

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 15, NO. 11

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

NOVEMBER 2023

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## Council struggles with Commissioner replacement

Issues acknowledged and left unresolved during Emmitsburg's last Council vacancy in 2013 returned as the Town Council worked to fill the open seat following the election of former Commissioner Frank Davis to Mayor.

In 2013, the Town Council held a special meeting to discuss the selection of a new Commissioner following the resignation of then Commissioner Glenn Blanchard. The Council was stemmed by the fact that while the town code laid responsibility on selecting Blanchard replacement on the Council, no formal process was identified as to how the selection should or could take place.

The lack of a formal process created anarchy within the 2013 council with some calling on the selection of the 'runner up', while others proposed alternate names. In the end, the Council rejected the idea of appointing the 'runner up' and ultimately opted to appoint former Mayor Jim Hoover to fill the remaining time of Blanchard's term.

As a result of the confusion, the Town Council, which included current Town Council President Tim

O'Donnell and Commissioner Cliff Sweeney agreed to update the Charter to provide more guidance to prevent a re-occurrence. However they failed to do so, resulting in the current Town Council facing the same dilemma.

Fast-forward 10 years ...

Lacking guidance, at its Oct. 2 meeting, the Council proposed that the town post a vacancy notice on the Town's website to alert residents of the vacancy on the Council in hopes of finding suitable candidates to fill the remaining 10 months of Frank Davis' term. A total of four residents applied.

On October 18, a special session was held by the Town Council at which time the four candidates: Planning Commission member Kevin Hagen, former Commissioner Glenn Blanchard, former Mayor Jim Hoover, and Brookfield resident Scott Frager were interviewed by the Council. Each council member asked one question related to what the candidate hoped to accomplish if selected; what personal skills they would bring to the Council; and their thoughts on the future of the Town.



Valerie Turnquist, Emmitsburg's newest Town Commissioner, was joined by her family: granddaughter Harper, husband Mike, and daughters Emily & Holly at her swearing-in ceremony.

At the conclusion of the questioning, the Council retreated to discuss their thoughts in private in a 'closed session.'

Newly elected Commissioner Valerie Turnquist initially questioned the process the Council was going to employ, stating that Council members were not given enough time to consider candidate resumes and that the selection vote should be done in public, not behind closed doors as originally proposed.

Turnquist argued the Council did not have enough input into the process and suggested tabling the interviews until there was time to discuss the pro-

cess further. Additionally, she stated it was important to hold the vote in the public forum as to align with the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

"I think we need to be transparent with our decision and the public is entitled to be there for that vote," she said.

O'Donnell overruled Turnquist and directed the Q&A session to go forward, but agreed to delay the vote for Davis' replacement until its Nov. 6th public meeting.

In spite of the importance of the candidate Q&A session, not a single resident of the town chose to witness it in person.

## Local elections set to draw residents to the polls

Voters in Carroll Valley and Fairfield Boroughs, and in Hamiltonban and Liberty Townships will be headed to polls on Nov. 7 to fill seats on local governing bodies.

The Borough is governed by a seven-member council, of which four 4-year council seats and one 2-year seat are up for election (The two-year seat was temporarily filled by Kari Buterbaugh due to the resignation of Robert Verderaime). Those running for the 4-year seats include John Schubring, Bruce Carr, L. Michael Wight, and Cody Gilbert. Catherine Schubring and Sarah Laird are running for the 2-year seat.

Fairfield is governed by a seven-member council, of which four 4-year seats are up for election. Up for re-election on the Fairfield ballot are incumbents Sarah Thomas, Patricia Smith, and Phyllis Gilbert. While there are four seats available, as of press time, there are only three candidates running on the ballot, leaving options for write-ins available.

Following the passing of Fairfield Council member Dean Thomas, Dennis Bucher was appointed to fill the vacancy and will serve through the end of 2023. The remainder of the 2-year term will then be filled by appointment by the council in Jan-

uary. Residents interested in serving their community may petition the council to be considered for appointment.

Hamiltonban Township is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors, of which two 4-year seats are up for election this year. Ryan Picarelli and Brad Martin are the only two on the ballot which means unless a write in candidate garners more votes than them, the pair will be automatically elected.

Liberty Township is governed by three supervisors, of which one seat up, currently occupied by Wlaker Barlow is up for election. Barlow is the only candidate on the ballot, which means unless a write in candidate garners more votes than him, he will be automatically elected.

Also on the ballot this year are five seats on the Fairfield Area School District. The District covers the areas of Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Hamiltonban and Liberty and is governed by a nine-member school board.

School Board members seeking re-election include Jennifer Holz, Kelly Christiano, Lashay Kalathas; Lauren Clark and Lisa Sturges. As of the most recent official municipal nomination sample ballot, Erica Bollinger, James Fisher and Melissa



Residents in Adams County will head to polls on November 7th to fill seats on local governing bodies.

Kearchner are also now in the running as well. Most of the candidates have cross-filed, meaning they are listed on both the Democratic and Republican ballots.

Residents will also be tasked with selecting three County Commissioners. Incumbents Marty Qually, Randy Phiel, and Jim Martin are all seeking reelection; newcomer Robert Smith is also

running. Voters will vote for two, and the top three will be elected.

Polls are open for in-person voting Nov. 7 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters in line at the time of polls closing will be allowed to vote. Mail in ballots must be received in the Elections Office by 8 p.m. election day or they will not be counted. Sample ballots for all municipalities are available at adamscountypa.gov.

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Potential annexation in the works

At its October 2nd meeting, the Town Council declined a request from Peter Koutsos for the Town to initiate the annexation process for the Rodney McNair property, a 23-acre lot on the south side of North Seton Ave.

Typically, town-initiated annexations are for properties that the Town has an interest in doing something with itself, according to Town Attorney Clark Adams, while property owners interested in annexation into town submit a petition with detailed information, he said.

An important preliminary step in the annexation process is to meet with the town planner to discuss the general parameters of the annexation, Adams said. At those meetings, a tentative timetable can be discussed concerning the filing of the petition and introduction of

an annexation resolution and necessary public hearings.

The property, located at 17381 N. Seton Avenue is mostly cleared and currently zoned agricultural by the county. The property is within the town's 2021 proposed growth boundary and the suggested use, according to the Town's Comprehensive Plan, is Medium Density Residential, which will allow the proposed development to not only include single family homes, but duplexes and town houses as well.

In March of 2021, the Planning Commission was notified that the property could hold up to 29 townhomes and 34 single-family dwellings.

"We hope to develop a property that will bring new residents into Emmitsburg as well as one that benefits the current residents and the Town itself. We hope for

the Town's input and involvement in the process, so that the property becomes something that both the Town and we are proud of," Koutsos stated.

"We are open to all suggestions from the Town on home types/density. Based on our communication with the town so far, it seems we all agree that more affordable homes and or townhomes are the best option at this time. We fully agree with this plan, but we are very open to any other suggestions or plans as well," according to Koutsos.

In addition, the letter also stated the pending property owners would be open to the idea of some commercial space on the property. (Koutsos, along with his son and daughter, are the co-owners of the Silo Hill Center. They purchased the shopping center in 2002.)

## Town mulls water restrictions

At the October 2nd Town Council meeting, Town Manager Cathy Willets told the Council the Town may have to implement mandatory water restrictions due to the drought which has resulted in inadequate levels of water in Rainbow Lake. As of October 1st, the lake measured 14.9 feet, which is 1.7 feet below the spillway level, which represents roughly a nine million gallons of water deficit in the lake, or 90 days worth of water supply from the lake, Willets said.

The need to move to mandatory water restrictions arose after the Town received little to no results following its imposition of voluntary water restrictions in August, said Willets.

In addition to Rainbow Lake, the Town receives water from five wells whose level is also slowly dropping as a result of the lack of rain. At the end of August, the Town had a precipitation deficit of 4.21 inches over the last six months.

Recent rains have not been enough to make a dent in the water levels of the lake or wells. "Even if the lake is filled back up [from more rain], we still have to deal with the quality of water in the lake, which is the biggest factor in setting and removing water restrictions," she said.

Rainbow Lake water quality deteriorates as its levels drop, Willets said. When the water in the lake gets to a certain low level, it becomes murky, resulting in costly

and time-consuming efforts to clean the water so it is safe to drink.

"When the quality of the water in the lake deteriorates, it causes water filters in the water plant to clog, which results in the need for water plant staff to backwash them more frequently. Due to the quality of the water, the town is pulling out of Rainbow Lake, the town is currently performing four backwashes a day and has had to turn on all five town water well pumps to make up for loss of water that the lake in no longer able to provide."

The percentage of water that normally comes from Rainbow Lake versus the wells varies depending on time of year and weather, according to Willets. "For exam-

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Senior Advisors:

Eric Glass, Taney Corporation  
Greg Reaver, Emmitsburg Glass

Executive Editor: Michael Hillman, editor@emmitsburg.com

Managing Editor: Claire Doll - MSMU Class of 2024

Assistant Editor: Dolores Hans - MSMU Class of 2025

English Editor: Katie Wherley

Special Assistant: McKenna Snow - MSMU Class of 2023

News Reporters:

Emmitsburg - Andrea Grabenstein  
Fairfield & Carroll Valley - Alex Hayes  
Thurmont - Tara Hayes  
Taneytown - Jamie Kahl

Graphic Design and Layout: Brian Barth, timebombstudios.com

Advertising: Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

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ple, in September 2022, 48% of the town's water came from wells and 52% from the lake. In September 2023, 61% came from wells and 39% from the lake."

Mandatory restrictions would restrict outside usage of water including filling swimming pools, washing cars and watering lawns. Penalties for non-compliance for residents can include a warning for a first offense, a \$50 fine for a second offense, and a \$75 fine per

offense for subsequent violations.

The town last implemented mandatory restrictions in October 2020.

With voluntary water restrictions currently in place, residents are strongly encouraged to comply and continue commonsense water conservation including limiting length of showers and not washing their car. "Our main goal is compliance and saving water. So, we always work with people and educate them," Willets said.

## Davis sworn in a Mayor, Turnquist as Commissioner

On October 2nd, an emotional Frank Davis, surrounded by his family, was sworn in by Frederick County's Clerk of the Court, Sandra Dalton, as the newest Mayor of Emmitsburg.

Davis, who won an overwhelming victory in the Town's September election, promised the Town Council and staff that, "this is going to be a great ride."

Since the election, Davis said that he had been in almost non-stop talks with residents and town staff discuss-

ing a number of ideas and projects that he and the town are excited to explore.

"My approach is a team approach. We either win or lose as one." Davis said. "I will try and sell you my new approach in the upcoming weeks."

Davis's first order of business as Mayor was to hold a meeting with the entire staff to hear firsthand the issues they were facing and to get their ideas on how they feel they could be solved.

The meeting was taped and forwarded to the entire Town Council, part of Davis's philosophy of

going above and beyond to keep them informed and sharing information from the first day forward. "I think it's important that we all get the same information in a timely manner," he said.

Davis plan to follow up with each staff member for one-on-one meetings to learn more about their jobs, what they feel we can do to improve our town and learn about them as a person.

Davis praised both outgoing Mayor Don Briggs and Commissioner Joe Ritz for their years of service to the town. He complimented Briggs for fulfilling the vision he campaigned

with when Briggs was first elected in 2011. "...you executed your plan, and Emmitsburg will always be grateful to you and your family."

Davis thanked Ritz, who Davis had sat next to for the past four years on the Council: "From the bottom of my heart for teaching me the ropes of governing our town. Your work ethic is second to none. You were always prepared to talk about the matter at hand with an open mind and always wanting the end goal to benefit the citizens of Emmitsburg. I wish you were along for this next ride but I have your phone number and I know where you live.

Love you brother."

Davis's first official act as Mayor was to swear in Pembroke resident Valerie Turnquist who won the seat formally occupied by Joe Ritz. Turnquist's family proudly looked on as she took her oath of office, and true to her character, promptly took her seat on the dais, and smiled at her fellow council members, and said, "Let's get down to business."

Valerie's first agenda item is to tackle the recent water rate increases saying a "36% water increase per year for the next five years is not sustainable to the town residents and businesses. To get things done, we will need to look closely at our budget and prioritize where we invest money. We need to look for creative solutions and be cognizant of where we're spending taxpayer dollars."

Turnquist has stated that she wants to hear from citizens and business owners, the good and the bad. She has received a lot of feedback already on parking issues, childcare, dangerous traffic spots in town, and the list goes on. At a minimum Turnquist said, "we need to start posting the minutes on the town website again. We can't operate in a vacuum and expect to succeed."

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## FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

# Carroll Valley explores hiring bonus for police officers

Carroll Valley Borough Council hopes to expand its police department. First, it needs to find people who want to serve.

During the October Council meeting, Police Chief Cliff Weikert asked the Council to consider a bonus of up to \$20,000 for new hires who stay with the department for four years. Weikert suggested the Council determine the bonus case-by-case based on the officer's experience. The chief hopes the bonus makes Carroll Valley a more attractive workplace, but he warned the Council he may be back with other ideas.

"I am not going to lie to you, some

places are starting to do this and it is still not helping," Weikert said.

Another option, Weikert said, is to amend the borough's civil service laws to allow the police department to hire potential police officers and pay for them to attend the police academy. Gettysburg Borough and Cumberland Township passed similar changes recently, Weikert said. The department currently budgets for three officers and has one vacancy. The Council expressed intent to budget for four in 2024.

### Chickens allowed

Once again, Carroll Valley Bor-

ough Council dedicated a significant portion of its meeting to discuss chickens.

Katlyn Weimer and Adam Colson, 8 Fawn Trail, have been asking the Council for months to grant their illegal chickens an official pardon. Carroll Valley law states chickens must reside in the backyard of a property. That's not possible for Weimer and Colson, whose house at 8 Fawn Trail aligns with the rear of their half-acre lot.

At times, the Council seemed to support the Fawn Trail fowl but concerns arose over deed restrictions and selective enforcement of the ordinance. Weimer refused

to give up and once again pleaded for forgiveness during October's meeting. The majority of the Council supported granting Weimer and Colson a permit for their chickens, with Council President Richard Mathews opposing. Mathews previously expressed concern about violating deed restrictions.

### Lot sale guidelines

If Carroll Valley decides to sell any of the many lots the government owns, the Council now has guidelines to follow. The elected body voted 8-1 to approve a Lot Sale Guidelines document prepared

by Manager Dave Hazlett. Kari Buterbaugh opposed the motion. Previously, Buterbaugh expressed concerns about developers buying the lots and changing the makeup of the borough.

The guidelines are just a document, Hazlett said previously. Council will examine every potential lot sale individually and could ultimately decide not to sell any. If they do explore putting lots on the market, the guidelines remind them to consider several factors, including the economy, interest rate fluctuations, the availability of land, and whether a current resident requested interest in the lot.

# Liberty Township hears dog kennel plans

A dog kennel in Liberty Township may double in size.

Planning Commission Chair Judie Hogan told the supervisors during their October meeting that the new owners of Cozy Canine, 2575 Tract Road, Fairfield, are seeking a special exception to the township's zoning ordinance.

Cozy Canine's current owner received a special exception when she opened the business in the early 1990s, Hogan said. Another special exception is required because the new owners, Austin Bard and Jon

Rodriguez, want to erect an additional building. The new building will allow the new owners to double the businesses' capacity from 30 to 64 dogs.

Bard and Rodriguez told the planning commission during its September meeting that the increased capacity would meet a community need. The current owner often turns down clients because she lacks space, they said.

Hogan asked Bard and Rodriguez how they plan to control noise. The pair owns a similar-sized kennel in

Chambersburg, they said, and do not field any complaints. The dogs are mostly quiet, Rodriguez said, with the exception of the excitement they express at morning and evening feeding times. The kennel will hire a manager who will live on the property so they can address any issues that arise with their guests, Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said the increased capacity should not affect traffic on Tract Road. The kennel will use software to schedule staggered drop-off and pick-up times with its clients.

The planning commission unanimously expressed no objection to the kennel receiving a special exception. Hogan told Rodriguez and Bard they would need to submit a formal land development plan before they could begin construction.

In other land-related business, the township approved a 90-day extension for Carmel of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph's land development plan. Hogan said the original plan was peppered with errors that prevented it from moving for-

ward. Township Engineer Dominic Picarelli of KPI Technology said the property straddles Liberty and Hamiltonban townships so approval of the monastery's expansion is taking several months. Picarelli added the new buildings are proposed for Hamiltonban but Liberty must be concerned about how they affect sewage capacity and stormwater control.

Picarelli suggested Liberty Township officials investigate whether the monastery has added sheds or other buildings without proper approval since it was first constructed 10 years ago.

# Hamiltonban grants exception for pollinator garden

At its October 17th meeting, the Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors granted an exception for a native plant pollinator garden.

Amy Reinke, of 3910 Bullfrog Road, requested continuing use as she creates a pollination opportunity with native plants at her property's sand mound. Reinke recently received a notice from township code enforcement following notice from residents that the weeds were too high and needed to be removed.

"We're used to seeing the sand mound mowed and grooved," Chairman Edward Deardorff noted.

Reinke stated the property was within its boundaries according to the township ordinance. Regarding brush, grass, and weeds, the ordinance stated that vegetation without purpose cannot exceed ten inches on a residential property.

Reinke noted that the ornamental grass, weeds, and perennials have purpose toward the creation of a native pollinator garden. She shared photos of the property project with the supervisors that noted a grove of local pollinators as well as weeds.

"The project so far it is in process and every year it will get better and better to become more of a wildflower grove and a pollination grove," she said. Reinke said low cabbage-like weeds were

planted with grass and flowers and she has been hesitant to pull out anything that may be considered a flower versus a weed. "It's a work in progress, and this was its first year."

Reinke is waiting to see how everything grows, and as the cultivation of the project continues, she has plans to put down more grass seed, soil, and perennials. Reinke looks to keep the ornamental grass for wildlife covered and assure that the grasses will be properly mowed to add definition. Reinke also said she is

willing to have large weed bushes mowed out at the end of the property.

The Township Ordinance were written some time ago, Solicitor Matthew Battersby noted, "And there is certainly change in attitude about wildflowers, pollinators and preserving native insects."

Understanding these changes in values, the council can appreciate the ecological benefit of a native pollinator garden, he said.

The council granted permission for the pollinator garden to con-

tinue as long as it is maintained periodically. "We're not here to fight people, we're here to work with people," Deardorff said.

Supervisor Coleen Reamer noted pollinator gardens traditionally reach maximum height by their third year and native plant gardens can be registered in order to find maps of other local area plots.

Deardorff also recommended the addition of purple foxtails to the garden, which are not only native and wild, but would add a vibrant hue as well.

"I don't think that any one of us have a problem with you trying to do a pollinator type garden; it's just we want to make sure there is a purpose there," Reamer said.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Thurmont adopts backyard chicken ordinance

The Town of Thurmont officially adopted the new backyard chicken ordinance on Oct. 24. The ordinance provides regulations at the Town level, including requiring a Thurmont license, for those who choose to raise chickens in their backyard.

The ordinance does not apply to those raising chickens for agricultural purposes or own chickens for educational, commercial or industrial purposes. The regulations would cover resident backyard chickens for personal-use only, prohibiting slaughter or selling eggs or meat from the chickens. Residents are allowed and encour-

aged by the town to take advantage of the eggs themselves, in addition to the chickens' companionship.

The new regulations require residents to be living in a single-family detached dwelling unit in order to own chickens. The ordinance would also require the residential lot to be at least 2,500 square feet.

Under the new ordinance, residents would not be allowed to keep roosters in their backyards, except for those who owned roosters before the ordinance went into place. At the Oct. 17 meeting, Town Code Enforcement Officer Kristi Wood said that roosters are the biggest

complaint her office receives, leaving concerns about differentiating between previously owned roosters and new roosters against the new ordinance. "My only suggestion is that if we're going to let [the roosters] age out, that the homeowner register them with me," she said, adding that the Town could provide a timeframe for residents to register their roosters so that she knows they already have one.

Mayor John Kinnaird brought up already in-place noise ordinances that could provide a solution for excessive noise from already-owned roosters under nuisance laws. CAO

Jim Humerick said, "I think what we found with that nuisance clause is that it's very subjective. Because what's nuisance to one person may not be to someone else, so then it falls onto the code enforcement officer to make that decision and that becomes a little sticky."

The Town included guidelines for living conditions to ensure the best for both the chickens and the surrounding neighbors. The new ordinance restricts the chickens to the backyard, not allowing the bird to enter the house or other yards. Residents will also be limited to six chickens in a single lot.

Any chicken coops or runs must be a minimum of 10 feet from the property line. With a four-foot fence surrounding the backyard or the area of the backyard in which the chickens are kept, residents are not required to confine the chickens to their run. If the area is not enclosed by a fence at least four feet high, run itself must be four-feet high or covered. Without an enclosed area, residents are required to confine the chickens to the run.

The chicken coop must be predator-resistant and follow the same guidelines as the run. The coop must be at least four square feet but no more than ten square feet per chicken. It also may not be more than six feet high.

## New subdivision planned for Eyler Farm property

Leal Homes of Clarksburg introduced a concept plan to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a six-lot subdivision on Eyler Road. The 5.2-acre property was previously owned by Joseph Galt Eyler and used as a horse farm. It is located between Eyler Road Park, a 31 acre park with athletic fields, playgrounds, and walking trails, and two subdivisions—Mechanicstown with 31 homes, and Mountain Brook with 11 homes.

The property is zoned Agricultural and Residential Preserve, which allows single family detached dwellings. Based on the density allowed, the builder can put in a maximum of seven lots; however, the proposal

is for six lots in the cluster style. 'Clustering' means the homes will be grouped together allowing for a shared open space. It provides flexibility in design without increasing the density while preserving land and reducing the overall extent of public infrastructure. The six planned lots are drafted to be around 10,000 square feet. The homes would be built in a craftsman style, and basements would not be allowed.

The open space areas would be under common ownership so the property owners would be responsible for all the maintenance. Planning & Zoning Commissioner Bryant Despeaux said he would like to see

more forested spaces versus open land not only for reduced maintenance, but also stormwater management. Neighbors Ed Wigman and Thomas Cromwell both agreed that although they would miss seeing the horses, they would prefer looking out of their windows and seeing trees instead of homes. They also asked about the existing fence providing a property boundary and urged the developers to keep the fence as a border along with the trees.

There is the possibility for the H & F Trolley Trail to connect to Eyler Road Park through this property. It currently runs from East Moser Rd to East Main

Street. Town Planner Kelly Duty remarked, "This would be a piece of the puzzle in the Town's overall trail system and in connecting the Town's public park system." In the future, Pleasant Acres Park to the East could also potentially connect to the Trolley Trail and in theory with the addition of this six-home subdivision a trail could run from Eyler Road Park to the Library in town. Neighbor Janelle Norton asked if the trail connection could be the only connection between the developments, "If you connect these developments by road, there will be a huge increase in traffic. Eyler Road Park is already busy and

that will only get busier," she said.

With the intended connection to the other developments, increased pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle traffic is expected. The commission discussed various ways to combat vehicles speeding, but nothing concrete was decided. The applicant would also be willing to negotiate with the two neighbors on either side of the development for extension of their sidewalks. Currently the sidewalk ends at Old Barn Court, and they would like them extended down to Radial Lane along with crosswalks at the park. This would help keep pedestrians safe on their way to Eyler Road Park.

## Second annual Thurmont Great Pumpkin pick-up

The Thurmont Green Team will be sponsoring the Second Annual Great Pumpkin Pick

Up for the residents of Thurmont on Saturday November 25th, beginning at 9 a.m. Resi-

dents should place their Halloween and Thanksgiving pumpkins on the curb by 8:30 that morning for pick up by volunteers.

Please, no rotten pumpkins. Last year volunteers from the Green Team and community organizations and businesses traveled the streets of Thurmont collecting between 600-700 pumpkins, saving them from the landfill and providing food and fun for the animals at the Catocin Wildlife Preserve and area farms.

Households are no longer displaying just one or two pumpkins on their porch - many now decorate with up to ten pumpkins of varying colors and sizes. Each year more than one billion

pounds of pumpkins are thrown away in the United States making their way to landfills where they take a long time to decompose, emitting methane which is 80% more potent or powerful than carbon dioxide, and is ultimately linked to climate change. The EPA reports that food waste contributes to 22% of landfill waste. Organic waste, including pumpkins which are 90% water, does not properly break down in oxygen deprived landfills. Pumpkin waste is great for our soil, but not for our landfills.

If you do not live within the Thurmont town limits, please think about starting a pumpkin pick up for your town or at the

very least find a way to compost your pumpkin and other food waste or drop your pumpkin off at the bin in front of the Catocin Wildlife Preserve. The animals and the earth will thank you.

This year's event hopes to top 1,000 pumpkins so make sure to save your pumpkins from the trash and place them on the curb on the 25th. Remember, No Pumpkin Left Behind! We'll publish the results of this year's pick up in the December edition.

If you would like to volunteer or receive more information about organizing a Pumpkin Pick Up for your town, please contact the Town of Thurmont at 301-271-7313.

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<p><b>RUMCHATA</b> PUMPKIN SPICE 750 ML</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 301-447-6262</p>		<p><b>SUNNYD</b> VODKA SELTZER Variety 8 PAK Available</p>

## TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Mountain Brook development faces uncertain future

After almost three decades, the long-awaited Antrim Boulevard Expansion and subsequent Mountain Brook development are still causing concern with Planning Commission members.

Although their concept plan was approved at the September meeting, the 454-home development is dependent on Flowserve agreeing to allow the last portion of the Antrim Boulevard expansion to cross their property. This means that until Flowserve agrees to use their land for the bypass, Mountain Brook would be a "one way road," e.g., the entrance

and exit would not be the same.

Planning Commission member Dan Myers was bothered by the development not having a guaranteed 'exit' onto 140, and although a representative of the developer acknowledged the issue and said they plan to widen the Boulevard's entrance, as well as the road, they could not guarantee that Flowserve would ever allow the Boulevard to be extended through their property.

Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer, Darryl Hale, told the planning Commission that he has been looking into the history regard-

ing Flowserve and the prospective bypass. Since discussions surrounding the development go as far back as 30 years when Mountain Brook Farm was originally annexed into city limits, there have been agreements as to how the bypass would go through their property to connect with 140. However, all previous agreements have expired. "I have documentation that there were active agreements between the City of Taneytown and Flowserve to expand the bypass through their property," he said. Hale said that the Planning Commission will meet

with the current head of Flowserve to create new agreements to resurrect the prior agreements.

Planning Commission Chair James Parker asked to have a representative of the State Highway Administration be present when the Mountain Brook developer presents their preliminary plan. The intent he said was to make sure that State Highways and the Mountain Brook developers are on the same page regarding the relationship between 140 and 194 and how the bypass would be built. Hale assured the Commission members

that the company developing both Garnet Ridge and Mountain Brook are experienced in these matters and have already reached out to discuss traffic related details.

Although Mountain Brook's concept plan has been approved there is no guarantee that the development will happen. The real work begins with the next stage, where the developer will present to the Planning Commission specific numbers and information regarding the number and types of homes they intend to build.

## Second school crossing guard to be hired

As a result of the Carroll County Board of Education's decision to enforce the 'one mile' walk rule, students that live within a mile from their school are now required to walk to school as opposed to riding the bus. Because of this, there has been a significant increase in students crossing at the Baumgardner Avenue and Baltimore Street intersection.

Years ago, due to the heavy volume of vehicle traffic at that intersection, a crossing guard was hired for the Baumgardner intersection as well as the intersection of Kings Court and Kings Drive. When a pedestrian crosswalk was installed at the Baumgardner intersection, the crossing

guard was deemed unnecessary and was let go. However, motorists recently have been complaining that students are not crossing at the crosswalk, but are crossing wherever and whenever they want on the street.

"Most of the time they are looking at their phones and are clueless as to traffic," said one older resident who lives near the intersection. "In my day, I had to walk five miles to school, uphill both ways, in the snow, without shoes ..."

As a result of the complaints about wayward student behavior, as well as the increased volume of walking students, the City Council has decided to add a crossing guard back at the Baumgardner

intersection. Mayor Millers said this will help new walking students to learn about street crossing etiquette and encourage others to also develop good habits when heading to school.

Citing the difficulty of hiring crossing guards, Mayor Miller, responding to parent's concerns, entered into a 'stop gap' plan with the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. This plan involves replacing the crossing guard at the Kings Court and Kings Drive location with a School Resource Officer (SRO) and moving that crossing guard to the Baumgardner intersection until a second crossing guard for that intersection can be hired.

Councilwoman Judith Fuller

asked if there was a way the students could spread out and cross at other intersections too. City Manager Jim Wieprecht pointed out that the Baumgardner crossing is the most direct route to the schools and has a full sidewalk. He also mentioned that with the construction being done to Broad Street as well as Roberts Mill Road, there will be more full sidewalks for students to use. This will help spread out where students cross so they are not all crossing at the same spot, causing issues with too much foot traffic.

Fuller also asked if the Council could consider giving the crossing guard the ability to pause the traffic light to allow pedestrian traffic to cross. "It's a lot of

responsibility to put on one person and if we are paying them to babysit these kids then he/she should be able to do it properly," Fuller said.

Councilwoman Diane Foster agreed with her, suggesting checking again with State Highway Administration to see if it would be possible given that the window for student crossing is only around 30 minutes.

Wieprecht commented that the budget for 2023 would be able to handle the additional expenditure; the crossing guard salary comes from the public safety budget and they are currently under their budget due to police force vacancies. A crossing guard makes approximately \$10,200 a year, averaging \$18.68 an hour.

## Chicken ordinance moves forward

At its October meeting, the City Council reviewed a draft code developed by the City staff for regulating the ownership of chickens within City limits.

The requirements in the proposed code include the requirement for owners to partake in an educational seminar on backyard flocks so applicants can understand what they are getting into with regard to chicken care and life cycles. The seminar will cover topics such as how long chickens bear eggs and what to do when they stop. Participants will receive a certificate at the end of the seminar. They must sign a 'Backyard Chicken Agreement' that pertains to chicken welfare and if at any time they are found to be negligent, their permits will be revoked per this agreement.

All backyard flocks will need a coop and run with four square feet per chicken for the coop and ten square feet per chicken for the run. They are only permitted in the rear yard and must be ten feet from property lines and 20 feet from dwellings. Residents will also need to apply for a City Zoning Certificate as chicken coops and runs are considered structures and will have specific building requirements. Resident Christina Lawrence asked if the

chickens would be able to free range if within a fenced in yard. City Manager Jim Wieprecht replied that they will have to be in an enclosed run and would not be allowed to free range.

Once a flock is established, owners will need to register it with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to receive an official registration card. Once the MDA sends back their registration card, the applicant must bring it to the City Zoning office within 30-90 days.

The Council agreed that the maximum number of chickens allowed per resident would be six; however, any residents with flocks already established will be grandfathered in and will be allowed to keep what they have with all new rules and regulations being met as well. Once their flock size decreases for whatever reason, they must

adhere to the six-chicken limit.

Roosters will be prohibited, however, because all chickens look the same until around three months old, so owners will be given a currently undisclosed amount of time to remove the rooster from the flock.

Councilman James McCarron's biggest concern over the new chicken ordinance was "who is going to enforce it?" Wieprecht assured him that Darryl Hale, Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer, would be active in inspecting the chicken coops and animal control would be involved for inspecting the chickens themselves. He has been in contact with Carroll County Animal Control supervisor Dawn Kinna who offered her advice as someone who raises chickens. She gave some good pointers on the enforcement aspect.

Councilwoman Judith Fuller said that neighbors would be the biggest enforcers of the new ordinance saying, "if there's a problem, the neighbors will tell you."

With the blessing of the Council, the draft code has been sent to the Planning Commission for their review and approval. The

code change will then be the subject of a public hearing at an upcoming City Council workshop where the public can weigh in on the idea. Only when these steps have been completed, can the Council vote to formally approve the ownership of chickens within City limit.



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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# Congressman David Trone

When I first learned about Congress and the federal government in school, I was in awe. The idea of a government “by the people and for the people,” with respected leaders who put the interests of the American people first, driving forward the idea of democracy and promoting American values. It almost seemed too good to be true. Like many of you, I soon realized that it was.

The past few weeks are a great example of how fundamentally broken Congress is. A complete government shutdown was narrowly avoided, and the “solution” was for a very short term, 45 days. Federal agencies that do critically important work across the nation continue to be horribly underfunded. And then, for the first time in our history, the House had no leader as partisan politics became more important than solving the problems of the people who elected these same Representatives.

That’s not the government that I learned about in school. It’s a far cry from the government that the American people — hard-working families, business owners, and those who are struggling the most — deserve. And while this type of dysfunction is one of the reasons I ran for Congress in the first place six years ago, it is even worse than I imagined.

The good news is that we know how to fix it. The bad news is that far too few of my colleagues have the political courage to do what’s necessary.

First, we need to elect leaders with the expertise and values to move us forward and end the idea that Congress is a popularity contest. When I came to Washington, I quickly learned that too many politicians are more interested in being on TV than they are in passing legislation. Since my election, I’ve worked to pass dozens of pieces of

legislation that make a difference on opioids, mental health, veterans issues, education and more. And if you see me on TV (a lot less than others), I’m only there to talk about our progress or to advocate for real solutions.

Next, we need to slam the door on PACs and lobbyists in Washington. Their power and control over our government is a scourge on our democracy and stands in the way of the progress that we must make. In the last election cycle alone, they shelled out over \$1 billion in campaign cash. Make no mistake: there are strings attached to these contributions.

This is why big pharma was able to pursue practices that have led to the deaths of millions from the opioid crisis, why big oil isn’t held accountable for its contribution to climate change, and why large corporations aren’t paying their fair share in taxes. Since the

very beginning, I’ve refused to take a nickel from PACs, lobbyists, or corporations. And if I am elected Senator next year, I’ll be the only Senator in the entire country who has fulfilled that pledge. Once I’m there, I won’t stop fighting until we ban these contributions and get back to working on behalf of the American people — not corporations and their lobbyists.

The final — and one of the most important tasks — is for our leaders to do more listening and less speaking (or yelling). In speeches on the House floor, you’ll hear folks on both sides of the aisle waxing poetically about what their party and their colleagues have accomplished. I certainly believe Democrats have accomplished vast amounts more for the American people, but we need to do a better job of listening.

I do everything I can to walk the walk on these issues. I am grateful to be able to spend so much time traveling across the state and listening

to voters. Because I don’t take PAC or lobbyist money, I’m able to spend less time at fundraisers and more time knocking on doors, hearing from the people who matter most in this race. Few people I listen to care who is elected Speaker of the House or about which committee hearing got the most views on social media. They’re worried about getting the healthcare they deserve, having a good paying job, paying their bills on time, navigating the increased cost of living, and addressing the challenges that their communities face.

It’s past time for Congress to return to being an institution of integrity. I didn’t run for Congress because I needed a job — I ran because I was on a mission. The same is true of my campaign for the U.S. Senate. I’ll always put the people first, and I’ll work to reform Congress from within. But it will be a team effort. And I’m counting on the support of Marylanders to make it happen.

# County Council President Brad Young

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. at Winchester Hall in Frederick. All meetings are open to the public.

On October 17, the Frederick County Council approved Bill 23-17 by 7-0 vote. This Bill repeals the origi-

nal establishment of a County Roads Board. The charge of the Board was to advise the county engineer and the County Council in the planning of road programs. The Council aims to replace this former Board with the establishment of the Frederick County

Rustic Roads Commission. Bill 23-18 will establish this new Commission, if passed, in the coming weeks. Bill 23-18 outlines more specific and inclusive guidelines for the Commission.

This new Commission is charged with establishing a nomination procedure for inclusion into (or removal from) the Rustic Roads Program; overseeing the designation of Designated Rustic Roads and Candidate Roads; advising the County on the protection of Designated Rustic Roads and Candidate

Roads, to include the review of proposed substantial changes to these roads; developing and encouraging community efforts and resources for action on Designated Rustic Roads; and advising on rustic road preservation issues. Once this Commission is established, members of the public will be welcome and encouraged to apply for membership.

On October 17, the Council also passed Bill 23-19 by 7-0 vote, allowing for Child Care Centers/Nursery Schools in the Office/Research Indus-

trial zoned property within the County. This Bill facilitates easier accessibility to child care for those working in nearby research or industrial facilities.

Other upcoming legislation includes Bill 23-20, which creates a new use within the Agricultural District to allow limited commercial vehicle parking and material and equipment storage associated with a landscape contractor business. Bill 23-21 amends our current Zoning Ordinance to allow for cannabis dispensaries, cannabis growing facilities, and cannabis processing facilities. This Bill also creates definitions and approval criteria for such cannabis dispensaries and cannabis growing and processing facilities in response to the statewide legalization of adult-use cannabis. These changes are required to be implemented because of the legalization of recreational marijuana in the state of Maryland. Full legislation can be found on our website.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. We welcome public comment at every Council meeting on Tuesday evenings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comment in person, leave a voicemail to be forwarded to each Council Member, or email us any time at [councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov). Please visit our website at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/county council](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/county council) to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

It's that time of the year again when we reflect on what's happened over the past year and think about the blessings we have. As the leaves change, I look forward to the views of the foliage during my walks and drives in and around Frederick County to recharge and regroup.

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, I want to express my gratitude to my administration, all Frederick County Government staff and partner organizations, the residents of Frederick County, my family, and friends. You all add to the social fabric that makes our community vibrant and thriving. I am grateful for the sense of belonging and community that Frederick has to offer.

I made a promise to implement an innovative approach to governing that matches the needs of all residents. My key initiatives unveiled during my State of the County Address last month included a transition dashboard, the Office of Agriculture, and the opening of a 24/7 Walk-in Crisis Care Center.

### Transition Dashboard

The public can now track our progress on over 60 recommendations from the Transition Team through our Transition Dashboard. The dashboard lists details of work done to implement each recommendation. You can find the dashboard at [www.Fred-erickCountyMD.gov/Transition-Dashboard](http://www.Fred-erickCountyMD.gov/Transition-Dashboard). The site will be updated quarterly so the public can stay up to date on progress.

### Office of Agriculture

During my State of the County Address, I was proud to announce the newly created Office of Agriculture, which will centralize and elevate the County's agricultural functions. The Office will bring together the agricultural land preservation programs and our award-winning Agriculture Innovation Grants program. One of the first tasks for the office will be to update the County's Agricultural Strategic Plan, which was last published in 2008.

### Crisis Care Center

October 26th marked the official opening of our new 24/7 Walk-In Crisis Care Center – a first of its kind in Maryland. The center will support people experiencing mental health or substance misuse crises. In addition, it will provide basic medical care and connect patients to community-based resources for ongoing recovery-oriented services.

Everyone in our community and region deserves support, adequate resources, and a space for well-being. The facility is owned by Frederick County and operated by the Mental Health Association under the direction of the Frederick County Health Department. Day-to-day operations will be supported by opioid settle-

ment payments made to Frederick County.

Frederick continues to be a community where the public and government work together to make the transformational change we deserve for our County! In addition to many firsts, we celebrated a milestone year for the 40th annual Brunswick Railroad Day and celebrated our region's beauty at Colofest.

### Looking Ahead to November

Among the holiday gatherings come events that make our community vibrant and thriving! Mark your calendars for upcoming Veterans Day Parade in Brunswick, one of the nation's oldest Veterans Day parades, and various events in and around Frederick County.

## Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be sitting here writing the "Mayor's Column" for our local newspaper. I'm sure Mrs. Richards, my English teacher, would tell you the same thing. But here it goes.

My first few weeks in office have been very busy. I have spent a lot of time in the Town Office learning the daily routines of our staff and working my way around the office. We held our first staff meeting with all town employees, and the meeting was recorded and sent to the Town Commissioners. Even though they were unable to attend in person, I felt it was important they heard the message I had for the staff. Transparency is my top priority. Over the next few weeks, I will be meeting with each staff member individually to learn more about their responsibilities and gather ideas from them on how we can improve our operations.

While I will do my best to be available for you every day, Thursdays will be my designated "Office Day." I will be available to meet with you to discuss concerns, listen to ideas or just to have a cup of coffee. You are free to stop in anytime, but it would be great if you could call the office and schedule a designated time to meet.

The water rates are a major concern of many of our citizens and businesses. The town staff

and Commissioners are exploring options to relieve some of this financial burden from the taxpayers. One of Mayor Briggs' last announcements in office was that funds have been found to assist with relief for the water fund. This will be discussed and hopefully passed by the Commissioners at our November meeting.

There are several openings on Committees and Boards and we need your help filling the open slots. I also plan to establish several new committees to gather more community input, and to review many codes and ordinances that need updating. Please visit the town website and Facebook page to get vacancy announcements.

With winter just around the corner it is important for you to

remember, all town streets are now Snow Emergency Routes. This means that when the Snow Emergency Plan is activated by the State of Maryland, all vehicles must be moved from roadways. We are working with area businesses and organizations to provide parking in their lots to assist citizens who don't have off-street parking during snowstorms. More information will be forthcoming.

While there are several pressing issues that need attention, be assured we are working to resolve them. With that I ask, please be courteous to our staff. If for some reason they are unable to help you with your concerns or problems, please ask to speak to me. If you need to vent to someone, let it be me. I have worked in a firehouse

for years; I have thick skin and can handle it.

In closing, I want to thank the citizens for trusting me to lead our great

town, and I will work hard every day not to disappoint you. Please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to respond within the same business day.

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# FROM THE DESK OF...

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

We have had some beautiful days with warm temperatures – walking days. This year, the day to roll clocks back by an hour falls on Sunday, November 5. The official time for the change is 2 a.m. I get confused. Will I gain an hour of sleep, which I need, or will I lose an hour of sleep I need? There is a straightforward expression to remember to answer this question, “Spring forward. Fall back.” Are you saying you knew? Well, I don’t remember knowing it. This old age is catching up with me.

The Senate has passed legislation to permanently end the practice through the proposed Sunshine Protection Act, which would end Daylight Saving Time. However, it is still awaiting a vote in the House before President Biden can sign it into law. So, does that mean I can hold on to my extra hour of sleep? Just thinking about the answer to that question will keep me up. As you can see, I have a problem sleeping. This is an excellent time to check your smoke alarms. At the same time, you should replace your smoke alarm batteries and the batteries in your Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the

Borough Building, 5685 Fairfield Road. Please note the last day for the Board of Elections to receive a voted ballot is by 8 p.m. Ballots received by mail in the Elections Office after 8 p.m. election day will not be counted. The date of the postmark is not a factor. To see a sample ballot, visit the Adams County government website at [adamscountypa.gov](http://adamscountypa.gov). Scroll down the homepage and click on Election Info (Election Guide).

On the Adams County Election Resources, under Sample Ballots, click on Abbottstown-Hamilton Sample Ballots, and you will be brought to a list of sample ballots. Scroll down the alphabetized list of ballots to Carroll Valley. The Borough has also printed some sample ballots. These are available in the lobby by the Administrative window. Please come out to vote. In this 2023 ballot, you are asked to select a total of five council members – four candidates for a four-year term and one for a two-year term.

Veterans Day will be celebrated on November 11. It is a day to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

When browsing online, be aware of

the so-called Phantom Hacker, which involves convincing victims that their financial accounts have been hacked. According to the FBI, perpetrators of the Phantom Hacker scheme gain victims’ trust in three phases: First, they pose as a tech support representative and convince the victim to download a piece of software. Then, they call a second time, pretending to be from the victim’s bank or another financial institution. Finally, they claim to be an employee of a federal agency. The scam aims to convince people to move their money into an “alias” account, where the scammers can steal it. The fraud can include emails, texts, phone calls, and even letters sent via the U.S. Postal Service. You should be extremely cautious when receiving unsolicited texts, phone calls, or emails, which could lead scammers straight to your bank account. Think twice before providing any personal information. If you are suspicious, call your financial institution directly using a phone number you know to be affiliated with the institution. If you feel that you have been a victim of the Phantom Hacker, you are urged to report any fraudulent or suspicious activities to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at [ic3](http://ic3).

gov. Suspected fraud can be reported at [ReportFraud.fic.gov](http://ReportFraud.fic.gov). Call the Borough and speak with Chief Cliff Weikert at 717.642.8269 Ext. 182.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the clothing giveaway on October 21. NHN couldn’t make it happen without all of them! Also, thanks to those who donated items and came out to shop! At the end of the month, NHN plans to send out information on their collection of toiletry items for the area nursing homes for the Christmas holidays.

When the toiletry list is ready, it will be posted on Facebook for sign-ups. For questions, contact Robin Dicken at 717-642-6578. Around this time of year, the question always comes up whether someone can hunt in Carroll Valley. To clarify the rules, Carroll Valley cannot, by law, change state law regarding hunting; however, current state rules make legal hunting in Carroll Valley difficult.

Pennsylvania has what is called “Safety Zones.” In a safety zone, it is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase, or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farmhouse or farm building, or school or playground without

the occupants’ permission. Shooting into a safety zone is unlawful, even if you are outside of the zone. Driving a game without a firearm or bow within a safety zone without permission is unlawful. Consider a safety zone about one and a half of a football field for comparison. Hunting on hospital and institutional grounds and in cemeteries is also prohibited. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle whose occupants are releasing pheasants.

The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation. Around playgrounds, schools, or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards. For further information, refer to [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us). If you think someone is hunting too close to a residence, call the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Dispatch Center in Huntingdon at 814-643-1831, and an officer will check for violations. If you see persons hunting from vehicles or after dark, call Adams County Dispatch at 717-334-8101 or 9-1-1 to get the quickest response.” Call my cell at 301.606.2021 if you have any questions.

## Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

I hope that everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for in our lives and in our community. We are a very blessed nation, and we should be thankful for that. We had a very active October. Within the Road Department, we have finished all our scheduled projects. This includes putting double yellow lines on roads and new stop lines at various intersections. The Road Department has recently been cutting back

the brush and trees that are hanging over roadways. Please be courteous of the mowing and cutting going on. Fall is setting in, we are not sure what snow will come, but it is predicted that there will be significant snow.

Please be careful as it gets colder for black ice, ice, or snow on the roads. In November, we will be upfitting our trucks with plows and salt spreaders to be ready for this winter. We have plenty of salt

and anti-skid in stock to be ready for this year’s weather. As soon as possible after a snowfall, the Road Department will be out plowing and clearing the roads. If it is a significant snowfall, then you will see the Road Department out plowing during the snow. Don’t forget to winterize your vehicles and check your heating system in your homes. Also, remember to have your chimneys checked. Even with the time change on Novem-

ber 4 and it is still quite dark in the morning. Drive carefully and be aware of children waiting for the bus, as they may not be dressed in bright or reflective clothing. Please do not ignore the flashing yellow and red lights on school buses.

On October 5, the Zoning Hearing Board granted a special exception authorizing construction and use of a proposed new and larger dog kennel facility and the related expansion of an existing use permitted by special exception at 2575 Tract Road. On November 9, Adams County (ACCF) will start its Giving Spree Program at the Gettysburg Area Middle School from 3 to 7 p.m. The funds from this will go directly towards the construction of the new Gettysburg welcome center on Baltimore Street. The con-

tact number is 717-337-3491 if you have any questions about the Giving Spree Program.

The 16th Annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour is taking place on November 18 and 19 from 10 to 5. Meet fourteen artists and tour their studios in the Fairfield, Orrtanna and Cashtown areas. Eight studio locations will feature paintings, pottery, sculpture, woodworking, photography, printmaking, fiber and textile arts, enamels, jewelry, calligraphy, and bookbinding. The event is free, and all ages are welcome. Please visit [www.foothillsartists.net](http://www.foothillsartists.net) for more information.

I want to thank the staff here at Liberty Township for all they do every day. I want to make sure that our Township employees get the thanks they deserve. I want

continued on next page



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<b>8 Possum Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> Beautifully wooded lot with perc. approval. Close to historic Gettysburg, close to Ski Liberty & golf. Perfect location. <b>\$45,000</b>		<b>Rates may be going up but home sales are going strong!</b>	

  
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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Candidate Robert Smith

The election on November 7th is just around the corner. As we get down to the wire, I would like to re-introduce myself to the people of Adams County and tell them why I am running for Adams County Commissioner.

My name is Rob Smith. I entered the race for Adams County Commissioner in February of this year because, as a husband and a father, I care about the people and the future of Adams County. In my current line of work for the last 16 years as an Account Manager for Abarita Coca-Cola Beverages, and over the previous eight months of campaigning, I have met many hard-working and caring people in Adams County. I have seen the compassion the People in Adams County are capable of. That is why the message of our campaign for the future has been one of hope and compassion. At the same time, the three main issues of our campaign have been Fiscal Responsibility, Child Services, and Mental Health Services.

I have served on the Biglerville Borough Council since 2012 and as the Water Committee Chairman from day one. In addition, I have served on both the Safety and Ordinance Committees. I also serve on the Northern Adams Regional Emergency Management Agency as a representative for the Borough of Biglerville.

As Chairman of the Water Committee, I have worked closely with both the Water/Wastewater Manager and the Sewer Operator of the borough to maintain the safety and quality of the public water Biglerville Borough provides its citizens and the residents of the neighboring Butler Township, while at the same time adhering to federal and state regulations. There have been times when tough decisions had to be made and priorities put in a row. In every situation, I have engaged with the borough employees and the six other members of the Council to reach decisions that have been unanimous

one hundred percent of the time when it has come to the area of water.

In my time on the Safety Committee, the Committee, as a bi-partisan team, has always kept the safety of the borough residents at the top of the agenda by listening to the concerns of the Police Chief, the Code Enforcer, and Residents. Also, the Committee and the entire Council have made sure the Police are fully funded and have the equipment, training, and support required for them to do their job safely and effectively.

While serving on the Ordinance Committee, I have been involved with the Chair and another member in writing new ordinances and modifying existing ones to address new concerns due to recent developments in the area. This has included issues such as vacant buildings, burning ordinances, and noise concerns.

As I mentioned, I have met many hard-working and caring people of Adams County in my employment in the private sector and during this campaign—people who are just trying to make ends meet and keep food on the table. Single Parents working for a low wage just trying to have enough money to put gas in the car to get to and from work. People are trying to get affordable child care for their children, so they go to work. In my view, these people should be on a County Commissioners mind when decisions are made on the County Level, especially in Fiscal Responsibility, Child Services, and Mental Health Services.

Mental Health Services have never been more critical than now. The people of Adams County should never be left out of the equation regarding this issue, whether it involves their work environment, home life, or everyday activities. Many acknowledge that the current funding for Mental Health Services is not sufficient. The Department of York/Adams Mental Health-Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is managed by the Joint Board of Commissioners, which comprises both the Adams and York County Commissioners. This Department should receive all the support required and more.

The Department of Children and Youth Services in Adams County is essential to protect children from abuse or neglect. Adequate funding is necessary to ensure no child goes to bed hungry and families or temporary caregivers receive the support the County can provide. So, all children get the emotional support, nutrition, and education they need and deserve.

Fiscal Responsibility should always be maintained and a priority. While spending should always be controlled to keep taxes low, the money set aside for expenses every year should continuously be monitored so it is spent efficiently and directed transparently to the proper Departments of the County, whether it is Children and Youth Services, the Adult Correctional Complex, or the Courts.

If the People of Adams County give me the privilege to serve as County

Commissioner. In that case, I will use my experiences in the private sector and local government to serve the People of Adams County with Integrity, Trust, and Commitment. I will listen to the People of Adams County. I am taking into consideration their concerns and well-being. I can bring a fresh perspective to the Adams County Board of Commissioners. The Commission has been the same for the last 12 years. A new face can bring a new awakening to what can be reached for and accomplished in the future. I see the hope and compassion in the People of Adams County, and there is a fantastic amount of potential for that Hope and Compassion to grow.

As I said before, this is a positive campaign. I am not running against any individual or in crisis. I am running because I care about the future and the people of Adams County. I

want to send out a message of hope and compassion again. Hope for the future and Compassion for our fellow human beings. Every Person in Adams County matters.

You, the People of Adams County, have a voice, and your voice matters. When you vote, you're voice is heard. You're vote always matters. That is why we have elections. Nobody should be held back and told their vote does not count. The right to vote should be protected for everyone.

Please remember to get out and vote on Election Day, November 7th. Polls are open from 7 am-8 pm. There are four candidates for Adams County Commissioner. You can vote for two.


If you have any questions for me or would like to talk, please give me a call. I am happy to talk to anyone and would love to hear from you. My number is 717-339-6364.

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 FOR ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONER



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\*PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT ROBERT ALBERT SMITH ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

continued from previous page

to continue to praise our Police Department for a job well done to keep our Township safe. It has been brought to my attention that there has been an increase in criminal activity. There have been car break-ins and various other break-ins. Please make sure to lock your cars and remove your valuables from your vehicle. Make sure your home is locked and secure as well.

The Municipal Election is Tuesday, November 7th and Liberty Township building will be open to voters from 7am-8pm. I encourage everyone to come out and vote. I am up for re-election this year for a 6-year term, I am humbly asking for your support and vote this year. Richard Swiat is running for re-election as elected auditor, and Gwen Myers is seeking your support by write-in votes to fill the remaining term of another vacant elected auditor position. The Township business office will be closed on November 7, and our monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8 at 6 p.m..

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# COMMENTARY

## The Bulwark

### Can America still lead?

Giselle Donnelly

Israel, Ukraine, and what it will take for our deeds to match our words.

President Joe Biden wishes to be “crystal clear”: “The United States has Israel’s back.” His speech on Tuesday was—according to Michael Oren, a distinguished historian who served as Israel’s ambassador to the United States during the Obama administration—“the most passionately pro-Israel” speech ever delivered by an American president.

Biden has also said that America will back Ukraine “as long as it takes” to win its freedom from Russia. Last December, Biden told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, during Zelensky’s trip to Washington where he received a standing ovation from a joint session of Congress, that he and his people “continue to inspire the world” and it was “an honor to be by your side.”

Grand words. Very American words. But what do they—and what should they—mean in deeds? Is this the moment when the United States comes home from its holiday from history to reassert its power on behalf of peace, prosperity, and liberty?

There are many reasons to be skeptical, beginning with the character of the president himself. In his political maturity, dating back at least to his time as vice president, Biden has evinced a

strong preference for diplomacy over the exercise of hard power. During the Obama years, his counsel was not that sage strategy should guide the use of military force, but that it could substitute for it. He advanced a scheme of partition for Iraq and he played a large role in undermining Obama’s time-limited—and hence self-defeating—“surge” in Afghanistan. And, lest we forget, Biden could not be talked out of abandoning the country to the Taliban two years ago.

Yet Biden is as much a trailing edge as a leading edge indicator of America’s strategic temperament in the 2020s. Preserving American strength in the world remains a rhetorical vote-getter. But at the same time, the spirit of retreat manifests itself distinctly in the two parties: Left-leaning Democrats think the United States is morally unfit to lead the world, while right-wing Republicans think the rest of the world is unfit for American attention. A McGovernite, come-home-America theme ran through the Obama and Trump terms. The Bidenites hanker to save the planet more than defend the free world.

Moreover, the Twitterization of politics all but precludes serious thought or discussion, particularly about international affairs. Are Matt Gaetz, Jim Jordan, Marjorie Taylor Greene, and Nancy Mace the men and women for the moment? Can Pramila Jayapal and Jamaal Bowman contribute seriously

to the nation’s foreign policy debates? Don’t even get me started on Donald Trump and RFK Jr.

The 10/7 Hamas attacks were instantly characterized as “Israel’s 9/11.” But comparisons to al Qaeda or the Islamic State not only misrepresent the scale of the assaults but the nature of the threat to Israel. Hamas has de facto sovereignty and sanctuary that have made it far more resilient than the pre-9/11 version of al Qaeda or the Islamic State in Iraq. Hamas has allies and outside backers that have enabled it, may have helped plan this campaign, and can help it reconstitute. The Israelis left Gaza in 2005 and came to accept Hamas as a fact of life; even the best “over the horizon” intelligence-gathering is an invitation to strategic surprise.

Even more remarkably, the Russian invasions of Georgia and Ukraine from 2008 onward—and now, the continuation of the largest land war in Europe since 1945—have not aroused the United States or most of our major European allies to real action, to anything that involves genuine sacrifice or reordering of national priorities. Even Poland, key to the “Eastern Front” and heretofore stalwart in support of Ukraine, is unlikely to forgo its own military modernization to give Kyiv the modern Western systems it needs. The Ukrainian military has had to make do with old Soviet hand-me-downs and narrowly selected U.S. and Western systems. The balance of power in Europe, ever America’s central strategic concern since the founding, apparently no lon-

ger worries us that much.

Nor has the sheer barbarism of our enemies had more than a transitory effect. The extreme brutality of the Hamas attacks are not more horrid than those perpetrated by ISIS, al Qaeda in Iraq, the Iranian Quds Force, the Russian army, or the Wagner Group. The face of evil shows itself again and again—and again and again we avert our eyes.

Back in 2008, frustrated that the Pentagon was dragging its heels in fulfilling the requirements of the Iraq surge, Defense Secretary Robert Gates decried “a tendency towards what might be called ‘Next-War-itis,’ the propensity of much of the defense establishment to be in favor of what might be needed in a future conflict.” The normally imperturbable Gates was infuriated that his senior generals were not committed to winning “the war we are in,” and he fired a number of them. His purge, alas, proved incomplete and transitory. And we can see the same problem today, as too many in the national security world wish to focus only on tomorrow’s contest with China and the defense of Taiwan. For Elbridge Colby, for instance—the scribe for the national defense strategy pursued by the Trump administration, in which he served as a deputy assistant secretary of defense—the new Israeli-Hamas war shows “the need for us to husband our strength for Asia,” prioritizing “very close allies like Israel” at the expense of transfers to Ukraine.

Husbanding is an inadequate and indeed imprudent response to the current systemic crisis of the liberal international order, the world America made from the rubble of World War II. By the time the contest reaches a shape and proportion that is congenial to our current thinking, it will be too late. When the final leaf of diplomacy wafts away, we will stand naked in a hostile world.

For President Biden’s passionate words to take on real meaning, they must form the inspiration not just for the immediate defense of beleaguered, freedom-loving friends on the frontier but for a speedily begun and sustained program of rearmament, led by the United States but promulgated across many allies. Our recent presidents have complained about “free-riding” partners who devote less than 2 percent of their annual income to defense, yet we ourselves don’t spend much more than that. We ourselves have become free riders on the investments made by past generations.

Biden can be—may already be—the most pro-Ukraine and pro-Israel president in American history, judging by rhetoric. But his promises and exhortations will count for nothing if he cannot lead the United States to a place where it is willing—politically, economically, militarily—to back up the Israelis.

To read other articles from the Bulwark visit [www.thebulwark.com](http://www.thebulwark.com)

## The Triad

### Biden gets 10/7 right

Jonathan V. Last

Here is what Joe Biden said and did with the first 48 hours following the Hamas act on Israeli:

- Biden was on the phone with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu within hours of an initial briefing, shelving tensions over the prime minister’s controversial judicial overhaul as he reiterated America’s “rock solid” commitment to Israel.
- After vowing to provide Israel with whatever it needed, Biden spent the rest of the morning in constant contact with his national security team, including Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and CIA Director Bill Burns.
- Over the next 48 hours, Biden repeatedly reconvened his national security team as the scale of the atrocities.
- Biden pledged to work with Israel “on every aspect of the hostage crisis,” including sharing U.S. intelligence and expertise.
- Biden convened a call with the leaders of the U.K., France, Italy and Germany, who issued a joint statement condemning Hamas.
- The day after the attack Biden ordered the carrier group USS Gerald R. Ford to the eastern Mediterranean, sending a message to Iran and others in the region that American power would be close at hand.

On October 9, Biden put out the following statement:

*This is not some distant tragedy. The ties between Israel and the United States run deep. It is personal for so many American families who are feeling the pain of this attack as well as the scars inflicted through millennia of antisemitism and persecution of Jewish people.*

*In this moment of heartbreak, the American people stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Israelis. We remember the pain of being attacked by terrorists at home, and Americans across the country stand united against these evil acts that have once more claimed innocent American lives. It is an outrage. And we will continue to show the world that the American people are unwavering in our resolve to oppose terrorism in all forms.*

*The United States and the State of Israel are inseparable partners, and I affirmed to Prime Minister Netanyahu again when we spoke yesterday that the United States will continue to make sure Israel has what it needs to defend itself and its people.*

Then on October 10, Biden made an extraordinary speech.

*You know, there are moments in this life—and I mean this literally—when the pure, unadulterated evil is unleashed on this world.*

*The people of Israel lived through one such moment this weekend. The bloody hands of the terrorist organization Hamas—a group whose stated purpose for being is to kill Jews.*

*This was an act of sheer evil.*

*More than 1,000 civilians slaughtered—not just killed, slaughtered—in Israel. Among them, at least 14 American citizens killed.*

*Parents butchered using their bodies to try to protect their children.*

*Stomach-turning reports of being—babies being killed.*

*Entire families slain.*

*Young people massacred while attending a musical festival to celebrate peace—to celebrate peace.*

*Women raped, assaulted, paraded as trophies.*

*Families hid their fear for hours and hours, desperately trying to keep their children quiet to avoid drawing attention. . . .*

*There are still so many families desperately waiting to hear the fate of their loved ones, not knowing if they’re alive or dead or hostages.*

*Infants in their mothers’ arms, grandparents in wheelchairs, Holocaust survivors abducted and held hostage—hostages whom Hamas has now threatened to execute in violation of every code of human morality.*

*It’s abhorrent.*

*The brutality of Hamas—this blood-thirstiness—brings to mind the worst—the worst rampages of ISIS.*

*This is terrorism.*

*But sadly, for the Jewish people, it’s not new.*

*This attack has brought to the surface painful memories and the scars left by a millennia of antisemitism and genocide of the Jewish people.*

*So, in this moment, we must be crystal clear: We stand with Israel. We stand with Israel. And we will make sure Israel has what it needs to take care of its citizens, defend itself, and respond to this attack.*

*There is no justification for terrorism. There is no excuse.*

*Hamas does not stand for the Palestinian people’s right to dignity and self-determination. Its stated purpose is the annihilation of the State*

*of Israel and the murder of Jewish people.*

*They use Palestinian civilians as human shields.*

*Hamas offers nothing but terror and bloodshed with no regard to who pays the price. . . .*

*Like every nation in the world, Israel has the right to respond—indeed has a duty to respond—to these vicious attacks.*

*I just got off the phone with—the third call with Prime Minister Netanyahu. And I told him if the United States experienced what Israel is experiencing, our response would be swift, decisive, and overwhelming.*

*We also discussed how democracies like Israel and the United States are stronger and more secure when we act according to the rule of law.*

*Terrorists purpo—purposefully target civilians, kill them. We uphold the laws of war—the law of war. It matters. There’s a difference.*

*Today, Americans across the country are praying for all those families that have been ripped apart. A lot of us know how it feels. It leaves a black hole in your chest when you lose family, feeling like you’re being sucked in. The anger, the pain, the sense of hopelessness.*

*This is what they mean by a “human tragedy”—an atrocity on an appalling scale.*

*But we’re going to s—continue to stand united, supporting the people of Israel who are suffering unspeakable losses and opposing the hatred and violence of terrorism.*

*My team has been in near constant communication with our Israeli partners and partners all across the region and the world from the moment this crisis began.*

*We’re surging additional military assistance, including ammunition and interceptors to replenish Iron Dome.*

*We’re going to make sure that Israel does not run out of these critical assets to defend its cities and its citizens.*

*My administration has consulted closely with Congress throughout this crisis. And when Congress returns, we’re going to ask them to take urgent action to fund the national security requirements of our critical partners.*

*This is not about party or politics. This is about the security of our world, the security of the United States of America.*

*Let me say again—to any country, any organization, anyone thinking of taking advantage of this situation, I have one word: Don’t. Don’t.*

*Our hearts may be broken, but our resolve is clear.*

There’s more. You can read the rest. You should read the rest.

Here are some things Biden did not do:

- He did not tweet out threats.
- He did not call people dogs.
- He did not alienate any of our allies.
- He did not endorse war crimes.
- He did not criticize any of his domestic political opponents.

Just objectively speaking: Is there anything more you could want from an American president at a moment like this? Because if there is, I can’t think of it.

Joe Biden has done the job about as well as anyone—Republican or Democrat—could have hoped.

To read other articles by Jonathan Last visit [www.thebulwark.com](http://www.thebulwark.com).

# The Liberal Patriot

The hole in the center of the electorate

John Judis

What does American politics look like? There is a widespread view among political scientists and political consultants that the electorate has become inextricably polarized between Democrats and Republicans and there is a very small group of swing voters that decide national and some state elections.

Based on covering elections and looking at American political history, it is that the electorate is becoming, if anything, more fluid and volatile. There are partisan extremes in both parties that espouse consistent ideologies and that often dominate the public discussion of politics—for them party is a cultural identity—but there are growing numbers of voters who are uncomfortable with these extremes and with the parties in so far as they are identified with these extremes. There are several polling results that I would cite in favor of my view of the American electorate.

The first is the rise of “independent” voters. Gallup conducts regular surveys that ask respondents: “Do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an independent?” As late as January 1, 2008, the percentage of Democrats exceeded that of independents as well as Republicans, but since then, the percentage of independents has been growing at the expense of both parties. In March 2023, it hit an all-time high of 49 percent. Republicans and Democrats were tied at 25 percent. Of course, when these independents are asked what party they lean to, Democrats and Republicans split the vote, but that’s not the point. The point is that growing percentages of the electorate are alienated from both parties. They might “lean”

to one rather than the other, but that is not the same as being hardline partisans that are culturally identified with one party rather than the other. If anything, the cultural identification with the parties is diminishing.

The second poll has been done recently by the Wall Street Journal. It found that if Donald Trump and Joe Biden are the presidential nominees, 26 percent of the electorate has not made up its mind whom to vote for. That is more than a slice of the electorate and suggests again that there is a large segment of voters who are not strongly committed to either party or to the political views of the party’s candidates. According to the poll, more of these voters identify themselves as “moderate” than either “liberal” or “conservative.” A majority support abortion rights. Almost three-fourths of them have unfavorable views of Trump and Biden. They disapprove of Biden’s handling of the economy and the border, but they think he is the more likeable and caring of the two candidates, and by a wide margin they think Trump did commit illegal actions after the 2020 election. They are younger and somewhat less white and less-college educated on average than the overall electorate.

Beyond what the Wall Street Journal found, there is no other extensive polling of this group of the larger group of “independents,” but based on these findings as well as on past election results, I would venture a few generalizations about what, on the average, is their outlook.

First, on social issues, they do not share the views of the radicals in either party on such issues as abortion or immigration. What is “liberal,” “conservative,” and “moderate” changes by

the decade. In 2004, supporting gay marriage was identified with liberals and cost Democratic nominee John Kerry some votes, but by 2016, both Republican and Democratic presidential nominees supported gay marriage. It was a “moderate” position. In 2024, supporting “gender-affirming” medical intervention for minors will be identified with liberals, while banning abortion with the right. Independents and “persuadables”—whom I will hereafter call “the uncommitted”—will on average reject both these positions. Similarly, the uncommitted will reject both open borders (or its functional equivalent), on one side, and mass deportation of illegal immigrants, on the other.

Second, on economics, the uncommitted center appears to support Social Security and Medicare, food stamps, and the minimum wage—all programs that are either universal in the case of the two big entitlement programs, or don’t require large government expenditures relative to the overall budget, in the case of the latter examples. They share with conservative Republicans a distrust of “big government” but they have rejected Republican and conservative efforts to ax social spending or reward big business and the wealthy. If candidates can show their opponents are on the side of the rich and big business, they are likely to win over the uncommitted.

Third, on foreign policy, they are skeptical of any initiatives that do not appear obviously based on defending the national interest and American security. In The Liberal Patriot poll, large numbers of the young say “neither party is close to my views” on “taking on China in a smart manner” or “maintaining a strong military and defense.” In so far as the “persuadables” are heavily represented among this same age-range, I think it is fair to conclude that an aggressive foreign policy aimed at making the world safe for



democracy would be a hard sell among them. Support for Ukraine war spending, for instance, is likely to waver among many of these voters as time goes on with some supporting and some opposing.

Finally, what conclusions can one draw about who the uncommitted would back in November 2024? Let’s assume that Biden and Trump are the nominees. On economics, Biden seems to have received little credit for his signature achievements, including the Inflation Reduction Act or the CHIPS and Science Act. The results of these bills are yet to be seen, and in the next year, continued inflation may overshadow them. The Fed’s actions may also finally cause a slowdown. Biden will also have to contend with the rise in illegal immigration during his administration. Trump will try to distance himself from his party’s extreme views on abortion, but he will have difficulty doing so. If the election were merely decided on the candidates’ platforms, Trump could enjoy a slight edge.

But the election is likely to pivot on factors that are unique to 2024. These include Biden’s age and physical fitness for office; Trump’s character and integrity; and the electorate’s sense of what the candidates really care about. Trump is likely to suffer on the last two mea-

asures. By November 2024, Trump could be a convicted felon. As the Wall Street Journal poll showed, the persuadables believe that Trump acted illegally.

In the 2016 election, Trump, facing Hillary Clinton, was able to convince the uncommitted that he cared more about them than his opponent did, but by 2020 election, Trump’s vast egotism had undermined his promise of care and concern. Since the 2020 election, Trump’s self-concern has, if anything, become all-consuming, as evidenced in his refusal to get beyond his grievances about the 2020 results. Biden may appear feeble, but as the Wall Street Journal poll showed, he significantly exceeds Trump when these voters are asked whether the candidate “cares about you.” That single consideration is often decisive in American elections—it won Obama Ohio in 2012—and it could prove decisive in 2024.

Winning over the uncommitted, and creating a majority that includes them, will require reforming our electoral system and developing a politics that speaks to their concerns—neither of which are on the horizon today.

To read other articles from The Liberal Patriot visit [www.liberalpatriot.com](http://www.liberalpatriot.com)

# Good Day Neighbor

Tearing down our institutions

Dorothea Mordan

Just because it’s 8:30, doesn’t mean I hate the clock.

These words were spoken by a friend while chatting about personal experiences with the institutions that impact our lives. We live by the structure of institutions, from the federal government, on through our everyday network of schools, medicine, and neighborhood businesses where we shop. The best institutions enhance our quality of life.

Some institutions stand out because they are unfair or out of balance. Institutional organizing of our government, schools, religious denominations is meant to bring order and prosperity to us individually, and society as a whole. Life often isn’t fair.

In our chat, the topic was how compensation is handled in different organizations. In the US work force there are huge differences in how employees are paid. Wages don’t have to cover the cost of living just because you have a job. At some point many people, but not enough, get ahead in their work life, get that big promotion, or become a successful entrepreneur. With a big leap to an affluent stage in life, comes a mem-

ory loss of how life was before one got there. It’s as easy for a person of good will toward all to forget how it was when they were coming up the ladder, as it is for one who is self centered. Institutions function with people standing on every rung of the ladder. If you work for one that you believe in, you can go to work, be underpaid, and still get excited to go to work everyday.

Asked about working in an underpaid job that they loved, my friend noticed the clock on the wall was at 8:30, and said, “Just because it’s 8:30, doesn’t mean I hate the clock.”

In other words, just because an organization doesn’t always work for me as it should, doesn’t mean I quit.

Just because the Congress doesn’t do everything I want, doesn’t mean I quit America.

Our governing document, the Constitution, provides guidelines and guide rails for governance and public support. I love our Constitution. I think and write about it a lot. But our founding document is the one to look to in this time of lopsided non-governing.

The Declaration of Independence.

To paraphrase, this document states that our purpose as a country is to give

freedom to the individual to pursue the blessings of life as they see fit.

Some quotes from the Declaration to consider in relation to how events are playing out today:

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, . . .”

I interrupt this quote to point out that we all know what “all men” meant in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and decades beyond. By now, due to the Emancipation Proclamation and Voting Rights for Women, this phrase means each of us.

“that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute

new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

In pursuit of property rights, the Republican majority is ignoring guard rails created in support of our Declaration of Independence, as they have been codified by our Constitution and two centuries of Amendments. They are coming close to removing them while insisting it’s okay to deny Americans the right to living life as they wish.

“Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes”

Here is where the country splitting into factions hits a jersey wall of historical comparison. Today’s factions have been created over petty grievances, and fueled by opportunism. Under King George it was taxation without representation. Today, now that we have representation, if someone doesn’t like the voting outcome, they simply deny that it is real.

Republican members in Congress have put forward policies to lower, or end, Social Security. The population voted for Social Security decades ago because enough people needed them. We have used our votes to implement a social safety system, which

is meant to help everyone regardless of personal opinion or behavior, and is exactly how to serve our common purpose, as mandated in the Declaration of Independence.

Perhaps the biggest impact of our system of government, is the flexibility each citizen has to live an independent life. Sure, there are trade offs. Having to pay taxes is a challenge, but getting the necessities of modern life with them is the pay off. We had a joke that when we came home from Pennsylvania, we knew that we were close because the roads improved at the Maryland line.

It is being said that authoritarian governments around the world can look at the United States of America, right now, and say to their population, “Democracy doesn’t work. Follow me.” Let’s prove them wrong. Stand up, defend, and vote for the principles that define us.

Meanwhile, back at the Congress where a new House Speaker has been sworn in.

Just because the current crop of legislators is run by a group who act on goals that leave many Americans behind, doesn’t mean I have lost faith in our founding principles.

To read past editions of Good Day Neighbor visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Halloween or All Saints Day

Pastor Richard Baker  
Trinity United Methodist Church

A realtor was opening a new office and wanted to celebrate and so he planned a wonderful affair with finger foods, balloons, and flowers to mark the occasion. Unfortunately, there was a mix up at the florist and flowers for a funeral were sent mistakenly while the flowers for the new office opening were sent to the funeral home. The funeral home received flowers with a card saying, "Good luck in your new location," while the realtor's office received flowers saying, "We are sorry for your loss."

This year, Americans will spend over twelve billion dollars on Halloween. It comes in second only to Christmas for the amount of money spent on outdoor decorations. Our Mexican counterparts celebrate the Day of the Dead on November 1st, coinciding with our All Saints Day. We spend an enormous amount of time and money on something most people genuinely fear, and that is death. In our country, 2.4 million people die each year with a total of over twenty billion dollars spent on funerals.

Isaac Asimov once wrote, "Life is

pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that is troublesome." Shakespeare described death as the "Great Unknown." But Max Lucado, a Christian author and pastor wrote, "We see a hearse; we think sorrow. We see a grave; we think despair. We hear of a death; we think of a loss. Not so in heaven. When heaven sees a breathless body, it sees a vacated cocoon and the liberated butterfly."

As we approach Halloween this year, maybe we should look at how this holiday started, and what it truly means. Halloween has its origins in the Celtic festival of Samhain, a pagan religious celebration that was meant to celebrate the harvest and the end of summer. People would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off evil spirits. The idea was to disguise yourself so as to trick death if it came looking.

Pope Boniface started what has become known as All Saints Day, in 609 A.D. for the church to honor the Virgin Mary, but also to remember all the martyrs. Out of that, the church has developed liturgies to honor those who have come before us. In our Wesleyan tradition, we set aside the first Sunday in November to remember and celebrate those people who in the past year died and now rest from their labors.

Every family who wants their dead to be recognized is invited to come forward and say out loud the person's name to remember as a candle is lit. As we remember those who have finished their race, it connects us to our eternal home as we believe those people are now in heaven and have become "the Saints." It encourages us to remain faithful, as we celebrate the words from the Book of Hebrews. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles us, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

We believe that "great cloud of witnesses" includes all those who went before us and are now beholding the face of God and are praying for each of us. We do not wear costumes to try and disguise ourselves because of death, while we may fear it, it is not something to hide from but a recognition that one day we will join those saints.

Graveyards hold a strange fascination for my wife and I, and we particularly enjoy visiting very old cemeteries. On older gravestones, you will gain some real insight as to how those folks regarded death. On all older stones it says things like, "Here lies the body of so and so." It does not say "here



lies so or so," because it was and still should be the idea that what has been buried is just the body. We believe at the point of death the soul goes on to be with the Lord, and in sadder cases, that soul is lost. We were touring the North End Church in Boston, and the docent told us that there were 1,500 bodies stacked in the basement. We were a little taken aback, until she shared that in the older Puritan tradition, that it was believed that after the body died and the soul was raptured that all that remained was something like a husk of corn. Why would you preserve that? That belief held with the original Mayflower people. Only one of them has a marked grave. The rest are lost to time.

It is fascinating that something we all fear is commemorated in so many ways. One of the stranger customs that grew out

of this occurred at the beginning of the last century. People would ask if their departed loved ones could be photographed doing what they did in life. A carpenter might be photographed in his workshop, or a wife might be photographed in the kitchen. In some of our rural communities, that custom continued for many years. One of my seminary professors shared the story of receiving a new appointment to a rural part of West Virginia, and after arriving, received a phone call from the local funeral home. A member of his new parish had died, and the director informed him that all viewings were held in the person's home with the funeral being held in the church. He was told to prepare himself for seeing the casket on sawhorses in the living room. That day when he arrived, he saw the casket, but it was empty. The gentleman who had passed was a grandfather, and his body had been removed by his family and placed in his favorite recliner, and all the grandchildren were taking turns sitting on his knees, while photos were taken. As bizarre as this may seem, like our Puritans ancestors, they saw death as something not to be feared but as the next step on the journey we all will take.

We may not wear costumes, but we all try to hide from what is just the next step on our journey to be reunited with our Creator. I have many fond memories of taking our children trick-or-treating, and now we enjoy seeing our grandchildren getting dressed up and going out to see how much candy they can get. But that next Sunday, we hope to see them in church as we commemorate those saints and remember that each of us has an appointment with God one day.

We want them to know that because of Jesus Christ, death is not to be feared. We may not want to run towards it, but we don't run from it in fear. We want them to remember that we are eternal beings and that Christ has conquered the grave. We hold fast to the words of the Apostle Paul, who told us in 1st Corinthians, "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

May the Lord bless you and keep you and may the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you today and every day.

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## THE BOOK OF DAYS



Edmond Halley, 1656 - 1742

## November 15

## Halley's Comet of 1682

Halley's Comet, so called, has been the means of dispelling many popular illusions concerning the influence of those mysterious bodies on worldly affairs. Before it had been ascertained that comets are periodical in their appearance, there was unbounded scope for speculation on the nature of this influence. The excellence of the celebrated vintage of 1811 was attributed to the great comet which appeared in that year; as was also the abundance of the crops. Nay, the number of twins born in the same year, and the fact that a shoemaker's wife in Whitechapel had four children at a birth, were in like manner laid to the charge of the comet; as likewise were the facts that wasps were few, and that flies became blind that year.

The Great Plague of London was attributed by some to a comet which appeared in the spring of that year. As there was a comet in 1668, and in the same year a remarkable epidemic among cats in Westphalia, some of the wisecracks of that day connected the two phenomena together as probable cause and effect.

An unusually large flock of wild pigeons in America; the disasters which were experienced by the Christians at the hands of the Turks in 1456; a fit of sneezing that became very prevalent in some parts of Germany; the deaths of eminent persons in various countries—all were believed to have been either produced or presaged by comets which appeared in certain years.

The reason why Halley's comet, or rather Halley's remarkable prediction concerning the comet, has had some influence in lessening these vague speculations, is because a regular and periodical occurrence of any event takes away from it much of a capricious or uncertain character.

After Flamsteed had written down his careful observations on the comet of 1680, Sir Isaac Newton was able to determine what kind of curve it marked out in the heavens; and then Dr. Halley proceeded to investigate, in a very elaborate way, whether any two recorded comets were really two successive appearances of the same celestial body. He found reason to believe that the comets of 1531, 1607, and 1682 were in fact one and the same comet, which takes about seventy-six years to perform

its remarkable journey round the sun.

After making corrections for a few disturbing causes, he boldly declared his belief that that comet would appear again late in 1758 or early in 1759; and, with a pardonable self-respect, he appealed to posterity not to lose sight of the fact, that if the comet should really return about that period, the prediction of such a result was due to an Englishman.

The comet was espied on the 25th December 1758, and passed its perihelion on March 13th, 1759. This would have been a great triumph to Halley, if he could have lived to see it. All Europe agreed that this particular comet should be called Halley's Comet, in honour to the man who had so boldly and successfully predicted its periodicity. Then, as time passed on, arose the question—"Will this comet re-appear after another interval of about seventy-six years, say in 1835?"

When the year 1835 arrived, all the astronomers in Europe were pointing their telescopes towards the heavens, under the belief that the comet would begin to be visible some time in August. They were right. On the 5th of August the observatory of Rome detected the comet. It became visible to the naked eye towards the end of September, attained its greatest brilliancy about the middle of October, and passed its perihelion on 15th November

All this is very wonderful to persons unskilled in astronomical mathematics; but so certain do savans now feel about it, that they decide that the recorded comets of 1378, 1456, 1531, 1607, 1682, 1759, and 1835 were only so many successive appearances of Halley's comet, at intervals of about seventy-six years apart.

There is not the slightest doubt among them that Halley's comet will appear again in or about the year 1911, although possibly not one of our present astronomers will be alive in that year.

By thus substituting regularity for uncertainty, Halley's labours on the subject of comets have effectually reformed popular notions concerning those wondrous visitants.

## November 12

## The Burning of The 'Sarah Sands'

One of the finest examples on record, of the saving of human life by the maintenance of high discipline, during ty-

ing difficulties, was afforded during the burning of the Sarah Sands, a transport steamer employed by the government in 1857. She was on her passage from England to India, with a great part of the 54th Regiment of Foot on board, intended to assist in the suppression of the Indian mutiny; the number of persons was about 400, besides the ship's crew. The vessel, an iron steamer of 2000 tons burthen, arrived at a spot about 400 miles from Mauritius; when, at three in the afternoon on the 11th of November, the cargo in the hold was found to be on fire. Captain Castle, commanding the ship, and Lieutenant - Colonel Moffatt, commanding the troops, at once concerted plans for maintaining discipline under this terrible trial.

Some of the men hauled up bale after bale of government stores from the hold; some took in sail, and brought the ship before the wind; some ran out lengths of hose from the fire-engine, and poured down torrents of water below. It soon became evident, however, that this water would not quench the flames, and that the smoke in the hold would prevent the men from longer continuing below. The colonel then ordered his men to throw overboard all the ammunition in the starboard magazine. But the larboard or port magazine was so surrounded with heat and smoke, that he hesitated to command the men to risk their lives there; and he therefore called for volunteers. A number of brave fellows at once stepped forward, rushed to the magazine, and cleared out all its contents, except a barrel or two of powder; several of them, overpowered with heat and smoke, fell by the way, and were hauled up senseless.

The fire burst up through the decks and cabins, and was intensified by a fierce gale which happened to be blowing at the time. Captain Castle then resolved to lower the boats, and to provide for as many as he could. This was admirably done. The boats were launched without accident, the troops

were mustered on deck, there was no rush to the boats, and the men obeyed the word of command with as much order as if on parade—the greater number of them embarking in the boats. A small number of women and children who were on board, were lowered into the life-boat. All these filled boats were ordered to remain within reach of the ship till further orders. The sailors then set about constructing rafts of spare spars, to be ready in case of emergency.

Meanwhile the flames had made terrible progress; the whole of the cabins and saloons were one body of fire; and at nine in the evening the flames burst through the upper deck and ignited the mizzen rigging. During this fearful suspense, the barrel or two of powder left in one of the magazines exploded, and blew out the port-quarter of the ship—shewing what would have been the awful result had not the heroic men previously removed the greater part of the ammunition.

As the iron bulk-head of the after-part of the vessel continued to resist the flames, Captain Castle resolved to avail himself of this serviceable aid as long as possible; to which end the men were employed for hours in dashing water against the bulk-head, to keep it cool. When fire seized the upper-rigging, soldiers as well as sailors rushed up with wet blankets, and allayed its fearful progress. This struggle between human perseverance and devastating flames continued until two o'clock in the morning, when, to the inexpressible delight of all, the fire was found to be lessening; and by daylight it was extinguished.

The horrors of the situation were, however, not yet over. The after-part of the ship was a mere hollow burned shell; and as the gale still continued, the waves poured in tremendously. Some of the men were set to the pumps, some baled out water from the flooded hold with buckets; while others sought to prevent the stern of the ship from falling out by passing hawsers around and under it,

and others tried to stop the leak in the port-quarter with spare sails and wet blankets. The water-tanks in the hold, having got loose, were dashed from side to side by the violence of the gale, and battered the poor ship still further.

At two in the afternoon (twenty-three hours after the fire had been discovered), the life-boat was hauled alongside, and the women and children taken on board again. All the other boats, except the gig, were in like manner brought along-side, and the soldiers re-embarked; the gig had been swamped, but all the men in her were saved.

During thirty-six hours more, nearly all the soldiers were assisting the sailors in working the pumps, and clearing the ship of water; while the captain succeeded at length in getting the ill-fated ship into such trim as to be manageable. He then steered towards the Mauritius, which he reached in eight days. The achievement was almost unparalleled, for the vessel was little else than a burned and battered wreck. Not a single person was lost; the iron bulk-head was the main material source of safety; but this would have been of little avail had not discipline and intrepidity been shewn by those on board.

The sense of the 'honour of the flag' came out strikingly during the peril. When the ship was all in a blaze, it was suddenly recollected that the colours of the 54th were in the aft-part of the saloon. Quartermaster Richmond rushed down, snatched the Queen's colours, brought them on deck, and fainted with the heat and smoke; when recovered, he made another descent, accompanied by Private Wills, brought up the regimental colours, and again fainted, with a result which proved nearly fatal.

To read other selections from Robert Chamber's 1864 *The Book of Days* visit [www.thebookofdays.com](http://www.thebookofdays.com).



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## ECOLOGY

# The lovable side of skunks

Anne Gageby  
Strawberry Hill Foundation

Growing up on Mount Hope, I often heard my Pappy telling stories of chasing skunks before school in hopes of being sprayed. His antics were sometimes successful. He'd go to school reeking of musk and be promptly sent home so as to "not disturb the learning environment". Back in the late 1930's, he considered it a win. I doubt too many kids would agree, even today.

I personally don't know a single person, other than Pappy, who would enjoy being sprayed by a skunk. Their musk contains several volatile chemical compounds. The two main compounds are thiols and thioacetates, both of which are rich in sulfur and extremely hard to clean off. The molecules are fairly stable and bond well to other atoms. Cleaning the skunk smell from clothes and fur takes strength. Tomato juice and other folk remedies just don't cut it. The Humane Society recommends mixing one quart of hydrogen peroxide, a quarter cup of baking soda, and one teaspoon of dishwashing liquid. This breaks the chemical bonds and neutralizes the compounds.

Fortunately, a skunk won't spray unless as a last resort. It takes up to ten days for their spray to replenish so they would prefer to conserve their most potent defense system. Instead, a skunk will hiss, stomp its feet, hop backward, and raise

its tail in warning before spraying. It prefers to bluff an enemy rather than attack. If a skunk does spray, watch out. They're capable of spraying up to twelve feet and aiming directly where they want to hit. And if they hit a target's eyes, it's definitely over. Musk is potent enough to temporarily blind a target, even humans.

Striped skunks, such as Strawberry Hill's Animal Ambassador, Ollie, belong to the mephitidae family. Historically, skunks have been lumped in with ferrets in the mustelidae family, but genetic analysis has shown that skunks belong to their own distinct group. There are three skunk species within the United States. Hognose and hooded skunks are found in the American Southwest. While Pennsylvania is home to two species, the striped skunk and spotted skunk, spotted skunks' natural range extends only as far north as the southwestern part of the state. If you have a run-in with a skunk in our area, it would be a striped skunk. Their natural range covers all 48 contiguous states up to southern Canada and down to northern Mexico.

Despite misconceptions, skunks are gentle and slow-moving, almost lazy at times. They move at their own pace, choosing to meander through their days. If needed, they can reach a top speed of 10 miles per hour. Instead of depending upon running from a potential threat, as other animals do, they've adapted to wear-

ing a deterrent. Their markings are aposematic meaning they send a clear message to potential predators that the intended prey is dangerous. It's the anti-camouflage. Skunks' bold coloring and markings let the world know it's best to leave them be. It mostly works.

Skunks have few natural predators beyond larger carnivores who like to test the limits. Coyotes, foxes, bobcats, badgers, and mountain lions will sometimes take their chances against a skunk. For the most part, cars, parasites, and birds of prey are more of a threat than other mammals. The great horned owl and eagles are skunks' true natural predators, mostly because they're not bothered by the smell. Most skunks live two to three years in the wild. In human care, they can live up to ten years.

Their diet depends on where they live and what's available at a specific time of year. In warmer months, skunks feed on insects in both adult and larval forms. They're well-known for scurrying and clawing through decaying wood to gather a meal. They're also known for digging out bumblebee nests and chasing honeybees. Interestingly, stings from bees and wasps don't bother skunks. It's a superpower that opens up a wide range of meal possibilities. Grasshoppers, beetles, and crickets are other common favorites along with spiders, toads, mice, chipmunks, and eggs of turtles and ground-nesting birds. They've been known to eat grasses, leaves, and buds as well as mast. Fruit such as strawberries, grapes, blueberries, and cherries are a treat often found in the wild and enjoyed in season. In other words, they're not picky eaters.

While they're chiefly nocturnal, preferring to hunt between dusk and dawn, they are frequently spotted during the day. To see a skunk during the day doesn't necessarily indicate illness or something wrong. Unlike many other



Strawberry Hill's resident skunk - Ollie - is a striped skunk who loves teaching kids of all ages that skunks are a vital part of our ecosystem. We work with Ollie every day, providing enrichment opportunities that keep his senses and skills sharp and ensuring he has the best care. It takes training, time, and resources but he's worth it because Ollie is an important member of the Strawberry Hill family. And he definitely loves the attention! You can sponsor Ollie, Strawberry Hill's Animal Ambassador, by visiting [www.strawberryhill.org/donate](http://www.strawberryhill.org/donate).

nocturnal animals, daylight hours aren't strictly off-limits. Ollie, for example, tends to sleep during the day but regularly plays and explores in the afternoon.

Skunks den in stumps and ground burrows, wood and rock piles, and sometimes beneath buildings, much to the annoyance of homeowners. Getting rid of skunks under a deck, for example, can be a tricky process. Their burrows have a central chamber that can be more than a foot

underground. Skunks often connect their burrows to the surface via tunnels that can be upwards of 15 feet long and burrows usually have more than one tunnel. Finding, and removing a skunk, can be a daunting process.

Cold weather is just starting to creep in, and our season's first frost is almost here. Ollie, like others of his kind, will begin slowing down in preparation for winter. While skunks don't hibernate, they do experience torpor – a state of dormancy. They'll go to their dens and rest for the winter. Because torpor is a temporary state, you may see skunks out and about on warmer days. So, if you're not into seeing or smelling skunks, winter doesn't necessarily give you a break.

Our English word, skunk, comes from the Algonquian word seganku. The Latin family name, mephitis, generally means "a bad odor", a fitting description for this rather small omnivore. Even though Ollie, our incredible Animal Ambassador, had his scent glands removed while he was young, he still emits a smelly, musky scent. In short, he still smells like a skunk. A lovable, wonderful skunk. Pappy would have appreciated him. And the more I learn about skunks, the more I appreciate them. But I still don't want to be sprayed by one.

To read past editions of Ecology, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.com](http://Emmitsburg.com).

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## Let's talk turkey

Tim Iverson  
Naturalist

The North American Turkey may not be the national bird, but it has earned its spot in heart of the nation. It's the cornerstone of the Thanksgiving meal, and a veritable symbol of the early pilgrims and settlers of the nation. The status it's achieved has surrounded it in myth and misinformation. Benjamin Franklin did have opinions on the turkey, but are not likely what is commonly accepted as truth. A few fowls may even be so lucky as to earn themselves a pardon from the President himself. Just how did a bird of humble beginnings achieve such storied status?

Wild turkeys, contrary to their domesticated brethren, are actually quite adept at survival. Farmed turkeys have been bred to have enlarged breasts, which make them more appealing for the dinner table, but makes them awkward and clumsy. Wild turkeys can fly and are actually quite agile. Their feathering and plumage make for great camouflage hiding them from potential predators like fox, coyotes, bobcats, and more. Once young hatch from the eggs they spend just a few days with their mother learning how to forage for food. After a few days they will begin to fend for themselves and may separate. The females will either form or join a brood of hens. Males will go off on their own to try to father the next generation.

While their range is widespread, spanning across much of United States and into parts of Mexico, they may not even have been part of the original Thanksgiving dinner table. The Smithsonian Institution researchers have delved into the contemporary historical documents detailing the original meal, and have found no direct evidence that turkey was definitively on the menu - or much of what is considered traditional Thanksgiving fare these days. The very first celebration was held just after the fall harvest in 1621, and was shared between the colonists and the Wampanoag tribe in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Turkeys are mentioned in passing and only as a secondary meal choice in primary source accounts from the time. In fact, much of what we have available today as part of a "traditional" Thanksgiving spread would not have been available to the early

English settlers. Cranberry sauce, potatoes, bread stuffing, pies, and more were noticeably absent. The only definites for the meal according to researchers were venison, corn, and wildfowl. The wildfowl likely being duck, goose, or passenger pigeons because of their abundance at the time. Again, turkeys are only mentioned separately as an aside in original texts referencing the meal.

It's up for debate about whether or not turkey was served during the first Thanksgiving meal, but the verdict is in on Benjamin Franklin's opinion of the bird. Common folk wisdom has it that he was a champion of the bird over that of the Bald Eagle as a symbol of the newly founded nation. That is not exactly the case, however. The misconception comes from an excerpt of a letter between his daughter and himself. The misconception arises in an exchange between the two where he questions the selection of the eagle as the symbol, and redirects to the turkey as a bird of 'superior moral character.' While he does not necessarily advocate for the turkey becoming a national symbol he does try to take the wind out of the sails for the eagle. He writes:

"For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish, and is bearing it to his Nest for the Support of his Mate and young Ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him.

With all this injustice, he is never in good case but like those among men who live by sharpening & robbing he is generally poor and often very lousy. Besides he is a rank coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district. He is therefore by no means a proper emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our country...

"I am on this account not displeased that the Figure is not known as a Bald Eagle, but looks

more like a Turkey. For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America... He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on."

Frankly, Franklin might have been a little harsh on the Bald Eagle. He never publicly advocated for the turkey to begin the national symbol, or publicly derided the selection of the bald eagle. His high esteem of turkeys isn't without merit though, because he isn't the only one who gives the turkey a pass.

Presidents, for the better part of a century now, have been issuing pardons to a lucky turkey or two every year. While the pardon is one of the more unique presidential duties and Thanksgiving traditions its origination is as vague as the tradition itself. There are conflicting reports as to the first pardoning, but the earliest claimed account dates to President Lincoln in 1865. The White House Historical Association provides recorded gifts of turkeys from various poultry farmers all the way back to 1870, and continuing through present day. When President Truman was gifted a pair of turkeys in 1948 he is alleged to have said that they would "come in handy" for Christmas dinner, clearly these turkeys were not slated for a pardon. It wasn't until the Washington Post coined the pardon term



The North American Turkey may not be the national bird, but it has earned its spot in the heart of the nation.

in 1963 when President Kennedy purportedly said, in reference to a gifted turkey, "Let's keep him going." By the time President George H.W. Bush was in office in 1989 the routine had pretty much solidified into the formal tradition we see today.

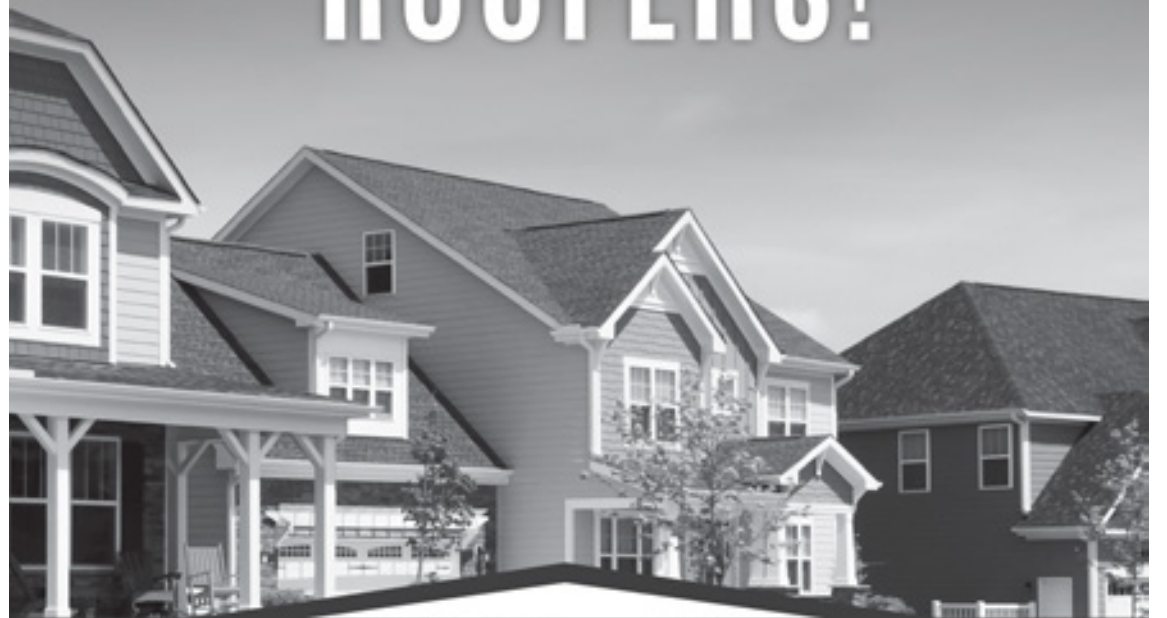
Presidents aren't the only ones who value turkeys. The North American Turkey was important and considered sacred by many Native American tribes. Feathers were used in head dresses, traditional dances were created to celebrate the bird, and folk lore surrounds the origin stories. Despite the revered status it held turkeys were nearly hunted to extinction in the early part of the 20th century. Due to extensive efforts by wildlife

officials through encouraged reproduction and repopulation to new areas the population rebounded. Continental populations dropped to as low as 30,000 in 1940, but rebounded to approximately 7 million by current estimates.

The North American Turkey may not be as illustrious as commonly held belief holds, but the fact surrounding the bird is better than a fictional fowl. As Thanksgiving approaches be thankful that this bird has such a storied past and will be able to be gobbled up from your table while you talk turkey with family and friends.

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

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## SCIENCE MATTERS

# Surprising news about bees and butterflies

Boyce Rensberger

Honeybees are threatening the environment.

You read that right. The beloved little honeybee can actually be a bad guy. As it happens, so many people are keeping these insects, which are not native to North America, that they are outcompeting many species of native bees and other insects that depend on nectar, such as butterflies. As a result, there is too little nectar and pollen to go around, and native species are suffering.

In other counterintuitive insect news, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature has reversed its conclusion that the monarch butterfly is an endangered species. Turns out the charismatic creature is only “vulnerable” to extinction, a less severe category of concern. The IUCN, the world organization that maintains the global list of endangered species, says it may lower the level of alarm still further, depending on new evidence expected soon.

Let’s look at these one at a time. First honeybees.

In recent years there have been countless news reports about honeybee colonies dying from mysterious causes. Sometimes the die-offs are blamed on the parasitic varroa mite, which attacks honeybee larvae. Sometimes they are blamed on widespread use of certain pesticides in farmlands and suburban lawns. Sometimes die-offs are blamed on poor nutrition, owing to the loss of wildflowers that are suitable nectar sources. Or the cause is a combination of these. All these things may be true.

In response, many people are trying to help by becoming beekeepers, establishing hives in suburban back yards, city lots and on urban rooftops. It’s an interesting hobby, and thousands of people are learning a great deal about these fascinating insects.

But, according to ecologists with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, 28 percent of native bumblebee species in North America are considered threatened, and at least 40 percent of native pollinators, including some butterfly species, “may face extinction in the coming decades.” The Xerces Society is a professional group of entomologists and others who work to save threatened invertebrates. (Xerces is the genus name of an American butterfly that went extinct decades ago.) The declines are blamed on there being too many honeybees.

The group cites several facts to support its cause. First is that native plants and native pollinators have co-evolved to be adapted to each other. Until the early 20th century, North American food crops that required other organisms to ferry their pollen were served by native insects. (By the way, our main foodstuffs, including all grain crops, are wind pollinated and soybeans are self-pollinated. They never rely on insect pollination.)

The Xerces group also notes that honeybees are poor pollinators. They carry pollen in compact “pollen baskets” on their legs where it cannot easily reach other flowers. By contrast, native bees pick up pollen all over their bodies, making it easier to brush off as the bee visits the next flower. So more native bees means better pollination.

The combination of commercial and hobbyist hives has pushed bee densities so high that native bees are being driven out. One typical honeybee hive collects as much pollen as could support 100,000 native bees, which are solitary. A study in Montreal found that as the number of honeybees went up, the species diversity of native bees went down.

But you ask, what about reports



A honeybee and a monarch butterfly meet coincidentally on a hibiscus blossom. Unlike humans, these species can peacefully co-exist.

that honeybees are threatened and in decline?

According to the U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization, the number of beehives around the world has risen nearly 26 percent in the last decade. There are more honeybees on the planet than ever before. That’s because commercial beekeepers routinely raise more than enough new hives to replace those that succumb to the mites and pesticides and loss of wildflowers. Honeybees are a commercially managed form of livestock that industry keeps in good supply, without regard to what that does to native pollinators.

Now, what about another insect that we have all been raised to cherish—the monarch butterfly. As most of us know, this amazing creature flies thousands of miles south to winter in the forests of Mexico. Come spring, it migrates north again, spawning a series of generations to reach as far as Canada.

Scientists generally agree that the number of monarchs in Mexican forests declined precipitously starting half a century ago, mainly because of logging and, more controversially, because herbicide use was growing as farmers adopted “no-till” practices. Herbicides were inadvertently killing the milkweed plants that monarch caterpillars feed on. But there is now evidence that the decline stabilized around 2014 at an esti-

mated 55 million individual butterflies. There have been small drops in some years, but they were followed by increased reproduction the following year.

Last year IUCN researchers declared the species “endangered” based on an alarming assessment of monarch population trends derived from annual “counts” of the wintering population from 1990 to 2020. Of course, nobody is counting every individual. As I’ve seen for myself in the mountains of the Mexican state of Michoacan, evergreen fir forests turn orange with millions of monarchs cluster tightly on fir branches, so many that limbs are bent down. So various statistical models are used to extrapolate from sample counts.

In 2022, those methods led researchers to say that the total may have dropped by anywhere between 22 percent and 72 percent over a ten-year period. Hardly a precise estimate, but it met IUCN’s criterion for the “endangered” classification.

This year, however, an IUCN panel ruled that the statistical methods previously used were flawed. A better and more complex method showed that the population reached an inflection point in 2013. In that year monarch numbers appear to have bottomed out. They stopped declining rapidly and may even have begun to increase.

The panel said the data support the less worrisome “vulnerable” designation. A new count is planned for this winter. Its results may tip the threat level either way.

A separate analysis by Andy Davis, an ecology researcher at the University of Georgia, suggests that the high populations many of us saw decades ago were a result of forest clearing in the 1800s. The resulting open landscapes allowed milkweeds and monarchs to explode to anomalously high levels. Then through the 20th century as forests grew back and farmland increased, monarch populations declined to levels more typical of bygone times. If Davis is right, the lower populations we see today are ones that have sustained themselves through centuries.

Be it butterflies or bees, ecological research is notoriously difficult. And if the species at issue are popular favorites, there is understandable emotional pressure from the public on scientists who try to stick to the evidence.

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

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

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## THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## Socrates is weeping

Jack Deatherage

There were eight of them standing or sitting on the shooting platform at the archery range, boys ranging from 8 years old to about 14. Ben Kelkye, Youth Program director, had just finished chewing the lot of them out for their behavior while on the firing line with bows and arrows in hand. (Ben likes, demands, a quiet, serious firing line and these boys had been anything but.) After Ben left the range I suggested we all take a break to let the director's words sink in a bit.

"Coach Jack," one of the younger boys politely started. "Why did Mr. Kelkye yell at us? Why is he so angry with us?"

How to tell them without offending anyone? I am not politically correct or particularly diplomatic. With such earnest faces staring at me, I decide to tell the truth, as much of it as I figure these boys can handle. "Mr. Kelkye isn't mad at you, he's mad at me." By the time I'm finished talking the boys are bug-eyed, mouths agape. They had just received a quick history lesson that turned into an even quicker geography lesson, and then became a philosophy lesson.

They were surprised by the things I told them. I was stunned by the things they simply did not know! These bright boys, so eager to learn, were so god-awful ignorant! I could hardly believe we live in the same county. Not for the first time, I pondered what is wrong with our schooling system.

Since September of 1959, I've been compiling a list of wrongs. The biggest of them being money. There is simply too much money spent on too little education. All around this rock children learn to read and write, study history and manipulate numbers without the aid of computers, multi-million-dollar school buildings, or teachers with master's degrees and administrators earning in excess of \$100,000 a year. Not that \$100K isn't just compensation! It is for the system these people operate. The system is designed to spend ever-larger amounts of money and it does that very well.

The most expensive school building I ever slept in was Catoctin High during the first four years it was open. Thinking back on those mind-numbing days I can barely stifle a yawn. The rooms were painted in calming color schemes that induced a coma like

drowsiness, greatly aided by the constant hum of the lighting and air-conditioning systems. Coupled with a droning teacher's voice the rooms became torture chambers of boredom. Even the classes I had an interest in, few indeed, were hardly conducive to learning. The very rare classrooms with windows seldom offered views of the real world so life was denied those who were not academically minded. (Oh gods, was I not of such a mind!) At least in the older school buildings I could gaze out a window and imagine I was free of the hell my parents insisted I endure.

Second on my list of wrongs is what schooling really is. I always thought it was about educating me. Wrong! One of the handful of teachers who ever made an impression on me, told me (decades after I'd escaped the classrooms) that school was not about educating, it was about controlling! What a freaking enlightenment that was! At once, twelve years of insanity fell into place and became understandable. I hadn't failed at education! I failed at being controlled! Damn, maybe I'm not as stupid as I've believed these last fifty years?

The third thing I've found wrong with schooling is who actually fails at it. All my life I've been told that students fail. But they don't. Teachers fail. Systems fail. Parents fail. Children start out mostly bright and eager to learn and often the most eager among them are subject to the most control as teachers desperately attempt to force everyone into the same pattern. A pattern that suits the system, often creating people who struggle with bitterness over how they were treated for the rest of their lives.

Fourth among the wrongs is the reason for schools. (Oddly, as I write this I hesitate. It has been several years since I read anything by John Taylor Gatto, a former "teacher of the year" in New York, who finally came to his senses and blew the whistle on what is happening in this nation's school system.) I Google "John Gatto" and find he has a website about schooling. Surprise, surprise, my fourth "wrong with" schooling is his fourth "purpose for" schooling. (My pagan friends have convinced me there are no coincidences in life. All is connected; ideas and facts come together as one needs them. So it seems Gatto's website shows up as I struggle to explain the fourth wrong.)

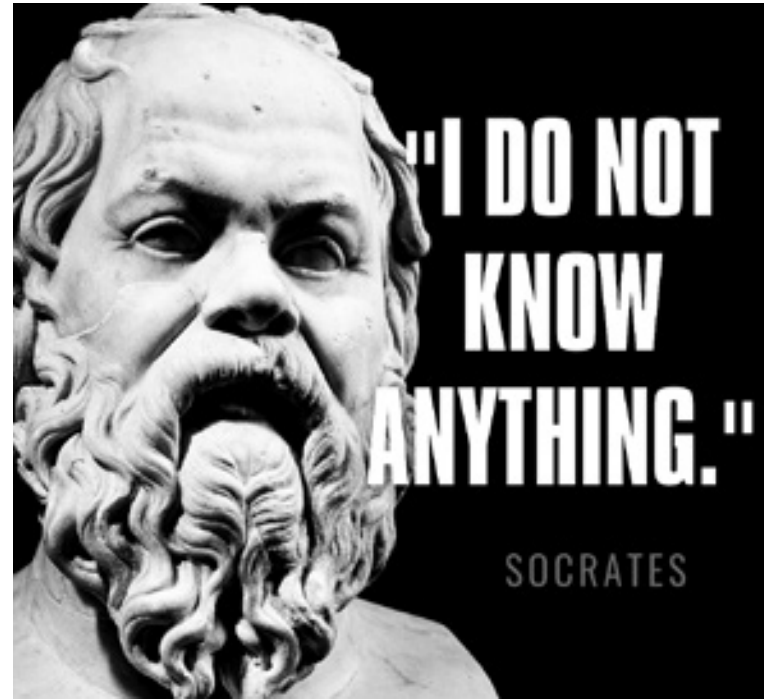
According to Gatto, the education systems originally founded in this country had "three specific purposes:

*To make good people  
To make good citizens  
And to make each student  
find some particular talents to  
develop to the maximum."*

These were the goals of such educators as Cotton Mather, Horace Mann and John Dewey whose education systems were built on the foundations of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and thousands of other thinking teachers from before the birth of Christ up to the 19th century.

The 19th century? Why did things change then? According to Gatto, a new way of thinking took over the education system in this country. The Mathers, Horaces and Deweys were slowly replaced by the likes of Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Henry Ford, J.P. Morgan and Frederick W. Taylor who pushed for schooling in America to become like schooling in Germany, a servant of corporate and political management. A factory system of control.

The new system didn't require students to think, only to learn enough to fill the ever-expanding factory models that were sweeping the first world nations. That the new schooling also turned out boys suited to further manipulation was a boon to the military which in those days did indeed need ranks of canon fodder because that was the way wars were fought. The elected



elite didn't take long to see how they could control huge blocks of voters who were being "dumbed down" by the very systems the elect were mandating for every child in the country.

So, the purpose of education went from creating good people, good citizens and discovering what each student's talents were so they could be enhanced ... to what? To creating unthinking cogs and sheep?

What hasn't changed are the students. In spite of their families, in spite of their teachers, in spite of the school system and the elect who fund it, I still find kids who want to learn, who actually laugh at their teachers and manage to educate themselves. Many of these bright kids are being home schooled, though I'm meeting

more and more of them using the government system for their own purposes. Quiet, earnest kids who smile at the befuddlement of the system's teachers, but listen attentively to those who actually want them to become men and women, rather than sheepish cogs.

These are the heirs of the children who sat under Athenian porticos, or stood on street corners as Socrates exposed them to their ability to reason. How odd he was able to reach the youths under those circumstances, yet our modern system requires millions, upon millions of dollars to ensure we don't accidentally create another Socrates.

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

# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Garden chores for November

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

**A**HHH, November. My second favorite month of the year. October is the best – weather's cooler, leaf colors change, garden chores decrease. And then November hits! The beginning of the holiday season!

But are there some garden activities that can still be done this month before the holidays start? Why yes, of course!

Did you clean up your veggie garden? If not, that is something that should be completed before planning your Thanksgiving meal. Cleaning up the vegetable garden simply means pulling and composting or bagging all plant debris, whether it's the vegetable plants, weeds, or rotten vegetables that were left on the plants. This reduces overwintering sites for the disease pathogens and the destructive insects.

Next, if you haven't done a soil test in a few years, it would be a good time to do that. The soil test will tell you what nutrients are deficient, if any, what the pH of the soil is and how to adjust it for the vegetables you are growing. Go to your local extension office and purchase a test kit, mail it off, and the results will come back within a week or two. After receiving the recommendations, you can make those adjustments to your soil now, so it will be ready this spring for planting.

The next step for preparing your vegetable garden for winter

is to cover the soil. This can be done by covering with compost or a mulch of some kind or seeding in a cover crop. It is getting late in the season to plant a cover crop, but if you do it very soon, you should get germination, and enough cover to get the garden through the winter.

A cover crop can provide a few things. 1. It provides stability to the soil to reduce erosion or washing away of any exposed soil. Second, it provides a green compost that can be dug into the soil in the spring and adds organic matter to the garden. Sometimes I have left the cover crop grow through the spring and interplanted it with the veggies I want to grow. If you choose this option, be sure to choose the best plants that can tolerate a bit of shade, and also choose a cover crop like winter wheat that allows for interplanting and is an annual.

It's not too late to plant garlic. Garlic bulbs can be purchased at most garden centers. To plant them, break the bulb apart into individual cloves. Plant each clove in its own hole and follow the planting depth recommended on the bag.

The next thing that can be achieved yet this November is planting bulbs. Often in November there are sales on fall bulbs. Check the bulbs for firmness before planting. Following the suggested depth of planting so they don't rise out of the ground with freezing and thawing. This late in the season doesn't allow

much time for the bulbs to push roots that hold them in for the winter season. Therefore, following the soil depth recommendations are important.

Empty pots. If soil is left in clay or ceramic containers, they will crack and potentially break apart. Cleaning them of residue and storing in a garage, shed or basement are best practices for containers used from year to year.

Bring in any tropical plants indoors that can be saved through the winter. Use an insecticidal soap or houseplant horticulture oil spray to get rid of any insects that may be feeding on the plants. Put the plants in the sunniest window you have. Chances are leaves will drop and the plant could go into a type of dormancy, but if you can keep it watered, and provide light, it really can survive till it's time to put it back outside in the spring.

Lastly, plant seeds. What? Yes, seeds that require stratification (a cold treatment in order to break dormancy) can be direct sown into the planting bed. This will provide that required cold treatment naturally. Many of the native perennial and grass species require this cold time to germinate.

And after digging, planting, and mulching, clean the tools that are used and store for the winter. Wash off all the soil with a hose, use steel wool to rub away any rust that may have started, and use a soft cloth and rub oil on the steel. This will keep those tools in the best shape while you aren't using them.

While finishing the last of the garden chores, remember there are a few things that are better left till spring. First, don't bother with cutting down perennials. The seeds left on the flower stalks will provide food for the birds, and the broken stems will provide a place for overwintering native bees to live until spring. However, effort



One of the principle chores in November is getting outdoor potted plants ready to come indoors.

put into pulling any weeds before winter sets in will reduce the number of weeds to manage in the spring.

Secondly, pruning this time of year is not recommended. Wait until late winter to get out those pruning loppers and saw. Cutting back a woody plant could allow for pathogens during the winter months.

Once those few chores have been complete, then a gardener can begin to concentrate on the upcoming holiday season. Since plants are our thing, gardeners continue to work with soil and plants indoors. A few things that can be done in November:

Start amaryllis bulbs. These huge bulbs bring on some lovely

large flowers. If started in November, there's a good chance the flowers will be nearly in bloom in late December.

Paperwhites are another bulb that can be forced for indoor blooms. They will flower much faster than the amaryllis. These bulbs are best given three to four weeks to flower.

Cyclamens are a common flowering houseplant sold around the holidays. These plants like cooler temperatures and a sunny window. They will keep blooming for a few weeks, at which time the flowers can be pulled off and the plant managed as you would any other houseplant.

Holiday cactus are an easy to grow houseplant needing a sunny window. The flowers last for about a week.

The Norfolk Island pine is a common houseplant found in garden centers this time of year. It's kind of fun to decorate as a Christmas tree in small spaces. This plant is very tolerant of cool temperatures. Although it prefers a good sunny window, it can tolerate filtered sunlight for the holiday season.

Kalanchoes are very easy to grow flowering houseplants. If you can grow a succulent, you can grow a kalanchoe. A sunny window is all it needs.

Start a succulent collection! Every place that sells plants, has succulents. Easy to grow plants that require a little bit of water (just a little!) and some sunlight will provide indoor interest.

Consider planting a terrarium. Select a few small houseplants, or better yet, take cuttings of houseplants you already have and use the terrarium as a propagation house!

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

month with me! Finish the outside chores as the weather cools down and start the inside gardening!

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November 18: "Indoor Plants & Wellness" Having indoor plants just makes us feel better. Learn about the therapeutic benefits of houseplants. Identify

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All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick, from 10 to noon.

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## Small Town Gardener

Slip the garden's chains in November

Marianne Willburn

On a recent episode of the UK's long-running Gardeners Question Time (available to US listeners through BBC Sounds app or your podcast player), a panel of well-known gardeners was asked which month they would consider the best to leave the garden.

The question was asked by a woman who didn't garden, but who wished to convince her obsessed husband that they needed a vacation. She wanted heavyweight opinion behind her when she made her pitch for freedom and Mai Tais.

I spoke the word 'November' instinctively (though only the lettuce seedlings I was weeding were paying attention) and listened with satisfaction as the panelists agreed one after another with my learned assessment.

Speaking as an obsessive for obsessives, the fact of the matter is that there isn't any good time to leave the garden (I'm squarely on the husband's side on this), but November is better than most if you're trying to convince someone that there is more to life than homegrown green beans and dahlia collections. My reasoning follows:

**Take Advantage of Exhaustion**  
 For one, the gardener is wiped out. Over the past 6-8 months the temperate garden has delivered a mix of exciting moments and dashed dreams that bear no relation whatsoever to the #bestlifeever being dished out liberally on their social media feeds. Mentally he or she is already standing in April of next year, expectantly waiting for another round of pleasure and punishment. But it's fresh punishment with a new twist and therefore something to look forward to. This year's garden is squarely in the rear-view mirror.

**Second Stage Autumn is Worth Fleeing**

The summer harvest is in and the sublime beauty and rich summer/fall scents that haunt October and keep us in thrall for fall are over. In 1844 the poet and humorist Thomas Hood summed up the month between fresh pumpkins and jolly elves succinctly:

*No warmth, no cheerfulness,  
 no healthful ease,  
 No comfortable feel in any member —  
 No shade, no shine, no butterflies,  
 no bees,  
 No fruits, no flowers, no leaves,  
 no birds! —*

November is cold without the excitement of the first fire; and decay without the charm of reddening leaves. It's the month we remember that we didn't get the chimney swept and discover that the squirrels got into the tractor's engine compartment. It's simply best to leave for a couple weeks and hope they don't get into the house too.

And as long as you head south, the chances are slim you'll have to experience someone else's November as bleakly and intimately as you have to experience your own.

**Neglect is Officially Sanctioned & Blessed**

In recent years, the trend to leave the seed heads, stems, and general mess of the dying garden for wildlife has become so popular that gardeners who have the temerity to neaten edges and rake the leaves off smothered lawns in November might find themselves shouted at by passing busy-bodies taking their righteousness out for an airing.

Far better to skip the sermon and sip the bourbon.

**If It's Not In, It's Done**

For the most part, the shlepping in of tender plants by sciatica-ridden gardeners (hereafter referred to

as 'The Damned') is finished in November. Even if your beloved obsessive protests that he just has to get a couple more pots in the garage over the weeks to come, Mother Nature will soon give him the mother of all deadlines.

**Bulb Planting Will Wait, Once Again**

Whilst November is still a viable month for bulb planting, it's also the best month for bulb planting procrastination.

Yes there may be bags and crates sitting in the basement awaiting attention, but I would wager a good deal of money that if they weren't put in the ground by the overachiever in September and October, they won't be seeing soil until it's coated in a thin layer of December snow. This argument for staying home is easily bested.

**The Garden Will Be Fine**

If we're lucky, we'll have a decent amount of moisture in November, which allows us to leave home without hiring a teenager at extortionate cost to underwater September's newly planted trees. Baby veg such as lettuces, spinach and kale are also well established (or should be), and it's only the eating of them that the gardener will miss (or at least pretend to). Try out some new fusion cuisine in a new place and you might come back to those beds of greens with new enthusiasm.

Not to mention your long-suffering spouse.

*Marianne Willburn is the author of Tropical Plants and How to Love Them, and Big Dreams, Small Garden. She writes from her home in Lovettsville, Virginia. Read more at [GardenRant.com](http://GardenRant.com).*

# PETS

## How could anyone love her?

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

She came from a house where life wasn't all that great. Sure, there was food – sometimes. There was water – when she could find it.

She had a flea infection real bad a year or two ago and it was just so itchy, she almost couldn't stand it. As a result, her left ear is basically gone. She couldn't help it. She had to itch and even though it hurt, she couldn't stop digging at her ear.

There were a lot of other cats in the house, too, and the people left everything they ate or didn't want anymore all over the floor.

A few days ago, the animal shelter came in and took her and all her feline siblings out of the house.

So now she's in a kennel with a really soft blanket and a litterbox and food and water. Everything's clean and smells nice. Considering where she had been living for the last five years, this isn't too bad.

In the beginning, she was still scared. She didn't really come out of the back of the cage much. She was grateful for the better existence, but still wasn't sure where she had ended up.

Since then, she has started to look around and what she sees tells her quite a story.

There are a lot of cats in the shelter – all over the place, actually. Cats

that have been abandoned by their humans or found on the street.

Cats that came in with mothers. Cats that were in foster care. Cats that spent time in the offices with the people so they could acclimate to the shelter life.

But the one thing she knows when she finally looks around and sees all the other cats is...she can't compete. She is nothing like them.

She came from a bad place. She's not cute. She's not cuddly. Her hair is still growing back in from where she lost it to the flea infection. She doesn't have pretty colors. She doesn't have unique eyes.

She doesn't even have both her ears. She listens to the other cats talk about getting adopted or "going home" and she can't help but think there's no chance that will ever happen for her. The cute kittens fall all over each other and the humans that come in coo at them and say how cute they are, but they never say that about her.

They barely even look at her. And the truth of it is, she can't blame them. She knows what she is and what she isn't. She'll never be the cat people take pictures of or share on whatever the thing called social media is.

What chance does she possibly have to find someone who would ever love her?

So most days, she curls up on her warm, soft blanket and is grateful to be taken care of by the staff at the shelter. They're all really nice and they care a lot about her and tell her how lucky she is to be with them.

She believes it because her belly is full and the fleas are gone and she'll never have to want for anything again.

She likes when the staff take time to talk to her and hold her and pet her when they clean her cage. She even purrs a little for them because it's so nice. It's those moments when she allows herself to dream that maybe, someday, she could find someone.

She tries not to fool herself, though. She has herself so convinced the shelter will be her home for the rest of her life, the day someone new stops by her cage to talk to her, she's so freaked out, she curls into the back of her cage again. It has to be some kind of a joke.

But the two people – a man and a woman – talk to her so softly and seem to ignore all the cute kittens and their adorable antics. They take her into the bonding room and it takes her forever to come out from under the bench because she doesn't want to believe this could be something.

The people wait for her. They don't push and they don't get irritated and they let her be who she is – scars and all.

She takes a chance and walks up to their legs and they gently – so gently – rub their hands through her fur and don't seem to be grossed out by the patches where it's missing.

The woman says out loud, "We know what you've been through, sweetheart, and we want to love you."

The man whispers, "We'll take care of you."

The next day, she is the one who is actually going home, getting adopted, and part of her really can't believe it.

But the other part is just so incredibly grateful for everything the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter did to help her find someone to love her.

*Jennifer Vanderau is the Publication and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at [cvascomm@cvas-pets.org](mailto:cvascomm@cvas-pets.org). The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).*



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



Luna was surrendered to the shelter when her owner was moving and could not take her along with them. She is a 2-year-old husky/terrier mix who is a super sweet girl who loves attention. Luna knows sit but will need some work on other commands. She likes to please her people and is treat motivated. Luna does have a high chase drive with cats and other small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, etc., so a home without cats and other small animals would be best for her. She may be too much for smaller children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Luna would love to find her loving forever home soon!



When Bahama Mama arrived at the shelter, she weighed 22 pounds! She has lost four pounds since her arrival at the shelter and has a few more to lose but is now ready to find her forever home. Bahama Mama is on a special diet food and will need someone that is able to follow through with her weight loss program. She is a really sweet girl that enjoys lounging on the short cat tree. She does not mind being brushed and will require regular brushing to keep her from matting. We've been getting her out in the front office at the shelter for some exercise and she's been doing really well. Could you give Bahama Mama the help and home she needs?



Blissy came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her, but she is a typical, fun-loving kitten. She's a four-month-old gray tabby who really loves to run play. Could you show Blissy what a forever home is all about?

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

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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



# FCSO welcomes 3 new K-9s



Deputy Jeremy Slodki and his partner K-9 Fetty, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd cross; Deputy Douglas Story and his partner K-9 Jax, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd cross; and, Deputy Miller Yackovich and his partner K-9 Triglav, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois

Todd Wivell  
Frederick County Sheriff's Office

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is proud to announce that three new dogs, specifically trained for law enforcement work, that have hit the streets with their handlers to serve the county!

The new K-9's and their deputy handlers are:

- Deputy 1st Class (DFC) Jeremy Slodki and his partner K-9 Fetty, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd cross
- DFC Douglas Story and his partner K-9 Jax, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd cross
- DFC Miller Yackovich and his partner K-9 Triglav, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois

K-9's Triglav and Jax recently completed a 16-week patrol school in Montgomery County where the dogs received training in obedience, article

searches, tracking, agility, and apprehension work. Upon completion of the school, the K-9's received certifications in all aspects of their training.

K-9's Triglav, Jax, and Fetty then completed an 8-week narcotics detection school that the agency hosted. The dogs received training and certifications to detect cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines.

K-9 Edy, with Corporal Steve Kocvar as his handler, already assigned to the agency as a narcotics detection dog, also completed training at the patrol school in Montgomery County with certification in article search, tracking, and apprehension.

"Edy, Jax, and Triglav are dual-purpose K-9's assigned to the agency and Fetty is a single purpose K-9 certified in narcotics detection," said Kocvar. "Along with K-9 Odin, assigned to DFC Tara Shriver, all five K-9's are vital assets to the agency."

The K-9's do not have specific patrol

team assignments, instead the dogs have assignments to each rotation and have developed a schedule that makes them available during the times of highest K-9 call volumes.

Along with the FCSSO calls for service and since the beginning of 2022, FCSSO K-9's assisted on 208 calls for service for other police agencies, and so far in 2023 assisted on 72 calls for service for other agencies.

"History demonstrates that K-9's are very effective in drug scans on traffic stops, allowing deputies to locate and seize illegal drugs from vehicles, which on many occasions has also led to the location and seizure of illegally possessed firearms. Our five K-9 teams are an important tool in combating the trafficking of illegal narcotics in and through Frederick County," said FCSSO Sheriff Chuck Jenkins. "The police K-9 has attributes in searching for items and/or persons that can quickly facilitate their location. Thus, we can better manage resources in a more efficient and effective manner. They, along with their trained handlers, help keep the more than 280,000 citizens of Frederick County safe."

The three new K-9's replaced DFC Yackovich's last partner, Eikel, DFC Story's last partner, Azor, and DFC Phelps' partner, Taz. Those three dogs are now retired and live at home with their handlers as household members.



Come on down and meet Bob Barker. He is approximately 3-4 years old and is a goofy, playful guy. Bob is a Great Dane mix and cannot be categorized as lap dog since he weighs seventy plus pounds. He was found as a stray in late August and no one reclaimed him. Bob is recommended for families with kids of any age and would likely do well with another dog and/or a cat.



They say a picture is worth a thousand words and Cherry's does her justice. She is a fire-cracker, ready for anything at any time. Cherry is approximately 4yrs old, weighs only 21lbs and is a Terrier mix. She seems to be in constant motion, even when she is sitting beside you her whole body is wiggling and her tail is wagging. Cherry needs a family that is willing to incorporate her into their activities and provide her daily exercise.



Her name says it all. Momma Oreo arrived at the shelter with eight kittens in tow. They were placed in a foster home and Oreo did a fantastic job raising her kids. Since their return in mid-August, her kittens have been adopted and Momma Oreo patiently waits for a family to pick her. At only 3-4 years old, she is still playful but prefer to be petted and dotted on. She currently resides in the shelter's second free roam cat room and will politely ask for attention when you enter.



Monkey is a 6-month-old, Basset Hound Mix. She loves going on walks and enjoys sniffing all the scents when she is out and about. Monkey can be a little shy when meeting new people but does warm up quickly with a little patience. She recently attended a weeklong training class, which will be a good foundation for her next family to build on.



Bacon and Zoe are two peas in a pod and the shelter has designated them as a bonded pair. Bacon can be shy around new people/situations and Zoe helps him feel more confident. Zoe is friendly and outgoing but does become noticeably upset if she is separated from Bacon. In their personality profiles, Bacon's previous owner described him as a gentle giant, who loves to sit in laps while Zoe likes crinkle balls and can be quite talkative.

For more information about Bob Barker, Cherry, Momma Oreo, Monkey, Bacon or Zoe, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac).



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## PETS

# Kit – the hard luck horse

Mike Hillman

Continued from last month

Anyone who has watched a horse roll in field, knows that upon getting up, horses tend to ‘leap’, or ‘rear’, upon getting up. I was sitting in the tack room and saw him go down to roll, but thought nothing of it. The next thing I knew was his head was nearly touching the ceiling and he was standing on his back legs. As Kit came down, I found myself thinking: “that can’t be good,” but as Kit went back to eating, I didn’t give it any more thought.

The next morning, seven days after he had come home, Kit walked out of his stall clearly lame, and my mind flashed back to the leap in his stall the night before. Figuring he may have just tweaked the joint, I opted not to call EMC’s 911 and instead just watched him for the next few days hoping a now very noticeable limp would go away.

By day five, with no sign of improvement, I called my vet and asked her to come look at it. She offered to take an x-ray, which I concurred with, figuring it would just prove everything was OK. But when she let out a gasp, I knew I was in trouble.

“Mike, it looks like he broke one of the screws in the plate...”

“What???? You’re kidding, you have to be wrong.”

She was. Kit didn’t break just one screw, but two of the three screws holding the plate. And to make matters worse, the x-ray clearly showed that the bend in the joint, the bend the plate was meant to correct, had returned.

Within minutes I was on the phone with Dr. Barrett, who like me, could not believe it – then I sent her the x-rays.

“Bring him down tomorrow, I need to take my own x-rays and figure out what to do,” said Dr. Barrett.

So two weeks after he came home, Kit was once again headed to the EMC.

I was greeted by grim faces all around, which got grimmer as new x-rays were taken. Not only were two of the 3 screws holding the plate broken, but one of the two screws pulling the joint together appeared to be backing out.

Dr. Barrett immediately ruled out re-performing the surgery. “Even if we could go back in, the screws

broke below the bone surface so there is no way to extract them, and without them out, there is no way to put in new screws. Not to mention that we’re lucky he recovered from the first surgery. I’m not risking another. He’s going back into a cast and he’ll have to tough it out.”

Needless to say, I drove home with an empty horse trailer.

Now the fact the ‘E’ in the EMC’s title stand for ‘emergency’ means that horses that come to the center don’t stay long; most come in and leave on the same day. A week is considered a long stay. Kit’s second stay, at 30 days, proved to be one of the longest in many staff members’ memory. With horses coming in and out, staff members rarely develop a bond with the horse under their care. Sure, they treat them well, but that’s a far cry from developing a bond. But in Kit’s case, the staff clearly developed a bond with him.

I can’t remember a single instance when I was in his stall grooming him, that one of the staff members didn’t drop in to say hi to us. Everyone had something positive to say about his demeanor and caught up with me, or caught me up on them.

As it just so happened, the cartoon strip ‘Peanuts’ was running a series where Snoopy was laid up in a cast after he broke his leg after tripping over his water bowl. I would clip out the strips and tape them to his stall door for everyone to read. Yes, I knew I was ‘junking’ up the appearance of the barn he was in, but no one objected and soon the wall in front of his stall was covered with cartoon strips of Snoopy ‘toughing it out,’ as Kit was doing.

During what can only be called one of the longest months in my horse owning life, Dr. Barrett, along with Bruno, the intern who had assisted Dr. Barrett in the surgery and the initial recovery, would always stop by to offer words of encouragement.

For Dr. Barrett, it was a never-ending fight to prevent the sores from the cast becoming a bigger issue than Kit not putting enough weight on the leg, which would not only slow down the rate of fusion, but risk him foundering in the left front, which, had it occurred, would have left us no option but to put him down.

For 30 days, everyone held their breath. How Dr. Barrett and Bruno put up with me I’ll never know, but they did, and they did a great job

managing a nightmare situation. In a desperate effort to slow the progression of the sores caused by cast, Dr. Barrett hit on the idea of cutting Kit’s cast in half, and then just putting the back half on – like a splint, and securing it to his leg with vet wrap. The trick worked and the sores slowly began to clear up.

Kit’s progress was excruciatingly and painfully slow, but it was still progress. When his x-rays began to show fusing in the joint, the conversation once again turned to Kit’s long-term rehabilitation.

After our first attempt at taking him on, neither my wife nor I were insane enough to try again, so the hunt began for a suitable facility to send Kit too. Kit needed a place that could provide the supervised stall rest to allow the joint fusion to finish, but also a facility with the equipment and experienced staff to rehabilitate the injured tendons.

Once again, Dr. Barrett came to the rescue.

“I want to send him to Dr. Stephanie Davis, in Warrenton,” Barrett said. “Stephanie only takes on a few horses and gives them 100%. Your best chance of getting Kit to a point where you might be able to hack him is with her. The problem is – a spot has to open in her barn. The good thing however is I have a dedicated spot and the horse that she is currently taking care of for me is getting ready to go home. So I told her not to fill it with anyone, that Kit will be coming her way.”

Almost two weeks would pass between the conversation above and the phone call from Dr. Barrett that the stall had opened, and Dr. Davis was ready for him.

So once more, I hooked up my trailer and headed to the EMC to pick up Kit. Unlike six weeks prior, Kit walked out of the EMC noticeably lame. At the sight of his gate, my heart sank. This was not going as planned.

An hour and a half later, Kit was being off loaded at Dr. Davis’s. Stephanie and her staff greeted me as I was undoing the tail ramp. As they say, first impressions are always lasting impressions, and my first impression of Dr. Davis and her staff was simply ‘wow.’

She and her staff were all wearing matching uniforms, something I had not expected from a small operation like hers. The barn where Kit would be spending the next five months



X-ray showing plate and screws used to stabilize Kit’s pastern joint. Note bend in plate and broken top screw—a result of Kit’s rearing in his stall six days after coming home.



Unlike humans, horses’ legs can’t withstand the trauma of being in a cast – the sores for just three weeks in a cast would take 5 months to heal.

was impeccably clean and well organized. Her staff, which I only know by their initials as MG and JH, took Kit’s lead shank from me in a way that clearly said, in a very nice and reassuring manner – “he’s ours now – we’ll take it from here.”

I really didn’t get a chance to look around the facility, or talk to Dr. Davis, as I myself was going in for a surgery the next day and had to

get home. So I patted Kit a farewell, thanked the staff, and left. Hoping all the way home that Dr. Davis and her staff were as good as everyone said they were.

As time would tell, they were not only good; they would prove to be the best of the best. Little did Kit know, but his luck was about to change.

continued next month

## SPORTSMAN’S CALENDAR GUN RAFFLE 2024

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## A spotlight on Dr. DeAsia Jacob

Joshua Faust  
Frederick Health

Our hands and wrists are the most active part of our upper bodies, so keeping them healthy and functional is vital in our day-to-day routines. However, we need to remember that injuries or the effects of aging can occasionally impact how these important muscles, bones, and joints work, so taking good care of them is a must.

Don't let common hand and wrist injuries like trigger finger, carpal tunnel syndrome, or stress fractures hinder your enjoyment of activities such as biking or hiking through the Catocin Mountains, walking your dog, playing tennis, golfing, or any of the other pursuits you love.

As our community grows, so does the demand for expert healthcare providers to address aging-related health issues, sports injuries, and general wear and tear on the body. That's why Frederick Health Medical Group is expanding access to its award-winning care with new facilities in Emmitsburg and Brunswick, offering over 100 diverse providers in 22 specialties, including Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, dedicated to improving the well-being of Frederick County residents.

This interdisciplinary team of fellowship-trained, board-certified professionals specializes in healthcare areas from orthopedics to plastic surgery and everywhere in between. These experts work together to address common medical issues involving the hand, elbow, wrist, hip, shoulder, and knee.

Let's get to know one of these providers — Dr. DeAsia Jacob.

Dr. Jacob, a Maryland native, joined Frederick Health in 2023. She is a plastic surgeon specializing in hand and wrist surgery. Her experience at several renowned medical schools and programs brings a wealth of knowledge to the Frederick community.

Many are unaware that plastic surgeons receive extensive training in hand surgery and, in collaboration with orthopedic and general surgeons, manage a wide variety of hand-related issues in patients. Plastic surgeons are skilled in working with delicate tissue, including nerves, and reduce scarring by using minimal incisions and plastic surgery techniques for closure.

Although initially interested in neurosurgery, Dr. Jacob developed a passion for hand and wrist surgery due to the immediate and impactful results it offers. "Just like our knees or shoulders, our hands and wrists get a lot of use every day. Keeping them healthy and functional is very important," she says.

Her commitment to learning and building strong relationships with mentors and colleagues ultimately led to her specializing in

hand surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery. She reflects, "When I was in medical school at Howard University, I learned many different surgical methods, which is important in adapting to the unique patient. The surgeon that I shadowed greatly emphasized the importance of a personal connection with your patients."

While every surgery is different, Dr. Jacob said what remains the same, regardless of the procedure, is establishing trust and a connection between herself and her patients.

"This philosophy inspired me and is the foundation of my patient care," she adds.

Dr. Jacob's medical journey

included training at the Cleveland Clinic and later, a hand surgery fellowship at Johns Hopkins. Seeking a community to both grow and make a difference in patients' lives, she aimed for a location near Baltimore, where her family resides. The Frederick area and Frederick Health Medical Group fit her needs perfectly because of its atmosphere and emphasis on a personalized approach to care.

Dr. Jacob emphasizes clear communication with patients and explores nonsurgical options for conditions like carpal tunnel syndrome, tendonitis, arthritis, or fractures. If surgery is necessary, she considers your lifestyle and care goals.

"No two patients are the same," she says, "and listening to what you want to accomplish out of your treatment, especially if surgery is the route, really matters. With hands and wrists being essential to your daily life, it's critical to work towards a timely and effective treatment plan" she adds.

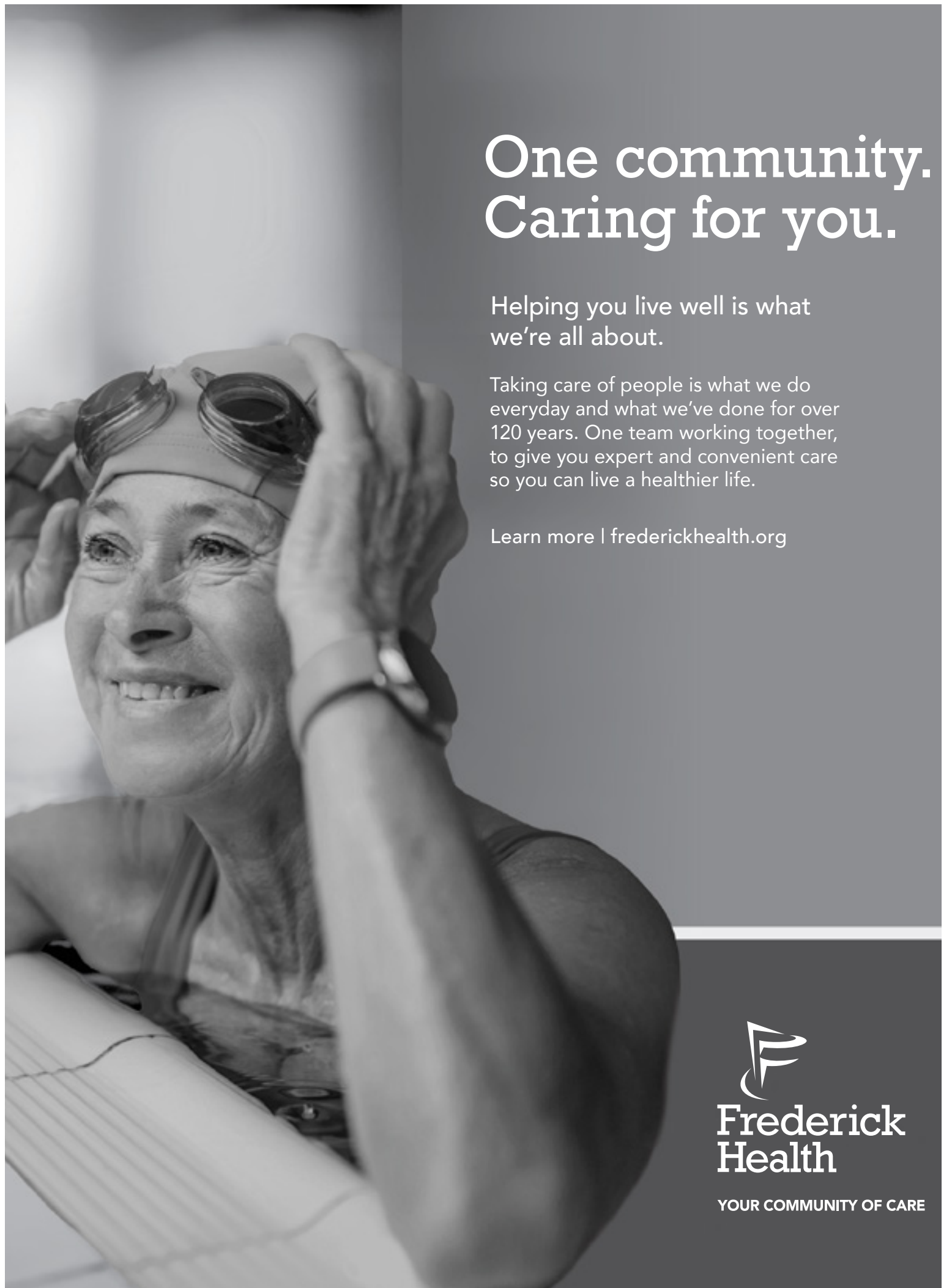
Dr. Jacob offers state-of-the-art technology, including endoscopic carpal tunnel release, which uses a small robotic tool and a camera for precise repair of hand and wrist issues with minimal scarring. Her expertise in performing surgery under local anesthesia ensures a same-day, convenient experience.

We use our hands to do many things in daily life from tying our shoes to texting to carrying grocer-

ies. That's why Frederick Health ensures a seamless post-surgery recovery by connecting patients with expert providers, like Frederick Health Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab, across seven county-wide locations, including Emmitsburg, for a customized plan to resume their daily routine.

"By listening to each other, we can work together to get you back to better health. I also encourage everyone to listen to your body and be aware of what it tells you," Dr. Jacob concludes.

Dr. Jacob is accepting new patients. To learn more about hand and wrist treatment options that Frederick Health offers or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Jacob, please visit [www.frederickhealth.org/ortho](http://www.frederickhealth.org/ortho).




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“Like you, I’m saddened that Congress is broken. We know how to fix it - but it will take leaders who have the courage to do the right thing and get back to doing the people’s business.”

# DAVID TRONE

DEMOCRAT FOR U.S. SENATE



## Congress Is Broken

The past few weeks are a great example of how broken Congress is. A complete government shutdown was narrowly avoided, and the “solution” was a very short term, 45 days. Federal agencies that do critically important work across the nation continue to be horribly underfunded. And then, for the first time in our history, the House had no leader as politics became more important than solving the problems of the people.

## We Know How To Fix It

The good news is, we know how to fix it. The bad news is, far too few of my colleagues have the political courage to do it. We need to elect leaders with the expertise and values to move us forward and not make Congress a popularity contest. When I got elected, I quickly learned that too many politicians are more interested in being on TV than passing legislation. Since my election, I’ve worked to pass dozens of pieces of legislation that make a difference on opioids, mental health, veterans issues, education and more. And if you see me on TV, I’m only there to talk about our progress or to advocate for real solutions.

We also need to say “NO” to PACs and lobbyists. Their power over our government is a scourge on our democracy and stands in the way of progress. In the last election, they shelled out over \$1 billion in campaign cash. Make no mistake: there are strings attached to these contributions.

## Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Since the very beginning, I’ve refused to take a nickel from PACs, lobbyists, or corporations. And if I am elected Senator next year, I’ll be the only Senator who has fulfilled that pledge. Once I’m there, I won’t stop fighting until we ban these contributions and get back to working on behalf of the American people.

The final – and one of the most important – task is for our leaders to do more listening and less speaking (or yelling). It’s past time for Congress to return to being an institution of integrity. And that’s why I’m running for the U.S. Senate. I’ll always put the people first, and I’ll work to reform Congress from within. But I need your help and hope I can earn your support.

**DAVID TRONE**  
U.S. SENATE



## 16th Annual Foothill Artists' Studio Tour

The 16th annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour will be held November 18 and 19, the weekend before Thanksgiving, at various locations in and around the western Adams County communities of Fairfield, Orrtanna and Cashtown. Fourteen artists will be participating in a special pre-holiday show and sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Nine returning Foothills Artists are excited to welcome five new artists to this year's line-up: Andrea Finch, Chris Herbert, Sarah Maclay, Jayne Shord and Julian Waters. Eight different studio locations will feature original paintings, pottery, sculpture, woodworking, photography, printmaking, fiber and textile arts, enamels, jewelry, calligraphy and bookbinding. See firsthand where the artists create their work and have the opportunity to buy directly from them. For those interested in making purchases, checks and cash are welcome. Credit cards are accepted by most, but not all, of the artists.

This free tour is self-guided and may be completed in any order. The website, [www.foothillsartists.net](http://www.foothillsartists.net), includes a map of each studio's location and street address, as well as links to each artist's individual website. It also includes biographies and artwork examples for each artist. Several of the artists live and work in historic homes.

### The artists:

**Daryl Despres** — Mountain Woodworks, 59 Ringneck Trail, Carroll Valley. Daryl is a woodworker who has turned his passion into his profession. He creates functional, non-traditional band-sawn boxes using different woods, almost all reclaimed. He prefers to use locally sourced wood or materials given to him by friends.

**Andrea Finch** — showing at Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Andrea creates sculptural quilts of botanical subjects, from realistic to abstract, exploring textile textures. Her botanical obsession began with photographing and creating an arboretum in her yard. She comes to quilt-making from a different angle, letting go of the rules, allowing the fabric to speak through texture, color, and design.

**Anne Finucane** — showing at Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Anne works in a variety of printmaking and other fine art media, and will be showing her etchings and linocuts on the tour. A long-time organizer and advocate for the arts, her work is held in permanent collections throughout the area and has been accepted into juried exhibitions in Baltimore, Washington, DC and New York City.

**Geoff Grant** — Eden Farm, 378 Topper Road, Fairfield. Geoff is



This year's Foothills Artists (seated): Jack Handshaw, Debbie Westmoreland, Judy Pyle, Anne Finucane, Andrea Finch; (standing): Heidi Myers, J h Ricci, Daryl Despres, Jayne Shord, Sarah Maclay, Geoffrey Thulin, Julian Waters, Geoff Grant, Chris Herbert.

an award-winning fine art photographer who finds expression in "painterly" landscapes, graphic street scenes, and candid portraits of people of different cultures, particularly those from his travels in other countries. While he enjoys color, often his most powerful images are black and white like "Summer Frolic" which was accepted in the 2023 Delaplaine Arts Center National Juried Exhibit.

**Jack Handshaw** — Hobbit House Pottery, 1575 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. An active artist for over 45 years, Jack is a potter working in all forms of clay, particularly reduction fired glazed porcelains, and has returned recently to doing raku. Additionally, he will be offering redware for this year's tour. He is a juried member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen, and has been accepted into numerous juried shows and received many awards. He also shares his art through teaching and demonstrations.

**Chris Herbert** — Rocktop Bookshop and Bindery, 1229 Old Route 30, Cashtown. A graduate of the Clark University School at the Worcester Art Museum, with 27 years of experience in Book Binding, Chris has the skills to help with any book project from restoring a cherished family Bible, to creating a custom gift book for a loved one.

**Sarah Maclay** — showing at Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Sarah has been creating and exhibiting her work for more than 25 years, with a primary focus on landscape painting. Her work lives in collections across the country and reflects the sense of place she has found in south-central Pennsylvania.

**Heidi Myers** — Haywire Studio, 260 Orrtanna Road, Orrtanna. Heidi is a ceramic artist who has been expressing herself with clay for over twenty

years. She enjoys sculpture, slab and hand-building. This year she has continued to explore sgraffito. Heidi's inspirations can be found in the nature that surrounds her Haywire Studio.

**Judy Pyle** — showing at Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Judy makes jewelry in hand-fabricated silver, torch-fired enamels on copper and fine silver. Her new enamel pieces are wearable sculptures. She has been a life-long art educator, as well as a practicing artist. Her most recent small sculptures — enameled items and other found objects — have been juried into national exhibits.

**J h Ricci** — showing at Eden Farm, 378 Topper Road, Fairfield. J h is a multi-media artist and instructor who is self-taught in a number of techniques & mediums. An award winning artist, she is nationally recognized for her fiber art. Exhibiting in invitational & juried art shows, her work is included in several private collections, numerous maga-

zines and book publications. J h sells her work at local venues & galleries throughout the country and teaches at art centers in PA & MD.

**Jayne Shord** — Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Jayne is a photographer, specializing in garden images from her Beech Springs Farm, as well as other locations around Adams County and from her national and international travel. Her work has appeared in several HGAC Barn Art Shows and has received recognition from LA Camera (Chambersburg) and Kodak.

**Geoffrey Thulin** — Blue Orchard Studio, 1013 Old Route 30, Cashtown. Geoffrey is a painter specializing in bold animal imagery, landscapes and abstracts. He works primarily in watercolor and gouache. His award-winning work explores color, pattern and rhythm, and their connection to the spiritual aspect of nature.

**Julian Waters** — Waters Lettering, 851 Boyle Road, Fairfield.

Waters Lettering showcases the exceptional work of Sheila Waters (1929–2022), founding member of the Foothills Artists, and son Julian Waters (1957–), both internationally renowned calligraphers and designers. The Lettering Archive includes an exhaustive collection of books, prints, posters, originals and historical artifacts covering the history of western calligraphy, printing, typography, font design and bookbinding.

**Debbie Westmoreland** — showing at Eden Farm, 378 Topper Road, Fairfield. Debbie, a fiber artist, creates needle felted, one-of-a-kind scarves, and wall art. Silk becomes a canvas upon which wool fibers are combined with hand stitching and embellishments, giving her designs unique textures, color, and special effects. Debbie has a background in interior design, curating, merchandising and teaching. She is also a member of the board of — as well as an instructor at — the Adams County Arts Council.

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 Geoff Grant, Joh Ricci and Debbie Westmoreland - 378 Topper Road, Fairfield  
 Geoffrey Thulin - 1013 Old Rt. 30, Cashtown  
 Daryl Despres - 59 Ringneck Trail, Carroll Valley  
 Heidi Myers - 260 Orrtanna Road, Orrtanna

Andrea Finch, Anne Finucane, Sarah Maclay, Judy Pyle & Jayne Shord - 784 Mt. Carmel Rd., Orrtanna  
**Painting, Pottery, Woodworking, Photography, Printmaking, Fiber & Textile Art, Enameling, Jewelry, Calligraphy and Bookbinding**

*Foothills Artists*

**For details including map with street addresses visit:**  
[www.foothillsartists.net](http://www.foothillsartists.net)

# HISTORY

## William Joseph Werth

*Editor's Note: a few months back Colin was kind enough to send us this story of his great-grandfather. We had intended to run it the month it was submitted but then upon reflection, we opted to save it for this edition in honor of all the veterans who have risked their lives so we may live lives free of tyranny.*

Colin Arnold  
Gettysburg, Pa.

William Joseph Werth was one of an estimated 200,000 men and women who lied about their age to join the Armed forces during World War II. He was 17, when he enlisted in the United States Navy on July 19, 1943. A fresh graduate of Lebanon Catholic High School and star basketball player, William heeded the call of his country as the second world war pushed on. By the time he was 18 years old he had completed training at the US Naval training center in Great Lakes, Illinois and was boarding the USS St. Louis in Pleasanton, California.

William was my great-grandfather and his service to our country inspires me every day and I hope his story inspires others. It is quite easy to lose hope in our country these days as negative news coverage and information runs rampant through our tv, phones, and our society, but to those who have fallen victim to the negative news and have lost faith in our country I offer you, his story. As President Ronald Reagan said in his first inaugural address, "Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes – they just don't know where to look."

Look in the history books, look at your family and family history, look at the everyday Americans who do their job to support their family and country, the police officers, firefighters, military personnel, nurses, teachers, truck drivers, and the list goes on, and William's story who like millions of other Americans fought for this great country when she needed them most.

William set foot aboard the USS St. Louis on October 18, 1943, and from there headed towards the Bougainville Island off the coast of Papa New Guinea to provide naval fire support to the US Marines invading the island. Its hard to imagine what 18-year-old William felt during his first time on a naval ship, one can only imagine, the possible sea sickness, nervousness, and anxiety but a job needed to be done and the sailors of the USS St. Louis would see it through.

The USS St. Louis has a famed history. Before William boarded, the St. Louis was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese bombing occurred, she was one of the first ships to engage with the Japanese. She helped in escorting the President of the Philippines to the United States, she was involved in the Battle of Kula Gulf, the Battle of Kolombangara, she had been struck by torpedoes, kamikazes, and intense gun fire but against all odds remained proudly afloat, giving her the nick name the "Lucky Lou" but her years of bashful and intense service would continue but for my great-grandfather they would just begin.

William was a radarman on board the USS St. Louis and on February 14, 1944, at roughly 7 p.m. in the evening off the coast of Papa New Guinea lookouts spotted two Japanese aircraft hurling towards the St. Louis as sailors rushed to their stations and began quickly firing at the aircraft. The first one failed to strike the ship with any missiles but the second plane launched a missile that struck the ship. The missile passed through the shell handling room before exploding in the midship living compartments, killing 23 sailors instantly. The 'Lucky Lou' though was able to stay afloat and get repairs before heading back out to sea.

Nearly eight months later, on November 27, 1944, the USS St. Louis and her sailors including now 19-year-old William Werth was patrolling the waters of the Leyte Gulf off the coast of the Philippines alongside the USS West Vir-

ginia, Colorado, and Maryland. In late morning fourteen Japanese aircraft crested over the horizon and began raining bullets down on the ships, the St. Louis made it through undamaged, but less than 20 minutes later a second wave of ten aircraft came roaring towards the navy ships. This time the 'Lucky Lou' would not be so lucky. Some of the Japanese planes were on suicide missions and one kamikaze crashed into the St. Louis exploding and killing nearly every man gunning the 20 mm guns and started a raging fire in the aircraft hangar. Before even given the chance to recover, a third wave of Japanese aircraft came barreling towards the ships, another kamikaze struck the St. Louis port side creating a 20 ft hole in the belt armor and puncturing several holes in the hull of the ship and the St. Louis began to quickly take on water, but by the quick actions taken by the sailors of the USS St. Louis and by the grace of God the 'Lucky Lou' was able to make it to port and undergo extensive repairs, before yet going out again to fight for her country for another year.

The 'Lucky Lou' is a fitting name for that ship, whether luck had anything to do with her surviving so many attacks or the mercy of our Lord that defended that ship and her sailors. Even still the St. Louis lost many of her sailors during her time and we remember them every day, but I often think about my great-grandfather, William J. Werth. Who had experienced all that before even turning 21 years old. A small-town kid from Lebanon, Pennsylvania whose faith in God and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior propelled him to defend his country when she needed him most. He carried the burdens of his experiences, losing fellow sailors, and surviving the war. This didn't stop him yet again when the United States would get involved in the Korean Conflict in 1950; William was first in line to reenlist in the US Navy. William exited the Navy in 1945 and reenlisted in 1951 and served aboard the USS Saipan during the Korean Conflict.

William had survived so much and was dedicated to his family and his job as a linotype operator for the Lebanon Daily News. He had seen



William Joseph Werth, 1925 - 1964

so much at such a young age but had a whole life before him, a life he would never get to live. William died on October 3, 1964, at the age of just 39 from a brain aneurysm; he left behind two daughters and a wife. His story lied dormant for decades, until after years of research and asking family members, I can share his story.

I am inspired everyday by my great-grandfather and his story; he is a hero and I encourage everyone to research their own family history

because there are heroes in every family. It is easy to get wrapped up in the everyday emotions of the world and become disheartened by the negative news but history, in particular family history has a way to help put things in perspective, change our mindset and outlook, and encourage us to stand tall and be proud to be an American.

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

### Harney Veterans Day observance

On Saturday, November 11, the Monocacy Valley Memorial VFW Post 6918, located in Harney, will host its annual Veterans Day Observance at the Post starting at 11 a.m.

Post Commander Larry Harris said "This day is a time to pause, to reflect and recognize the challenges and sacrifices of veterans who have served, those who continued to serve and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country in the United States Armed Forces". "Veterans Day pays tribute to our living and deceased veterans who served their country."

Our guest speaker will be a veteran of the Global War on Terrorism. Gunnery Sergeant

Glen Silva. Sgt. Silva is a highly decorated, and a distinguish disabled veteran and a recipient of a custom-made home for severely injured veterans. He will speak on an organization for veterans Homes For Our Troops Foundation an organization who builds and donates specially adapted custom homes to enable the veterans to rebuild their lives.

In addition, we are proud to have members of the Maryland Patriot Guard Riders as our guests. The Patriots Guard Riders are dedicated riders who supports veterans and first responders and their families. In addition, they show their respect to these American Heroes and their families by escorting the fallen American Heroes to their final resting place.

In addition, we are pleased to have members of the Young Marines participate in the Veterans Day Observance program.

At the conclusion of the program, Post Commander Larry Harris and the VFW Auxiliary, President Eberhart will escort and present the wreaths at the Post's memorial in memory of our fallen veterans.

The public and all veterans and their families are invited to attend the program and to participate in this special occasion. Light refreshments will be served after the program in the pavilion.

For further information, contact Frank Rauschenberg at 240-367-6110 or call the post at 410-756-6866.



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# Graceham Moravian Church celebrates 265th anniversary

Mia Ferraro  
UMD Class of 2026

Graceham Moravian Church will be commemorating their 265th anniversary this month with a Moravian 'Love Feast.'

A Love Feast service is a Moravian tradition that originated in Herrnhut, Germany. Moravian refugees had settled in Herrnhut to escape religious persecution in 1722. There were many political and theological disputes among the community as it began to form. During a worship service, however, the members of the church felt particularly moved and connected, causing them to put their disagreements aside.

The congregation came to "recognize the value of their love for each other rather than whatever reasons they had to disagree with one another," Graceham Moravian Church's current Pastor Jay Petrella said. Nobody wanted to leave, so they sent out for food when people started to become hungry as the service went on, "and on and on," according to Petrella. The people of the church then proceeded to share a meal so that they could continue to be together to worship. This shared meal that brought them closer together has since been referred to as the original 'Love Feast.'

To commemorate this special moment in Moravian history, Graceham Moravian Church occasionally hosts Love Feasts, at which sweet rolls are served during worship services along with a drink, whether it be coffee, milk or water. These services are held on special occasions such as Easter and Christmas. Graceham Moravian Church will be hosting a Love Feast on October 22 to celebrate the anniversary of the Church's founding 265 years ago.

Moravians from Herrnhut ended up in the United States when they settled in Pennsylvania on a mission. "The goal of the original missionaries from Herrnhut, Germany was not to create a whole bunch of Moravians," Petrella said. "It was just that they felt passionate about their love of God and went out to tell people about it."

"It always says in our history: we were here to minister to the public," said Mike Miller, a member of Graceham Moravian Church and the Church's unofficial "resident historian," as Petrella referred to him. "It wasn't our idea to be any kind of a big shot."

The history of Graceham Moravian Church dates back to the 1740's when residents invited a Moravian pastor and spiritual teacher from Pennsylvania to preach in the area. The Moravians settled in the town and built a log 'Gemeinhaus,' or a congregation hall, in 1749. By October 8, 1758, the Church had organized a congregation and appointed a permanent minister. This day is regarded as the church's official anniversary. The congregation built a parsonage in the 1790's and the second Gemeinhaus, built in the 1770's, was replaced by the brick sanctuary erected in the 1820's that still stands today.

Days after the congregation was organized on October 8, the Church opened a school for the children. The school lasted until the town opened a public school in 1839. A Sunday school opened that same year.

The Church still holds Sunday school classes which are open to all ages. They have a full-time Christian Education director to oversee it. "We have, sometimes, as many people in Sunday school as there are in church," Miller said. He attributes the turnout to the strong organization of the program. "It's the real deal." Classes are held at 9:15 a.m. during the academic year. The Church also has a youth group that meets on Sunday nights during the summer as well as a Bible study group.

Another lasting tradition for Graceham Moravian Church is mission trips. The Church organizes a youth mission trip to a different location each year. The group travels to serve a community in need through home repair projects for residents who perhaps can't afford to pay for such services. According to Petrella, an example of the volunteer work the group partakes in is build-



The Graceham Moravian Church - one of the oldest churches in Northern Frederick County.

ing a handicap ramp for a resident who is disabled. This past summer, the Church organized a mission trip to Wrightsville, Pennsylvania for a group of 13 adults and kids.

The Church will be holding a yard sale during Thurmont's Colorfest this month, as they do each year. A large portion of the proceeds goes towards the annual mission trips.

The Graceham community is small but close, according to Petrella. The Church runs several community outreach programs. Members come together once a month to share what the Church calls a "Served with Grace" dinner. Volunteers from the Church prepare and serve hot meals for anyone who shows up. The meal is free, but some will offer a donation. Some residents come out of need, and others are just happy to "get out of the house and have some place

to go," according to Petrella. "They look forward to meeting the people that they can see here, and they make friends, and so on."

The "Served with Grace" tradition began 11 years ago this month. It was discontinued in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and resumed last winter. Around 100 to 120 nutritious meals are served each month. Some of the food served is made with vegetables from the Community Garden on the Church's property. Produce from the garden is also supplied to the Thurmont Food Bank and the Thurmont Senior Center.

Another one of the community outreach programs Graceham Moravian Church runs is the annual school supply drive held in August. The Church collects backpacks and school supplies for volunteers from the community to put together and distribute from

the fellowship hall.

The Church also helps run the Thurmont Food Bank as a part of the Thurmont Ministerium, a group of congregations and community organizations from various faiths in the Thurmont area. Members of the Church volunteer every week to collect and distribute food for the community, "and the need has been going up the past little while," said Petrella, "so anybody who wants to donate... they'd love to have it."

Worship services are held on Sundays at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Services are live streamed on the Youtube account @graceham-moravianchurch2222 as well as Facebook. Past live streams can also be accessed on these platforms.

To read other articles by Mia Ferraro visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net



An undated photo of the church back in the days of horses and buggies.



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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## November 2

### Brother, Five, Shoots Younger Brother

Floyd Kuhn, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kuhn of Fairfield, is in critical condition at the Warner Hospital, having been shot in the abdomen by his five-year old brother, while the two boys were playing. Authorities say the little boy's condition is grave.

According to the story of the shooting as told the hospital authorities, the affair was accidental. The two boys had been playing about the house during the morning when the older one picked up a 22-caliber rifle. The gun was supposed to have been empty, it was said, and the older boy is believed by his parents to have placed the cartridge in the chamber.

From the manner in which the bullet entered the little boy's body, it is believed that he was lying on the floor on his stomach, and that the brother shot him from a prone position. The bullet took an upward course towards the boy's lung, passing through the rump and into the groin. The cartridge also pierced the liver.

When the injured lad was brought to the hospital, the bullet wound in the liver was sutured and a considerable quantity of blood in the boy's stomach was removed. The bullet has not been removed.

The family is unable to account for the presence of the one cartridge in the rifle, except that it was placed there by the older brother before he began playing with a firearm. It was the only cartridge in a gun after the shooting occurred, it is said.

### Electrifying A Nation

Realizing that this country is on the threshold of the greatest industrial development it has ever experienced, Secretary Hoover, with the approval of the President, called an Eastern Super-Power Conference in New York City for a preliminary discussion on what steps Federal and State authorities can properly take in the promotion of what is called super-power development in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states.

Hoover explain that the con-

ference was not to put more government in business, but as public authorities were already deeply interested in power production through many forms of regulation and control over power resources, he felt that coordination between public authorities and individuals would help in the advancement in the development of a great service to the public.

Engineering science has at last made it possible, by the perfection of high-voltage transmission lines of great lengths, to send power from distance sources to the thickly populated communities. Great economies in distribution can be secured through the interconnection of loads between systems and at the same time assure more security in the power supply from the effects of coal strikes and transportation interruptions.

A power distribution system stretching across state lines will result, he said, in financial, ownership and legal problems arising which must be coordinated. It was with these ideas in mind that secretary Hoover called the present conference in order that the way be prepared to handle the coming situation in the most efficient and scientific matter.

Mr. Hoover said: "every time we cheap in power and centralize its production we create new users; we increase production, we eliminate waste, we decrease the burden of physical effort upon men. In sum, we increase the standard of living and comfort of all our people."

## November 9

### Frederick Must Pay

Although Frederick County has been slow in paying for the tuition of children from this County who have been attending border schools in Carroll County, the State School Superintendent has told the Carroll County school system that these children cannot be barred from schools, as the Carroll County Board of Education has warned officials at Frederick County they would do.

The question of barring Frederick County children from attending schools has resulted from the failure of Frederick County to pay a balance

of \$4,656 for tuition for the 1922 to 1923 school year. The original bill was \$8,656, \$4,000 hasn't been paid by the Frederick County School Board, because of an adequate school levy, say school officials. The balance has been unpaid.

Approximately 108 Frederick County school children in high school and elementary grades are attending border schools in Carroll County. Carroll County's per capita charge has been \$133, which is considerably higher than the per capita cost in Frederick County.

In discussing the question, the Frederick County School Superintendent said that the state superintendent had decided that children living near the Carroll County schools can attend those schools and their tuition must be paid by the County in which they live. If these children live near Frederick County high or elementary schools, they are expected to attend the schools of this county. Otherwise the family must pay for the tuition of their children if they wish them to go to out of County schools.

### Million Bushels Of Apples In Adams

The apple crop in Adams County is more than double what it was last year and will amount to about 1 million bushels, according to official estimates made by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. While the production is exceptionally large, the crop this year throughout the state falls about half a million bushels below the bumper crop of 1920, according to the official statistics.

Throughout the past five years Adams County has maintained its lead in Apple production, with Franklin County second on the list. The crop in Franklin County this year is an excess of 800,000 bushels.

### County Chautauqua

While Frederick City may be tiring of the Chautauqua, County town seem to be taking kinder to it. Practically all the towns and villages of Frederick County either have conducted a successful Chautauqua or plan on holding one. It is felt there an annual performance under the auspice is of the Swarthmore Chautauqua Depart-

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ment is the thing to do.

But Chautauqua season is just opening. Towns are buzzing about preparing to hold the three or four-day afternoon and evenings of literary a musical entertainment. One of these towns is Thurmont which is scheduled to hold their Chautauqua on December 13, 14 and 15th. A committee has been appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the Chautauqua and every effort is being made to ensure it is a success.

## November 16

### Dropping Gasoline Prices

Gasoline is selling in California from 6 to 13 cents per gallon and in Oregon and Washington from 12 to 14 cents per gallon. The reason for this is California has knock the bottom out of the oil business through the opening of vast new fields producing 600,000 barrels of crude per day, and is said to be capable of producing 1 million barrels per day.

California is now yielding more crude oil than Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas, three of the great petroleum regions of the United States and the bulk of this California oil is being produced in Los Angeles, which until a few years ago, was chiefly devoted to citrus fruit growing and diversified farming.

Within a radius of 35 miles of the city center lays three great petroleum fields and another field, which is reported to be destined to replace the Huntington Beach field in its declining years. This latter field has put 40 wells into production in the last 15 months for a grand total of 128 producing, drilling or building rigs.

In less than eight months the oil fields of California, some of which reared their 120 foot derricks above bearing orange tree groves, valued at from \$2,000-\$5,000 per acre, have caused the petroleum capital of the world to rise within 2 miles of the tidewater at Los Angeles harbor; having put the Panama Canal on a pay-

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## 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

ing basis after the world's general maritime trade failed to do so, and have provided the United States Shipping Board with \$40 million worth of new steel tankers, and knocked the bottom out of the gasoline market of the entire country.

### Emmitsburg Wants Better Lights

A movement has been launched to provide a better lighting system for Emmitsburg. At present a moonlight schedule is in effect in that town. While this schedule has been under criticism for sometime, it is pointed out that the Emmitsburg Lighting Company is in no way responsible for the prevailing condition, as they made the contract with the Town Commissioners of Emmitsburg when their plant was installed.

The question of better lighting facilities for the town was taken up at the regular monthly meeting of the Burgess and Commissioners of Emmitsburg. Mrs. Andrew Annan and other interested citizens appeared before the Board and urge a better lighting system be adopted for the Municipality.

### Adolph Hitler Captured

Adolph Hitler, the fascist leader of the recent Munich plot, was arrested near Lake Stuffle, Southern Bavaria. He offered no resistance.

Private advances from Munich represent the situation there as wholly in a state of flux. Ritter von Kahr, Bavarian Commissioner, General von Lossow and Colonel Ritter Seiser, who disavowed the Ludendorff-Hitler revolt, are directing the affairs from their barracks in which they have been quartered since last Thursday night. General Ludendorff has been himself entirely incommunicado at his villa.

The preponderance of sentiment among the masses is reported to be for Hitler. His friends are making strong presentations to von Kahr, demanding the dictator arrive at an understanding with the Fascist leader. Reinforcements of troops are reported to be reaching Munich hourly from surrounding districts.

### Work On Graceham Moravian Church Nearing Completion

Work on the Graceham Moravian Church is progressing satisfactorily. The new ceiling, which is of Wainscoting, is finished. The painters are

now at work. Besides the ceiling, there were numerous other repairs made.

The outside of both the church and the parsonage have been painted, and the interior of the church is to be re-decorated. The Ladies Aid Society has brought new light fixtures as well as carpet and rubber padding for the platform and isles. Three new Port Richey hours and a communion table are being made, all of walnut, to harmonize with the railing and the pulpit. After the work is finish the church will be very attractive. It is hope that everything will be completed for the reopening on December 9.

## November 23

### Smokes Go Up In Smoke

The fire bell sounded an alarm on Monday morning that for a short time created considerable anxiety, as the fire was at the Taneytown's Central Hotel. Fortunately, it was discovered before it had made much headway and prompt measures soon had it under control.

The fire started in back of the bar, in a cupboard full of matches, cigarettes and pipes and had evidently been smoldering for sometime. Had the same condition existed an hour or two earlier, the entire building and corner of the square would likely have been involved. The cause of the fire is unknown, but may have been due to mice nibbling the matches. The chief damage of the building was from the dense smoke.

### Monocacy Bridge Breaks

A heavy Pierce Arrow truck carrying a load of empty oxygen tanks, broke through the Carroll County half of the Monocacy Bridge at Bridgeport, Saturday afternoon while coming towards Taneytown. About 30 feet of the floor gave way. The driver fell 20 feet into the river, but aside from a bruised face was not hurt. Two other men are said to have occupied the cab with him, but none were seriously hurt.

The bridge has been regarded as unsafe, for some time, and notice was posted warning against loads of over 8,000 pounds. The truck went through and landed standing end up. It was taken out of its position on Thursday morning, very little injured, and moved to Baltimore on its own power.

The bridge has been closed to travel until the floor is repaired and the bridge made safe for travel this winter, as there is no satisfactory detour. The bridge needs rebuilding, and it is hoped that the new bridge will be included in next year's work.

**Triple Accident** A triple accident occurred on the Harney Road leading to Gettysburg shortly after dark on Thursday evening. Two machines, one driven by Mr. Lucas of Gettysburg and another one by Jesse Chapendale of Taneytown, and driven by his son John, collided on a small concrete culvert as both drivers attempted to avoid a collision with each other and with the concrete abutments on the bridge.

While the two automobile parties were waiting for a truck from Gettysburg garage to tow them into town, James Hoover, of Harney, approach in his machine and while looking at one of the cars in the previous accident, ran into the concrete abutment on the bridge.

As a result, when the wrecking crew reached the scene of the accident, there were three damage cars instead of two. All three machines were damaged to some extent, but no one was injured.

The culvert on which is the collision took place it said to be much narrower than the road, and several accidents have occurred there recently.

### Man Injured During Work Awarded Compensation

William Shields, of Emmitsburg, won his appeal of a decision rendered by the State Industrial Accident Commission, which stopped his weekly \$8 payment that had been awarded to him when he was injured on June 27, 1922 while working on the foundation for a new building at Saint Mary's seminary.

Shields was working in a ditch when a premature blast caused the ditch to cave in, fracturing the bones in his leg and hips. He was awarded the eight dollars per week by the State Industrial Accident Commission a short time after the accident but the award was stopped last December, about six months after he was injured.

Shields is reported to be suffering from mental depression and his condition is now such that he is confined to Mount Hope Retreat in Baltimore. The melody from which she is suffering in medical terms is known as manic-depressive-psychosis.

Shields was awarded full compensation, which means that he will receive \$8 per week for every week since last December and will continue to receive \$8 a week until he is paid the sum of \$5,000. Shields has a wife and five small children.

### Bridge Christmas Present

The work of laying concrete for the structure of the bridge over Toms Creek, 1 mile south of Emmitsburg, has been completed. Filling is being pushed rapidly and should be finish by the latter part of next week.

The State Road Commission will then take over the bridge and place a macadam dressing over the top of the road surface and the bridge will more than likely be entirely completed by the middle of December, just in time to be a Christmas present for Emmitsburg and vicinity.

The new concrete bridge replaces the old wooden covered, one-way bridge that formally spanned Toms Creek at this point. This bridge was condemned and torn away last summer and work was then commenced upon the new modern structure.

## November 30

### Emmitsburg To Run Water Company

Control of the Emmitsburg Water Company will again be in the hands of Emmitsburg people, according to a deal just completed.

After the receivership of the Annan & Horner Bank, sale of a majority of the water company's stock was made to outside parties, and it will be of much local interest to learn that the controlling shares will now pass into local hands.

The men who have arranged to take over 635 of the 1,200 shares of the water company are well-known businessmen of Emmitsburg, and their standing in the community assures the customers that the water plant will be run under the best management. These men are: Albert Patterson, Thomas Hayes, Harry Gross, John Hollinger and Edward Ohler.

How soon the management of the company will be taken up by the new owners could not be learned, but it is the intention of the new owners to assume control as soon as possible.

As a result of the collapse of the Annan

& Horner Bank, the 635 shares, which were owned by the bank, were taken over by people from outside of Emmitsburg and for a time there was somewhat of a mystery connected with the transfer. When it was understood that the stock was for sale, several Emmitsburg men got together and try to arrange to buy it so as to keep the affairs of the water company in the hands of the home people. But the deal fell through with the results at the 635 shares went elsewhere.

Recently it was learned that the stock could be purchased and the businessmen got in touch with the parties holding the shares, and through their attorney, a bill of sale was drawn up several days ago at which time of some of money was paid in order to cover the transaction.

The Emmitsburg water company was started by I. S. Annan and has been in the control of the Annan family up to the late banking troubles.

### Harney Tops In School Attendance

Harney grammar school has received the attendance banner for two and three room schools for the month of November, having made a percent of attendance of 97.3. This is also the highest percentage of attendees anywhere in the county.

### Two Fall From Roof

Roy Smith and Martin Spalding were injured, on Thursday, while putting a roof on the engine house of the Emmitsburg Railroad. They were on a ladder fastened to the roof, which broke loose, throwing them to the ground, about 16 feet; the former suffered a broken limb, Spalding's back was injured, but not seriously.

### Keystone Chemical Company Is Sold.

An announcement has been made of the purchase of the Keystone Chemical Company of Gettysburg, by a number of Fairfield residents. The name of the firm will be changed to the Keystone Chemical Company of Fairfield. The terms of the sale were private. Possession was taken on Monday evening.

To read other articles related to 100 Years Ago this Month, visit the History section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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# FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

From John Ashbury's... And All Our Yesterdays: A Chronicle of Frederick County

## November 2

It is amazing that Frederick was more than 150 years old before plans were formulated to build a hospital. When Miss Emma Smith and a group of prominent Frederick women decided in 1897 to plan and build a hospital, they had no idea that the needs of the community would require two additional wings for the facility within just a few years.

In 1902, the first building opened, but it was immediately apparent that more space was needed. Within 5 years two wings were opened.

The first additional was built to the south of the main structure after a generous donation by Margaret Hood. It included a sun parlor, an elevator, 12 private rooms, a dining room and a laundry. It opened in 1905.

But even as it opened, plans were afoot for another addition to the north of the main building. On November 2, 1906, the cornerstone was laid for this second wing, to be known as the Hood Memorial Wing, named for the late husband of Mrs. Hood. This addition would make the hospital twice as large as the original

design and it had been only five years since the facility opened.

It would be another 10 years before third floors were added to both the north and south wings. Each year the use of the hospital increased in both surgical and medical patients, proving that the foresight of Miss Smith, who had donated the land and worked so hard for the establishment of Frederick City Hospital, was indeed prophetic.

## November 9

Frederick has been blessed with outstanding educators over the years. But Margaret Minerva Robinson holds her own in the company of men.

In 1889 Judge Glenn Worthington was a Frederick County school commissioner, and he brought Margaret Robinson to town to open The Girls High School. Boys High School was still a dream.

Miss Robinson had already had a long and successful career establishing new schools. In Frederick she was, at first, the only teacher, but when she was forced by ill health to take a leave of absence in 1906, there was a faculty of 12.

After recovering her health, Miss Robinson accepted a position as Dean of Women at West-

ern Maryland College. She remained there for 20 years, continuing her life-long love of people and books.

While in Frederick she had made so many friends that when declining health led her to seek a residence in a nursing home, she chose The Home for the Aged, now the Record Street Home.

From her childhood, learning something new everyday was her favorite pastime. She continued this pursuit until she died November 9, 1945, at the age of 89.

## November 16

When Arthur Hightman left his farm in Burkittsville on November 16, 1920, to travel to Middletown for supplies, little did he know that when he returned he would be launched into the worst tragedy of his young life.

At the time of his departure his wife was in the kitchen and their 19-month-old son was in an upstairs bedroom. After an absence of about three hours, Hightman came home to find his wife wrapped in a blanket on the dining room floor, conscious but dazed.

She was severely burned on her left side. Her left ear was almost burned off and her hair was burned from her scalp. Their son was seated in a chair in the room.

Soon after his return Hightman discovered a bed on the second floor on fire. He quickly extinguished it and returned before Dr. Lamar, of Middletown, arrived to treat his wife.

Evidence uncovered indicated that Charles Robinson, a 16-year-old Negro hand on the farm, was attending to his chores when Hightman left for Middletown. Shortly thereafter he went into the house where he found Mrs. Hightman, washing the breakfast dishes.

After asking her about additional work to be done, he struck her on the back of the head with a hatchet. He then raped her, poured coal oil on her clothes, and set her on fire.

Somehow Mrs. Hightman regained consciousness, grabbed a blanket, and put out her burning clothes. She apparently did not attempt to put out her burning clothes with her hands because they were not injured. She also, apparently, brought her son down to the first floor where she fell to the floor where her husband found her sometime later.

It was first thought that she had accidentally spilled coal oil while filling the stove, but later in the day she told her mother, that she hadn't used the coal oil can that morning.

Dr. Lamar evidently did not discover or treat the head wound, only administering medical attention to the severe burns. The next day, about 36-hours after the attack, Mrs. Hightman died.

Dr. Ira McCurdy, acting on instructions from State's Attorney, performed an autopsy and ruled

that Mrs. Hightman had died as a direct result of a concussion of the brain and a fractured skull.

Robinson, who had denied any involvement in the crime, was brought to Frederick and confessed to the rape and murder. (Testimony at his trial by both Sheriff William O. Wertenberger and others indicated that no one abused Robinson to obtain the confession.)

On his own authority, Sheriff Wertenberger immediately took Robinson to the Baltimore City jail because he worried about mob violence from friends of Mrs. Hightman.

His fears were well-founded as outrage swept the county. On November 29 Robinson was indicted by a special session of the Frederick County Grand Jury for both rape and murder.

On December 20, Robinson was tried before a three-judge panel. Following the testimony of prosecution witnesses, the defendant took the stand and recanted two confessions he had previously signed. No other defense witnesses were offered.

Almost immediately, and without leaving the courtroom, Judge Urner announced the unanimous verdict of the court that Robinson was guilty of the murder. He then pronounced the sentence of death by hanging. "And may God have mercy on your soul."

Robinson seemed unmoved by the sentence. He remained calm and collected. The court also ordered that Robinson be remanded to the Baltimore jail until shortly before his execution, still fearing an attempt to lynch the teenager.

On the return trip to Baltimore the enormity of his crime and the fate that awaited him finally gripped him. Sheriff Wertenberger told Frederick officials that Robinson sobbed the entire trip, almost uncontrollably.

At dawn on the morning of Friday, February 25, 1921, Robinson was hanged at the Frederick County Jail, becoming the 29th person to be executed in Frederick County and next to the last.

## November 23

Less than a month after the British Stamp Act of 1765 took effect, the 12 judges of the Frederick County Circuit Court refused publicly to comply with its provisions. And thus was born Repudiation Day.

On March 22, 1765, the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act, which provided that all official and legal documents must be written on stamped paper, which was to be sold by British agents at prices which constituted a tax. It was to be effective November 1.

In August the stamp distributor was burned in effigy by the citizens of Frederick Town. When November arrived the agents of The Crown were not immediately ready to do business. And when the court convened on November 15, John Darnell, clerk of the

court, refused to issue any documents with the stamps, fearing personal harm if he did so.

The court ordered Darnell to use unstamped paper, and when he refused, had him arrested and put in jail.

A few days later the judges issued an order which said that "all proceedings shall be valid and effectual without the use of stamps."

This was the first official defiance of The Stamp Act in America and is commemorated on a plaque at the county courthouse.

In early December there was an elaborate funeral for The Stamp Act including a coffin with an inscription which said it had died "of a mortal stab received from the genius of liberty in Frederick County Court."

While we celebrate November 23 as Repudiation Day every year, there is historic evidence that the court's order was issued earlier.

## November 30

For 80 years one of the largest employers in Frederick County was the Ox Fibre Brush Company. It had started as the Palmetto Fibre Company in 1887. This latter firm made brushes by hand.

In 1899, McClintock Young, an enterprising young inventor who already held patents for a bicycle and a match making machine, created a machine that made the only manual labor associated with brush making the pulling of a lever.

His machine bored the holes in the wooden handles and fastened the fibers. It also trimmed, sanded and polished the brushes.

John Robinson, Young and Alfred McEwen changed the name of the company in 1900 to the Ox Fibre Brush Company. In the early days of the company brushes were made by hand from cabbage palmetto, and because this product resembled the red Devon ox, the name sort of evolved.

At its height of production, Ox Fibre was producing 12 million brushes each year. At one point the company processed an order of 1.5 million brushes for a single buyer. When completed it filled 25 railroad cars.

On April 9, 1965, when 350 people were employed at Ox Fibre, the Board of Directors recommended to its stockholders that the company be sold to the Pro-Phy-Lac-Tic Brush Company of Massachusetts. The plan was for the new owners to continue to operate in Frederick.

In the summer of 1966, after the company had again been sold, this time to The Vitron Corporation, President FWeitzel announced plans to move the company, lock, stock and barrel, to Tennessee. The doors closed forever on November 30, 1967.

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## TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## Guardians of the past: the Taneytown Fire Department

David Buie

The Taneytown Fire Department (TFD) takes pride in its storied past, reflecting the progression of fire services in rural American communities. Appreciating this historical journey is crucial in acknowledging how the residents of Taneytown played a pivotal role in adapting and allocating resources to protect the lives and assets of their fellow townspeople.

Before 1824, Taneytown lacked a fire engine and an organized fire-fighting system. However, in 1824, a fire occurred on a property initially owned by the Koons family and later acquired by the Hagans. The townspeople extinguished the flames, although the fire had already consumed the rear of the building. Shortly after, community members raised funds and obtained an old-fashioned hand-pumped fire engine, never used in an actual fire emergency. Instead, it became a source of entertainment for the town's young residents during fire drill practices, using water from the public well. Approximately two decades later, they obtained legislative approval to sell the fire engine, although historical records do not specify the use of the proceeds.

In 1835, the City of Taneytown enacted the "Ordinance for the Formation of Fire Companies in Taneytown." This ordinance required the assembly of the town's white male residents, aged 18 to 50, into one or more fire companies. Each company had to appoint individuals for distinct roles, which included a president, vice president, engineers, ladder operators, hook operators, axe operators, linemen, key keepers, and various personnel responsible for pumps, buckets, and ropes.

These companies had the autonomy to elect their officers, but the Burgess had the authority to appoint a president if needed. The president's responsibilities included summoning members, taking

attendance, marking absentees, and reporting them to the Burgess. Any negligence in these duties would result in a court of appeals and a fine of 25 cents for each instance of non-compliance with fire drills, underscoring the town's strong commitment to fire safety and citizen participation.

The present-day company was founded in Taneytown on October 18, 1897. The first office bearers included Clotworthy Birnie as President, George H. Birnie as Vice President, L.D. Reid as Secretary, J.S. Fink as Treasurer, and Ab Hess as Foreman.

During a meeting on December 14, 1897, the President (Birnie) appointed a committee consisting of three individuals to engage in discussions with the Burgess and Commissioners, aiming to find a suitable location for storing equipment, including reels and hoses. This same Committee was also tasked with identifying the required equipment for the Company and its associated costs.

The Committee members included Prof. H. Meier, J. S. Fink, and Ab Hess. By December 27, 1897, they were instructed to procure various items such as ladders, hooks, axes, buckets, lanterns, coats, additional ladders, and 36 badges, with each member covering the expense of their badge. The Committee had previously approached the Lutheran Church Council for permission to use their bell but had not yet received a response.

Early meetings in 1898 saw the Company securing a storage room from Harry Koons to house the reel and hose. Different committees were formed to oversee various responsibilities, including a special committee tasked with drafting by-laws.

This marked the year when the foundational principles of volunteer firefighting were established in Taneytown, setting long-term objectives for members. During

these early years, they organized events like entertainment, dances, suppers, picnics, parades, and solicitation drives to raise funds and support their volunteer firefighting efforts. Remarkably, many of these functions have endured over the past 125 years, staying true to the vision of the forward-thinking individuals of that era.

In December 1898, the President instructed the original "housing committee" to approach the town council regarding building construction. The Committee reported that an agreement had been reached, stipulating the appointment of a committee of six members, three from the Fire Company and three from elsewhere.

Progress was slow until October 7, 1900, when the Committee once more presented its case to the Town Council concerning the acquisition of a building. The Town Council expressed their support for the Fire Company's cause, but due to budget constraints, they could not allocate any town funds for this purpose.

The matter was revisited on December 6, 1901, when the President received instructions to approach the Town Council and request a clear and specific proposal from them regarding constructing an engine house.

Subsequently, on May 12, 1902, a deed was executed, transferring ownership of a lot from Charles Schwartz and his wife to the Burgess and Commission.

Historical records reveal that a special meeting was convened on September 19, 1902, under the direction of President George Birnie. The purpose of this meeting was to organize arrangements for the dedication of the Fireman's building. Discussions centered on planning a program to raise funds for furnishing the Firemen's build-



Taneytown's current town hall at one point was home to the Taneytown Fire Department.

ing, including contributing to the furnace installation cost.

On May 6, 1903, the Company convened a business meeting with a specific agenda to receive the Executive Committee's report on the forthcoming dedication of the Firemen's Building. The Committee conveyed its findings, proposing a three-day schedule for the dedication ceremonies and festival, slated for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, July 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 1903. Numerous committees were established, each tasked with various responsibilities such as handling furniture and decorations, fundraising, gathering items for sale, catering, sending invitations, and organizing amusements. A reception committee headed by Frank Bowersox was granted the authority to select as many assistants as necessary.

On September 11, 1916, the Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company No. "1" Incorporated received authorization from the State of Maryland. The five directors responsible for forming the incorporation were Burgess S. Miller, George Gilds, Norman Hagan, James Galt, and Alburtus Riffle.

On April 9, 1917, the Town

Council purchased an Ajax Chemical Engine. After a thorough test, the Company rejected it due to its limited capabilities.

In November 1923, the Company played a pivotal role in establishing and subsequently joining the Carroll County Firemen's Association. On August 11, 1924, they received approval for their initial venture into motorized equipment, acquiring a brand-new American LaFrance pumper for \$11,000. An additional pumper was procured and put into operation during the summer of 1935.

Since its inception, the TFD embarked on an extraordinary path of expansion and advancement, marked by noteworthy achievements that underscore its unwavering dedication to protecting the well-being and belongings of Taneytown's residents. This commitment remains persistent to this day.

*David Buie resides in Taneytown and is reachable via email at team-buie05@msn.com.*

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

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# COOKING

## Alternate Autumn feasts

Sonya Verlaque

One very hot summer day, my oldest cousin got married. It was the late nineteen hundreds, maybe 1990, the actual date I can't remember but she was wearing very puffy sleeves on an elaborate dress. Her new husband was kind and friendly and had a very loud laugh. Thanksgiving rolled around and he brought a side dish from Czechoslovakia, his heritage. Most of our family was very used to the usual thanksgiving sides, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce that still has the ridges from the can when you are finally able to shake it onto a plate to slice. James brought sauerkraut. But not the usual sauerkraut that I had eaten in the past, from a plastic bag thing that was heated up and then served with corned beef or brisket. This sauerkraut was good. It was salty, it was sour, it was crunchy, it had little pieces of puffy bread in it. Middle school me was shocked, and ate more than was good for a 12 year old stomach.

I asked him when I was older, how do you make it? He told me to make some pork meatballs, and then some dumplings. You know, just regular dumplings, and then just make the sauerkraut, and put it all in. Clearly this was a passed down recipe that you just learn to cook from mama, who learned from grandmama, etc. So, in searching for the Czech Sauerkraut, I found this recipe from Becky Robins

"Travel by Stove" which incorporates a roast pork, instead of meatballs, but makes for a main course or dinner like dish. Its assembled after making all the components and putting the dumplings and sauerkraut together and then the pork on top, or in the center with the rest surrounding it. As a note, this dish and Czech dishes tend to be salty, so adjust this amount according to how much salt you personally prefer.

### Veprova Pecene (Roast Pork)

#### Ingredients

1 tbs vegetable oil  
1 tbs prepared mustard  
2 tbs caraway seeds  
1 tbs garlic powder  
1 tbs salt\*  
1 tsp freshly ground black pepper  
2 lbs pork roast  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1/2 cup beer (or water)  
1 tbs cornstarch  
2 tbs butter

Preparation: Make a marinade out of the oil, mustard, caraway seeds, garlic powder and salt and pepper. Rub the pork all over with this mixture and refrigerate for 45 minutes. Preheat your oven to 325 degrees. Place the chopped onions in a layer on the bottom of the roasting pan and add the beer or water (the only beer I had was Guinness, which really isn't very Czech, so I just went with water). Now put the roast on top of the onions and cover loosely with foil.

Roast until the internal temperature reaches 145 degrees, turning once. Let rest for 10 minutes. Transfer the juices from the roasting pan into a saucepan and add the cornstarch and butter. Simmer until thick and serve over the sliced meat.

### Houskove Knedliky (Yeast Dumplings)

#### Ingredients

1 1/8 tsp active dry yeast  
2 cups lukewarm water  
1 tsp sugar  
2 tbs salt  
4 cups all-purpose flour  
1 egg  
1 cubed bread roll

Preparation: Dissolve the yeast in the water and add the sugar. Meanwhile, mix the flour, salt, egg and cubed bread roll in a large bowl. When the yeast is frothy, add it to the bowl and mix well. Knead for 10 minutes. Separate the dough into four rolls and then cover and let rise in a warm place for an hour or so.

Now boil some salted water and add one or two of the rolls to the pot. Cover and let boil for about 20 minutes. When finished, the dumplings should be very light and fluffy.

### Cranberry Pecan Sweet Potato Wild Rice Pilaf

#### Ingredients

2 cups chicken broth  
1 cup wild rice blend  
1/2 tsp dried parsley  
1/2 tsp dried oregano  
1/2 tsp dried thyme  
1 tbs olive oil  
1 cup sweet potato, diced small  
1/4 cup onion, chopped  
1/3 cup dried cranberries  
1/3 cup pecans, chopped  
fresh parsley, for garnish



Cranberry Pecan Sweet Potato Wild Rice Pilaf

Preparation: In a medium sized sauce pan bring the broth to a boil and add wild rice, parsley, oregano, and thyme. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cover with a lid. Cook for 30 minutes or until tender. Alternatively, you may follow the liquid/rice ratios and cooking directions according to your particular brand of wild rice blend for 1 cup of rice. a skillet add the olive oil and sweet potato and saute until tender, about 15 minutes or so. Once the potatoes are nearly cooked through, add the onion to the pan and cook until translucent. Add cranberries and chopped pecans and cook for 1-2 minutes. Add the cranberries and pecans to the rice mixture and fluff with a fork. Garnish with fresh parsley and serve warm!

### Sheet Pan Autumn Vegetables

#### Ingredients

1 lb of Brussels Sprouts (trimmed and halved)  
1 Large Butternut Squash (peeled and cut into 1/2-inch pieces)

4 Large Carrots (peeled and cut into 1/2-inch pieces)  
2 Large Parsnips (peeled and cut into 1/2-inch pieces)  
1/4 cup of Food Lion Olive Oil  
2 tbs of Chopped Fresh Rosemary  
2 tsp of Food Lion Salt  
1 tsp of Food Lion Ground Black Pepper  
Fresh Parsley (for garnish)

Preparation: Preheat the oven to 400°F. Grease and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Mix together the brussel sprouts, squash, carrots, parsnips, oil, rosemary, salt and pepper in a large bowl, and toss to coat. Transfer the vegetables to the prepared baking sheet in an even layer. Bake until tender and caramelized, about 25-30 minutes. Remove from the oven and garnish with fresh parsley.

### Zeli (Simple Sauerkraut)

#### Ingredients

4 slices bacon, sliced into small strips  
1 lb sauerkraut (with juice)  
1 medium onion, chopped  
salt and pepper to taste  
1 tsp caraway seeds  
2 tsp cold water  
1 tsp cornstarch  
sugar and vinegar to taste

Preparation: Fry up the bacon and set aside. Now add the onion to the pan with some butter and saute until translucent. Add the sauerkraut and simmer until tender. Return the bacon to the pan and season with the salt, pepper and the ubiquitous caraway seeds. Combine the cornstarch with water and add to the sauerkraut. Cook for a few more minutes, then remove from heat and add sugar and vinegar to taste.

If you are interested in more traditional dishes, either for thanksgiving or autumn in general, but are getting tired of everything being mush, mashed potatoes, sweet potato, casseroles - these can be some easy sides for some texture change.

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## Time away without the kids!

Mary Angel

I recently had the opportunity to go to a conference with my husband in Virginia Beach. Never having been to that beach I was pretty excited. I assumed, you know what that means, that he would go to his conference for work, and I would do a little Christmas shopping, relax, and maybe take a walk or two on the beach. As I already used the word assumed, you can guess that our trip went nothing like that.

When he first told me we would be going away to Virginia Beach I was so excited. I can't stand the beach in the summer, as I do not like to bake in the sun and am extremely prone to sunburn with my pasty skin tone. The beach in the fall is a completely different story, I LOVE IT! Long walks on the beach when it isn't crowded or hot is a dream come true. I enjoy the sand between my toes, the sound of the waves, the quiet uninterrupted time to think and ponder all of the wonders of the universe...Heaven! Although I am not a huge reader, because I fall asleep the minute I open a book, I had decided I was going to give it another try. I started researching books that might be up my alley. I love a good mystery and a mystery read on a quiet beach seemed like it could be just the ticket to help me relax.

I always give my kids a deadline to have their Christmas lists to me and that deadline would be past before we left. That meant I would be able to start Christmas shopping while he was learning diligently at his conference. I took each list, as I do every year, and turned them into a printable spreadsheet, with plenty of room for notes, money spent, and a description where necessary. Never having been to Virginia Beach I was excited at the idea of exploring new little shops and finding surprise treasures for my family and friends. I even heard there might be outlets where I could spend a day getting all of the basics from their lists. You know those things they need, but aren't necessarily that exciting, like underwear and socks. Who am I kid-

ding, I love to shop, and I love to find the perfect gift for someone. I was getting more and more excited as the trip grew closer.

When we were about a week away, I asked my husband what time we would leave. This led to a lengthy conversation where I found out he had signed me up for the conference. I wasn't going to relax, or walk on the beach, or shop, or any of the things I had envisioned in my head. I became a pouty little baby. My first response was one of wonder. Why would he sign me up for his work conference, that was completely not in my wheelhouse? Why would he not tell me sooner? After a few minutes to process we had a long talk and started planning the trip together.

A few days prior to this my husband was put on an antibiotic to treat an infection. The day after our conversation he started complaining about his knee hurting. That night He woke me because he couldn't get comfortable. After a little internet search on the website of the manufacturer, I found out he was having a side effect from the medication, and it was most likely causing the pain in his knee. The bad news was he had taken another dose before bed. By morning he was miserable and called the doctor. We actually weren't sure at this point if we were going to be able to go on the trip at all, as he was in substantial pain and having trouble walking.

Twenty-four hours off the medication and he was actually more comfortable standing than sitting. So, the question was, could he sit for five and a half hours in a car. We had to make several stops for him to stretch, and the drive ended up taking seven and a half hours, but we made it. About a half hour away from our temporary home we stopped for a quick bite. We ended up at New Realm Brewing and had the time of our lives. The place was amazing, inside and out. The pizza was some of the best I have had and to top it off they were playing music bingo that night. Picture themed bingo cards including, 70's, 80's, country, and classic hip hop. There were short snippets of songs in



each of these categories and everyone was guessing and singing along the entire time we were there.

The home we stayed in with 6 other people was absolutely a blessing and after all that time in the car I couldn't wait to just relax. Everyone who arrived before us helped us unpack when we arrived. We sat and visited for a short time and then went to bed. It was probably the most amazing nights sleep I had in months...I was exhausted.

In the morning I said a prayer and was reminded of what my daughter said before I left. She said whenever she had to do something she didn't want to do I would tell her to go into it with a positive attitude and make the best of it, and by that simple change in mindset she would have a good time. So, I spent the morning changing my mindset. I was away with my husband without the kids. I was staying in an amazing home that was anon-

ymously donated to this group of individuals who love to help others. I could hear the ocean waves hitting the beach and see the ocean from my bedroom window.

The first day was amazing! I realized that all of my fears, concerns, and apprehensions were based on expectations and the advice I give my kids was actually good advice. Isn't it usually the case, our expectations are what cause disappointment and frustration. If I hadn't had any expectations, I wouldn't have been so stressed. For the rest of our time, I had a blast getting to know all of my housemates.

My husband and I went to sessions together, had lunch just the two of us and enjoyed discussing what we learned on the car ride home every evening. After our first full day, we all met for dinner at a Mexican restaurant that had amazing food and even better service. I can usually tell how good a Mexican restaurant was by the

chips and salsa that are brought to the table before dinner starts. This was some of the best I had ever had; crispy, warm chips and slightly spicy salsa...yum! Then we all went home and had a poo tournament, which yours truly won, undefeated (no clue how that happened). The last night we made a steak dinner for one of the other housemates for his 70th birthday and he couldn't have been more touched by everyone's act of kindness. After dinner that night we all sat around and told stories and connected.

This trip turned out to be an amazing time to be an adult and spend time with the love of my life. As much as I love my children, sometimes it is important for my husband and I to spend time just the two of us. It actually makes me a better mom when I recharge my wife-battery!

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*As Fall is associated with 'change', this month our writers decided to write about things they would like to see 'changed' in this world.*

### Freshman

#### Parenting through technology

Gracie Smith  
MSMU Class of 2027

Society as a whole is nothing like it was 20 years ago. The kids of 20 years ago are faced with a generation that is growing up watching TikTok. The kids of 20 years ago are faced with a generation that has no idea of the importance of respect and responsibility. The next generation is largely being parented by cell phones and iPads instead of learning how to be successful in life. This is a huge problem that needs to be fixed before society crumbles in the hands of technology. The rapid and out-of-hand progression of technology is negatively impacting future generations, and it needs to be changed.

My parents are the reason I am the young woman I am today. From a very young age, my mother and father instilled the importance of respect into my brain. It has always been “yes ma’am,” “yes sir,” “please,” and “thank you.” Being humble and kind is a family pillar where I come

from. As an 18-year-old, I am now able to see how my actions reflect upon others and in return how their actions reflect on me. Where I work, I am often faced with disrespectful people, and I can personally say that most of my disrespectful customers are the younger generations. They have little to no respect for their elders, but rather a sense of impatience, and furthermore, they misbehave in situations where it is completely inappropriate to do so. If I were as disrespectful as some of the kids I see, my mother would have lost her mind. Firstly, she would have dragged me out of wherever we were no matter how much I fought her. Secondly, she would’ve given me a stern lecture in a way that intimidated me so much I would never do it again. The number of times I see children with cell phones as a result of their behavior makes me question: what is this child learning from this behavior? How is this a solution for children these days, and their relationship with technology?

Additionally, the future generations are learning nothing about responsibility. For example, students today don’t do homework, and they don’t realize the importance of being responsible. I was 16 when I bought

my 2015 Jeep Cherokee and could not be proud of my car. I have been working a steady job since my sophomore year of high school in order to make my monthly car payment. If I’m late, I pay a late fee. If I don’t have the money to make my monthly car payment, then I pick up more hours at work or take money out of my savings. Life never throws you a bone. No matter what happens, you will always have responsibilities and bills to pay. I know what it’s like to be held responsible for something, and now I know what it’s like to pay a late fee because I made my payment on the 2nd and not the 1st. If parents realize the bigger picture and ultimately strive to put their kids in a position to succeed in life, their children will grow up relying on their own hard work and integrity rather than relying on technology that diminishes the idea of responsibility.

As I mentioned before, the future generations are growing up watching TikTok instead of the televised blessings we 2000s kids had: shows such as The Backyardigans, Wonder Pets, Max and Ruby, Bob the Builder, etc. I didn’t get my first cell phone until I was going into high school. Nowadays, I see seven-year-olds with their own phones. When I was seven, I

thought it was awesome that I had a Disney Princess CD player that I could listen to KidzBop with. As far as I am concerned, a child should not own a cell phone until middle school at the very least, due to the effect it might have on their social and physical development. While I personally think that is still too young, society is different than it was 20 years ago. When I was in middle school, I was faced with multiple challenges since I did not own a cell phone—challenges that forced me to think out of the box and deepen my cognitive skills. To this day, I do not have TikTok installed on my phone, and I don’t want to install it. Call me old fashioned (hence writing for the newspaper), but there is no value in having TikTok, nor does it actually succeed in entertaining me, while it might for someone else. Why would I watch someone rate their food recipe when I could read a cookbook by Betty Crocker and get much better results? At the end of the day, while it is understandable and useful to use technology to help enforce a child’s behavior, technology should not be used as a constant replacement of parenting. This is because children rely too heavily on what their parents teach them, and learning from

a screen more often than learning from their parents can be detrimental to their future.

If technology is going to continue to brainwash our younger generations, then I urge parents to limit screen time as much as possible and spend time with their children. Parents are crucial in a child’s life, and children naturally and beautifully learn so much from them. If society continues in this negative direction ruled over by technology, I pray that my generation is strong enough to take over before technology harms us all and causes irreversible effects. The blatant lack of respect towards others, lack of responsibility, and the constant thirst for technology by younger generations is embarrassing and overall scary. One of the only things that can be changed to prevent our world from being fully consumed by technology is changing the style and motivation that informs parenting. The evolution of technology is inevitable, but parenting is something that will always have the greatest effect on a child and how successful they will be in life.

*To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.*

### Sophomore

#### A global urgency: end rape

Devin Owen  
MSMU Class of 2026

With the changing of the seasons comes change in mindset and habits in our daily lives: we no longer are wearing shorts and tank tops outside. We aren’t at the beach in our swimsuits multiple days a week, but rather, we are at school or work and wrapping up in warm, cozy comfort clothes as the leaves change their colors and the air gets a little cooler with every hour that passes by. With the changes in mind, it leaves us to wonder what some other changes we could or would like to see—not just in our daily lives—but in the world itself.

I, for one, have a very long list of the changes in the world that I would like to see, but the one I’ll focus on is rape and sexual assault. Rape is, and has been, a very large and on-going issue in the world for a very long time. Worse than that though, is the stigma that follows it around: it’s not the rapist’s fault that they did it if the victim was wearing something provocative, or if they lead them on—the list goes on and on. This is a crime that knows no boundaries; an undeniably horrific violation of one’s physical and emotional integrity, and an affront to the principles of human dignity.

One of the most alarming aspects of this issue is the sheer prevalence of rape worldwide. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network Organization (RAINN), there is an average of about 463,634 victims of sexual violence in just America, and that ranges from ages 12 and

up—meaning that it doesn’t include the thousands of younger children being preyed upon or attacked before they even can comprehend what ‘it’ is. It was also stated by the organization that 82 percent of the juvenile victims and 90 percent of the adult victims of rape are female. The World Health Organization estimates that about one in three women worldwide has experienced sexual violence from either a partner or non-partner at some point in their lifetime. As a woman, this information is horrifying and serves as an explanation for why we are as cautious as we are in public. However, it is not only women that suffer, but men are also victims of rape and that itself should be talked about more. RAINN notes that one out of every ten rape victims are male and that in America alone, 2.78 million men have been victims of attempted or completed rape. A sad truth of the crisis of rape in the world happens to be that there is severe underreporting of cases due to fear of stigma and retaliation: will I be blamed for this? Will anyone believe me? It’s my word over theirs, is that enough? What if they shame me...does it matter what I was wearing? These are all questions left for a survivor to ask—a result of the stigmas of rape.

Consent is a huge part of this crisis as well though, as it happens to lay the foundation for intercourse itself. Consider what it says in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; every individual has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. Rape is a very clear violation of said fundamental human right, and in order to violate that right, one has to forego the unsaid law of consent. Something as simple as asking “is this okay?” or “are you sure?” is considered to be con-

sent. The impact of such blatant disregard for human rights also affects those around the victim as they are there with the victim for the aftermath—the emotional and psychological aftermath.

I’m going to get more personal here, which is hard because such a blatant disregard for human rights is hard to talk about. When I was in high school, I was sexually assaulted by a close friend of mine, someone I believed to care about me and my well-being. At first, I didn’t realize that it was actually assault because I willingly went to see a friend at their home, but in the end, I went home with less innocence than I started with. There comes a point though, when you are with someone that certain trust and kindness should be shown; being flipped around like a ragdoll to do what it is that the second party here desires—while you beg for them to stop, while you call out “no” and “please, I can’t,” repeatedly—is not something that exudes trust and kindness, and most certainly not consensual. This is a violation of privacy and human rights so inhumane that you are kept up with nightmares about it for years; a violation that prevents you from forming close relationships with other people, from allowing physical touch from men because you are so terrified that something—anything—might happen again. The cherry on top of this experience, is that this “friend” of mine has no idea that he ever did anything wrong, and at the end of this experience, he left me to leave with the message of: “well you’re a little less innocent now, you’re very welcome.” To this day the thought of what happened that night creates a knot in my stomach that tightens into a coil; like a snake wrapped around its prey,

squeezing the life out of me.

It’s hard to realize that rape or assault isn’t something that is just done by strangers; it, in most cases, is carried out by someone we might know or even someone we could be close with. Try to imagine that: someone you’re incredibly close with choosing to violate your being in such a violent and horrific way, that you are left to pick up your broken pieces for years to come, by yourself.

It doesn’t matter what we wear, how

we interacted with others that might lead to “misunderstandings,” or if it’s a boy or a girl: no means NO. Frankly, it’s a phrase that I wish more people understood.

This is a change I want to see in the world...it’s a change that the world needs to see.

*To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.*

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## FALL — A TIME FOR CHANGE

## Junior

Where have all the Good Samaritans gone?

Dolores Hans  
MSMU class of 2025

When did adults stop teaching kids to be Good Samaritans? Growing up, I remember my parents, teachers, and other adults encouraged me to be overly kind and trusting, and to see the good in people, following the example of the Good Samaritan. Some adults weren't even aware of the religious affiliation of this phrase, but knew it was a quality of person that showed selflessness, dependability, and trust. I was recently reminded of the importance of trust when a stranger, much like the Good Samaritan, selflessly returned a large amount of money that was accidentally sent to her rather than me. She had every opportunity to keep the money for herself, yet she chose to acknowledge that it was a technological mistake and graciously returned it. In an age where technology provides many opportunities for scams and fraud, I tend to miss the simplicity of my childhood. Now, as an adult, I see children being taught that "those who easily trust are easily

deceived," and phrases like "stranger danger" or that people will take advantage of them if given the chance.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan comes from The Bible, in the Gospel of Luke. It is as follows: "A man fell victim to robbers... They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'... Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise'" (Luke 10:29-37).

This passage probably seems as though it takes place in some far-off utopian world, according to now-a-days standards and practices. We used to relate to this story. We used to hear this and think of someone in our lives

who was a Good Samaritan to us, the wounded. Or think of a time when we helped someone in need regardless of what was in it for us. Today, we hear this story and ask questions like, "How does the Good Samaritan know he can trust the wounded man not to rob him?" We can all say we understand that when someone is deeply wounded (physically or emotionally) they will turn around and hurt others, especially those who try to help them heal. "What if the wounded man had a past of cruelty and sin? How can the Good Samaritan justify saving them?" Because why lend a hand to someone who could have hurt others? "What if those who robbed him were people that he had wronged? He deserved justice, not help." It is so easy to assume the worst about others.

Isn't it so easy to justify your own negligence and coldness toward others when you've made up a good enough reason? How many times have we walked by a homeless man because we assumed he would just spend the money on drugs or alcohol, which is probably how he ended up in his position anyway? How many times have we walked down the street and assumed the man behind us is following us because men have no control over their

desires? How many times have we blamed our parents for our shortcomings because if they had tried to heal from the trauma their parents put them through, we would be better off. How many people are we going to turn our back on because they don't live up to our standards, or because it is not our job to fix them? "You need to put yourself first." Not selfish. "Don't give away your trust until they earn it." Better safe than sorry. "Screw your family." They don't understand or appreciate you. "He won't share his feelings with me." He must be immature, or cheating, dump him.

When does it end? We are not the only ones hurting. We are not the only ones with responsibilities. We can have every reason in the world not to help, but where will that get us? If we turn our back on someone, regardless of their circumstance, then there is no reason to have hope in the world. And isn't that what we have become? A hopeless world?

In this world, and especially in this generation, we have put up our guards. We have been taught and trained to assume the worst, to live in fear, and to put ourselves first. But what about the Good Samaritan? Forget about caring for the wounded

man by personally bandaging his wounds and bringing him to an inn and spending money to provide him with comfort and security, we can't even comprehend giving away a meal to a hungry stranger, or engaging in a conversation with someone we think is below us. We can't even do the bare minimum of trusting our own family and significant others not to deceive us.

I believe that if there was something to change about our world, it would be to restore trust and hope in humanity. We live in a society full of untrustworthy people who scam us and hurt us in countless ways, building us to form distrusting habits and mindsets. Whether it is something as drastic as parents separating, or as simple as returning money that doesn't belong to us, we assume people will only do what is right and convenient for themselves.

Let us find the Good Samaritans of our time. Let's honor them, put them on the news rather than all the hate and crime that goes on in our world, and follow their example. What is stopping you from being a Good Samaritan? "Go and do likewise."

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Senior

Let it snow, again

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

I would change the snow, make it last forever.

All winters would be white, like they used to be: cold, crisp, sparkling air. Snow-dusted blades of grass, and barren, silhouetted trees. My old home where the sun rose through the kitchen window, golden light bouncing off the glistening frost. The smell of hot chocolate from the kitchen. The ever-telling door that sounded when my dad came home from work: thudding footsteps, keys jingling, setting sunlight following him inside. Frozen flakes clinging to his uniform, whispers of wind before he closed the door. The anticipation you felt when you woke up on a scarlet morning and glimpsed out the windows, a sliver of white blanketing everything you knew.

Snow is threaded in every memory of winter. Sparkling silence, untouched nature. Snow is winter, making up Christmas and New Year's and all the holidays in those barren months. Snowfall is what makes the winter evenings so romantic, makes the mornings worthy, makes the afternoons slow and hushed as we watch from our windows.

Except we didn't get any snow last winter.

Instead, we got gray skies and ice-slicker roads. We got a cold Christmas, a mild New Year's, and a thawing February that felt as though we had already been living in spring for months. But not a single flake of snow. Not a single snow day for students, or a morning we

woke up to silence and sparkling sheets in our backyard. While I love the warm weather and the blossoming of spring, I can't help but grieve for the winters I knew as a child.

Global warming and climate change have become a threat to not only winters, but all seasons as we know them. In an article by How Stuff Works, authors Patrick J. Kiger and Desiree Bowie write, "By the end of this century, spring and summer could begin a month earlier, and autumn and winter might arrive half a month later. Summers could extend to nearly half the year, with less than two months of winter by 2100."

This shocking news asks us to redefine our seasons and slowly let go of what winter once was. Instead of cold months and long nights and snow-dusted mornings, we will start to see milder temperatures, earlier blooming flowers, and less snow in the forecast. Frankly, we are entering a period where we might lose the winters we once had as a child.

"For much of the eastern United States...winter has been a bust," writes Michael Casey in an article on AP News, calling the climate "a winterless winter." The memories we once fondly reminisced upon will soon become an image of the past we can hardly grasp, let alone wish for.

So rather, I would change climate change in general, make it avoidable, perhaps even nonexistent. As a 21-year-old in this society, I dream about my future. I dream about world travel, and marrying the love of my life, and having children, and venturing through the seasons of life much like I do the seasons of the year. I dream about quiet snow days in the same way I dream about sunny summer days. I long for all seasons, for the cold and the warm,

for the light and the dark.

But with threatening climate change and the most recent world tensions involving Israel and Hamas putting pressure on the world—as well as other serious global issues such as poverty and economic inequality and hunger—I fear deeply for the future I once idolized as a child.

It makes sense, though. Being born in 2001—the year of our nation's catastrophic terrorist attacks—my generation's identity "has been shaped by the digital age, climate anxiety, a shifting financial landscape, and COVID-19" (McKinsey & Company). I remember my childhood as beautiful and wonderful, filled with family. I could spend hours thumbing through the photo albums in my basement: pictures of the playground set in my backyard, the piles of autumn leaves, the blizzard in second grade that called off schools for a week. But my pre-teenage years were characterized by social media (how many likes did I get on Instagram?) and normalized school shootings (where is the best hiding spot in the classroom?) and the dreaded, continuous, irreversible climate change conversation (where have the snow days gone?). Once I graduated high school into a global pandemic, my worldview was shockingly pried open. I have loved college, and I anticipate my future career, but entering the job and housing market and inflated grocery store prices and an earth without winters—it's terrifying.

Sometimes all I wish for is the snow.

Or rather, I wish for nothing to have changed at all. If I could go back to that townhouse in the corner of my old neighborhood, the one the sun touched every day, the

one where all four seasons watched me grow, I would. As an emerging adult with the anxiety of a teenager and the heart of a child, I would give anything to wish away the problems in this world today.

Of course, reality has different plans, ones that we must confront rather than avoid. Although winters might look and feel different, it is important to both preserve what we once knew and act now—take responsibility for our own carbon footprint, and demand action from larger corporations. Demand they take accountability. Wealthy polluters, rich countries, and sometimes, ourselves.

But take a moment to remember your fondest memory of snow. Perhaps it is with your children, on a day off school, dressing them in cozy snowsuits. Watching their lit-

tle footprints dot the white blanket, smiling as they take off on a sled down a hill. Or perhaps it is with your partner, brewing hot chocolate or sipping wine while you watch the snowfall from a frost-painted window. Perhaps it is with your parents, your friends, yourself. Flakes drifting on Christmas Eve, or a rush of snow in a February blizzard. It's winter, the silent months. The months we gather together and slow down. The months we desperately need to hang onto, especially now. In this world, in these scary, frightening days, we all need to watch the snow, smell the crisp air moments before the flakes fall.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# LIBRARY NEWS

## Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

**Mondays – Children’s Story Time** 4-5 p.m., Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 - minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

**Wednesdays – Coffee Club** from 3 - 4 p.m. Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

**Thursdays – Teen’s Night.** The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30 - 6 p.m., just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc!

**Saturdays -** Join us at 10:30 a.m., for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

**Scherenschnitte Night** at the Library – November 14 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 century and was brought to Colonial America in the 18th century by Swiss and German immigrants who settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club meets at 5:30 p.m. on November 21. 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 November 20 at 5 p.m.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit [www.fcdspa.org](http://www.fcdspa.org) or call 717-792-2240.

## Frederick County Libraries

November is the month of remem-

brance, gratitude, and celebration. A time to honor America’s veterans, both past and present, and a time for our families to connect and reflect on the past year and to be thankful for all we have.

Here at our Emmitsburg and Thurmont Library branches, our staff extend our gratitude to our amazing communities and the patrons we serve, as we strive to provide thoughtful, entertaining, and educational programs for you and your families.

On Saturday, November 4, at 11 a.m. visit the Emmitsburg Branch for an exciting, fun program called “Awesome Animal Ambassadors – a How, Tell and Touch Experience”. Discover the unique characteristics of a variety of animals and critters including a bunny, a tortoise, a bearded dragon, snakes, insects and much more.

At the Thurmont branch in November, there are several great programs for every age. On Wednesday, November 1, the “Caregiver’s Toolkit” has Potty Training Tips and Tricks from 11-Noon. Elementary kids can explore Fall Leaves during “Elementary Explorers” on Tuesday, November 7 and discover Fancy Writing during the “Magical Script Quest” program on November 14 from 4-4:45 p.m.

Tweens and Teens, ages 12-18, are invited to attend “Baby-Sitting 101” classes here at the library and can obtain their Certification by attending 3 sessions on Thursdays, November 2, 9 and 30 from 6-8 p.m.

There are two informative and educational programs for adults this month, including “Maryland Legal Aid Services and Programs” on Wednesday, November 1 from 6-7 p.m. and “Senior Resources and Educational Seminar with SOAR” on Thursday, November 30 from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed on Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11 for Veteran’s Day. On Wednesday, November 22, libraries will close at 5 p.m and reopen with normal hours on Saturday, November 25.

Visit the library website at Month Calendar | Frederick County Public Libraries ([librarycalendar.com](http://librarycalendar.com)) to discover so much more. Any questions, call Emmits-

burg Library at 301 600-6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301 600-7212.

## Emmitsburg Branch Library

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27: Family Storytime (Birth to 5), 11-11:30 a.m.

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27: Little Adventurers (Birth to 5), 11:30-Noon.

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30: STEAM Discovery (Elementary), 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Nov. 9: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags for Hope (Birth to 5, Elementary), 6-7 p.m.

Nov. 4: Awesome Animal Ambassadors (Birth, Elementary, Teens), 11-Noon.

Nov. 2, 16, 30: Game Night with Wookiee Walkers (Teens), 5:30-6 p.m.

Nov. 14, Trivia Night for Teens (Teens), 5-7 p.m.

## Thurmont Regional Library

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Toddler Storytime (18 months-3), 10:30-11 a.m.

Nov. 1: Caregiver’s Toolkit: Potty Training Tips and Tricks (Birth-5, Adults), 11-Noon.

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30: Musical Storytime

(Birth-5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Nov. 4, 18, 25: Family Storytime (Birth-5), 11-11:30 p.m.

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27: Preschool Storytime (3-5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27: School Skills for Preschoolers (3-5), 11-11:45 a.m.

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28: Baby Storytime (Birth-18 months), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Nov. 7: Elementary Explorers: Fall Leaves (Elementary), 4-4:45 p.m.

Nov. 14: Magical Script Quest: Fancy Writing (Elementary), 4-4:45 p.m.

Nov. 14: Middle Grade: Mario Kart (Grades 4-7), 4-4:45 p.m.

Nov. 2, 9, 30: Baby Sitting 101-Attendance for all 3 Sessions for Certificate (Teens), 6-8 p.m.

Nov. 1: Maryland Legal Aid Services and Programs (Adults), 6-7 p.m.

Nov. 7: (Off-site) Trivia at 10Tavern (Adults, All Ages), 7-8 p.m.

Nov. 16: (Off-site) Digital Learning at the Senior Center (Adults), 10-Noon.

Nov. 30: Senior Resources and Educational Seminar with SOAR (Adults), 1:30-3 p.m.

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**Sat. & Sun. December 16 & 17 2 - 8 p.m.**

*We are excited to invite the community to our 2023 Holiday Open House! Please bring a couple dozen cookies to add to our Cookie Table. Santa will be visiting and local musicians will be sharing their music!*

For more information and schedule visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/search/top?q=thorpewood](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=thorpewood) or visit our website: [www.thorpewood.org](http://www.thorpewood.org)

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Frederick County Public Schools

**Karen Yoho**  
Frederick County School Board

Happy fall from the Frederick County Board of Education. This month, our Board of Education meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 8 and Monday, November 20 to accommodate schools being closed 11/22-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing for the Crestwood Area Redistricting on November 1. We have received many emails at this time, but discussion is planned to occur after this hearing at our December 6 regular meeting.

On November 2, FCPS will hold Became an Educator Night at Frederick High School, 5-7 p.m.. Registration ended on October 25, but you can email April Vierra (April.Vierra@fcps.org) to see if there are still openings. If you are just in the beginning stages of wondering if teaching is the career for

you and want to learn about the pathways to becoming an educator, there is a 13-minute video on the FCPS website.

Report cards will be issued on November 8. November 15 is Education Support Professionals Day. We all know that our schools would not be able to run as thoroughly as they do without these important individuals. They are typically the first and last to see our students every day.

November 16 is National Parental Involvement Day. It is crucial that parents and school staff work together as partners for the benefit of our students. November 17 is Substitute Educator Day. These are also essential personnel because every classroom must be covered by a responsible and qualified adult.

While it seems as though our current Student Member of the Board (SMOB), Brooke Lieberman, just joined us, nominations closed on October 30th for next

year's SMOB. The field will be narrowed to five candidates and online voting for all middle and high school students will occur January 4 – January 26. For further information, contact Dr. Colleen Bernard at Colleen.Bernard@fcps.org or 301-644-5256.

The caliber of the Frederick County Student Member has been exemplary. We look to our SMOB as a representative to convey the voices of our student body. Ms. Lieberman has quickly become an active member, participating in as many activities and events as her busy schedule allows. She also seeks new methods of hearing from students who may not be involved in the Student Government Association. Her email is StudentMember-BOE@fcps.org

FCPS and the Frederick County Bar Association will sponsor a Civics and Law Academy on Saturday, November 11 from 8:30 to 1 pm at Frederick High School. The

program is open to all high school students, with in-county students having priority. Registration will close once all spaces have been filled. To register, go to the FCPS website on the main page.

FCPS and the Frederick County Health Department have united in an initiative called 'Coaches Versus Overdoses' at all ten high schools. According to the FCPS website, "National studies show that former high school athletes have lifetime opioid use rates of up to 46%, significantly higher than any other student population. According to Frederick County data in the 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, more than one in ten Frederick County middle and high school students reported they have taken prescription pain medicine without a prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it."

The local kick-off to National Drug Take Back Day occurred on October 29. The Prevention Playbook that coaches distributed helps parents and student-athletes

tackle the root causes of today's overdose crisis. For more information, contact Kevin Kendro, Supervisor of Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities.

The Board of Education held its inaugural "Listening Session" on October 18. The plan is to hold three sessions each school year and to move them around the county to different school locations to make attendance easier for those wishing to attend. The format is more casual than at regular Board meetings and allows for some interaction.

Veterans Day is coming up soon. FCPS always honors this solemn holiday with a ceremony and recognition of staff members who are also veterans. Schools will celebrate our veterans and learn about the history of this holiday. A happy Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, to the more than one billion people who celebrate the victory of good over evil. And we wish a Thanksgiving filled with family, friends, fun, and food (not too much) to all who celebrate this holiday.

## Fairfield area School District news

More students are applying to Adams County Career and Technical Institute (ACTI) than the school can fit. To meet the demand and expand its programming, ACTI hopes to build a new campus. The school currently occupies a building on the Gettysburg Area High School campus.

ACTI Administrative Director Sean Eckenrode told the Fairfield Area School District Board of Directors during its October study session that 212 students applied for 147 spots last year. ACTI offers Culinary Arts, Allied Health, Criminal Justice, Building Trades, Early Learning Education, Computer Networking, and Diesel Mechanics. Eckenrode said that half of the school's students enter the workforce immediately after graduation. He added that 120 graduates received 456 industry-rec-

ognized credentials and 231 college credits through the program.

### Business support

Jeffery Newhouse, director of operations for Fairfield-based Bertelsmann Printing Group; Chris Blackwell, general manager for Liberty Mountain Resort in Carroll Valley, and Kaycee Kemper, vice president of the Adams County Economic Alliance, attended the meeting to express support for ACTI.

Newhouse said Bertelsmann Printing Group questions its future in Adams County. He believes an ACTI expansion will ensure the area has a qualified applicant pool for its needs.

### New building needed

Eckenrode noted that 18-20 percent of students in most Pennsylv-

nia counties attend technical high schools. Due to space constraints, 6.4 percent of Adams County students attend ACTI.

Crabtree, Rohrbach & Associates conducted a study for ACTI pro bono that showed ACTI should be offering 14 programs and have space for 632 students.

The new building will require 140,000 square feet, with 80,000 devoted to learning spaces, Eckenrode said. No available vacant buildings in the county meet those requirements, he said.

### Funding requirements

The school is seeking grant money, but first, it needs to form an authority to collect the money and govern its use. Pennsylvania municipal authorities are created to finance or operate specific pub-

lic works projects without tapping the general taxing powers, according to the Pennsylvania Department of State.

Adams County Commissioners awarded ACTI a \$500,000 grant using COVID-19 relief money, Eckenrode said, but it cannot collect or use

the money until it forms an authority.

FASD Board President Jennifer Holz asked her colleagues to appoint Lashay Kalathas to represent the district on the authority. Kalathas currently serves as an alternate on the ACTI Joint Operating Committee.

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## ARTS

## Choral Society to hold concert at Seton Shrine

The Gettysburg Choral Society will present a Christmas concert entitled “Joy to the World!” on Saturday, December 9th, at 3 p.m. in the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg.

The choral society is an auditioned chorus of volunteers based in Gettysburg, PA. A nonprofit organization, the group’s mission is to perform choral music of substance, utilizing the finest choral techniques for the enjoyment and edification of audiences and singers alike.

Since its formation in 2017 by Julie Strickland and John McKay, the choral society has continued to grow and prosper. As a regional chorus, the group always seeks singers who can read music and have previous choral experience. Specific requirements for membership may be found on the

society’s website. Spring auditions will be held in the winter of 2024.

The forty-voice chorus, under the direction of McKay, will celebrate the basilica’s captivating acoustics with a number of *a cappella* arrangements of Christmas favorites by the legendary Robert Shaw and Alice Parker. The sonic properties of these classic Christmas selections are sure to impress, as are the other seasonal favorites being presented by the chorus.

Joseph O’Brien, the basilica organist, will provide accompaniment for certain choral selections and on the carol sing-along at the end of the concert. O’Brien has an impressive resume. In addition to his responsibilities at the basilica, he is also director of music at Holy Family Church in Philadelphia. He is currently pursuing his degree in organ performance at West Chester University.



Gettysburg Choral Society

McKay holds the B.A. in voice from the University of Richmond and the M.M. in choral conducting from Eastern Kentucky University. For a number of years, he was Director of Music and Cantor at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Richmond VA, while simultaneously serving as a special correspondent (music critic) for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

This concert will be the second concert in a two-concert Christmas series presented by the choral society. The first concert will be held in the chapel of the United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg on Friday, December 1st, at 7 p.m. Peggy Haas Howell, a well-known concert organist from Virginia, will be the featured guest artist. She will accompany the chorus on several selections and present a

mini concert of Christmas organ music on the seminary’s magnificent tracker organ.

As always, the concerts are free and open to the public. Fully tax-deductible contributions will be received to help defray expenses.

More information about auditioning for the chorus, donating or attending performances can be found on their website: [gettysburgchoralsociety.org](http://gettysburgchoralsociety.org)

## Way Off Broadway’s “A Charlie Brown Christmas”

With the holidays fast approaching, Way Off Broadway will be kicking off the festive season at the beginning of November with a special Dessert Theatre presentation of A Charlie Brown Christmas. A live stage adaptation of the television classic, the show will run for five performances at the theatre beginning the first weekend in November.

Based on the television special, the story tells of how Char-

lie Brown, Snoopy, and the rest of the Peanuts gang discover the true meaning of Christmas.

When Charlie Brown complains about the overwhelming materialism he sees among everyone during the Christmas season, Lucy suggests that he become director of the school Christmas pageant. Charlie Brown accepts, but this proves to be a frustrating endeavor. When an attempt to restore the proper holiday spirit

with a forlorn little Christmas fir tree fails, he needs Linus’ help to find the spirit of the season.

Since it first aired in 1965, A Charlie Brown Christmas has been a holiday tradition, with the stage version premiering in 2013. This year’s production will mark the second time the show has appeared at Way Off Broadway.

A Charlie Brown Christmas was written by and based on characters

created by Schulz, and is based on the television special by Bill Melendez and Lee Mendelson. It was adapted for the stage by Eric Schaeffer. Way Off Broadway’s production is directed by Bill Kiska, with music direction by Tina Marie Bruley.

Performances of the family-friendly holiday event are on the evenings of November 3rd, 4th, 10th, and 11th, with a matinee performance on November 5th. Tickets are \$30 per

person and include a gourmet dessert and the show.

To learn more about A Charlie Brown Christmas, or any of Way Off Broadway’s holiday offerings, which include *Jingle Jingle All the Way*, *Santa Claus: The Musical*, or the theatre’s 22nd *Annual Breakfast with Santa (and Mrs. Claus)*, visit [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com). Or, to purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

## GCCA’s Frisson Ensemble with Oboist, Thomas Gallant

Gettysburg Community Concert Association presents Frisson Ensemble, a classical

group comprising strings, oboe, clarinet and piano. Frisson will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Novem-

ber 14 at the St. James Lutheran Church, 109 York Street in Gettysburg.

Frisson comes from the French word meaning “a shiver or a thrill, a sudden feeling of excitement.” Playing with life, zest, and brilliance, the group lives up to its name! Their performances have been described as “an evening of musical perfection” The Royal Gazette...in which the group demonstrated “both individual brilliance and collective versatility” Borrego Sun.

Hailing from New York City, Frisson features the best and brightest of classical music’s stars. The group showcases emerging young artists as well as seasoned

professionals. Oboist Thomas Gallant is the group’s artistic director. Gallant is a First Prize Winner of the Concert Artists Guild International New York Competition and one of very few musicians ever to win the soloist competition playing the oboe, considered by many to be the most difficult of all the musical instruments and often called the “ill wind that no one blows good.”

Frisson is known for performing a wide variety of genres and styles, including classical, popular, folk and jazz, selecting pieces that showcase the range and collaborative musical possibilities of strings, winds and piano. In just a few seasons Frisson has emerged

as one of the busiest touring groups in America, performing in more than 25 cities annually, including appearances in such diverse venues as the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City, the Da Camera Society in Los Angeles and the Bermuda Festival.

Admission is with a GCCA membership card (available for \$50 for the four-concert season) or \$20 general admission. All children to age 18 and college students with ID are admitted free.

There is some parking available at the rear of the church, which is also the entrance for the concert, as well as on the street parking metered until 8 PM.

For more information visit [www.gettysburgcca.org](http://www.gettysburgcca.org) or call 717-339-9610.

The Gettysburg Community Concert Association’s 2023-2024 Season is supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of PA and the National Endowment for the Arts; the Adams County Arts Council’s; the Robert C. Hoffman Charitable Endowment Trust; Enbridge Foundation and the Rice Family Foundation.

# Mount Theatre presents “The Thanksgiving Play”

**Ashley Walczyk**  
MSMU Class of 2024

It is that time of year again, folks—for the Semester Production hosted by the Theater department. The slogan for this year? “Last year... we took care of Christmas... This year... We’re coming for you, Thanksgiving!”

That’s right. This year, Mount Theatre will be doing a production on Thanksgiving. Fitting for the month, the production will conclude with shows during the month of November, right before the holidays.

The play, respectfully called The Thanksgiving Play, focuses on a group of individuals, all with aspirations and goals pertaining to the art of theater (a director, scriptwriter, an actor, and an actress) who attempt to write and produce a production based around the First Thanksgiving dinner. The catch is, no one is Native American, and the fear that looms over these individuals is whether they can succeed with no Native American voices to be accredited for the writing of this play.

The night of the interview, October 18, the cast completed their cold read, in a classroom underneath of the theater. With the production being a month away, a lot of work will be needed to go into rehearsals, but the optimism is very prominent in the room. While interviewing, the cast, for the most part, seemed excited for the creative freedom that comes from the play’s chorus scenes. The cast, consisting of eight people, are all of the younger classes, two being sophomores and the rest being freshmen.

A new hope comes from this cast, as they are the next group to bring light to the theater department and Mount Theatre entirely. This new cast is the new hope for a different theatrical experience post COVID-19. This is an exciting occurrence, and an extremely exciting cast indeed.

The first four of the cast are all a part of the chorus. From sophomores to freshmen, they are Carolina Herrera, Amanda Livingston, Mackenzie “Mack” Ellis, and Laila Jefferson. Freshman Lily Adelsberger plays Logan, the earnest director. Freshman Thomas Stokes plays Jaxton, a street actor and yoga practitioner. Freshman Travis Cleveland plays Caden, the assiduous playwright. Finally, Freshman Alexandra “Alexa” Hartman plays Alicia, the stereotypical Los Angeles actress.

While talking with the cast, several informative points were made about the show, particularly the “political correctness” each of the named characters attempt to have. This show, to reiterate, was written about the First Thanksgiving Dinner, and the problem of not having a Native American voice is a recurrent theme in the play. Mack talks about this as the “lack of technology making [this play] timeless” which could make it more relatable

to those of and in the near future. Laila describes the play as people coming together, “claiming to be racially aware” of the struggles of Native Americans during this time.

A lot of the cast refers to the four characters as this production being their “make or break moment for all of them.” The play’s focus is on Logan’s push for the production using the grants, and while the creation of the play results in the idea of the “empty room being the finale of the play.” This sort of “cultural revolution,” where there are no words to conclude the play, signifies the times of a “politically correct” world, where there are no words that could fill the space in history. Another cast member calls this play “people coming together but failing so miserably” at producing a play. Whether you interpret this ending different, it will be a show that does make you think of the

One cool part of the play focuses on other creations, created by elementary school teachers, who attempt to tell the story of the First Thanksgiving through songs, and does also contain some lesson plans taught in schools around the country. In the script itself, there are hyperlinks, or URLs, that direct you to the location that playwright Larissa FastHorse got each of these informative bits from. Each of these informative scenes are separate by the actual story of the play, which is an interesting way to write this story.

FastHorse, a Native American Playwright, wrote this play to accommodate for the lack of Indigenous actors and actresses of a theater company. The reason the characters are all white is because the play was written to be this way. Alicia’s role in the show is a hired actress who had put on her resume that she was Indigenous, which is why Logan hires her. The turmoil of the play, to reiterate, was the lack of Native American Voices in this historical

“adaptation” of the First Thanksgiving, which is somewhat ironic given how the white settlers of the land wrote our history.

The making of this play being accommodating for the lack of resources is also arguably why the show has a “make or break” theme. It could be argued that this show focuses on the hardships found in a theater company, specifically in casting a role that requires someone of a different race or ethnicity. If anything else, the takeaway from this play should be that companies face difficulties in casting, and sometimes, the lack of resources could alter the show slightly. Perseverance is the key when wanting to do something great.

Although this show is eccentric, and the dialogue could be a bit confusing, it is admirable how the characters can come together to craft something as intricate as a show. Following this point, it is also aspiring to know that this Mount production will be put on in a month from the time of interviewing the cast. A daunting challenge of being able to perform on stage after a month of rehearsals, blocking, memorizing, building, setting, and costuming. This is an extreme challenge, and from personal experience, one that is difficult to pull off in entirety. However, it is also extremely rewarding, knowing that you had performed a show, one that you worked on for a month, and it being successful. With that said, please take the time out to go and watch this show, support the cast members, and watch Dr. Blaugher direct this wonderful production.

If you do see this play, please be aware that this show, despite the characters being schoolteachers attempting to put on an elementary school production, contains language, crude humor, and sexual innuendos. This play could be seen as offensive to some, but it is a must-see for all.



Freshman Mackenzie Ellis as chorus, Sophomore Amanda Livingston as chorus, Sophomore Carolina Herrera as chorus, Freshman Travis Cleveland as Caden, Freshman Alexandra Hartman as Alicia, Freshman Laila Jefferson as chorus, Freshman Lily Adelsberger as Logan. Not pictured is Freshman Thomas Stokes as Jaxton.

## Upcoming Events

With the semester ending, here will be the last events hosted by the Fine Arts department for the 2023 Fall School Year. The Small Ensembles Concert will be held on November 11th at 7 p.m. in the Knott Auditorium. The St. Cecilia’s Day Concert will be held on November 15th at 7 p.m. in the I.C. Chapel. The Thanksgiving Play will be performed from November 16th to the 18th, in the Horning Theater in Delaplaine, with the start time being at 8 p.m. The Environmental Art Show, featuring Earthworks, will be held in the Williams Gal-

lery in Delaplaine from November 30th through December 8th.

The final events will be for the month of December. They are the Christmas Concert, which will be held on December 1st at 7 p.m. in the I.C. Chapel, and the Student Recital, which will be held in Horning Theater in Delaplaine on December 6th at 7 p.m. Please take time to go and support our students of fine arts as we close the fall semester. We hope to see you there.

To read past Mount Arts articles, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## CATOCTIN SPORTS

# The Felmet's commitment to band and colorguard

Gina Lin CHS Class of 2024  
Richelle Zheng CHS Class of 2025

At every football game, there is always a band playing. It's become second nature for us to hear the rhythm of drums and the blare of trumpets. A football game wouldn't be the same without them, whether through soliciting spirit in the crowd and playing the drum line. Catoclin High School is fortunate enough to have a color guard perform at the football games. But, the band and colorguard aren't always recognized for their contributions. Through the process of interviewing CHS band and colorguard, it is evident that they invest much effort into the program.

The Catoclin band is led by Mr. Evan Felmet, and the color guard is pioneered by Mrs. Stephanie Felmet. Mr. Felmet is a CHS performing arts and tech-ed teacher and pioneers the school play and musical with Mrs. Felmet. Mrs. Felmet is the tech specialist at CHS and advises several clubs. The Felmet's are even more involved in Catoclin's performing arts. To name another engagement, they also advise the International Thespian Society.

Mr. Felmet arrived on CHS's performing arts scene in 2017. "I have always wanted to be a music and theater teacher, so Mrs. Felmet and I worked to make it a program that students would be interested in." Many people can agree that the Felmet's worked diligently to revive the performing arts department. The band is just an example of one of their many works of art. There is a lot of dedication and time invested into preparation and practice. Before the fall sports season begins, the band is already preparing to perform and march at the games. The Felmet's host a

summer intensive called, Band Camp near the end of July every year, which lasts a week. During Band Camp students learn drills, marching techniques, music pieces, and to work as a team, for 10 hours per day. When the football season is taking place, the band continues to practice for a few hours after school on select days.

In addition, CHS participated in the annual All-County Marching Band Festival. This year, it was held on October 9 at Linganore High School—the weather wasn't in their favor as they performed in the rain. The festival consists of all FCPS marching bands and color guard teams performing for each other and each team gets scored by the judges. Additionally, the Shepherd University band performed at the festival. The festival is meant for school teams to show off their skills and to learn from each other. Catoclin received mostly Excellence titles.

For those who aren't too familiar with color guard, it is a type of choreographed dance and flag throwing that helps to enhance the band's performance. Color guard performances take place during halftime at football games. In addition to flag throwing, Catoclin also tosses other equipment such as air blades. CHS is very fortunate to be able to witness color guard performances, as this program doesn't exist in every school.

The color guard was revived by Mrs. Felmet after demonstrated interest from students. Mrs. Felmet was motivated to pioneer color guard in an effort to provide more opportunities for students to feel a sense of belonging in the CHS community. "There needed to be a variety of ways for students to express themselves, especially in an artistic way." Currently, CHS color guard consists of nine members.



Catoclin band and color guard honor their seniors: Mr. Felmet (director), Armani Danembaye, George Hawkins, Amelia Phillips, Stacey May, Callie Hench, & Cody Eyler.

Catoclin color guard accompanies the band in Band Camp. They practice new sets, drills, performance songs, color guard techniques, and general marching. During the season, they have practices after school to fine tune their performances. This season, the color guard performs "Starships" by Niki Minaj, "Dancing in the Moonlight" by Toploader, and "Walking on the Sun" by Smash Mouth. Color guard has athletic components too, "You need to have really strong arms to throw flags," Mrs. Felmet pointed out. Catoclin color guard also participates in activities outside of football games. The team performed in the Rocky Ridge Parade and Mountain City Elks in Downtown Frederick. Recently, they performed in the Gettysburg Halloween Parade. "My favorite aspect [of color guard] is the people and the feeling of landing a toss perfectly," says senior Amelia Phillips.

Of course there are members that have had a profound impact in band and/or color guard. Mr. Felmet described senior Stacey May and drum major, as being a leader in the band, "Stacey has really found her voice this year, and [uses it to] keep players on task." Senior Callie Hench is another noteworthy leader in the band. "[Callie] gets things done. She's diligent, very intelligent, and is a good communicator," Mr. Felmet puts bluntly. Additionally, senior and assistant drum major George Hawkins is influential, but in a less serious manner. "George brings the energy to the band because of his personality." Due in part to Hawkins out-

going nature, he is able to recruit new members to band and colorguard and enliven the program. This in no way is an exhaustive list, as many members weren't highlighted—there simply just won't be enough space! It's important to note that every player is essential to a function band and colorguard.

Mrs. Felmet also put in a few words for exceptional individuals in color guard. Junior Piper Webb, who transferred to CHS in her sophomore year, has introduced new techniques, such as twirling to color guards. Mrs. Felmet comments, "Piper has brought a new level of competition to color guard." Team captain George Hawkins is a very committed member of color guard as he is the first member to participate in the program all four years of high school. "George is an excellent performer, eager and motivational. He also tries his best to facilitate team work," Mrs. Felmet adds.

The band and colorguard also encounter many struggles. Mr. Felmet expressed his concerns about the small size of the band. The struggle with student participation is a phenomenon seen across extracurriculars at CHS due partly to small school size and student efficacy. Not having enough members poses many obstacles as the few interested have to work twice as hard to keep their programs afloat. Although Mr. Felmet's primary interest is in performing arts, he has to take on tech classes as there aren't enough students signing up for performing arts classes. Another

struggle the band faces is personality clashes. Mr. Felmet resolves that conflict by working individuals to reach a compromise. It is evident that the success of the band is deeply rooted in how well players are able to work together, so the band teaches life lessons! The same principle applies to color guard, a member noted struggle with individuals in working together.

But there are ways to help support the Catoclin band and colorguard program! Since the performing arts at CHS are closely related, attending plays and musicals help to fund their activities. Looking ahead, some fundraisers include a murder mystery theater on January 20th called "Death of a Dead Guy". The fundraiser will take place at CHS in the evening. More details are to come.

The Catoclin band and colorguard programs represent a community of students that aren't always highlighted, but are still important members of CHS. After all they are still organized extracurriculars but don't receive the same clout as athletic sports teams.

The Catoclin performing arts is a perfect example of how diligence and investment into your passion can come to fruition. The band was meager when the Felmet's first arrived at CHS in 2017 but has since grown to 25 members, thanks to the dedication of Evan and Stephanie Felmet.

To read past Catoclin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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# Men's Water Polo looks to build on young talent

Steve Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

On October 15th, the Mount St. Mary's men's water polo team lost to Johns Hopkins by a score of 12-11. Three unanswered goals by the Blue Jays in the final two minutes of the final quarter sealed the Mount's fate as they lost their final home game of the season in front of a packed pool deck. It was a heartbreaking result. Accruing a record of 6-16, the Mount still has five away games at Wagner, Fordham, George Washington, Navy, and Johns Hopkins to better their record for 2023. Five away games to round up the season may look like a hard task for a team that has a record under .500, but it will be the foundation for the next several years for the team, as their young talent is still forming in a way that will lead to success in the future.

In 2022, the Mount couldn't have played better for their situation. A team only three years in the making going 15-14 across all their games should be celebrated. With their offense scoring 434 and their goalkeeping corps making 299 saves, the team was showing growing potential. But with the loss of key players such as Tommaso Baldinetti and Kiah Horan, the team lost two talented keys to their offense. But even with those losses and a tough 2023 season, head coach Justin Vink's team will be rebuffed by the development of six new freshman players.

The first of Vink's future key players is Nate Valentine of Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. In 18 games played so far for the Mount this year, Valentine has scored ten goals in 26 attempts on net for a shooting percentage of 38%. With 12 assists and 4 steals across the games he has played, Valentine looks to be a key offensive asset for the future of the team. This will only come with experience, and as he becomes more of a key part in games due to players graduating, Valentine will be another great asset in front of goal.

Another key freshman within the team's young, freshman ranks is defenseman, Jack Fox of Jupiter Florida. Fox's style of play is much more reserved as a defensive player, instead of going to goal on offense, Fox is a go between from the Mount's side of the pool into the opponents' end, getting the ball to the attackers. His stats are not the best in this way, only three assists in 21 games played. But if Fox can gain more experience within the next couple of years, he can be a key asset to the transfer of the ball from defense to the offense.

Two freshmen from Illinois in Ivan Morales and Jacob German highlight a much more developmental, long-term project for Vink and his coaching staff. Morales, a defenseman, has only played in nine games so far for the team in 2023 and could be

seen as a future player for a team who is jampacked with defensive styled players. This is the same for German, who is listed as a utility player. His lack of playing time may come down to this, as he is one of seven players on the team of the same position. These two have a great future at the Mount, they simply must wait for their time to come and to be patient in Vink's plan for the team.

Gabe Cieplik of Lachine, Quebec is the next key to the future of the team. The younger brother of senior Kasper Cieplik is a much more active player in the team. Yet, he is again, a long-term project for the team as his playing time is like that of Morales and German. And his predicament in this is again his position. A dedicated winger, he often must share his offensive duties with utility players to fit a more defense style of play, potentially holding him back on offense. This is the story of the team, while they are not scoring as many goals on defense as in earlier years, they often must defend more and hence, pull their more aggressive, attacking players out of the pool.

But the player that will surely impact the team the most over his future at the Mount is Aaron Tarr of Johannesburg, South Africa. Tarr is one of the Mount's best players in front of goal, with him scoring 42 times out of 102 attempts in front of the net in 22 games played this year. He has also assisted player in scoring 86 times,



The Mount's new freshman class should turn the water polo program into a contender in the MAWP for years to come.

leading the team in that category by a substantial margin. The closest player to him in assists is sophomore Alexandros Bellesis with 31 assists. Tarr is the attacker of the future for this team; he is as deadly in front of goal as he is in the lead up. He will be the most important player to Vink in the years to come to try and build a powerhouse within the MAWP conference.

But with all this said about new talent coming into the ranks of the team, there is still a great deal of experienced talent in the upper-classmen. The aforementioned Bellesis leads the team in goals with 61, followed by his fellow Greek and sophomore Chrysostomos Valavanis with 45 goals. These two will continue to play

a key role on the opposition side for the next two years, perhaps in partnership with Tarr. The team also has an experienced goalkeeping corps in Joseph Maxson and Sherif Hosni, a senior and a sophomore respectively. Between the two of them, they have made 214 saves, this is because of the structure of the Mount's pool. Hosni typically playing in the deeper end while Maxson plays in the shallow end goal every other quarter. They are often swapped out with the senior alternate goalkeeper Frederick Brown who has made 15 saves across the season.

The senior season for the Mount's men's water polo team may have not gone as planned for the members of the team or coach Vink's staff, but it will go

down as the formative year that will building the success of the program for years to come. With the graduating of experienced players who have helped formulate this team over the last four years, and with the potential that this new freshman class has for the future, the program shows potential of dominating their conference in the coming years. All the Keys are there, now it is down to the team itself to build on their talent and to formulate how the team will go forward in the ever-present chase for a spot in the NCAA Men's Water Polo National Championship.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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## COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

# Peaceful holiday, peaceful life

Jefferson Breland

In September's edition of this newspaper I briefly compared how nature prepares for the transition from Autumn to Winter with how humans prepare for this transition.

I noted, "Humans prepare for Winter by consuming large quantities of pumpkin-spiced products, counting the days until Christmas, and devising ways to avoid least favorite relatives at Thanksgiving."

A number of my past teachers of healing philosophies have shared this statement, "If you think you are enlightened, spend a week with your family."

As the Thanksgiving holiday is one of the busiest travel holidays, it is safe to say that many, many people will be visiting their families. So, it is also safe to say there will be many opportunities for us to test our levels of enlightenment for better or worse.

The goal of this month's column is to help us have not just a more peaceful holiday, but a more peaceful life.

I used to think enlightenment was like a personal "big bang" in which one was suddenly enlightened, above it all. I now believe enlightenment is more like a dimmer switch in which we become lighter and lighter bit by bit. This also means that we can seem dimmer. Life is a continuum we move along. Some days we seem more

wise and some days less so.

Becoming wiser and perhaps more enlightened might be as simple as paying attention to what helps our life move forward and what doesn't. I say "our life" because ultimately we only have control over ourselves. The potential to be our best self is always available. It always exists.

So, how do we become the best we can be? Especially when we might have a contentious family relationship.

If we pay attention to our ways of doing, being, and speaking and how our body responds to these, we can learn what helps and what doesn't. We are always doing something, even if it is sitting "doing nothing." As long as we are alive, we are being, we exist. As for the speaking, at the very least we are thinking and we usually use words in our thoughts. If we are speaking, we are relating our understanding of the world around us.

How do we know what helps and what doesn't? Our body will let us know.

In the presence of someone, do we tighten ourselves up? Does our breath become rapid, more shallow? Does our face feel warm? Do our shoulders rise up? Does our stomach tighten? Does our jaw tighten?

When we are around someone, do we breathe more deeply? Does our body relax? Do we smile? Are we able to think clearly?

Which is the helping? Which

is the not helping? AND These are examples of just being around someone. Good Lord, what would happen if they should speak or do something?

Remember, it is unlikely we will be able to control the other person. Mom will be mom. Dad will be dad. Sister will be sister. Brother will be brother. Uncle will be... okay, you get my drift. They are going to be who they are. We can count on them being them.

We can choose to shift our ways of doing, being and speaking. We can choose how to respond to people or things that bother us.

There is a book I have found to be very helpful to me as well as a number of patients. It is called, "The Art of Possibility" by the husband and wife team of Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander. One of the twelve practices in the book is called, "Being the Board." The board here refers to you being the game board, so to speak, of life.

I find it curious that I read the book about 14 years ago and I remembered the chapter title as, "Get Off the Board." I have thought of it as an enlightened version of "I am going to take my ball and go home."

It's interesting that the concept in the book and my memory of it, while different, is fundamentally the same. I like mine because it is simpler. In my version, you simply refuse to play the game we

might call "Upset." The first time I remember using this practice was about 13 year ago when my best friend's sister-in-law started to piss me off.

My friend and I had been swapping funny stories from high school. I told one about my classmate, Red, who finally graduated when he was 21-years old. The in-law in question added her two cents. Twenty-one was too old for someone to be in high school. A 21-year-old was too physically mature and was a threat to the younger students.

I took the bait and began to explain all the reasons why she was wrong in this case. Red, while not academically inclined, was persistent, a nice guy, funny, not a threat to anyone because he weighed 120-pounds soaking wet, and he had multiple sclerosis to boot. The in-law dug in. She was adamant she was right and I was wrong. She had examples from her children's lives to prove her point. I was adamant that I was right and she was wrong. I doubled down defending Red and his right to go to school, his health, etc.

It wasn't until Phil said, "This may not be the best time or place for this," that I realized the argument was pointless. She didn't know what I was talking about and I had no idea where her opinion came from. Ultimately, it didn't matter who was right or wrong.

It was in this moment I remembered the practice of "getting off the board." If I stopped speaking, she would have nothing to react to and vice versa. I was just as reactive as she was. Our "game" of "I'm right and you're wrong" only existed because I agreed to play it and to continue to play it. So, I shut up. I did not speak to her for the rest of the day.

Not only did my being quiet help create more peace in the house that day, I chose never to engage in another argument with

the in-law again. Curiously, this had the effect of her never even trying to argue with me again.

It really does take two to tango.

Now then, what about immediate family members you see everyday?

I wish you the same "miracle" I experienced. If you don't play the "game," there is no game. Don't add fuel to the fire. See what happens.

When you choose to not play the usual game of trigger and response, your family member may try to provoke you more. Actually, count on it. They will wonder what has changed. Why aren't you playing the "game"? Why aren't you being the usual you?

Remember, nothing is personal unless you choose to make it personal.

This is when you must stick to your plan. It is vital. It may get uncomfortable for a while, all significant change is. There are scientific studies about the neurochemistry of behavioral change which explain why you may feel physically uncomfortable. Trust that this too will pass, just as your family member will eventually get used to the new you. With any luck, their behavior with others may change. You might lead a family transformation where everyone is more peaceful with each other. Stranger things have happened.

It is pretty simple when one person is more peaceful, there is more peace in the whole world. We just need to remember that the choice is ours. We need all the peace we can muster these days. Choose peacefulness.

*Jefferson is a board-certified, licensed acupuncturist who has been studying philosophies of healing for the past 15 years. If you want to learn more about how to help yourself, contact him at 410-336-5876 or jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com*



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## FITNESS & HEALTH

# Thanksgiving dinner is always a favorite!



**Linda Stultz**  
Certified Fitness Trainer

Over the past several years I have written a Thanksgiving Dinner article with suggestions and recipes for a healthy holiday meal. I am still interested in finding new and healthy foods to add to the traditional turkey, ham, stuffing and veggies and of course pumpkin and apple pie but thought I would make a few other suggestions this time.

A buffet can make things a little easier when everyone is so busy and has more than one house to visit for the holiday meal. You can fix some of the food a day or so ahead and heat it up or serve cold. Crock pots are a great way to keep foods hot without drying out or over cooking them. A hardy autumn soup or stew with some home baked warm bread or muffins will hit the spot and can be served whatever time your guests arrive.

A healthy tray of fresh veggies with a low sugar dip is also a great way for you to serve good food that is ready all day long. Most people like veggies and dip and they can choose the ones they like best. Sometimes the kids only like a few vegetables but when you add

the dip they seem to eat a better variety.

Keeping with the traditional turkey and ham, and of course all the fixens, there are a wide variety of side dishes. Some of the dishes can be the favorites of the sea-

son and some can be new ones or even cold dishes that you can prepare ahead of time. You need to enjoy the holiday too, so make it a little easier on yourself. A friend told me they did a buffet one year, it went really well and will

probably do it again. A casserole can be a great way to incorporate the traditional meat, stuffing and vegetables while giving you more time to spend with your guests. It is also a great way to use up all those leftovers the following weekend.

I don't have any changes to the pumpkin and apple pies. Dessert always seems to be allowed on Thanksgiving. Of course, these can be made a day ahead so you can share quality time with your family and still have dessert. Maybe they are eating at someone else's house and coming to yours for dessert. If that is the case you may want to make


a few other family favorites like apple cake, sweet potato pie or whatever is traditional for your family. Today there a lot of recipes with less carbs and calories. Check the internet for substitutes and make a healthier version of their favorites.


Whatever your holiday has in store, I hope you have a safe, healthy and Happy Thanksgiving. Remember to take a walk or get some type of physical activity after dinner. You'll be glad to share the time with the people you love and you'll feel better after a big meal. You can contact me at 717-334-6009 with any ideas you would like to share for food, exercise or a healthy way of life. Thanks!

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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of November

Professor Wayne Wooten

The Last Quarter moon is November 5<sup>th</sup>. The waning crescent moon passes a degree north of brilliant Venus in the dawn on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The moon is new on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The waning crescent moon will set well before the peak for the Leonid meteor shower on the morning of November 17<sup>th</sup>. The First Quarter Moon is on November 20<sup>th</sup>, passing three degrees south of Saturn. The waxing gibbous moon passes three degrees north of Jupiter on November 25<sup>th</sup>. The Full Moon, the Beaver Moon, is on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mercury is lost in Sun's glare in November. Venus dominates the dawn, a shrinking crescent that will appear half lit in December. Mars is in conjunction with the Sun on November 17<sup>th</sup> directly behind the Sun. This is the month for Jupiter, which comes to opposition on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It now lies in Aries. Saturn is in the south in Aquarius in the evening sky.

This spectacular shot of Jupiter was made by the Hubble. To lower right, the famed Great Red Spot is very visible and still larger than Earth! At bottom left is the huge moon Ganymede, the larg-



This spectacular shot of Jupiter was made by the Hubble. To lower right, the famed Great Red Spot is very visible and still larger than Earth! At bottom left is the huge moon Ganymede, the largest moon in our solar system. It is larger than Mercury.

est moon in our solar system. It is larger than Mercury. It and Callisto, the outermost Galilean, can just miss Jupiter's poles currently, but smaller, inner Io (orange to left edge) and Europa always pass directly in front of and behind Jupiter's disk every orbit. Their dark umbral shadows will almost exactly behind them near November 2<sup>nd</sup> and opposition, with the earth between the Sun and Jupiter. Io and Europa are both similar to our own moon in size, but much brighter, with fresh surfaces of sulfur (Io) and water ice (Europa) instead of the dark volcanic basalt of our lunar mare.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away

from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about October 31st visit the [www.sky-maps.com](http://www.sky-maps.com) website and download the map for November 2023; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Sky & Telescope has: [www.sky-andtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts](http://www.sky-andtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts).

Setting in the southwest is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our

Milky Way Galaxy, with Saturn just above the lid of its teapot. The best view of our Galaxy lies overhead now. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky in the northwest. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the North East these clear autumn evenings. Use binocs and your sky map to spot many clusters here, using the SkyMap download to locate some of the best ones plotted and described on the back.

Overhead the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. South of it is the only bright star of Fall, Fomalhaut. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking West rising in the North East as the Big Dipper sets in the North West. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the North East now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the North East corner star of Pegasus" Square, and goes North

East 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. South of it, and visible in binoculars, is M-33 in Triangulum.

To the northeast, Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster to rise, a sure sign of bright winter stars to come. This is probably the best sight in the sky with binoculars, with hundreds of fainter stars joining the famed "Seven Sisters". To the North East, yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, rises at 7 p.m. as November begins along the northeastern horizon. It is the fifth brightest star in the sky, and a beacon of the colorful and bright winter stars to come in December.

## Farmers' Almanac

"November's sky is chill and drear, November's leaf is red and sear"

- Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Dry and warm, then a few showers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); rain, then turning breezy and colder on the 10th (6,

7, 8, 9, 10); seasonably cold and dry with a hard freeze east, then snow showers west and rain showers east (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry and turning milder, then wind-driven rain and turning colder with snow showers west (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); 21-26 seasonably chilly and dry at first, then showers (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); windy with rain, changing to snow west (27, 28, 29, 30).

**Severe Weather Watch:** The Town and Country Almanack forecasts a hard freeze (11, 12, 13); heavy snow, lake effect-winds (18); more heavy snow, wind (27).

**Full Moon:** The Full Moon in November will occur on Saturday, November 27th. Because of the high winds that would sweep across The Plains, many Native American tribes called it Big Wind Moon and with all of the leaves falling and grasses dying off, it was also been referred to as Falling Leaf Moon And Dying Grass Moon.

**Special Notes:** The 2023 elections will be held on Tuesday, November 7th. Though this year, we are not electing the President of The United States, your vote is still needed to help maintain the course of America for the future. If voting by mail, be sure to complete your ballot immediately upon receipt and place the properly-completed ballot into a legitimate drop box in your area or mail as early as possible.

Daylight Savings will end on Sunday, November 5th at 2 a.m. Be sure to turn the clocks back an hour before retiring Saturday evening. And make note that this will most likely be the very last time we will have to make this biannual time change! The United States Senate has passed the Sunshine Protection Act of 2021, which would abolish clock changes in favor of making daylight saving time permanent. Once it reviewed by the House of Representatives passes the Senate and is signed into law by the president, the change will take place in 2024.

**Holidays:** In 2023, Veteran's Day falls on Saturday, November 11th. Remember to honor our military service branches and those who have served and with their on-going service, continue to protect us today. Thanksgiving is celebrated on Thursday, November 23rd. Join with family and friends and reflect on all of the things we have to be thankful for and please, try and carry that appreciation not only throughout the holiday season, but for always! And though not officially recognized as a holiday, Wednesday, November 10th is the great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King's actual birthday.

**The Garden:** Keep watering until the ground temperature reaches 40 degrees. Pay particular attention to any plants or shrubs recently planted. Plants that face winter dryness are prone to damage and dieback during the cooler months. The trick is

to water deeply and less often in order to establish self-sufficient plants. Use small stakes or markers where you've planted bulbs or late starting spring plants in the perennial garden, to avoid disturbing them when you begin spring soil preparation. If you feel that stakes don't fit your landscape style, you might consider marking stones with fingernail polish or paint, and set them on the planting spot (painted side down). Drain your hoses and put them away so they don't freeze and burst. Winter heating dries the air out in your home considerably. Help your houseplants survive by misting them or placing the pots on a pebble-filled tray of water to ensure adequate humidity and moisture.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (9, 10, 11); planting above-ground crops (21, 22); weeding and stirring the soil (4, 5, 6); harvesting all crops (23, 24); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19); transplanting (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19); the weaning of small animals and livestock (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22); the harvesting and storing grains (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12).

**John Gruber's Thought For Today's Living**

"If youth knew what Age would crave, it would strive to get and save."



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# COMPUTER Q&A

## Computer warranties—what are you getting?

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer

Manufacturers typically offer a one-year warranty that will cover repair or replacement of parts that are considered defective. The specific coverage terms can vary while some manufacturers pay to ship for product repairs, some allow hardware upgrades others don't. Accidental damage, acts of nature and damage caused by the consumer are often not covered under a standard warranty although, additional warranty coverage (including accidental damage coverage) is usually available for purchase within 30 days from the reseller or a third-party warranty company such as Asurion.

The Warranty Process can vary from brand to brand but the steps to getting your device repaired are typically the same. Let's say you're having an issue with your HP computer and you contact support for help. The first thing they will do is have you perform some diagnostics on your machine which they will walk you through over the phone. Once the troubleshooting is complete if no hardware issue is found, they will instruct you to reset your computer back to factory settings. The manufacturers' goal is to ensure that the device is working in the condition it was originally shipped. If you change your operating system or change hardware your support options will be limited.

Restoring your system back to factory can usually be done without losing your personal data (documents, pictures etc.) but any settings that have been configured or programs that you have installed since purchasing the computer will be lost in the process. Once the system is restored back to factory if no further issues arise your support case will close. If a hardware issue is determined or continues after the system is restored, then an RMA or return merchandise authorization will be created and you will be directed on how to ship your device back to the manufacturer.

It's important to pay close attention to this part of the process. The manufacturer will provide detailed instructions on how to prepare your device for shipment. The directions should indicate whether they want you to include your power cable, battery or any other accessories. Only what is listed should be returned with the device, any USB receivers, memory cards or CD's should be removed. The manufacturer will not be responsible for any personal data on your device, all important data should be backed up before sending your device for repair. Some manufacturers will provide a prepaid shipping label and a box to send your computer for repair, others will require that you use your own packaging and pay for shipping. Typically, the repair process takes 7-14 business days from receipt. The warranty will spell out if they're allowed to use new or

refurbished parts when repairing the device.

Some things aren't covered under the manufacturers' warranty. If your product is tested and deemed by the manufacturer that the damage was caused due to accidental or user damage, acts of nature or the installation of unauthorized parts you will be given a quote for the repair and it will not be covered under warranty. The most common repairs that are not covered by warranty are screen damage and water damage.

Even a brand-new device can have problems out of the box. Manufacturers have quality assurance measures in place to help eliminate the risk of a defective product reaching the consumer but, it's not foolproof by any means. When you power on your device for the first time the software is completing its installation process for the first time. Until the software configuration completes there is no way to know if the device is working properly. While hardware can be tested

it's not until the software and hardware are working together that you can determine if the device is functioning 100%. This is important to understand because your physical product may be working just as it should which would mean that the software is the problem. On more than one occasion we've had clients bring in their new computer to say that it's not working very well only to find that the Windows installation was corrupt or damaged. The software that is installed on a PC that is built in a factory typically is not tested on individual machines.

Consider this, when buying a new PC you should decide how long you want that device to last. Most laptops average 3-5 years without needing a major hardware repair and desktops typically last longer depending on the quality. An extended warranty is recommended especially if you purchase a laptop due to the increased risk of accidental damage and the need to match machine-specific parts.



At Jester's Computer Services we build Custom Desktop PCs that include a one-year warranty with many of the installed parts carrying longer warranties. One of the benefits of having a custom-built computer is not only knowing that the parts are typically higher quality, but it's also knowing that the software was personally loaded which can help prevent software issues that might occur in a factory setting. If you need are interested in a custom-built desktop or are looking for quality computer repair and service, find us on the web at [www.jesterscomputers.com](http://www.jesterscomputers.com) or call us at 717-642-6611.

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# Christmas In Thurmont Events

## Small Shop Saturday November 25

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## Annual Map Stamping

Map stamping will begin **November 17**

Pick your map up at Cousins Ace Hardware, The Dirty Dawg, and the Thurmont town office.



Return completed maps to the Thurmont Guardian Hose Company on December 2 between 9 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Prize drawings for children at 2:30 p.m. and then drawing the names for prizes from the adult stamping. Must be present to receive prize if your name is drawn.



## Thurmont Pop-Up Shops! Every Saturday thru Dec. 16

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Shop the Pop! Pop Up Shops - 12 unique vendors with so many gift giving items & some for you too!

A different food truck will be here each Saturday!

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## Thurmont Annual Tree Lighting

November 25 - 6 p.m.

Mechanicstown Square Park



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## Thurmont Guardian Hose Co. December 2

4 different types of Craft Stations to make & take home crafts for kids!

9 a.m. – Noon

3 p.m. – Prize drawings for children begin.

Completed adult map stamping entries drawn following childrens' drawings.

Located at 21 North Church Street

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Saturday, December 2

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## Visit with Santa!

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