Ingredients

- 16 ounces bittersweet chocolate (chopped)
- 12 ounces heavy cream

Preparation instructions: Place the chocolate in a bowl, heat the heavy cream just to a boil and then pour over the chocolate to melt it and stir. It will look very thin, but will thicken some as it cools.

Wash and prepare your fresh fruit, berries work well, or you can just use the cream/chocolate combination. Start by putting the pastry cream in a piping bag, then use a spoon to fill a small amount of the chocolate in the bottom of a glass, and then splatter inside of the glass a la Jackson Pollock. Layer with fruit, vanilla pastry cream, more chocolate, more fruit, until you get a desert you desire. Make this a day ahead of time, cover and refrigerate, then present to the one you love.

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



*Happy Valentine's Day!*  
**Join us for Valentine's Weekend!**  
Reservations recommended  
**301-447-2366**  
200 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg  
Full menu & online ordering @ [chouseinn.com](http://chouseinn.com)

**ROCKY RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**  
**COUNTRY BUTCHERING & PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
**Saturday, February 18**  
**6 - 10 a.m.**  
*(In The Activities Building)*  
**Orders must be placed by February 11**  
**Orders must be picked up between 6 & 10 a.m. Feb. 18**  
**To Place An Order Call: Paulette 301-271-4252**  
**Cindy 301-271-4057 Helen 410-775-2758 Kelsey 240-397-0351**

**THE FURNACE**  
HOT CRABS COLD BEER  
**Grill & Crab House**  
240-288-8942  
Sun. 12 - 8 p.m. ~ Tues., Wed., Thurs. 3 - 9 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. 12 - 9 p.m.  
Closed Monday

**Delicious Steamed SHRIMP & CRAB LEGS!**  
*Crabs available by the dozen, half bushel & bushel in season!*  
**A.Y.C.E. EVERYDAY!**  
**Call For Pricing!**  
**Tuesday - 80¢ Wings & Yeungs!**  
**Wednesday - Appetizer Specials!**  
**12841 Catoctin Furnace Rd., Thurmont**



## Maple Syrup Festival

**MARCH 11-12 & 18-19 • 10AM-2PM**  
Cunningham Falls State Park—Houck Area

Welcome spring at Cunningham Falls State Park by learning how maple syrup is made from the sap of trees in the park. Enjoy a traditional pancake and sausage breakfast, stock up on maple syrup products, including syrup, maple cream, and candy. Syrup making demonstrations every hour. The event supports the Friends of Cunningham Falls. Follow signs from MD 77 west of U.S. 15 at Thurmont, MD.

For more information, call Cunningham Falls State Park 301-271-7574.

[visitfrederick.org](http://visitfrederick.org) • 800-999-3613

VISIT  
*Frederick*  
CITY & COUNTY

  
Maryland  
FREDERICK COUNTY



# MOMS' TIME OUT

## Family vacations!

Mary Angel

The magical experience of a family vacation. What could be more wonderful than escaping the daily grind with your husband and kids. Really, what could go wrong. When you go on vacation as a family everything is more special, everyone gets along so well, and everything works out just as you had planned. A family vacation is the most magical of times, or is it?

I have talked to a lot of moms, and dads for that matter, who have stories of the most amazing family vacation going awry. Whether because of a lost reservation, a rained out park day, or a teenager with a bad attitude, a vacation doesn't always work out the way you had hoped. Recently we went on one last family vacation before the older kids start moving out in the next few years. It was well planned, and I had saved for years (mainly because it was supposed to be an anniversary trip during the pandemic). I have always loved Walt Disney World, as many of you know, so it only seemed fitting that my little Disneyphiles go with us on this once in a lifetime vacation.

My plan was that we would drive, to save a little money. I had bought all kinds of snacks and games for the car, booked an Airbnb for the trip down, and made all of our reservations for the parks and meals. We had decided we would make this the most memorable vacation ever. I had discussed ahead of time with everyone about making the best of every situation, no matter what. So, what could go wrong?

To begin with, we normally leave around 4 or 5 am for any long driving trip, but this time my husband decided we would leave at 10 pm the night before (since we now have so many drivers in the family to make for shorter shifts). I drove the first shift

with my second oldest son as my co-pilot (he was awesome at 20 questions and keeping me awake). That went very well, except my husband couldn't get comfortable enough in the back seat to fall asleep, which was integral to the plan of him being the next driver. He stepped up to the plate about 4 hours into the trip and drove for a couple hours until my oldest daughter took over with me as her co-pilot. She was our best driver during drivers' education, and she did a marvelous job. A few more shift changes and we arrived at our Airbnb. It was beautiful and the views were magnificent! After a quick bite from DoorDash and an amazing view of the Epcot fireworks we were off to bed.

The next day began with us heading to our hotel withing the Walt Disney World property, as we always stay on property because my kids love grabbing the buses to the parks. Our first meal was at Raglan Road, which we had heard was okay, but turned out to be one of our favorite meals of the entire trip. Besides our room being as far as it could possibly be from the lobby, the first day went off without a hitch. Day two was not so uneventful, since I was trying to figure out the Disney World App and

more importantly all of the lightening lane stuff. It was definitely a lot easier when they had fast-passes you could book ahead of time. After having been in the car for over 15 hours less than 2 days before, the kids were a little on edge and one of them had a less than magical moment in the World Showcase when he became overwhelmed by the amount of people and a difference of opinion with his brother. After a brief brotherly argument, we're back on track (although I wasn't sure they were going to truly get over it).

By the middle of the week there had been a bit of sass, a few more sibling arguments and some scheduling conflicts. If there is one thing I learned early in my love affair with all things Disney, its that you must make your dining reservations early if you are bigger than a party of four. So, when you realize there is a scheduling conflict (due to your husband wanting to change some plans) and you need to rearrange the conflicting dining reservations, you know you will need to take what you can get. So, we lost a wonderful restaurant and got an okay one. Don't get me wrong, they are all good when you are at Disney. At the end of the week the heart-broken eldest daughter was having some emotional issues outbursts that were leading to a bit more sass than I was able

to cope with. Compound this with the youngest whining about her feet hurting every two seconds, and the magic was being sucked out of the air. Then you add that every morning you have to be online to book your Lightning Lanes and Genie+ at 7:00 am and then jump on after you use one to book another, while your family members are squealing, "Did you get my ride?" and there was definitely a new level of stress that made me question what I was doing.

It was sometime in day one or two when I realized that the majority of the times a vacation goes bad it is because of expectations. I had this crazy expectation that this was going to be the most magical, once in a lifetime, perfect family vacation. That was my mistake, nothing in this world is perfect and to expect something to be is just setting myself and my family up for failure. Ultimately, my family couldn't have cared less what restaurant they ate at or whether they got to ride a specific ride. Yes, they have their favorites and would love to experience them on this trip, but they would also love to try new things. When I accepted that no

vacation was going to be perfect, I was more relaxed and fun-loving and that allowed my kids to be the same way. This obviously isn't going to fix everything, as I have already stated nothing is going to be perfect, but setting your expectations more realistic and rolling with the punches will always make things more magical. Although, hormonal teenagers will still have meltdowns now and again, blistered feet are going to hurt no matter who you are, scheduling conflicts will happen, and you can't please everyone all the time, you can still have a magical time with memories that will last a life time. May I just say, that is exactly what we did, when we embraced the good, the bad, and the ugly of family time. To quote a dear friend, these are my monkeys and this is my circus and I wouldn't have it any other way. I wish you all a magical, realistic family vacation this year (whether big or small, near or far, make the best of it and enjoy every minute).

To read past editions of Moms' Time Out, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

**Valentine' Day is coming quickly!**

Jewelry is one of the best gifts you can give that special someone. Its beauty lasts, and can go with any outfit. Give the gift of sparkle this Valentine's Day! We have estate jewelry, modern styles and catalogs so you can pick the perfect piece!

**Olde Towne Jewelers** 36 E. Frederick St., Walkersville  
301-845-2200  
Mon., Tues., Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Fri. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Closed Wed. & Sun.  
oldetownejewelers.store

**HAPPY Valentine's Day!**  
Look great for your special date!

**\$5 Off any chemical service thru Feb. 15th!**  
Shampoo ~ Cut ~ Curl ~ Style ~ Perm ~ Color  
Men's & Kids Cuts too!

121 N. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg Appointments preferred  
301-447-6600 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
Call for an appointment! Veteran owned & operated!

**Needle & Thread - Wooded Hamlet Design**  
FABRIC - NOTIONS - PATTERNS  
2215 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg  
717-334-4011  
www.needleandthread.biz • www.woodedhamlet.com  
Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed Sunday, Monday & Tuesday  
Darlene Grube Proverbs 31: 10-31

**Thurmont Community Ambulance Service**  
Proudly Serving Northern Frederick Co. for Over Half a Century

**YEAH! Friday Night YEAH!**

**BINGO**

**Bring your Friends & Family for a fun filled night**  
**Doors Open @ 5 p.m.**  
**Bingo begins @ 7 p.m.**

**Thurmont Event Complex**  
13716 Strafford Drive, Thurmont  
301-271-7550 www.thurmonteventcomplex.com

**The Upholstery Shop**

Michael Woodhams Owner  
Custom Upholstery  
Window Treatments  
Furniture Repair & Restoration  
Wide Selection of Top Quality Fabrics  
~ Family owned and operated for over 50 years ~

5810 Taneytown Pike • Taneytown  
Look for the Blue Sign!  
410-596-1935  
MichaelWoodhamsUpholstery@gmail.com

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED  
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*Now that the holidays are over, what do you do with the rest of winter? It shouldn't be spent just waiting for spring... so how do you make the most of it?*

### Freshman

Looking a bit deeper

Sarah Miller  
MSMU Class of 2026

It is hard to think of winter as more than a dark and cold season. In literature, tales like “Sir Gawain and The Green Knight” are told amid the long cold winter season. Actually, one of the reasons why the story was so popular was to brighten spirits during the season. Many do have a hard time during this dark season, and finding the good is crucial for overall wellness. But really, what are some things to look forward to in these cold winter months, especially after the holidays?

Personally, I don't know why people aren't as fond of the winter season. Winter brings beautiful snow and views that people love to see. It brings people together through snuggling close around a fire, or through an act of communion where many indulge hot chocolate together. The love we feel for others can be accentuated due to external factors. In the heat of the summer, many don't want to snuggle close because of the sweltering heat,

and weather can be so extreme that people lose houses from hurricanes or storms. In the winter, snow just falls onto houses, and maybe you will be lucky and have off work for a day. Many don't really appreciate the small entities that winter brings and the buggy springtime does not, which is important to recall when the sad times do hit and we are left with our thoughts. Winter brings a lot and there is much to be thankful for, but sometimes we just need to introspect.

During the rest of winter and the new year especially, I like to think of the clean slate that the new year brings. You have the whole year to be the person that you've always wanted to be, with no one telling you otherwise. The freedom to change with the help of Mr. Time can be one of the best motivators there is. Although the beginning of another year may seem sad, mainly because it seems as if the clock is “ticking” with another whole year under your belt, don't fret. You have time to live your life. Sometimes we may need the reminder, but with the set date of the new year and the anticipation of the new things to come, that is the greatest date to have set.

One of the new things to come is the anticipation of the longer days. After the holidays we have made it over the hill of the winter solstice and are now seeing longer days with more sunlight. With the more sunlight comes the longer stretch where we are able to get in more Vitamin D, which brings us more serotonin and happiness every day. I feel that in the winter we all have less time to be outside because the days are so short, but we've already hit the highest part of the curve. The days just get longer from here!

Since we all want to better ourselves for the new year, one thing to do is to really start to think about what things we can change. Maybe not just in a physical aspect but in other ways around us. One thing that I found out at the Mount is how many plastic cups that I use. I calculated it out for how many cups I would use if I had the 21 meal plan for four years of college. There are about 224 days residing at The Mount per year, times 4 years is 896, times two, since we get two drinks per meal, is about 1792 cups. If I were to multiply it with how many students go to the Mount (1741 undergraduate students),

in four years at school we would use, in total, 3,119,872 cups roughly. For my new year's goal, I am going to try as hard as I can to become more sustainable. The Mount does so many things to be sustainable, especially in the use of solar panels and renewable energy, but one small step may be something that helps ever-so-slightly to having a cleaner environment. I feel that it is time to give back and be more conscious of what you do to the world around you, and especially things that you are able to cut out.

Personally, during this time of the year I also like the feeling of a new semester. It is relieving knowing that we do not have to go through a new finals week, because that was a severely stressful week for all students. During syllabus week, students get to cruise and really get familiar with the classes that they are taking. The new start and new classes, with new teachers is not only refreshing, but fun. You get to make new connections with people who you have interacted with before and experience new things. A new semester brings new beginnings and habits that can better affect everyone. One of the greatest highlights of the

second semester for me is going to Target and picking out a new 2023 planner and some vibrant new pens. The new planner represents the clean slate that you have in the new year. You get to write your own story and plans, and the most important thing that should be taken into account is your happiness in a time that may seem to have less things to look forward to.

Although it may seem that we do not have many things to look forward to, we do; it just takes a bit more time to find it. Likewise, there are many things that we need to believe in to know that they are there. We need to believe in ourselves to make a change and develop a schedule so we do find true happiness that is beyond the cold winter months. You are the person that is in charge of your happiness and goals. The hardest part, though, is sticking to it. Devise a plan and take action, so that you can make the most out of your year; because, the days are getting longer, and day by day, the year comes to an end. You are what you make of yourself.

*To read other articles by Sarah Miller, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.*

### Sophomore

A retreat

Joey Carlson  
MSMU Class of 2025

Christmas is positioned in the middle of winter because that is when there is the least light and the world is the least hospitable to life. The allegory of winter seems intimately tied to hope; hope for spring, hope for Christ, etc. Yet God also created winter good and beautiful as it is. Winter certainly exists to be desolate, so that from that desolation we may pray with the prophet, “Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; yet I will rejoice in the LORD!” (Habakkuk 3:17-19) While it is true that winter is meant to be deso-

late, we also know that God does not subscribe to an “ends justify the means” philosophy. Therefore, winter must be gorgeous and useful on its own.

I love winter. I feel most myself in winter, not just when it's snowing or when I'm celebrating the holidays, but when I'm walking around campus at 11:00pm and it's 15 degrees, or when I'm sitting in my car waiting for the heat to turn on, or when the sun rises red after I've already been up for a few hours. It is difficult to describe. I feel freer in my winter coat from the National Soldier Factory in Gettysburg, a wool Swedish Tunic from 1947. I feel capable, as if I'm in some kind of epic, and I have an important role to play.

For all of human history, every day has been a struggle. It remains a struggle, but today it is no longer directly against the dirt and the elements, but rather against feelings

of uselessness and complacency. In my mind, though both struggles truly have equal dignity, the former is easier to understand than the latter. I imagine what would happen if I were to tell one of my forefathers that I was struggling to complete one of my tasks, that I was struggling to think of and write an essay in my heated bedroom in February. What would he say? Perhaps he'd think me far more fortunate than him, since I was shielded from the wind and the rain, and since I get to do something I supposedly enjoy. Perhaps he'd pity me and the fact that I've lost my powers: I've traded in the capacity to walk 30 miles a day for a pair of fuzzy slippers. These sorts of thoughts have often made me feel insignificant, though empowered sometimes as well. Understand that I am not saying precisely that our condition in slippers is exactly pitiable, I only mean that it seems that we are falling short of something. When it is hard to walk outside because of the biting chill, I remember my human condition, and how there is worth to suffering, and much less worth to complacency.

If all things were easy to us, a number of things would happen. First, we would have less opportunity to be human, since what makes humans special is their ability to choose, even in circumstances when every other inclination points them to choose something else. Second, we would eventually just meet a new equilib-

rium, only at a lower capacity for enduring suffering than before. Everything would feel mundane as it once did, before it became easy.

Of course, by necessity, we must spend more time inside during the winter than during the summer. Vitamin D's important, but during the winter there is just less of it to be had. The extended periods of being inside and the increased solitude because my friends are feeling the same things that I am feeling both prompt a desire to work and to think. Most studies have shown that people are more productive in the winter, even prompting theories about the economic capabilities of nations close to the equator vs nations with four seasons. I love desiring to work; similar to before, it makes me feel like I'm having a real impact, and I feel like the person I want to be. I have a kind of vision of the working man inherited from my father, and while there are flaws, I love the idea of me spending my hours doing good things for the glory of God.

One of my great loves is music, and during the winter, I typically take out my Russian classical music CDs, as the Russians seem to understand what cold is. Russian history is intimately tied with immense suffering (especially because of the cold), and it has granted much of its art and music a deeply personal element. Rachmaninoff is my favorite of the Russian composers, and in case anyone wants to get into classical music or believes that

they do not like classical music but are open minded, I would recommend listening to his second piano concerto. He manages to make me nostalgic for a time and place that I have never experienced, though after hearing his second concerto so many times, I am filled with memories. I find I get tired sooner now than before, and my roommates and I have made a habit of listening to some of my favorite classical music before we go to sleep.

In my best case scenario, the rest of winter will manage to be a sort of retreat in order to develop some discipline and strengthen my interior life so that I can come back to the exterior world a better man. Social life, too, manages to have some special capacity to nourish the soul when the world outside is cold.

Far too many of our discomforts come from not feeling ourselves. For many, winter doesn't help, because the world outside doesn't accept you on a very material level. I would assert, however, that winter does provide an opportunity to reimagine oneself. To go into nature and to not be served by it is not to assert your independence from nature, but rather to assert your rightful position in nature. That is, to flourish in difficult circumstances: it is a self-vision we would all like to have.

*To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.*

play @  
GAMES • REC • PRIVATE PARTY SPACE  
**WOOKIEE WALKERS**  
COMICS • DUNGEONS & DRAGONS® • LEGO®  
POKÉMON™ • FUNKO POP!™ • MAGIC: THE GATHERING™  
STAR WARS™ • BOARD GAMES • WARHAMMER 40K™  
WWW.WOOKIEEWALKERSMD.COM/PLAY

# MAKING THE MOST OF THE REST OF WINTER

## Junior

### Little adventures

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

It's one of those days in January when it's a bit warmer than normal, but a chill still sits in the air, sinking into our skin. Above us, the sky is blue and bright, with sharp pieces of sunlight piercing the world. Below us, dappled reservoir water envelops the rock we are standing on, creating the rhythm of a tide. It's early in the afternoon, and my boyfriend and I decided to drive down backroads into the rural part of my town and explore.

In a few hours, the sun will set, and the air will grow colder. Tomorrow I'll wake up, scrape the frost off my windshield (how intricate nature can be), and drive to buy a latte with extra foam. I'll probably spend the rest of the day reading, or bingeing a show, or baking cookies. Whatever I decide, I'll spend the day with intent. I won't waste it.

I used to hate wintertime because it highlighted the mundaneness of life. The return to routine, especially after the holidays, can make it difficult to find beauty or purpose or

reason in anything. As I write this in January, lying in bed, I feel both unproductive and satisfied with the fact that I've only worked out and read all day. But I know that in exactly one week, I will be swarmed with schoolwork, with books that I don't want to read, with my new student teaching internship and many, many lesson plans to write. Yet, I'll be busy, which is a feeling I've been craving since Christmas.

Wintertime is a paradox. We can't wait to jump back in the routines of the new year, but we also want to spend the cold days wrapped in a blanket, napping away. We love when it snows, when the world is sparkling and crystalline, but we also hate how it takes away from what we're meant to do. We want to escape the chaos from the holidays, but we also want to make it last for as long as we can.

And it's hard to live in a paradox.

How are we meant to endure these long nights and short days? This period of the year where everything is cold and gray and mundane?

I'm convinced that everything happens for a reason, and that each season prepares us for the next. However, I'm also set in my belief that we must enjoy every moment on its own to the fullest.

Although we are tempted to spend the winter months dreaming of spring and summer, we must live for the present.

In fact, I read a quote that truly resonates with this: "Treat every day as if it is an adventure."

Even in winter.

If we fill our January and February days with little adventures, we can live for and in the moment, therefore making the most of winter.

For example, driving to the reservoir on a warmer-than-usual January afternoon felt almost surreal. Everything was captured in a simple wonder. In winter, the world uses less color and detail to make a deeper kind of beauty—a more intricate and searchable one. However, your adventures can be as minuscule as taking a trip to get coffee. Sometimes, I make an entire journey out of my daily Starbucks runs. I'll blast the heat, put on my favorite Taylor Swift CD, and crawl down the best backroads in my town. Although it's winter, I like to find pieces of hidden beauty: the sky, how the sunlight splits into fractals and reflects against every surface. The bare tree branches, reaching their spindly limbs like artwork. The tall, Victorian homes with silver bricks, contrasting the landscape surrounding them.

However, we can also make our own adventures, ones that don't necessarily need to take place outside like most do. On a bitterly cold Saturday in January, my boyfriend and I drove one hour away to a small town in Pennsylvania. As we drifted down windy backroads, I noticed how gray the world appeared, and how the freezing chill of the air sank into my skin, even though I was protected by the heat in my car. But then we pulled up to a tall vintage barn. Or, at least it looked like a barn, with white bricks and a beautiful charm to it. I then learned that the building in front of me contained four stories filled with rooms and rooms full of books.

Fiction from authors A-Z. Cookbooks. Poetry collections. Travel journals. Memoirs. Classics. Children's books. All the stories, narratives, and novels you could imagine, organized and lined up against walls and ceilings. The barn was simple, with no decorations or modern appeal—just frosted windows that overlooked the countryside of Pennsylvania, and shelves upon shelves of words.

My boyfriend and I spent hours walking around this bookstore, skimming through chapters and reading summaries. I lost track of

time, only to peer out of a window in the bookstore's attic to see the dusky pink sky. I realized then that I had spent an entire wintry Saturday on a beautiful adventure, and it wasn't even that difficult.

The following Saturday, I found myself standing at the shore of a reservoir near my house—one that I had always driven past, but never explored. That day was warmer than usual, but the world was still gray, the colors hard to search for. Still, we made the most of that day as well.

Wintertime after the holidays is typically labeled as a time of hibernation, where we sit back in our warm homes and wait for the flowers to bloom, wait for a more colorful world. And while rest and relaxation is important, we must never forget that life is never mundane, not if we try. There are little adventures hidden everywhere: on the backroads to your favorite coffee shop, or at a small town far away, at a local park. Never let the long nights and cold air stop you from enjoying life, especially a life full of color and spontaneity in a season where it is hard to find.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net)

## Senior

### Valuable winter lessons

McKenna Snow  
MSMU Class of 2023

It's February, and the major winter holidays are over. Maybe they were great, maybe they were hard. For many, leaving behind the Thanksgiving-through-New Year's holiday range is a relief. For others, however, the warm glow of the Christmas lights was a security amidst the cold bitter weather. Whatever way that one may feel about the end of the holidays, there is quite a prevalent question that looms with the grey skies and chilly sunsets: what's next?

Often the tendency, at least in my own experience, is to immediately start looking forward to spring, to Easter, and to warm, sunny days. The rest of winter suddenly seems like a waste of time, and I'd prefer to get it over with in order to move on to "the good days" of spring and summer.

Given that this is my least favorite season, this month's prompt was especially challenging. But, even though that is the case, I am glad to say that I have learned a lot in how to appreciate winter for all it has to offer.

Several ways regarding the value of winter have become quite apparent to me in college. This first way may come as a surprise to some, but something I've come to love about winter is the ability to experience the cold. Now, I am speaking as a resident of states with four seasons, so maybe this point will not be so poignant if the News-Journal has any readers in Alaska or Greenland. But, for all those living in similar conditions as me, I have found this aspect of winter especially comforting: for one-fourth of the year, you have the opportu-

nity to *be* cold, and to learn from that experience. By this point, I don't mean that everyone should leave their coats at home this winter—certainly not. Living on a college campus, I have to walk everywhere, so wearing warm clothing is very important. I only want to say that I have found great value in allowing my face to feel the cold as I walk to get food, and to allow my hands to be cold for a few minutes. Groundbreaking, no?

The value I see in this is, firstly, it encourages gratitude for once you get inside. How often we take for granted our heated homes and warm mugs of tea and coffee! We shy away from any and every element of discomfort through cold in the winter, and that is normal; we simply are not meant to thrive in harsh, cold conditions. But the trade off in this shying away is that we risk losing our gratitude for what and who takes us in when we seek warmth, and we risk losing an opportunity to contemplate what it means to be human. While summer gives many opportunities to connect with nature and to thrive in the warm sun, winter offers a unique and irreplaceable experience in feeling the cold on our face, on our hands, that declares something important: we are embodied beings who need each other!

I did not build the Patriot cafeteria, but it warms me up after a bitter walk from my dorm to get dinner. In that walk, I needed another human being—or many—to make such a circumstance available. Further, I do not provide the heating in my dorm for myself, someone else does. Someone else learned how to design a heating and cooling system, and the wonderful maintenance crew of the Mount keeps it running well all winter long. The same can be said about cars with heating systems, for elec-

tronic kettles that boil water for tea and coffee... none of that was me, but all of those things impact me and improve my quality of life. Therefore, winter is a unique opportunity to contemplate blessings in my life, as well as the never-ending need I have for the community around me, and in some subtle way, the community's need for me.

On top of learning to appreciate the value of being [temporarily] cold, I have also come to love the opportunities it affords me to slow down, especially after the holidays. What is the rush to springtime, anyway? I love Easter very much, but there is beauty in the seasons before it as well. Lent is a time of preparation and deepening one's relationship with Christ to rejoice in the Easter season. How could I love and celebrate Easter as much as I do without the forty days in the desert beforehand that I spent with Jesus? Similarly, how could I love summer as much as I do without knowing what it is like to live without warmth for several months? Perhaps it seems like an exaggeration—couldn't a month of cold do the same? I don't think so. We would still find a way to take summer for granted if we only had winter for a month. A holistic view of the seasons invites us to appreciate what we have in front of us for the sake of itself and its relation to everything else. That appreciation is a skill many Americans lose out on because we are too busy chasing things: the next goal, the next season because we like it better, the next holiday; real life is happening in this moment, in this cold weather.

Finally, winter makes us more intentional about loving one another and ourselves. I find it more difficult to care for myself during this time, but that just means I need to learn how to care for myself more inten-

tionally, when the circumstances aren't my favorite. To love is an act of the will; as such, because I must choose to become more attune to my needs and the needs of those around me, I must be more deliberate about celebrating existence and human life. Winter gives us a unique opportunity to love with intentionality, rather than with ease. We have to choose to love ourselves and those around us in

the winter time, when it comes less easily and there is less "Christmas spirit" to go around, and when we are more prone to irritation. To choose to love and practice gratitude in wintertime is a beautiful way to spend the rest of these colder months.

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



**Casual Dining**  
**301-447-2625**  
5 W. Main St.  
Emmitsburg

Extensive menu to choose from

*Valentine's Day*  
*February 14th!*

**We're open for Indoor Dining Wednesday thru Monday 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. (Closed Tuesday)**

**Carry-out available**

**Daily Lunch Specials**

**Call now to make your Valentine's Reservations!**

## HEALTH

## Frederick Health Precision Medicine &amp; Genetics Clinic

Joshua Faust  
Frederick Health

Science has known for some time that a person's unique genetic code impacts many physical responses related to health and healthcare treatments. Important clinical aspects such as healing time, metabolism, and immunities vary from person to person. Yet understanding how those same genetics could impact disease prevention and the dosage, usage, and applications of medicines remained elusive. However, in the last ten years, research, and developments into how this complex genetic code is applied to individuals and their treatments have advanced significantly, opening a new world of opportunities to both patients and providers.

Frederick Health, the most extensive healthcare system in

Frederick County, was quick to understand the potential of genetics in preventative medicine. In 2019, the organization developed a Precision Medicine & Genetics Clinic. Since that time, this program has continued to grow. This service, located at the Frederick Health Village, is a first for area residents.

But what exactly is Precision Medicine & Genetics?

Once an individual provides a DNA sample, Frederick Health's clinical Precision Medicine & Genetics experts can design personalized disease prevention and treatment plans that guide patients on the path to better health and overall wellness. They then receive a one-on-one consultation with a team member to discuss findings and review anything that may raise some concerns. These plans are then provided to the patient's Pri-

mary Care provider and any other relevant medical experts so that the entire treatment team is brought onboard and can work in unison.

"The future of medical care is customized medicine based on patient's genetics," said Pat Rice, Clinical Director for the Precision Medicine & Genetics Program.

Understanding the individual is at the heart of their efforts. This program helps patients understand how their body reacts to treatment and medicine. It can also determine high-risk factors based on their genetics, such as a predisposition to cancer or heart disease. Getting the word out about this program has been a personal mission for Rice and her team, which includes two genetic experts, a team of office staff, and a Medical Director, Dr. Heather Chalfin.

Collectively, their work is starting to make a real difference.

"In developing this program, we have increased awareness and participation in the community and really started to see a change in people's lives." Rice continued.

By testing and analyzing a patient's unique genetic code, this program can identify elevated risks in many treatment areas, including, but not limited to, cardiovascular health, endocrinology, behavioral health, and cancer. Additionally, genetics can show how and what medications work best with your body's physiology. This second aspect, how medications work within your body, is known as pharmacogenomics. The pharmacogenomics side of this equation is changing quickly, said Rice.

"Almost daily, researchers are identifying the way different medications respond, which only expands our knowledge. We are continually updating our databases

with new testing results."

Regardless of where you are in your healthcare journey, the Precision Medicine & Genetics team can assist you with the development of a treatment plan.

"Your unique genetic profile impacts how your body responds to an illness and how you process and react to different medicines. Our program pairs these two schools of thought to provide the most comprehensive and personalized treatment plans," continued Rice.

In addition to these clinical developments, Frederick Health is the first community healthcare system in the nation to fully integrate a patient's electronic health record (EHR) with their genetic profile. As such, providers can be acutely aware of a patient's genetic disposition when developing a treatment plan.

This is quite an achievement, and others have started to notice.

As a result of these innovations, the Frederick County Office of Economic Development has named the Precision Medicine & Genetics Program one of the Top 50 Innovators in Frederick County, winning the healthcare category. The award was announced in early January and came as a surprise to Rice.

"We have an amazing, innovative, creative business community, and narrowing it down to 50 was a difficult task. The businesses are making the biggest impact on their industries, workplace and the Frederick County Community – thriving in today's ever-changing environment." Jodie Bollinger, Acting Director of Economic Development and Workforce Services.

The Office of Economic Development puts together the Top 50 list every year, and other than the Healthcare category, areas of focus include Agriculture, Entertainment, and Logistics, among others.

"We are excited to see this service recognized by the Office of Economic Development and our work is just beginning. There will be many exciting updates to come on the horizon." Dr. Chalfin stated recently.

Rice echoed Dr. Chalfin's words. "Our team does amazing work. It's a good feeling to be recognized for these efforts," she stated.

The Precision Medicine & Genetics Program is one of the first outpatient treatment options to move into the Frederick Health Village location, a sprawling facility that the healthcare system purchased in 2019. Joining this service at the Village is a new laboratory collection center and the Medical Weight Loss Program. The development of the Village has been a strategic goal for Frederick Health for some time and the organization is proud of its achievement.

To read a digital version of the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, you may discover [frederickmd.com](http://frederickmd.com).



We treat  
cancer  
with care.

Because being  
valued feels better.

Frederick Health brings leading-edge treatment, complete support services, and a team of experts together—all under one roof—to develop a care plan customized for you. Because when it's cancer, connected care makes all the difference.

Learn more

[frederickhealth.org/  
cancer](http://frederickhealth.org/cancer)



Frederick  
Health

YOUR COMMUNITY OF CARE.

# SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

## Frederick County Public Schools

**Karen Yoho**  
Board of Education

Budget season is well underway. The Superintendent's Proposed Budget has now become the Board of Education's budget to work with. We held our full day budget workshop on January 18. There is a wealth of information on the budget accessible on the FCPS website. Click on the "About Us" tab and you will see Budget in the list.

The Board will have the opportunity to hear from the public on February 1 at Frederick High School at 7 p.m. The proposed operating budget expenditures total \$933,044,509. This is an increase of \$110,208,258 over last year's budget.

If you have paid any attention to Maryland public schools over the past few years, the term Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act should be

familiar. This massive legislation has the goal of transforming public education in Maryland to be not just the best in our country, but to put Maryland on par with the best performing school systems in the world.

Very often, American schools are compared to schools around the globe and found to be lacking. But nothing is typically done with that information. No reasons are given for why there might be differences, such as the rate of student poverty being much higher in the United States than for the students ours are being compared to.

The Kirwan Commission sought to study the issue and then arrive at conclusions that could be acted on to improve public education. The work of this Commission was turned into legislation by Maryland lawmakers. Of course, Covid had to get itself in

the way initially and the road hasn't always been smooth for implementation. But the pieces are seemingly finally getting towards being in place.

There are five pillars to the Blueprint. Pillar One is the significant expansion of full-day pre-school. Pillar Two is centered on elevating teachers and school leaders. Pillar Three focuses on college and career readiness for our students, with a larger emphasis on career and technology education. Pillar Four seeks to provide more resources for high needs students. The final pillar centers on accountability and involves submitting plans to various oversight bodies at the state level.

While the average citizen in Maryland may not be aware of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, every school system in Maryland is busily working to plan for implementation

and have reports due on time. Information on the Blueprint and each pillar can be found on the main page of the FCPS website. The Blueprint has its own link.

Congratulations to the five FCPS high school seniors who were selected to serve as pages for the Maryland General Assembly beginning on January 11. The students are: Bella Amell, BHS; Mehr-Un-Nisa Saeed, THS; Layla El-Sherif, OHS; Manasi Tanikella, UHS; and our very own Student Member of the Board, Lucas Tassarollo, Gov. TJHS. The student alternate is Aiden Miller, LHS. We are very proud of these students and know they will represent us well in Annapolis during the upcoming legislative session.

The Middle School Music Festival will take place on Saturday, February 4 at GTJHS. Tickets are available at GOFAN.co for \$6 for adults and \$2 for students, plus

additional fees. There will also be cash only sales at the door. Senior Citizens (60+) and children under school are free, as are FCPS employees who show their badge.

Every Friday evening in January and February, high school teams compete at Frederick High in the Academic Tournament. This is the 42nd year. The final competition will be held on February 24.

The FCPS Science Fair is back. It is scheduled for March 25 at Tuscarora High School. Information can be found on the main page of the FCPS website. Scroll down to find links for Elementary Science & Engineering Fair, Secondary Science & Engineering Fair, and Elementary Social Studies Fair.

The seven members of the Frederick County Board of Education are working hard together to do the best for our students. Please contact us at board@fcps.org.

## Library events

**Blue Ridge Summit Free Library**  
Monday – Children's Story Time 4 – 5 p.m., Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30-minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesday – Coffee club from 3 - 4 p.m. Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Thursdays – Teen's Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30 - 6 p.m.. just hang out or play WII, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturday - Join us at 10:30 a.m., for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

Scherenschnitte Night at the Library – February 14th at 6:30 p.m.. Learn the German art of paper cutting design. The artwork often has rotational symmetry within the design, and common forms include silhouettes, valentines, and love letters. The art tradition was founded in Switzerland and Germany in the 16th cen-

tury and was brought to Colonial America in the 18th century by Swiss and German immigrants who settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club meets at 5:30 p.m. on February 21st. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year's gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet February 27th at 5 p.m.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit [www.fcpspa.org](http://www.fcpspa.org) or call 717-792-2240.

### Frederick County Library

With Valentines around the corner, we traditionally think of February as the month dedicated to love, but did you know it's also American Heart Month? On February 14, from 10 - noon, Humana Health will be at the Thurmont library to celebrate both Valentines Day and American Heart Month. Create a free

handmade Valentine's card for that special someone in your life and discover how to give your own heart a little love.

The housing market has changed dramatically in the past few years. People wishing to sell their homes have had to adjust their expectations for a quick sale. On Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. Realtor Mary Ratchford will share do's and don'ts about selling your home in the current market and explain the essential preparations for a quick sale while still maximizing equity.

Did you receive a new phone or tablet over the holidays and would like to learn how to use it properly or are you interested in learning new computer skills? "Digital Learn" from 10 - Noon beginning Thursday, February 16, is our new monthly drop - in program where

we can help you discover new skills and answer any questions you may have.

Beginning in February, VITA Tax Preparation volunteers will begin accepting reservations for tax preparation of Federal and Maryland State income taxes for Northern Frederick County residents who earned less than about \$60,000 in 2022. Please note that assistance is by appointment only, and appointments at the Thurmont library will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact 301-471-5757 after Feb , for more information.

And finally, we are very excited to announce that our annual Celtic Concert will be held Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 pm at MSM Knott Auditorium featuring The Seán Heely Celtic Band. "Champion fiddler and singer

Seán Heely is one of the most creatively versatile and captivating young artists of his generation. He is a U.S National Scottish Fiddle Champion as well as an award - winning Irish Fiddler, singer, and harpist in the folk and Gaelic traditions of Scotland and Ireland," according to Seán's website. Stop by to pick up your FREE advance tickets beginning Monday, February 20th at 10:00 a.m. at both the Emmitsburg and Thurmont libraries. Limit 2 tickets per person.

For all your information needs, contact us online at [fcpl.org](http://fcpl.org) or call us at 301- 600-7200.

Visit our website at [www.frederick.librarycalendar.com](http://www.frederick.librarycalendar.com) or call us at 301-600-6329 for a complete listing of story times, programs, and events at Emmitsburg Branch Library.

Everything we do inspires children to achieve.



**CALL TODAY!**  
NOW ENROLLING FOR  
**2023-2024**  
**MOTHER SETON SCHOOL**  
A Pre-K - Grade 8 Catholic School for All  
[MotherSetonSchool.org](http://MotherSetonSchool.org)  
301-447-3165

**PRE-K 3 & 4**  
**K - Grade 8**



**FREDERICK KITCHENS & BATHROOMS**

- Complete kitchen & bathroom remodeling
- Designers on staff
- Personal attention



**\$600 OFF**  
**COMPLETE**  
**KITCHEN**  
**REMODEL**

**\$300 OFF**  
**COMPLETE**  
**BATHROOM**  
**REMODEL**

**Visit Our Showroom**  
**47 W. Frederick St., Walkersville**  
MHIC # 146736      **301-845-7070**      License # 144542  
FKandB.com      **ENJ**

## ARTS

# The Majestic presents Ken Burns' Who Are We?

Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater has announced guest speakers and breakout sessions scheduled for the first-ever film festival dedicated solely to the work of award-winning documentarian Ken Burns next February 10-12 in the historic theater located in Gettysburg. Experts in music, cinematography, filmmaking, criminal justice reform, and public policy will join Ken Burns in engaging with the public and Gettysburg College students in consequential conversations about the question Burns has explored in all of his films about American history: Who are we?

Special guests currently scheduled to attend include longtime Burns collaborators Geoffrey Ward, writer; Sarah Botstein, producer; and Allen Moore, cinematographer as well as musicians Jay Ungar, Molly Mason, and Jacqueline Schwab, and exonerated Central Park Five member Kevin Richardson. Tracie Potts and Susan Eisenhower of Gettysburg College's Eisenhower Insti-

tute will also offer their perspective during the festival. The festival is produced by Gettysburg College and the Majestic Theater in cooperation with Florentine Films and American Storyteller, LLC. Tickets for all events are available now.

"Gettysburg is both a place of remembering and imagining," said Ken Burns when the festival was announced in April 2022. "It is of course a burial ground for those who fought there – North and South – but it is also where President Lincoln imagined a new country, one where the values we associate with our country's founding were given new meaning. I'm honored and so appreciative for this opportunity to share our films as part of this festival and to join many of my colleagues in a conversation about our art form – and our country's history."

Acclaimed musicians Jay Ungar, Molly Mason, and Jacqueline Schwab will present a breakout session on their collaboration with Burns on Saturday,

Feb. 11. Musical performances by the trio have been essential ingredients in numerous Ken Burns film soundtracks since the 1980s. Most notably, Ungar's composition "Ashokan Farewell," and Schwab's lyrical and evocative piano playing were hallmarks of the Grammy Award-winning soundtrack album of Burns's groundbreaking 1990 series *The Civil War*.

Also on Saturday, producer Sarah Botstein and writer Geoffrey Ward will present a breakout session highlighting the craft of writing and producing documentaries, outlining the process from first ideas to finished scripts, as well as the relationship between the writing and filmmaking teams. Botstein most recently co-produced Burns's *The U.S. and the Holocaust*. Ward has worked with Burns since 1984, including as sole or principal script writer on *The Civil War*, *The War*, *Baseball*, and *The Vietnam War*, among many other films.

On Sunday, Feb. 12 Allen Moore

will discuss the craft of cinematography and how it has been used to illustrate America's history. Imagery and techniques used in Burns's films have become an iconic part of American culture, and deepen audience connections with the material. Moore has served as director of photography on several of Burns's films, including *The Civil War*, *The Roosevelts*, and *Baseball*.

Also on Sunday, Tracie Potts and Susan Eisenhower of Gettysburg College's Eisenhower Institute will take part in a post-film discussion about Episode 4 of *The War*, "Pride of Our Nation." The episode covers D-Day and General Eisenhower's leadership of American armed forces and will be shown at 1 p.m. Potts is the Executive Director of the Eisenhower Institute and a former Washington correspondent for NBC News. Susan Eisenhower is chairman emerita and expert-in-residence at the Eisenhower Institute. She is an expert in public policy, national security, energy security, and strategic lead-

ership, and granddaughter of President Eisenhower. The Eisenhower Institute promotes the study of critical global issues and developing engaged citizens through its programs in Gettysburg and Washington, D.C.

All events comprising *Who Are We?: A Festival Celebrating the Films of Ken Burns* require reservations and many are free to attend, including breakout sessions with historians and filmmakers, screenings of various documentary episodes from Burns's 40-year catalog, and a marathon presentation of all 11.5 hours of *The Civil War*. Limited tickets remain available for two thematic highlight reel presentations compiled and introduced by Burns on Saturday at \$29 per person, per event, as well as many free events.

*Tickets for all festival events are available at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717-337-8200 or online at [www.gettysburg-majestic.org](http://www.gettysburg-majestic.org).*

# The Gettysburg Choral Society

Claire Doll  
MSMU 2024

Do you enjoy singing? Do you live in the surrounding Gettysburg area? Do you want to further your music abilities and experiences with accomplished musicians?

The Gettysburg Choral Society is an auditioned regional chorus of volunteers located in Gettysburg! The society is a nonprofit organization with the mission to perform choral music of substance, utilizing the finest choral techniques for the enjoyment and edification of audiences and singers alike.

The chorus rehearses on Monday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. at Trinity United Church of Christ at 60 E High Street in Gettysburg. This season, the chorus will perform a spring program, a patriotic concert in the summer, and a traditional Christmas repertoire around the holidays.

"We are going into our 6<sup>th</sup> year and just had a very successful concert at the Seminary. We are hoping to expand into some performances in Maryland for 2023!" says Julie Strickland, Manager and President of the chorus. Julie received the B.A. in theatre from Elizabethtown Col-

lege and is a native of Gettysburg

John McKay, the Vice President and Artistic Director/Conductor of the chorus, holds a B.A. in voice from the University of Richmond and an M.M. in choral conducting from Eastern Kentucky University. He has done additional graduate studies in music at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and at The Catholic University. As a tenor soloist, John performed with the Richmond Sinfonia and with the United States Continental Army Band, being also a guest director, lecturer, and clinician at a number of Orthodox music conferences. He is

currently director of the senior choir at Trinity. His background in musical education and choir directing allows him to form a group that would focus on presenting traditional choral music, done well.

The choral society is also accompanied by pianist Sally Wolfe, who originally began with the chorus as a tenor and volunteered for the position as accompanist when the opportunity arose.

Formed in 2017 as a sanctioned program of Trinity UCC, the Gettysburg Choral Society accomplishes three main goals: to focus on signing more traditional pieces, to encourage more people to come through the doors of Trinity and to meet new people with shared interests to create beautiful music together.

The success of the choir has grown immensely since beginning, and the initial idea for a chorus was the result of a collaboration between Julie and John. "We started with no money and no members," says Julie. "Gradually, we have grown to about 35 members. A number of our singers have had a lot of singing experience, so we have grown not only in numbers but also in quality."

In 2022, the chorus separated from Trinity and became a non-profit entity. The choral society even endured through COVID-19, although it was a challenge. "In March of 2020, we were forced to suspend rehearsals and cancel concerts," says Julie. "In 2021, we were finally able to present a Christmas concert—while wearing masks." Now, the

chorus is preparing for auditions and their next season of performances.

Although based in Gettysburg, the choral society plans to branch out to Maryland. "Being so close to Maryland, we would like to encourage more singers from Maryland to consider auditioning for our group," says Julie and John.

Both Julie and John are excited about future opportunities. "Following the tremendously successful concerts last summer, and especially last Christmas, we believe the choral society's future looks very bright. The enthusiasm shown by our audiences prove people really do want to hear good music performed well, which has always been our goal. We would love to grow with even more singers and eventually go on tour in addition to performing more local concerts."

To audition for the chorus, you must be at least 18 years old with prior choral singing experience and the ability to read music. Spring 2023 auditions are by appointment only and take place on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 8 p.m. If you are interested in joining the chorus, you may schedule a personal audition calling the director, John McKay, at 717-476-1054 or by emailing him at [zoemckay@aol.com](mailto:zoemckay@aol.com).

The spring rehearsal cycle begins on March 6<sup>th</sup> with concerts currently scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>, May 26<sup>th</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup>, and July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Availability for all performances is required. More information about auditioning for the chorus or attending performances can be found at [gettysburgchoralsociety.org](http://gettysburgchoralsociety.org).



THURS.  
**Mar. 9**  
7 - 9 p.m.

Marion Burk  
**Knott Auditorium**  
(on the west side of US 15)  
Mount St. Mary's University  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

The Seán Heely Celtic Band  
brings together many instruments  
to perform fiery dance tunes and  
ancient, soaring melodies from  
Scotland, Ireland, and beyond.

Free & family-friendly event

Tickets will be available at Thurmont Regional Library and Emmitsburg Branch beginning February 20 at 10 a.m. Tickets are limited 2 per person. FCPL's Celtic Concert tickets are free but are still required to secure your seat.



FREDERICK  
COUNTY  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARIES

[fcpl.org](http://fcpl.org)

Proudly sponsored by  
**THE C. BURR  
ARTZ TRUST**

*Petrella Piano Studio*

Erin Petrella, B.A. Music, SPC

Piano Teacher, Accompanist, & Organist

Accepting students / clients for piano lessons,  
accompanying, & religious services / events.



Thurmont & Hagerstown  
(610) 984-5075



<https://petrellapianostudio.com/contact/>

# Black and African American fine artists

Ashley Walczyk  
MSMU class of 2024

We welcome February with open arms, for it is the month of Black History Month. Since this is a fine arts column, it is important to recognize black artists throughout the year. Since being on campus, we have learned the importance of being inclusive and how crucial diversity is to the development of young adults.

### Black and African American Artists:

Many artists are recognized for their works, yet some do not know the painter behind the masterpiece. Jean-Michel Basquiat was a painter who was born in Brooklyn, NY. He's most known for his Neo-Expressionist paintings and street art. His works include a crown motif, which is a celebration of black power, social dichotomies, and historical elements to express contemporary criticisms. Edmonia Lewis, both an African American and Native-American descendent, is known as being the first professional sculptor to represent not only both communities, but also is the only black female of the mid-nineteenth century recognized in the American art scene. Born in 1844 in Greenbush, NY, she created plaster medallions of famous abolitionists during the early 1860s. She is recognized for her works such as *Arrow Maker* (1866), *Forever Free* (1867), and *The Death of Cleopatra* (1876).

James Van Der Zee was a Harlem native born in 1886. He is a celebrated photographer from the Harlem Renaissance period, photographing Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Florence Mills, Marcus Garvey, and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Van Der Zee was awarded with the Living Legacy Award, given to him by President Jimmy Carter, in 1983. Augusta Savage was from Green Cove Springs, FL, when she moved to New York to become a sculptor from the Harlem Renaissance era. She is known for creating busts of Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Gamin—which was partially based around her nephew at the time. She also created *The Harp*, which was a feature of New York World's Fair in 1939, and *The Pugilist* in 1942.

### Black and African American Poets:

In a previous series done during the summer of 2022, we learned of the importance of writing. In January's article, we learned about a Mount Professor who creates poetry, and we learned about the flow of words and melody poetry creates for the readers. Some of the best poems were written by African Americans. Phillis Wheatley is known as the first African American woman to publish a book of poetry. Producing it in 1773, she wrote "On Being Brought from Africa to America," which details the horrors of the passage, and reminds us that we are all one and will join God in His kingdom. Langston Hughes is another poet who wrote on the Black inequalities of America during the 1920s. He is respected and known as one of the "finest poets of the Harlem Renaissance," writing "I, Too" during this time. This poem highlights the harsh truth of life as a Black American

during this time period, when segregation was at an all-time high, and alludes to Walt Whitman's "I Hear America Singing."

Dudley Randall is a name that some might not know, but he is just as recognized as Martin Luther King Jr. for writing about Birmingham. His "Ballad of Birmingham" is a poem on the topic of the bombing of the Birmingham church in 1963; his poem was published two years later. Discussing themes of racial prejudice and white nationalism, this poem highlights the real threats during this time period that African Americans faced while living in the Civil Rights-era. Maya Angelou is another name that speaks on civil rights activism, and is a renowned poet. Her poem, "Caged Bird" uses the bird as a symbol of feeling confined and trapped compared to other free birds. This allusion to the isolated caged bird in comparison to others' freedom was deeply felt during the Civil Rights era.

Black and African American Musicians:

Artists such as Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, and Prince might come to your mind when reading this category, yet there are many more musicians who have made great contributions. Jimi Hendrix is known for his electric guitar abilities, which helped to shaped rock music in the 1960s, making him a pioneer of rock, blues, and soul music. He is greatly known for his performance at Woodstock in 1969, playing "The Star Spangled Banner" on his guitar. Ella Fitzgerald is known as the "Queen of Jazz," or the "First Lady of Song," and is a pop icon. She was an American jazz singer known for her strong timing, tone, and improvisational scat singing. She was the first Black woman to win a Grammy in 1958, and won 12 more, selling almost 40 million records.

Ray Charles pioneered soul music in the 1950s. As a blind man, he was able to learn how to play the clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, organ, and piano, as well as went on to release his "Modern Sounds" album. This album focuses strictly on the incorporation of R&B, soul, country, and blues. He is nicknamed "The Father of Soul." Louis Armstrong is one of the most, if not the most, renowned trumpet players of all time. He is known for his improvisation and scat singing, having a unique voice and pairing it with the fantastic trumpet playing. He became a fan-favorite of many white listeners and was able to enter into the upper class to enjoy a luxurious lifestyle.

### Importance:

On campus, we hold events that focus on the beauty of African Americans and Black people and have a Black Student Union (BSU) here on campus for those. This month, we hope to remember and appreciate the good, reflect on the unjust horrors of our history, as we delved into the fine arts accomplishments of African Americans. It is important to recognize the contributions to modern and contemporary art that we see in our daily lives. Some of these artists incorporated political and social problems of their America into and utilized those problems in their incredible artistic works.

Their pieces are reflections of the America they lived in and they remind us of the America we are grateful to reside in and witness. The idea that we are able to recognize talented artists that have contributed greatly to the growth of society is one of many progressive moments we had in the twenty-first century. Although not every talented artist was included in this piece, we encourage you to



A picture of the statue, *Arrow Maker*, created by Edmonia Lewis. It is found in the Smithsonian American Art Institution.

read works of writers and poets and do research into other talented artists and their amazing contributions in American Fine Art History. You can also visit the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. (or online!) to look at their African American Artists they have in their collection. Remember that history is the story of the past, so allow for appreciation of these artists during each of the time period they lived in, and how much impact they had on our society.

### Upcoming Events on Campus:

We are back on Campus for the 2023 Spring semester. For students, wel-

come back! We hope you have a good semester and had a good winter break. Check out some of our events and we hope to see you there!

Guest Artist Concert, Third Practice, by director Dr. Bartoldus in the I.C. Chapel on February 4th at 7:30 pm; Gallery Exhibit of Michelle Montalbano in Williams Gallery in Delaplaine from February 8th to March 17th; Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras in Patriot Hall February 21st at 4:00 pm (Mount Students); and An Afternoon at the Opera with Francesca Aguado and Nicholas Simpson in Knott Auditorium on February 25th at 4:00 pm.

Your Ticket to Broadway in Mid-Maryland!

2023

Lerner & Loewe's  
**CAMELOT**  
Now - FEBRUARY 25th

THE Way Off Broadway DINNER THEATRE

5 Willowdale Drive | Frederick  
Box Office: (301) 662-6600 | www.wayoffbroadway.com

**Kramer's**  
PIANO SHOP  
Family-owned & operated since 1974

SALES • TUNING • LESSONS • MOVING

12049 Woodsboro Pike, New Midway  
301-898-3245 www.kramerspianoshop.com

Gettysburg College's  
**MAJESTIC**  
at the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center

REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Saturday, February 18 - 7:30 p.m.  
**COMPLETE HISTORY OF COMEDY (ABRIDGED)**

The Reduced Shakespeare Company tackles the subject it was born to reduce!  
Tickets: \$49, \$42, \$38

**LUCY LOVES DESI:**  
A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE SITCOM

The hilarious and true story behind one of America's most beloved television comedies!

Friday, March 3 - 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets: \$53, \$46, \$40

25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg  
For Tickets Call: 717-337-8200  
Visit our website at www.gettysburgmajestic.com

## CATOCTIN SPORTS & ACADEMICS

# Team 686 Bovine Intervention

Gina Lin  
CHS Class of 2024

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), as an extracurricular concentration, doesn't receive sufficient media attention, in Frederick County. Many aren't even aware of Team 686 Bovine Intervention. Team 686 is part of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics, a global robotics competition with over 3,000 teams in the US alone; and teams in 26 countries.

It is also a member of FIRST's Chesapeake district, which consists of teams from District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. Bovine Intervention is composed of student engineers from three FCPS highschools: Catoctin High School, Linganore High School, and Walkersville High School. Some FCPS high schools have exclusive teams, including Tuscarora High School and Urbana High School.

Team 686 was started by a non-profit Bovine Intervention Booster Organization (BIBO) in 2001. Currently, the team is co-advised by a Catoctin High math teacher, Jennifer Mayrovitz; and John Murtaugh. Additionally, the young innovators receive support from numerous mentors, many of whom had participated in FIRST Robotics. These mentors are professionals in their field of concentration, including mechanical engineering, design and computer programming. The mentors teach students essential technical skills and provide the necessary assistance.

Co-advisor Murtaugh boasted of the merits of Team 686, "Each year, Team 686 inspires and guides high school students to develop valuable tradecraft skills in engineering, programming, decision-making processes, and busi-

ness operations, in line with the FIRST Robotics charter." Bovine Intervention, which has been in session for the past 20 years, has moved from various locations around Frederick County and relies on the generosity of donors to support their work. Currently, Team 686 constructs their robots in a commercial building in Thurmont.

FIRST Robotics competitions share some qualities with sports. The student engineers exercise teamwork, in order to build robots that will be used to compete against opposing teams during matches. Additionally, during the yearly competitions, FIRST teams will be given the opportunity to advance beyond regional competitions, to state, national, and even international competitions.

Bovine Intervention is different from other extracurriculars, as it allows students to experience real world applications of STEM—something that is lacking in the school curriculum. Another aspect of this program is that students are able to work alongside their mentors. Murtaugh added, "Through the mentoring process, students gain hands-on experiences in building robots, programming, engineering designs, computers, leadership, teamwork, and much more. It is an investment to help prepare high students for 21st-century workforce opportunities."

There are four students who represent Catoctin High in the robotics team: Ben Harbaugh, Will Kimbark, Jackson Lin, and Kyle Mullenex; all of whom are freshmen. The team is relatively young, but they had built up necessary technical skills during the FIRST off-season. During the off-season, the students work with their robot from the previous season. Currently, FIRST teams have been given their project criteria, and are in the pro-

cess of constructing their robots. But, Team 686 has been preparing since last summer! In August 2022, the team competed at the West Virginia Robotics Extreme (WVRoX), which consisted of teams from all across the US. Furthermore, Team 686 participated in the Maryland Robotics Alliance (MRA). More recently, the team had partook in the Bunnybots competition held at Montgomery Blair High School in Montgomery County.

Contestants were allocated three months (from October to December) to build and construct a new robot. As you can see, Team 686 really maximizes their off-season! "All in all, the students inspired each other [and] had lots of fun competing," Murtaugh recalled.

This year's FIRST competition theme, "Charged Up", was released on January 7th. Team 686 is in the process of designing and building their robot, to complete the obstacle courses that will be present. Team robots are placed in an arena, about 27 by 54, to compete. At Chesapeake district events, there are usually 40-50 teams present. Two alliances, each alliance composed of three teams, compete in the arena. The alliances earn points through successful completion of the challenges presented to their respective robots. Also, the alliances aren't permanent for smaller events, but permanent alliances are selected for teams that prevail in the finals. On March 18th and 19th, the team is expected to compete at an event, held at Hayfield Secondary School located in Alexandria, Virginia.

The second event will be taking place at Dulaney High School in Timonium, Maryland and will be held on the 25th and 26th of March. The qualifying teams in those two regional competitions, will advance to the Chesapeake District Championship. The



Team 686 prevailed as finalists at the 2022 Bunnybots Competition.

district championship is being held at George Mason University Eagle Bank Arena, from April 6th to 8th. Winners of the Chesapeake District Championship will then proceed to the World Championship, in Houston, Texas.

Despite the teams' small size, the team has had substantial successes over the years. Team 686 has completed 23 seasons, and 37 events. Moreover, the team has accumulated 13 wards. In the 2022 season, Team 686 qualified as a district event finalist at the Chesapeake District Greater DC Event. More notably, the team traveled to the Worlds Championship, in 2016— a huge achievement!

In a summary of 2022, Team 686 competed in six FIRST on-season and off-season robotics competitions. Those outcomes are considerable, as the team has resumed after a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Additionally, it was also the most events that Team 686 had participated at, in all of their years of performance. Team 686 was able to pull out an event in 12th place, out of the 60 teams. The team experienced some challenges but they weren't deterred.

Community engagement is relevant to Team 686. In addition to off-season conditioning, Team 686 has

been conducting community outreach to increase cognizance of the robotics program. One of Team 686's objectives is to "inspire youth and provide public awareness of the robotics program." Bovine Intervention has been involved in numerous FCPS programs—directly and indirectly. For example, the team has supported New Midway Elementary's Elevate Summer Academy, and has displayed their work at the FCPS STEM Showcase.

In 2022, the Team visited Thurmont Middle School's rising freshmen, and Catoctin High School's back-to-school night, in an effort to recruit more young engineers. They performed robot demonstrations with VEX robots and provided presentations. Team 686's community engagement initiatives can be spotted at popular local events also, such as Thurmont Ambulance Carnival and the annual Catoctin Colorfest.

For more information about Bovine Intervention, visit their website at [bovineintervention.org](http://bovineintervention.org), or email the team at: [contact@bovineintervention.com](mailto:contact@bovineintervention.com).

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Thurmont Community Ambulance Service

Proudly Serving Northern Frederick Co. for Over Half a Century



THE ULTIMATE 80'S PLAYLIST LIVE!

Saturday,  
February 18

at the door or Friday Night Bingo or [www.eventbright.com](http://www.eventbright.com)

Cash Bar & Food Available

No Coolers

Must be 18 - Must show ID

Thurmont Event Complex

13716 Strafford Drive, Thurmont

301-271-7550

For more info visit our website at [www.thurmonteventcomplex.com](http://www.thurmonteventcomplex.com)



IT'S TIME TO EXPERIENCE  
**AUTO REPAIR  
DONE RIGHT**

**SCHEDULE SERVICE TODAY!**

BRAKES • OIL CHANGES • FLUID SERVICES  
TRANSMISSION • STATE INSPECTIONS • ENGINE REPAIR

**WHERE CUSTOMERS BECOME FRIENDS!**

**DYNAMIC AUTOMOTIVE**

20 Creamery Way • Emmitsburg, MD 21727

P: 301-447-2800 • OPEN MON-FRI 7AM-5PM



Visit us at [DynamicAutomotive.net](http://DynamicAutomotive.net)



# MOUNT SPORTS

## A look forward at the 2023 Mount softball season

Steven Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

Like many other sports at the Mount this year, softball will have to navigate through the newness of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. After moving on from the Northeast Conference in 2022, the season to follow brings together so many possibilities for the team as they look to continue their success from the NEC to the MAAC. Their first season could be a stepping stone for years to come with success in the program and could open the door for a spot at the NCAA tournament. They will use their experience from the past two seasons to navigate this landscape.

The past two seasons have been very successful for the softball program with regards to their conference play. In 2021, they finished 5th in the NEC with an overall record of 19-25, just missing out the conference tournament in an already-truncated and complicated season due to the pandemic. They finished out with a team batting average of

.263, drew 108 walks and hit 19 home runs as a team. The worrying statistic from 2021 was their strikeout count at the plate, with 247, it was the second worst in the conference behind Central Connecticut at 253. But the pitching was the major problem during the season. With a team ERA of 4.75, 241 runs given up (196 being earned runs) and 125 strikeouts, 2022 looked to be worrying.

But it was not like that at all. After a lackluster season, the 2022 Mount softball team jumped to a 26-22 record, good enough to finish 2nd in the conference behind high flying Saint Francis, who garnered a 37-18 record. Team batting average dropped to .234, however they hit 25 homeruns, walked 122 times, and stole 95 bases with a success rate of .871. Pitching drastically changed as well, they recorded a team ERA of 3.11, 172 runs allowed (with 138 of them being earned runs) and 64 walks allowed, the least in the conference.

Moving to the MAAC is turning out to be a struggle for a lot of different teams at the Mount.

A new school joining a new conference is challenging for anyone, trying to adjust to different opponents, style of play and travel methods are factors to performances. But softball was one of the most successful programs at the school last year, making it to the conference tournament semi-finals, so it is not out of the imagination that the team could be more adjusted to MAAC play than other teams at the Mount. The Mount went 17-7 in conference play last year; if we compare that to the 2022 MAAC softball season, that would have put them in 3rd place in the standings, enough for a spot in the conference tournament.

Mount Saint Mary's new conference is very good at softball, miles better than the NEC, with five opposing teams having 25+ win seasons. Their main opponent will be Canisius: they went 32-18, were both regular season and conference champions, and barely missed out a regional semifinal, as they lost 3-0 to Wisconsin. Another opponent to look out for is Fairfield: they went 27-22 but had a 17-5 conference record. The Mount has a history with them dating back to last year, where the Stags beat the Mountaineers 11-6 in Raleigh.

One of the biggest missing pieces to the Mount's team this season will be the absence of Amanda Berkley, who, last season, played her fifth and final year of eligibility for the Mount. She had a record of 14-6, an ERA of 2.26 and pitched 133.1 innings. She led the team in strikeouts with 66 opponent batting average of .231, the fourth lowest in the NEC. Her absence will be felt during the season, especially with the longevity she had on the mound, having eleven complete games; but rising sophomore, Olivia Murphy, would surely look to fill the shoes of Berkley.

If Amanda Berkley was the Mount's ace, then Olivia Murphy was surely her understudy on the mound. Murphy tossed 82.1 innings, notched 35 strikeouts, and had a 7-4 record with a 2.38

ERA. An opponent batting average of .264 led her to be ranked fifth in the NEC in overall pitching statistics, it was a very good first season for Murphy. She was clearly the team's second starter last year. But the question surrounding Murphy coming into the 2023 season is, can she pitch deep into games the way that Berkley did last year and save the bullpen?

On the offensive side of the plate, the Mount ranked 8th in the NEC in 2022, with a team OPS of .679. A major absence for the Mount this season will be the missing Bridgette Gilliano, who transferred in the summer. Gilliano led the team with 43 hits, batting average of .283 and swiped 39 bases. She was also an anchor in the middle infield, turning 17 double plays. With regards to the fielding aspect of the team, the Mount still has graduate student Kaia Bostock, who enters her final year of eligibility. She turned 24 double plays during 2022, led the team with 370 put outs and had a fielding percentage of .990.

By far the biggest asset to the Mount this season will be junior Abigail Perry. She had a team leading 1.034 OPS, 33 runs scored, eight doubles, five triples, seven homeruns and 28 RBI. She also led the team in walks with 25. She will be key to Coach Nagro's strategy this season; with the team leading OPS, she provides a threat on the basepaths and would be key to the run rate for the program this coming year.

In 2022, the Mount was ranked 164th among Division I teams, and their schedule reflects some challenges early on. They start in Conway, South Carolina on February 25th in the Chanticleer Showdown, where they play Saint Joseph's, Albany and Coastal Carolina twice. They then play in the Ole Miss Classic, where they face Missouri State, Southeast Missouri, and No. 25 Ole Miss. After that, they face their biggest challenge: a doubleheader against No. 2 Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Their first home game is on March 11th with the start of the Mount Softball Invitational, where they will play Central Connecticut and Saint Bonaventure. They play North Dakota at home on March 15th and then they play in the Mount Saint Mary's softball invitational, where they have two game sets against Albany and Lafayette.

The Mount plays their last set of out-of-conference games, starting with a game against George Washington on March 22nd, and a doubleheader against Coppin State on March 28th. MAAC play starts on April 1st, with a doubleheader against Iona. A packed out-of-conference schedule will be a good indicator as to how the Mount will adjust to softball in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## COTTON & CO. VINTAGE BOUTIQUE

Vintage, Home Décor, Seasonal & Clothing.  
Monthly Classes & Events.  
Unique Upscale Vendors & Artisans  
Featuring The Maryland General Store

**Hours:**  
Fri./Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram  
 @CottonAndCoVintageBoutique

900 Francis Scott Key Hwy., Keymar  
410-775-0013

## Quality Tire and Auto

301-447-2909

Owners: Ron Walter  
Maureen Walter

Avoid the traffic... Stop by our shop at  
17650 Creamery Rd, Emmitsburg, MD

DON'T LET THIS MILD WEATHER FOOL YOU ...  
ARE YOUR TIRES READY FOR  
WINTER WEATHER?

Stop by and get ready for  
winter driving with new tires

We are your local tire specialists

New Selling and Mounting  
Medium and Heavy Duty  
Commercial Truck Tires

36 Months  
35,000 Miles

# SPIKE'S

## AUTO CARE & TIRE

SERVICING ALL MAKES, MODELS & BRANDS

**\* Don't let the mild weather catch you unprepared! \***

**IT'S STILL WINTER OUT THERE!**

\$100 Off

with the purchase & installation of 4 Tires and an alignment!  
OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/23

Visit us online at [www.SpikesAutoCareInc.com](http://www.SpikesAutoCareInc.com)

CALL DANNY TO SCHEDULE

301-447-4734

17307 N. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg

# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## Health, celebrities, Yin-Yang, and you

Jefferson Breland

*"One of these things is not like the others,  
One of these things just doesn't belong,  
Can you tell which thing is not like the others  
By the time I finish my song?" -  
Sesame Street*

The title of this article is a bit of a trick statement. All four of these topics are like the others. All belong. What separates them is our belief they are different.

Every now and again, a topic jumps out at me from the seemingly endless drone of news and social media which peaks my interest.

Last fall, the actor Chris Hemsworth, better known as Thor in the Marvel (Comics) Universe, announced that he has an increased probability of developing Alzheimer's Disease based on genetic testing. At present, Hemsworth does not have any symptoms or a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

This immediately reminded me of Angelina Jolie who announced in 2013 she had prophylactic surgery after genetic testing indicated she had a predisposition for a certain type of breast cancer. Similarly, Jolie had no symptoms or any diagnosis of breast cancer.

Hemsworth, sorry, Thor, says he is using his newfound information to his advantage to reevaluate his life and focus on what has deeper meaning and value, namely, his family.

I am not implying Jolie did not use the information of her genetic testing in the same way. I haven't read all of the articles written about her decision. I believe she did what she believed was best for her health and therefore her family. Both Hemsworth and Jolie, made decisions based on their personal beliefs and commonly held medical

beliefs about genetics.

Celebrity health announcements are an interesting phenomena. Some announcements are made to simply communicate to their fans what is going on in their life. Other announcements may have an idealistic purpose to create public awareness on certain topics using media and social media platforms.

Curiously, celebrity health announcements are not unlike celebrity endorsements in advertising where celebrity associations are used to not only create awareness, but also to lend a certain type of validation and gravitas to an idea, a product, or the worthiness of a charitable organization.

Many charities have been started by celebrities. I commend their work. Jolie has been very active in a wide range of global humanitarian and environmental organizations. And Jolie may be the only celebrity to have her choice to go public with a health decision with a name, "The Angelina Effect."

After Jolie's announcement there was a marked increase in general interest as well as actual genetic testing for a gene believed to increase one's chances of developing breast cancer. I am guessing advertising agencies tried to find a way to bottle the same beneficial effect for myriad products of their clients.

The bottom line is that celebrity has influence. The other bottom line is that celebrities are humans just like you and me. The third bottom line is that our health is our responsibility. The fourth bottom line is that our beliefs influence our health.

Belief is a curious idea. We can't see, smell, hear, taste, or touch a belief. Yet, beliefs influence all that we see, smell, hear, taste, or touch. We perceive the physical and mental effects of beliefs, but never the belief itself. It is made up.

The Oxford Dictionary defines the word thusly:

1. an acceptance that a statement is true or that something exists. "his belief in the value of hard work" -something one accepts as true or real; a firmly held opinion or conviction. "we're prepared to fight for our beliefs" -a religious conviction. "Christian beliefs"
2. trust, faith, or confidence in someone or something. "I've still got belief in myself"

I have written about beliefs and our health before and I would like to go a little deeper and offer what may be a different perspective.

Using a similar, yet different perspective that created "the Angelina Effect," we can reframe health challenges in a positive way. I call this "the Healing Effect."

Jolie made her announcement based on genetic testing and statistics about those results. The statistics determined she had an 87% probability of developing breast cancer and a 50% chance of developing ovarian cancer.

After her surgery, the probability of her developing breast cancer dropped to 5%. If we were gambling, we would like those odds. And yet, because the surgery cannot get every single breast tissue cell, a probability still exists. Perhaps more importantly, her beliefs about genetic expression still exist.

The beliefs behind genetic testing and the statistical analysis are disease-based. The very purpose of the testing is to find disease or the potential for disease. Jolie got tested because her mother died of breast cancer.

I have never heard of anyone getting tested to see how healthy they are. I have never heard of person who feels good and thinks of themselves as healthy, going to the doctor to get proof. (Ironically, health insurance wouldn't cover the cost of the testing. Maybe it shouldn't be called "health" insurance)

The two possibilities for testing I have just described are an application of Yin-Yang Theory.

What is Yin-Yang Theory? It is one of the foundational theories of Chinese culture. It might be described as a "dance of opposites:" in/out; up/down; light/dark; hot/cold; sun/moon/; male/female; happy/sad; good/evil.

**Xanos came into the shelter with a broken leg after being hit by a car. We got him to the vet ASAP and his leg was put in a cast. He has had multiple casts and bandages during his time at the shelter to find what worked for him and he is now cast free! His leg will always be a little crooked because of his injury and he may have a slight limp, but that doesn't slow him down at all! Xanos will need to be on a joint supplement for the rest of his life to help keep his joints in tip top shape. He will also need regular walks because he's an active guy. Xanos is about 2 years old and slowly getting back to using the leg that was broken. He also just wants to be with people and everyone he sees. Because of his energy level, he may be too much for small children, so an age restriction may apply. For more information about Xanos, 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.**



The following is from the website [www.tcmworld.com](http://www.tcmworld.com): "Everything contains Yin and Yang. They are two opposite yet complementary energies. What does this really mean? Although they are totally different—opposite—in their individual qualities and nature, they are interdependent. Yin and Yang cannot exist without the other; they are never separate. For example, night and day form a Yin-Yang pair. (Night is Yin and day is Yang.) Night looks and is very different than day, yet it is impossible to have one without the other. Both create a totality, a complete whole."

Applying Yin-Yang Theory to our health, we can say, where there is disease, there is cure. If our body creates a symptom, our body has the potential to heal the cause of the symptom. If we cut our finger, our body has the ability to heal the cut. It can be as simple as that. We "simply" have to create the best conditions for our body to heal itself. More on that next month or call me and we can have a conversation.

Applying Yin-Yang to genetic testing, generally speaking, we can say if there is a probability of disease, there is also the equal probability of cure, the equal probability of the gene expressing or not expressing itself. By expressing itself, I am referring to the process of gene methylation which (in simple terms) is a biochemical process which activates or deactivates the potential effect of a gene, turning it on or off. A

process called gene regulation.

While we have genes related to specific conditions, the process of those genes becoming illness is very complicated. It is not an issue of one gene being turned on or off for the condition to appear. Cellular activity depends on thousands of proteins to be at a certain place at a certain time for healthy function. If a gene interferes with the process of healthy cell function, disease may appear. The more we focus on the disease outcome, we increase the probability of that outcome.

Applying Yin-Yang to health challenges offers us the opportunity to focus on "The Healing Effect." Where there is disease, there is cure. Yin-Yang offers possibility, hope.

The more we focus our thoughts and beliefs on our healing potential, we increase the possibility of a healthier outcome.

We just have to believe we have the power to heal ourselves. We were given this ability for a reason. Why not use it? What do you have to lose?

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturists licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg and Towson, respectively. He can be reached at 410-336-5876.

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

**FAMILY DENTISTRY**  
**TIMOTHY B. BRINGARDNER, D.D.S.**  
*Serving Emmitsburg for over 25 years*



101 South Seton Avenue  
 P.O. Box 538  
 Emmitsburg  
**(301) 447-6662**

**New Patients Welcome**

**AA-Eastern Mobility** offers customized transportation solutions for handicapped individuals including Stair Lifts, Lift Chairs, Wheelchair Lifts, Wheelchair Ramps, Turney Seats, Hand Controls, Left Foot Accelerators, Wheelchair Accessible Vans and Lowered Floor Minivans.



*We offer many options to customize your home and vehicle to make your life easier.*

**We Have Used Wheelchair Vans and Handicap Accessible Vehicles for Sale!**

**AA - EASTERN MOBILITY, INC.** "Access to the World"  
 12455 Woodsboro Pike, Keymar • [www.easternmobility.com](http://www.easternmobility.com)  
 Phone: 301.845.4188 • Toll-Free: 888.845.0533 • Fax: 301.845.6316



# FITNESS & HEALTH

## Winter walks are amazing and fun

Linda Stultz  
Certified Fitness Trainer

Exercise in the winter is just as important as in the warmer months. In fact, it is probably more important. I realize sometimes the weather is too bad to go for a walk outside. Rain, snow, sleet and ice are good reasons to stay inside but that doesn't give you permission to sit on the couch and look out the window. On those days you need to have an alternate plan to at least get a little exercise and movement into your day. When the weather is decent, even if it is cold, a brisk walk will do wonders for your mood as well as your body. A walk in the cold air not only makes you move a little faster, it lifts your spirits and increases your metabolism to burn more calories. Always check with your doctor if you have a condition that the cold weather may exacerbate. Also check with your physician if you are not sure what kind of exercise may be too much if you are having any symptoms you are not familiar with.

While being with others is helpful and fun, sometimes due to the weather or other things you cannot get outside, but it is still very important to keep moving. Exercise not only keeps your body in good shape, it also keeps your mind healthy. Having a sedentary lifestyle ages the body and the mind. Exercise has been proven to help lower cholesterol, blood pressure, weight and improve joint pain and many other ailments that come

with age. Seclusion and loneliness contributes to depression and other mental health conditions as well as physical decline in our health.

It is easy to put off the things we don't like and let's face it, exercise is not on the top of most people's list. Believe it or not, if you put it on the list and commit to doing a little each day I think you will see how it makes you feel better. Sticking to a good habit takes about six weeks to instill in our routine. Once you add a little exercise each day, I hope you will keep adding a few more minutes every week and you will see the importance and improvement it makes in how you feel. Take things day by day and in a short while you will feel better and look forward to your exercise routine. It is also very important to include your children and other family members. This will provide you with quality time and keep you closer to your family and friends. Healthy relations also keep our physical, mental and emotional health in good condition.

Start slow and work up to the exercise that challenges you. The most important thing is to start. The rest will fall into place as you see the improvement in all areas of your life. Keep trying activities until you find one that you enjoy and you know you will stick with. Don't give up after one or two activities. Something will challenge you and you will have fun along with improving your health.

Remember to Keep Moving, You'll Be Glad You Did!!



**RSL AUTO SALES INC.**  
Serving Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia & West Virginia for over 10 years!

Used Cars, Trucks, Vans, Wheelchair Vans & Handicap Accessible Vehicles



**2009 Ford E-350 Bus**  
Really nice Wheelchair Accessible Bus. This bus can hold 2 wheelchairs, 12 children/8 adults comfortably. It has a Braun wheelchair lift in it that works great. It is extremely clean with very low mileage, less than 7,000 miles. Won't last long!

#1185 **\$19,900**

1021 Francis Scott Key Highway, Keymar 301-845-4188  
[www.rslautosales.com](http://www.rslautosales.com)

Serving patients & the community 50+ years!

**Catoctin Dental**  
Neil H Feldman, DDS • Richard B Love, DDS

Providing convenient, comfortable, and exceptional patient care!

Family Preventive Care • Implants • Root Canals • Fillings • Crowns • Bridges  
Routine Oral Surgery • Cleaning and Periodontal Care • Invisalign® • Dentures

**New Patients Welcome!**  
10 Water St., Thurmont  
**(301) 271-2811**  
[catoctindental.com](http://catoctindental.com)




Neil H. Feldman, DDS  
Richard B. Love, DDS



**Alexander's Plumbing & Pumps, Inc.**  
For All Your Plumbing Needs  
Specializing In:  
Water Filtration & Purification Equipment!

4236 Fairfield Rd., Fairfield  
**717-642-5285**

**amber hill**  
THERAPY CENTERS  
Comprehensive Adult & Pediatric Therapies

- Adult Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Pediatric Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Aquatic Therapy
- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Amputee Rehabilitation
- Running Gait Analysis

Open Early Mornings, Evenings and Saturdays  
Private Treatment Rooms  
New Patients Seen Within 24 Hours  
In-Network with Most Insurance Companies

THURMONT 301-271-9230 • 120 Frederick Rd., Suite D  
FREDERICK 301-663-1157 • 187 Thomas Johnson Dr., Suite 6  
PROUDLY SERVING FREDERICK FOR 36 YEARS

THURMONT 301-271-9230 DAMASCUS 301-253-0896  
FREDERICK 301-663-1157 URBANA 240-529-0175  
JEFFERSON 301-473-5900 NEW MARKET 301-732-4771

Certified Medicare and Medicaid Outpatient Clinics  
[amberhillpt.com](http://amberhillpt.com)

**DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH UNUSED RX?**  
Easy ways to dispose of prescription pills at home

Mix with an unappealing substance such as coffee grounds 

Place in a tightly sealed container 

Throw into a household trash receptacle 

Scratch out any personal information on the bottle 

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SAFE MEDICINE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL:  
visit [stayintheknow.org/opioids](http://stayintheknow.org/opioids)

Funding provided by the Maryland Department of Health & SAMHSA, 2020



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Frederick County Health Department

# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of February

Professor Wayne Wooten

For February 2023, the Full Moon, the Hunger Moon, is February 5th. The last quarter moon is February 13th, and the waning crescent passes 4 degrees north of Mercury in the dawn on February 18th. The New Moon is February 20th. Six more new moons find the moon passing in front of the Sun for an annular solar eclipse on October 14th; we will witness about 70% of the Sun hidden behind the moon at noon in our area. The waxing crescent moon passes 2 degrees south of Venus in dusk on February 22, then passes 1.2 degrees south of Jupiter a few hours later. The moon first quarter moon passes one degree north of Mars on February 27th.

Mercury is low in the SE dawn sky in mid February, with the waning crescent moon nearby on February 18th. Venus climbs higher in the western sky, to dominate it as the evening star through the summer. Still on the far side of the Sun, Venus is currently a waning gibbous phase in the telescope. She overtook Saturn in late January, and now catches up with Jupiter as well as February ends, passing 1.3 degrees from it on February 28th. These are the two brightest planets, so this will be a spectacular naked eye conjunction into early March as closer Venus moves eastward daily past slower moving Jupiter. Mars is near quadrature, 90 degrees east of the setting Sun, and high overhead at sunset in Taurus.



**Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) is on a journey of astronomical proportions. It is classified as a long-period comet, meaning it takes more than 200 years to complete an orbit. It should be visible with binoculars — and may even be visible with the naked eye — when it reaches its closest approach to Earth in early February. It could be a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle.**

Saturn is behind the sun and lost in its glare this month.

Another member of our solar system will draw considerable attention this month. It is Comet 2022 E3 (ZTF). It was the third comet found in the first two weeks of March 2022, hence letter E (each half month starts a new letter, from A for Jan 1-15) and was discovered in a routine sky survey by the 48" Palomar Schmidt Telescope, now used by the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF), looking for changes in the sky such as appearance and motion of comets, novae, supernovae, NEO asteroids, etc. It will pass closest to Earth, at 43 million km, on February 2nd, and probably become faintly visible with the naked eyes under dark skies. It is in the dawn sky in Corona Borealis in mid January, but will rapidly head northwest, passing between the Big and Little Dippers in late January, and into the

evening sky overhead during all of February, passing closest to red planet Mars about Valentine's Day.

Here we start in the northern sky on February 1st and follow the comet swiftly southward (note how fast it is moving passing us in early February here, passing between bright yellow Capella and Marfik in Perseus on February 5th, almost overhead, and then by red Mars on Valentine's Day. Also note as it retreats from earth and Sun by month's end, it fades rapidly and appears to slow down as it retreats from the Sun's gravity.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now.

Cassiopeia's daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with

the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, about 2.5 million light years away.

Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

At Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light-years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye; use it (mag. +0.9) as a comparison star to measure the fading of Betelgeuse. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini; they were the first two recruits for the Argonauts of University of West Florida.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Betelgeuse is also known as alpha Ori-

onis, for it has been the brightest star in Orion most of the time.

Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope. Just east of Betelgeuse is the fine binocular cluster NGC 2244. But the much fainter Rosette Nebula that it lies in the center of requires bigger scopes or astrophotography.

In the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 p.m., and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now".

When Sirius is highest, along our southern horizon look for the second brightest star, Canopus, getting just above the horizon and sparkling like an exquisite diamond as the turbulent winter air twists and turns this shaft of starlight, after a trip of about 200 years!

To the northeast, a reminder that spring is coming; look for the bowl of the Big Dipper to rise, with the top two stars, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. But if you take the pointers south, you are guided instead to the head of Leo the Lion rising in the east, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". Fitting for our cosmic king of beasts, whose rising at the end of this month means March indeed will be coming in "like a lion".

Serving the area for 61 Years!

# McLaughlin's

## Energy Services

### Specializing in Propane and Heating Oils Delivery and Service

**McLaughlin's Products**

- Gas and Oil Furnaces and Boilers
- Oil and Gas Parts and Fittings
- Gas Logs and Fireplaces
- Custom Order Premium Grills
- Gas Emergency Generators
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Outdoor Living Products

**No Worries with our easy switch over service.**

- Low cost or no cost installs
- No hidden costs or fees
- Automatic or Will Call delivery
- Equal Monthly Payment Plans
- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Lowest competitive price possible
- Can service almost ANY application

Over 30 Working Gas Logs, Fireplaces and Heaters on Display.

McLaughlin's offers a wide range of tank applications for all your gas needs, from 5 to 1,900 gallons. Inquire today!

**We are a Generac Generator sales and service dealer. Let McLaughlin's take care of all your power needs from home standby to portable!**

*We also offer free quotes and estimates for any application you may need for your home or business.*

**www.MclHeat.com**

Located Just Over the Mountain in Rouzerville!  
A family owned and operated business since 1954!

Dedicated to providing your propane and Heating Oil needs!

**11931 Buchanan Trail East, Waynesboro**  
**717-762-5711 | 1-800-463-5711**

## Farmers' Almanac

*"February is the border between winter and spring."*

—Terri Guillemets (1973-)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Dry and mild, then snow north and west, rain south and east followed by breezy conditions (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); dry, then occasional light showers followed by brisk and cooler conditions (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); seasonal, then snow, wintry mix central and east followed by brisk and dry conditions (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16); cold, then moderating (17, 18, 19, 20); wintry mix, rain south and east at first, followed by dry weather (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28).

**Severe Weather Watch:** Heavy Snow, Wintry Mix (2, 3, 4, 5); wintry mix, high winds (11, 12, 13, 14); heavy snow (15, 16); more wintry mix (21, 22, 23).

**Full Moon:** in 2023, February's Full Moon will occur on February 5th. Where tribes saw the deepest snow, it was called Snow Moon, while other tribes called it Wolf Moon because of all of the howling heard during the month, which happens to be the middle of their breeding season! And

because there is such an extreme scarcity of game to hunt everywhere during this month, it was also aptly referred to as Hunger Moon.

**Special Notes:** The Christian Festival of Lights, or Candlemas, will be celebrated on February 2nd. As part of a long tradition, many churches would display many more candles on this day during their daily services. Not only did it make the service a special one, but it was also believed that the additional light would provide protection from illness and plague in the coming year. Shrove Tuesday is February 21st and Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, marking the beginning of Lent.

**Holidays:** Valentine's Day, February 14th, falls on Tuesday in 2023. Show that special someone just how special they are and how much you appreciate them. The birthdays of Presidents Abraham Lincoln (Saturday, February 12th) and George Washington (Tuesday, the 22nd) are collectively celebrated on President's Day, which falls on Monday, February 20th, providing us with an extended holiday weekend. Enjoy!

**The Garden:** With some good news from our favorite groundhog, we can start thinking about things to do in an early. It's time to turn the compost pile (if it's not too frozen!). Mid-to late-February is the time to fertilize shrubs and evergreens. Use an acid-type Rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and Camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed Roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly. The vegetable garden should get its first good tilling of the year, if weather and wetness permits.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (9, 10, 11, 16, 17); best for weeding and stirring the soil (1, 27, 28); best for planting above-ground crops (2, 3); best for harvesting all crops (14, 15); best days to set hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 27, 28); slaughter and butcher meat (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); transplant (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); harvest and store grains (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19); wean animals (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21).

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

*"Make the most of each day's opportunities. Those who wait for their ship to come in often miss the boat."*

# COMPUTER Q&A

## Identify Internet scammers

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer Repair

Back in the day the only scammers that existed were those traveling from town to town promoting so-called "medical miracles", medicines that would cure even the most rare and worrisome diseases. Now, especially with technology so widely used, its not a matter of if you will encounter a scam but when. Read on to learn the tell-tale signs of a scammer and what you can do to protect yourself from becoming a victim.

**Fake Virus Warnings** – You may be visiting a website you have been to a thousand times before without a hitch, until one day up pops a virus alert. It might be blaring warning sounds or you might hear a computerized virus saying something like "Warning your computer is infected". Some warnings may even provide more details to try to scare you such as that the FBI was monitoring your device or that illegal content was found on your device. Most of the time these warnings will have a number which they indicate to call right away. Upon calling these numbers many times you will find yourself speaking to someone with an accent who will say almost anything to keep you on the phone and convince you that your computer has a virus and that they need to take control of your computer.

If you give that person access to your computer by following their instructions and letting them connect to you remotely, they will use that opportunity to show you many "error messages" in your computer. These "error messages" can be found on any computer that has been running for any length of time. Once you see the "errors" they will try persuading you into purchasing a support package either with or without antivirus. If you go through with providing them with your billing information, you have not only given them access to billing you for improper charges, you have also given them access to your computer and any information or passwords saved on your device.

**Phone Scams** – The scammers are getting smarter, not only will they call you pretending to be someone they aren't, they can now "spoof" real phone numbers making it appear that they are calling from a legitimate phone number (even displaying the proper caller id) when they are infact a scammer using a completely different phone number. Some calls include law enforcement claiming a family member is in jail and needs you to help bail them out. Many times, grandparents are targeted. The scammers will claim their grandchild is embarrassed and doesn't want to reach out to their parents. Other cases reported include calls from "Dell" or other spoofed tech support companies and utility companies. You will never be asked by any government official or utility company to make a payment with any kind of gift cards or green dot card.

**Advertisement Scams** – Sometimes these come in the form of job opportunities or products for sale that aren't local. These scams are especially com-

mon on websites like Craigslist where anonymity is easily maintained but, can still occur on other platforms like Facebook marketplace as well. Be wary when dealing with anyone who is not local. Never provide money for any products (including deposits on animals that are to be shipped) many times these are plots to take your money and disappear. If you receive some sort of job offer and it sounds too good to be true or if you receive a check up front. Many times, they will have you deposit the check and pay back some sort of fees only for the check to bounce leaving you with fees and charges and the criminals with a payday.

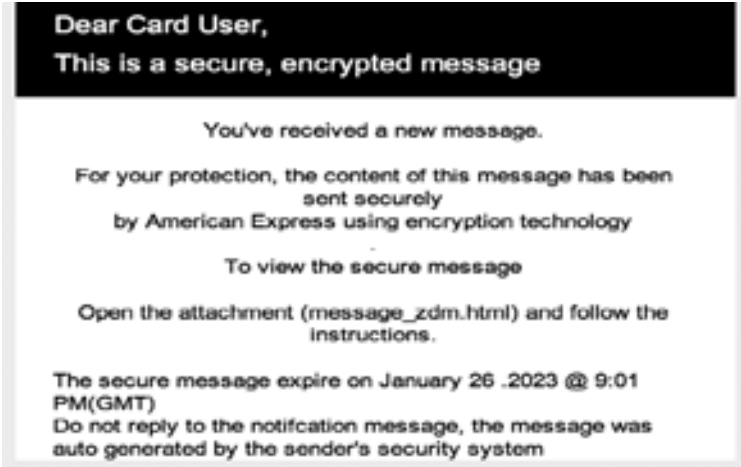
**Email Phishing** – If you ever receive an email from a company you do business with that asks you to login you should avoid doing so from the email especially if they are "requesting that you login to update your information". If you do choose to click the link verify that you are on the correct website by checking the website address. For example if your email was for PayPal and you clicked the link the first part of the website should read www.paypal.com it shouldn't read something like www.poypal.com they look very similar and websites can easily be replicated. You can use bookmarks in your web browser to save links to frequently visited websites so that you can make sure you are always on the correct website.

What should you do if you are the victim of a scam? If you are using a computer you should stop using your device immediately and consider having someone you trust clean your computer or at least to check for any remote

or malicious software that might have been left behind by the scammer. Without following this step, if you provided access to your computer, the scammer may have access back onto your device. You can prevent them from gaining access by simply disconnecting from the internet until your computer is properly cleaned.

Most importantly if you provided any bank or credit card information you should at the very least monitor the account closely to check for any unauthorized charges over the next 6-12 months. Yes, some scammers will wait months to charge your card or bank account as a measure to try to stay under the radar. If you want to be absolutely sure you won't be charged improperly you should close out any accounts, you provided information for so that they won't be able to make any new charges.

How can I protect myself from scammers? Sometimes we can get caught up in the moment especially when scammers are skilled in convincing us that the issue is an urgent matter that needs resolved. You should never have to respond to such a thing right away. Ask for the caller or correspondents' information, let them know you will contact them back. If a payment is being requested, they should have no problem providing a website address or billing address to make other payment arrangements. Lastly consider this, how does a warning popping up know there is an issue on your computer, how does a stranger calling you know your computer is infected or needs a license number. Technology can be



A friend of our fell for the 'spoof' above - A close look, however, should have raised red flags. How many red flags can you find?

an easy target because we tend to only learn what we need to know in order to use our devices. If you're not sure you can always contact a technology professional for more support before you decide how to react to a situation.

*If you believe you have been scammed or would like technology support, contact Jester's Computer Services at 717-642-6611 we are located at 5135 Fairfield Road. You can visit us online at [www.jesterscomputers.com](http://www.jesterscomputers.com).*

**Gettysburg Transmissions LLC**  
Automatic or Maunal  
Most Makes, Models & Years  
Automotive Repair & Services  
Certified State Inspection Facility  
Custom Exhaust Systems  
Over 15 Years Experience ~ All Work Guaranteed  
22 Weikert Road, Gettysburg  
**717-642-9700**  
Bill Eiker

**JESTER'S COMPUTER SERVICES**  
5135 FAIRFIELD ROAD, FAIRFIELD

Call or Text us  
**717-642-6611**

**Frustrated with Technology? We can help!**

- ✓ Desktop, Laptop & All-in-One Repairs
- ✓ OS Installations
- ✓ Hardware Upgrades
- ✓ Software Installation and Configuration
- ✓ Email Support & Setup
- ✓ Cell phone & Tablet Software Support
- ✓ Internet Account Support
- ✓ Custom Desktop PC's
- ✓ Printer Setup
- ✓ Remote Support
- ✓ On-Site Services

.... and more  
Visit our website for free PC Tutorials & Tips  
[WWW.JESTERSCOMPUTERS.COM](http://WWW.JESTERSCOMPUTERS.COM)

**Battlefield Transport & Recovery**  
We tow everything: Light, Medium, Heavy Duty  
Transport Vehicles, Buses, Cars, Machinery, Equipment  
Licensed, Professional Friendly Drivers  
Available 24/7 MD, PA, VA, WV  
1221 Bruceville Rd., Keymar **410-984-2082**  
Charles Mehring - Owner [charlie.battlefield@comcast.net](mailto:charlie.battlefield@comcast.net)

**Battlefield Hearth & Solar**  
Visit us!  
1745 York Road, Gettysburg  
717-334-1232  
Be Warm and Toasty This Winter  
SALES • INSTALLATION • SERVICE  
WE HAVE WOOD PELLETS & BAGGED COAL IN STOCK!  
WE CARRY:  
Alaska Coal Stoves • Vermont Castings Woodstoves  
Blaze King Stoves & Fireplace Inserts  
Kozy Heat Gas Stoves & Fireplaces  
Sunair Retractable Awnings  
Enviro Pellet Stoves  
[www.battlefieldhearthandsolarpa.webs.com](http://www.battlefieldhearthandsolarpa.webs.com)  
MADE HERE IN THE USA  
FAMILY FARMS

**AFFORDABLE SELF STORAGE**  
NOW WITH PORTABLE STORAGE UNITS!

**Need Room? Let Us Store It For You!**  
Storage Units For The Public & For Business!  
12917 Catocin Furnace Rd., Thurmont  
Conveniently Located On Maple Drive, Across From Thurmont Feed Store  
Mike Jensen, Owner  
VISA VISA & MC ACCEPTED  
**301-271-7455**

MOTORCYCLES, CARS, TOOLS, FURNITURE, ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, OLD FILES, NEW FILES, APPLIANCES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS & TOOLS, CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, LANDSCAPING TOOLS, LAWN MOWERS, POOL SUPPLIES, BUILDING MATERIALS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, MEMORIES...  
WHATEVER YOU CAN THINK OF INCLUDING THE KITCHEN SINK!

## LOCAL AUTHOR RELEASES 'TUMBLEWEED TUMBLING

### Local author Greathouse releases Tumbleweed



Local author Mark Greathouse is pleased to announce the release by Defiance Press & Publishing of his anthology of short stories and poetry Tumbleweed Tumbblings: Western Tales & Verses.

Bob Nolan wrote “Tumbling Tumbleweeds” in the 1930s in association with the top vocal group Sons of the Pioneers. Singing cowboy Gene Autry made it a hit in 1935. When most folks hearing the lyrics find themselves transported to the American west of more than a century ago, “See them tumbling down pledging their love to the ground, lonely but free I’ll be found drifting along with the tumblin’ tumbleweeds. Cares of the past are behind...”

As author of several hot-selling western genre novels rooted in his-

torical settings, Greathouse appreciates the image of tumbleweeds drifting along the open prairies forming a literary metaphor for the freedom of big skies, endless vistas, and unbridled opportunity. On frequent visits to his family in Texas, a cousin decided that he seemed to tumble around from place to place like a tumbleweed. The nickname stuck: Tumbleweed. The moniker offers him a portal to the morality play that is the American west. Westerns are about the conduct of lives, codes of honor, life values ascribed to, and faith. Readers often find themselves facing their life demons and battling them vicariously through fictional heroes.

Fans of Greathouse’s series of Tumbleweed Sagas novels featuring Texas Ranger Luke Dunn will find that most of the Tumbleweed Tumbblings short stories are backstories about their favorite characters. What stoked the curiosity of the wise Comanche chief Three Toes or created the evil Horatio Thorpe? What drove protagonist Texas Ranger Luke Dunn’s impassioned striving for justice? Greathouse says, “For newcomers to my books, Tumbleweed Tumbblings aims to lure you into buying the Tumbleweed Sagas and learning what becomes of the characters. Grit, adventure, and passion are woven throughout, as you sense

aromas of gunsmoke, trail dust, and bluebonnets.” And there’s poetry. As observed by famed poet William Wordsworth in Preface to Lyrical Ballads, “Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes origin from emotion recollected in tranquility.” Greathouse adds, “I pray my poetry reaches reader emotions.”

With Tumbleweed Tumbblings: Western Tales & Verses, Greathouse has striven to leverage his fifth-generation Texan roots in expressing his ongoing passion for weaving fiction with history and now with poetry as drawn from those signature Tumbleweed Sagas. In seeking to craft engaging adventures featuring an ensemble of captivating characters woven into compellingly complex subplots, he’s striven to stay true to the western story being America’s story. He endeavors to couple a soul-penetrating creative spirit with extensive historical research aimed at attracting a broad spectrum of readers. This anthology above all else reflects the values that underlie America as defined by its western frontier.

Availability? Tumbleweed Tumbblings: Western Tales & Verses published by Defiance Press & Publishing is available online in print and eBook from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other popular online booksellers.

Having moved to Carroll Val-


ley about 17 years ago, Greathouse found the wooded hills and meandering streams of south-central Pennsylvania conducive to creative writing, as supplemented with frequent trips out west for first-hand research. He quickly learned that delving into history books, newspaper and library archives, and even his own family history were great resources, but no substitute for walking the very ground in Texas upon which his stories are set. He turned to writing full time after a successful business career. He’s a member of Western Writers of America and several poetry societies and local writer groups. You can view his videos at [www.Tumbleweed.me](http://www.Tumbleweed.me) and posts on Facebook at Tumbleweed Sagas.

So, how does an author make it in today’s crazy literary world in which thousands of new titles are released daily? Perhaps it’s to his advantage that Greathouse spent 20 years in the private equity investment world dealing with thousands of entrepreneurs. Getting a book published isn’t a whole lot different from starting and running a business. You need a product folks will buy at a fair price with effective distribution channels and great promotion coupled with dogged determination, a willingness to constantly improve your craft, ability to suffer the criticisms and kudos of the market, and com-

mitment to building a loyal fan base. Like most businesses, authors sell their name. Their name is the brand. How many novels by Stephen King, C.S. Lewis, Tom Clancy, or Louis L’Amour can you name? But you sure know those author names. If you’re a fan of the author, that’s what matters.

Greathouse works to ever improve his writing skills, aggressively promote across multiple media, and author books that strive to capture the America embodied in its western frontier. Along the way, he’s enjoyed the company of fellow writers and poets at local gatherings, absorbed the advice of award-winning authors at Western Writers of America events, read hundreds of western and other genre novels, and left his business card at coffee houses across America. Coffee houses? Yep. Greathouse finds coffee houses to be an outstanding place to get his creative juices flowing when not channeling his inner cowboy in his western-themed home office.


Westerns evoke a code of honor, and Greathouse admires America’s military veterans who live by that code. He actively meets with our nation’s wounded warriors, having made presentations at Heroes Ridge at Raven Rock for Operation Second Chance and at his Texas rancher cousin’s annual wounded warrior hunt in concert




# CHEVROLET

**CHECK OUT OUR FULL SERVICE STATE OF THE ART**

**WANTZ Body Shop & Collision Center**




**We Now Offer Rhino Bedliners!  Rhino Linings**

**NOBODY SPRAYS A FINER LINER!**


Call Nick Strong at 410-751-1200 for pricing

High Quality Workmanship ~ All Makes & Models Including Commercial Trucks  
Limited Lifetime Guarantee ~ We Honor All Insurance Estimates



**WANTZ CHEVROLET**  
1 Chevro Drive, Taneytown  
410-751-1200  
Visit us at [www.WantzChevrolet.com](http://www.WantzChevrolet.com)

*“Don’t take a chance, buy from Wantz”*



**FIND NEW ROADS™**

# LOCAL AUTHOR RELEASES 'TUMBLEWEED TUMBLING

with the Wounded Warrior Support Foundation.

If you're inclined to support local authors and open-minded enough to give western genre a try, Greathouse invites you to buy Tumbleweed Tumbings: Western Tales & Verses. He bets it just might motivate you to begin reading his Tumbleweed Sagas. And, if you'd like a dose of western reality, try the biography Nicholas Dunn: The Making of a Texas Legend. Dunn left Ireland to build a life in south Texas from 1850 to 1912, ranching, droving cattle, fighting Comanche and bandits, and raising a family. Nicholas Dunn was Greathouse's great great grandfather. Just sayin'.

If y'all are interested in Greathouse sharing the wisdom, beauty, and lessons of western history, tales, and verses with your organization, do reach out to him via his website at [www.tumbleweed.me](http://www.tumbleweed.me).

**HELP WANTED**  
**LOVE TO WORK OUTSIDE CREATING AND GARDENING?**  
**PONDSCAPES is hiring immediately!**  
 Clean driving record and heavy lifting required.  
 Pay depends on experience.  
 Call Stacie  
**240-446-2846**  
[pspondscapes@msn.com](mailto:pspondscapes@msn.com)

**Mick's Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning**  
*Installation, Service & Repair*  
 Oil & Gas Furnaces ~ Heat Pumps ~ Well Pumps  
 Water Heaters ~ Drains ~ Leaky Faucets ~ Bathroom Remodels  
**No Job Too Small - 24 Hour Service**

**The Harry & Edith Show!**  
**Commercias Air on WFRE!**

**Heat Pump Inspection \$89<sup>95</sup>**

**Duct & Dryer Vent Cleaning**  
*1 Year Interest Free Financing Available*  
*We Offer HVAC Service Agreements*  
*Call For Details!*

27 Howard Street, Thurmont  
**301-271-2488**

**Vigilant Hose Company's 2023 Spring Fling 65K GIVEAWAY**  
 Drawing to be held **Saturday, May 13**  
 Drawings begin at noon

**NO PAYOUT LESS THAN \$500!**

1 - \$5000	17 - \$500	33 - \$500	49 - \$500
2 - \$500	18 - \$500	34 - \$500	50 - \$1000
3 - \$500	19 - \$500	35 - \$500	51 - \$2000
4 - \$500	20 - \$1000	36 - \$500	52 - \$500
5 - \$1000	21 - \$2000	37 - \$500	53 - \$500
6 - \$500	22 - \$500	38 - \$500	54 - \$500
7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$500
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$500	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$500	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$1000
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$500	61 - \$1000
14 - \$500	30 - \$1000	46 - \$500	62 - \$2000
15 - \$500	31 - \$2000	47 - \$500	63 - \$3000
16 - \$500	32 - \$500	48 - \$500	64 - \$4000

— Grand Prize Drawing #65 - \$10,000 —

**Early Bird Drawing**  
 Purchase and submit your ticket by March 1 for chance to win a \$1,000 cash prize!  
 (2 winners - \$1,000 each)

**\$100 Per Ticket**  
 Good for two people. Includes food, drinks and chances in the drawing.

**Jubilee foods**  
**Premium MEATS • SEAFOOD • DELICATESSEN**  
 Emmitsburg  
[www.shopjubileefoods.com](http://www.shopjubileefoods.com)

**Valentine's Day February 14th!**

Flowers ♥ Cards  
 Candy ♥ Cookies  
 Cakes ♥ Cupcakes

We have everything you need!  
[www.ShopJubileeFoods.com](http://www.ShopJubileeFoods.com)  
**301-447-6688**

# Command Your Future

At Mount St. Mary's University success is our mission and creating lives of significance is what we do. Bring your real-world experience into the classroom to enhance your learning. We offer graduate and adult accelerated undergraduate programs designed for working adults.

What you learn in the classroom today can be implemented in the workplace tomorrow. Courses are typically offered in 8-week sessions, online, in-person, and in a hybrid format.

## ACCELERATED UNDERGRADUATE

- » Accounting (B.S.)
- » Business (B.S.)
- » Communication (B.S.)
- » Elementary Education (B.S.)
- » Elementary/Special Education (B.S.)
- » Entrepreneurship (B.S.)
- » History (B.A.)
- » Human Services (B.S.)

## GRADUATE DEGREES

- » Applied Behavior Analysis (M.S.)
- » Biotechnology and Management (M.S.)
- » Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- » Health Administration (M.S.)
- » Instructional Design and Technology (M.Ed.)
- » Instructional Leadership (M.Ed.)
- » Philosophical Studies (M.A.)
- » Reading (M.Ed.)
- » Sport Management (M.S.)
- » Teaching (M.A.)

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

- » Advanced Study in Reading
- » Data Science
- » Instructional Design and Technology
- » Instructional Leadership
- » Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- » Organizational Development
- » Post-Master's Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis
- » Project Management
- » Quality Assurance and Regulatory Science
- » Risk Management and Cybersecurity

*Classes offered online and in person. Support services are available for students' individual needs.*

**LEARN MORE »**  
**MSMARY.EDU/ContinuingStudies**



## Amanda Corbel, MS PMP

**Partnership Alliance Manager**

Partnership Development Office Center  
for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships

*Frederick National Laboratory  
for Cancer Research*

***"The Mount's Master of Science in Biotechnology and Management has allowed me to merge both my passions of science and business.***

***The Mount's MSB was very valuable in helping me transition out of the lab and into the business side of science.***

***There is this great intersection between business and science. You learn alongside a diverse group of peers that bring unique ideas and backgrounds to the projects—much like the typical work environment."***



Division of  
Continuing Studies