

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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## Trainor set to retire as Mount's President

Claire Doll  
Editor, MSMU Class of 2024

In March of 2023, President Timothy Trainor of Mount St. Mary's University announced his retirement after eight years of leadership. President Trainor, the Mount's 26th president, will retire in the summer of 2024, leaving behind an unparalleled legacy at the 215-year-old college.

Retired Brig. Gen. Timothy E. Trainor, Ph.D., served a 33-year career with the Army and served as dean and chief academic officer at the United States Military Academy. Having a Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Military Academy, an MBA from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke, and a doctorate in industrial engineering from North Carolina State University, President Trainor came to the Mount “by chance” when the University was searching for an interim president. He was offered the presidency position and inaugurated on October 23rd, 2017.

“I felt called to be here,” President Trainor notes upon his arrival at the Mount. His initiatives, informed by his military back-

ground, incorporate both service and collaboration. “It is a privilege and honor to be a leader, and my role as a leader is to enable those who lead to achieve the highest they can in their roles.”

Under his leadership, President Trainor has built relationships with the community, navigated the University through a global pandemic, and developed the Mount's academic and athletic programs. While creating opportunities for new majors and graduate programs, such as the new Graduate Major of Applied Behavior Analysis and the beginning plans to open a Graduate School of Health Professions, President Trainor also notes, “[The Core curriculum] is how we maintain our commitment to being a liberal arts institution,” describing the University's rigorous set of courses that develop critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. Additionally, in his eight years, President Trainor has overseen the expansion of Division I teams, the national success of the Men's Rugby Program, and the move to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). “I'm proud of the fact that we've

built not just on the number of our teams, but also our success,” he says.

One of President Trainor's most unforgettable Mount moments includes the May Crowning of the Blessed Mother, Mary, at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Almost every year of his presidency he has gone up in a crane and bucket, placing the 12-foot ring of roses on the statue's head. This May, President Trainor will crown Mary once again, overlooking the campus that he has grown and served these past eight years that now blooms in the wake of spring.

Following his retirement, President Trainor plans to give back to the community and volunteer, participating in programs such as Habitat for Humanity and Meals on Wheels. He credits his wife, Colonel (Retired) Donna Brazil, Ph.D., and his three children, all thriving in their professional lives, for his success as an individual.



President Trainor is the 26th president in Mount St. Mary's University's 215-year-old history.

While reflecting on his admiration for the Mount community, President Trainor says, “We should all be proud—students, employees, alumni—that our Mountain home is still standing here, going strong...because of how we work together with our neighbors in Emmitsburg and beyond.”

Effective July 1st, Gerard “Jerry” J. Joyce, Ph.D., will join the Mount as the 27th president. The Emmitsburg News-Journal thanks President Trainor for his service to the University and community, and we wish him and his family well on his next chapter in life!

## Adams County set to honor war veterans

Three separate events, bookending both the month and the county, are set to pay honor to those who served in the fight to protect liberty and democracy.

First out of the dock is World War I Weekend.

How did Gettysburg and the Great War shape a future five-star general and president? Explore answers to this question and more at Eisenhower National Historic Site's (NHS) World War I Weekend on May 4 and 5. The National Park Service will host interactive living history displays with exhibits and programs exploring the American experience in World War I.

Eisenhower NHS will partner with the East Coast Doughboys, United States Marine Corps Historical Company, United States Naval History and Heritage Command, and will include for free exhibits and living history displays. Living historians and park staff will also provide free programming throughout the weekend. The living history displays will be open to the public from 10 through 4 on Saturday and 10 to 3 on Sunday.

Over four million Americans served in uniform during World War I, with over 100,000 losing their lives in the conflict. In the

spring of 1918, Captain Dwight Eisenhower arrived in Gettysburg to command a new tank training camp. While Eisenhower never saw action in Europe during the First World War, his time in Gettysburg training soldiers was part of the larger American experience of that conflict. “The Great War” saw the United States emerge as a leader on the world stage, shaping the course of the 20th century.

Sadly, many of the Doughboy's (infantry men) never made it home. The World War One Weekend is intended to remember them.

On Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Harney's Veterans of Foreign Wars will honor all those who paid the ultimate price to ensure our freedom. Opening Ceremonies will take place at 4 at the Post Memorial. This year's guest speaker will be Chief Petty Officer, Katie Clothier, a highly decorated veteran of the U.S. Navy and a Veteran of the Global War on Terrorism.

On May 27, the Fairfield Union Cemetery will hold a Memorial Day Service at 11. The service will honor over 411 veterans buried in the cemetery and celebrate their service. Those honored will include veterans of all of America's wars, from the Revolution, to the Civil War, to the



The Fairfield Union Cemetery's Memorial Day Service will honor over 411 veterans buried in the cemetery representing veterans of all of America's wars.

Great World War, to Vietnam.

While Memorial Day is marked more by cookouts and family reunions, it was originally called Decoration Day. It was started in 1868 when General John Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union veterans' organization, called on all former northern soldiers and their communities to conduct ceremonies and decorate graves of their dead comrades. Memorial Day

eventually extended to honor all Americans who fought and died while in the U.S. military service.

No matter where you live, we encourage all our readers to take just a few moments to visit a grave of a veteran and ‘decorate’ it with flowers, and in doing so, acknowledge their service.

*Editor's note: see related articles on remembering veterans who served on pages 34 & 35.*

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Infrastructure contracts awarded

### Clarifier Approved For Water Treatment Plant

At its April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Emmitsburg Town Council approved bids for numerous construction projects around Town, many of which utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

First was approval for construction of a new town water treatment plant clarifier, awarded to Conewango Enterprises in the amount of \$2,329,561. A clarifier is used to remove organic compounds in the raw water, reduce water wasted, and prevent unnecessary wear on a water plant's equipment.

The Town has received one million dollars through a state bond for the water clarifier and the remaining \$2,057,477 will utilize ARPA money, Town Manager Cathy Willets said.

The Emmitsburg Water Treatment Plant does not currently have a water clarifier, according to the project bid packet. The plant has been on-line since 2003 and consists of a 432,000 gallon per day treatment plant, a 500,000-gallon steel storage tank, and a 140,000-gallon glass-lined tank.

The primary source of the Town's raw water supply is Rainbow Lake, a 13-acre impoundment (33-million-gallons) located along Hampton Valley Road, approximately one mile west of the water treatment facility.

According to the project bid packet, the clarifier will improve raw water quality flowing into the plant, reduce damage to the plant's equipment, and reduce the millions of gallons of reservoir water wasted through the need to backwash water through the plant to clear mud and debris.

Over the past 17 years of operation, the plant has had a consistent struggle using Rainbow Lake as the primary source of raw water supply due to the reservoir's turbidity, algae growth and

suspended solids, especially when the lake quantity is low. The high turbidity causes the roughing filters to gain differential pressure and clog, which can only be rectified through additional backwashes. This allows dirt to continue through the system due to the pressure build up and ultimately overloads the water plant and causes premature wearing of equipment.

A pilot water clarifier was installed in the system in June 2006. The results of the study indicated that a clarifier can remove 75% of the total particles and provide a 68% reduction in turbidity, which translates to significantly less fouling, less backwashing, and higher efficiency for the plant. At the time, the Town did not pursue purchasing a clarifier and wanted to see if other more cost-effective control methods could be pursued.

The Town has been told by several consultants that the clarifier is their most effective method for treating turbidity and particles in the raw water, according to the project bid.

### Rainbow Dam To Be Inspected

Engineering firm Charles P. Johnson and Associates (CPJ) was approved to perform a full inspection on the Emmitsburg's Rainbow Dam.

The project was awarded in the amount of \$72,426 to perform an in-depth dam inspection report and comprehensive inspections per MDE requirements, Willets said.

Periodic inspections of the dam are required by MDE and inspections in 2022 and 2023 stated that the Town needs a professional engineer experienced in dam design to perform a complete inspection, Willets said.

There have been minor inspections of the dam over the years, but nothing in-depth has been performed in recent history, Willets said.

It was deemed imperative to perform a full inspection of all components including valves and concrete.

"Because if we had a catastrophic failure, not only would it affect our water supply, but it would also affect all the residents downstream," Mayor Frank Davis said.

In the bid proposal, CPJ estimates were very impressive and provided detailed information about the hands-on field inspections. The project will be funded by ARPA funds.

### DePaul Street Waterline Replacement Contract Rebid

As a result of the closing of Delauter Construction, who originally won the contract, the Town Council has re-awarded the DePaul Street water line replacement project to civil construction company Huntzberry Brothers in the amount of \$1,107,771.

The project will utilize two grants, one for \$552,500 and another for \$277,500. The remaining roughly \$412,000 will be funded by ARPA, Willet said.

Work will include mobilization, maintenance of traffic, construction stakeout, sediment & erosion control, the replacement of approximately 2,340 feet of 8-inch ductile iron water line, replacement of fire hydrants and copper water services, restoration of asphalt pavement and concrete sidewalks, site restoration landscaping, and other related items necessary to complete the project.

### Rainbow Lake Pump House Bridge To Be Replaced

With safety as the biggest concern, the Council approved the replacement of the Rainbow Lake Pump House Bridge.

The bridge itself is in bad condition and is structurally flawed, Willets said,

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noting, "It is no longer straight and shakes when walked upon."

Future work at the dam's valve house will be hindered if staff and contractors are not able to cross the bridge, "let alone carry heavy items," Willets said.

The bridge replacement construction project was awarded to Plas-tech Engineering. The estimated price of the new bridge is \$160,959, fully funded by ARPA. The new custom-built bridge will have a warranty of 15 years for mate-

rials and one year for workmanship. The fiberglass material components won't rust and have a life expectancy of over 50 years, she said.

The existing bridge will be removed in small enough sections that they can be taken off site and disposed of locally by staff, Willets said.

The bridge project is presumably the beginning of a long list of items that need to be repaired and replaced at the Emmitsburg Dam, according to Willets.

## Water rates continues to raise contention

Water, water, water everywhere. At its recent town Council finance workshop, the Council continued to discussed water rates as Mayor Frank Davis reviewed and presented updates and information about the Town's water rates and water supply.

Discussing the water rate and tap

fees became a point of contention as Commissioner Valerie Turnquist, who also serves as Town Treasurer, once again expressed strong opinions against the water rate increase and claimed the Town should be looking at other budget options.

"I'm not convinced that all of the

interest that we're earning at the bank is going back into the appropriate fund... if you look at our FY 24 budget, we can't see that number," she said, claiming 50% of the interest goes to the general fund, 25% goes to the water fund and 25% to the sewer fund. Davis, however, disagreed and guaranteed that the interest was being put in the appropriate fund.

Reiterating she wasn't making accusations, Turnquist cited a report provided at a recent workshop claiming the Town needed to review numbers, especially the percentage of salaries estimated in FY-24 to be charged to the water and sewer fund, claiming the

Town has already exceeded those percentages so far, she said.

Turnquist went on to ask the other Council members that approved the water rate increase last summer if it was their intent to approve a 217% yearly increase for users connected to the Town's water system via one and a half inch pipes.

Stating she wasn't on the Council when the water rate increase was approved, Turnquist noted the Council needed to look at numbers carefully to review any wiggle room.

Davis reassured the Council that the Town is looking at the water rate numbers carefully, but pointed out

that the Town was facing \$15-20 million worth of failing water and sewer infrastructure projects and the Town had to use every tool available, including rate increases, to address the wave of oncoming repairs. "Just because we have a couple hundred thousand dollars, it hasn't fixed our problem... one project could wipe us out," he said.

Davis noted he was initially and still is "dead set" against the five-year 36% increase, but it was decided as a Council vote and couldn't just be retracted now.

While acknowledging the residents struggling with the rate increase, Davis noted the water rate hasn't been raised since 2006.

"We're struggling as a Town and we're committed as a group of people to provide a service and we can't provide that for free," he said.

After this first increase, Davis noted the majority of the residents are seeing a 36 cents per day increase, still significantly cheaper than Thurmont or Taneytown.

Noting the painful nature of the conversations, Council President Amy Boehman said it was the duty of the Town Council to ask hard questions to allow the Town to continually explore available options. "That is our due diligence as a board to ask those questions and figure this out," she said.



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# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Residents express concern about short-term rental law

The Carroll Valley Short-Term Rental Ordinance is only months old, and borough leaders are already exploring possible revisions.

During their April meeting, the owner of 168 Country Club Trail told the council that he and his wife recently renovated a secondary structure to use as a short-term rental property. The property is located in the Residential 1 zoning district. The borough forbids short-term rentals in the Residential 1, Commercial, and Community Core zoning districts.

A flier the borough distributed in

February states the council enacted the short-term rental ordinance “to promote responsible hosting, protect communities, and ensure that this emerging industry contributes positively to our local economy while respecting the interests of residents.”

“I don’t think we ever considered the idea that a short-term rental might be an accessory use on the property,” Borough Manager David Hazlett said.

Hazlett said the borough could explore a zoning text amendment allowing property owners who are currently residing in their homes to use a

portion of it or a secondary structure as a short-term rental.

“It avoids some of the concerns that we were talking about before, such as the proliferation of big corporations putting in short-term rentals,” Hazlett said.

The council directed Solicitor Zachary Rice of Salzmann Hughes to research whether such an amendment is allowed by law. If so, the borough planning commission will discuss the proposal.

### Chicken Talk

The council made it clear they were tired of squawking about

backyard chickens.

Katlyn Weimer and Adam Colson, 8 Fawn Trail, have asked the council since last summer to grant their illegal chickens an official pardon. Weimer claims a violation Hazlett, in his role as borough zoning officer, filed against the chicken coop is not in compliance with the borough’s ordinances. Hazlett said he and Rice will respond to a letter from Weimer’s attorney after April 15 because they feel it would be premature to respond before she has time to comply with the violation.

Weimer asked Hazlett if the coop would comply with the ordinance if it were no longer permanently attached to the ground. He told Weimer he would discuss the question with her during office hours when he had the opportunity to review the ordinance. Rice reminded council that public comment rules do not require them to discuss issues with residents.

After Council President Richard Mathews told Weimer her allotted five minutes was up, she accused the council of stonewalling her.

## Liberty News Briefs . . .

### Liberty Township Receives Request To Expand Site R

The United States military compound dubbed Site R is seeking to expand, according to Liberty Township Planning Commission Chair Judie Hogan. Hogan told the supervisors during their April meeting she received a request to hold the meeting in secrecy but has not yet reviewed or responded to the request.

Site R, formally known as the Raven Rock Military Complex was built in 1951 and opened in 1953. According to the Washington Headquarters Service’s website, Raven Rock Military Complex provides round-the-clock,

secure, fully-functional operational continuity support for the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, select DOD components and non-DoD agencies of the federal government.

### Nepotism Policy Removed

Liberty Township supervisors nixed their nepotism policy during their April meeting.

Supervisor Chair Walter “Mickey” Barlow proposed the change because the township struggles to find employees and occasionally family members of current staff offer to help.

“We cannot get employees to come

here and work for the township for low wages and no benefits,” Barlow said.

Barlow and Supervisor Chair Bobby Keilhotz voted to ease the employment restrictions. Supervisor Brandon Lowe was absent.

More changes to township personnel policies are expected, Barlow said. Police Chief Don Boehs is in the process of updating the police department’s policies and procedures manual. Boehs said Solicitor John Lisko is reviewing proposed revisions to the department’s disciplinary code. Boehs is also identifying other areas of the manual that are outdated.

### Spring Showers Flood Roads

Flooding issues have plagued township

roads as the seasons transitioned from winter to spring, Barlow said. Barlow urged township residents to be mindful of road closures.

He said going around designated signs puts drivers at risk, as well as rescuers responding to the high water. It is illegal to ignore a sign indicating a closed roadway and citations will be issued, Barlow said.

Barlow said the township’s road department is identifying roads that need deeper ditches to mitigate flooding. Road crews will continue to tackle flood mitigation throughout the summer so fewer roads will be closed next spring.

In other road department business, temporary patches have been applied to

potholes appearing on township roads, Barlow said. A more permanent fix, called cold patching, has been delayed until consistent good weather graces the township, according to Barlow.

### Police Department To Update Policy Manual

In other business, housekeeping amendments are underway to update the Liberty Township Police Department’s Policy and Procedures Manual.

Revisions have been finished regarding the department’s disciplinary code, according to Chief Don Boehs.

Officials including the township solicitor are now renewing the manual to identify any other policies in need of update, he said.

## Deja Brew welcomes second location to Fairfield

With a local love that could not be contained to just one shop, New Oxford’s Deja Brew Coffee and Bakery recently expanded to open a Fairfield location at Miney Branch.

The second location promises the same community coffee shop vibes that Deja Brew has been notable for years in downtown New Oxford at 16 Center Square.

Carroll Valley resident Tara Whittington co-owns Deja Brew at Miney Branch located at 815 Waynesboro Pike.

Whittington has been in the restaurant business her entire life and when her Fairfield Area High School classmate and friend Josh Keeny -owner of the New Oxford Deja Brew - offered her the position, she jumped at the opportunity to bring local coffee services to the community.

“There’s nothing like it around here,” she said.

Living in the community her whole life, Whittington didn’t think there was anyone local she didn’t know—until she opened the Miney Branch doors.

“Because of this, we get to meet them,” she said.

The Fairfield coffee shop is referred to as the Miney Branch location, after the neighboring creek that runs directly behind the shop and flows into Tom’s Creek.

Whittington noted a number of customers who have lived in the area their entire lives and never knew the creek had a name.

“It’s our way of connecting with the local area of the community,” she said, “It’s a perfect location.”

Housed in a former PNC bank, the Deja Brew at Miney Branch is nestled at the corner of Route 166 and Route 16, which brings in a variety of customers from near and far.

Deja Brew at Miney Branch opened its doors in November and already has its own groups of consistent regulars. Whittington’s favorite aspect of what she does is serving the people who walk through the door every day.

“I am a people person, I love to talk to everyone,” she said.

The building was a former PNC Bank and sat vacant for a number of years, Whittington said. Being a former bank, the Deja Brew at Miney Branch also welcomes visitors to take a spin through its convenient drive-through.

Deja Brew at Miney Branch has eight employees who are a tight knit hard-working family, Whittington said, and each one can be counted on to welcome and serve customers as warmly as a fresh cup of coffee.

Barista Lilly Kuykendall said she loves to talk with all the different people and create real connections with

coffee connoisseurs, tea enthusiasts and hot chocolate aficionados.

Kuykendall enjoys the creativity that she and her fellow employees get to convey everyday through crafting quality drinks and going wild with flavor combinations to create seasonal specialties, including snickerdoodle lattes and white mocha with salted caramel cold foam.

With coffee from the Ragged Edge Coffee House, breakfast sandwiches from Feed Bag Carry Out, and Curly

Q’s cookies, Deja Brew sates customers with a dedication to quality and locally sourced ingredients through collaboration within the community.

The bakery also provides a wide assortment of fresh baked gluten-free offerings courtesy of the New Oxford Deja Brew bakery.

Moving forward, the Miney Branch location has plans to partner with Mr. G’s Ice Cream in Gettysburg offering frozen scoops during the warmer months.

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## THURMONT NEWS

# Council mulls potential water, sewer rate increases

Chris Simms, principal of Smart Utility Management, LLC, presented a data analysis on current water rates and sewer rates to the Board of Commissioners. Based on his data, he suggested the Town of Thurmont increase their rates for both water and sewer, which the Council plans to vote on at a future meeting.

Water rates and sewer rates have not changed in Thurmont since 2012, despite inflation in recent years. "Up until this point, the Town was able to manage those expenses, but it's increased at such a pace that it's going to take an actual intervention and change in the rates in order to cover those increasing costs," Simms said. At

the end of the fiscal year, he expects the water and wastewater departments to see a combined \$200,000 loss.

Simms conducted a three-year analysis comparing three different scenarios: no retail rate change, minimum retail rate change and maximum retail rate change. He increased predicted operating expenses by 4% each year to take inflation into account. However, according to Simms, he knows that some expenses, such as utilities, will increase by more than 4% each year. For those costs, the calculations include an increase of 15%.

Without an increase in retail rates for both water and sewer, Simms' analysis revealed a \$301,529 loss to

the Town for both water and sewer operating income in FY-25. The deficit would continue, Simms found, to a \$402,760 total loss in FY-26 and a \$508,507 total loss in FY-27.

"If we were just to effectively break even for FY-25, then that would require a 14% increase in the water rates and a 10% increase in the sewer rates," Simms said. With these numbers, according to Simms, the Town would bring in about \$136,000 more for water and about \$165,000 for sewer. The total operating income for FY-25 would be \$76 after expenses.

Increased water rates and sewer rates will allow the Town to contribute to a capital reserve account for emergencies

or other, unexpected expenses. "If we do not contribute to the capital reserve accounts, then we will deplete all of the cash available to cover any capital project," Simms said. "So any capital project going forward, no matter how small, will then need to be financed." He went on to explain that a financial institution will charge fees, which the customer will end up paying. However, by increasing rates for water and sewer, residents will essentially be "prepaying" for these emergencies or other unexpected expenses.

Commissioner Marty Burns was concerned about the Town spending the money recklessly once it has a capital reserve in place. Simms said that even if the funds are in one bank account, the

money in the water and sewer reserves will still be required to be used for projects under their respective departments.

Mayor John Kinnaird supported the idea of a capital reserve fund, assuring Burns that the Board would be responsible with the money. "We can't plan for computer failure, we can't plan for a pump failure," Kinnaird said. "We can't plan for any of that stuff, unless we do this kind of thing, where we put money aside so it's there in case of emergencies."

Burns said that he's not against an emergency fund, that he is just concerned about the amount of money and reckless spending. He would prefer to be "strategic" about any increases.

# Town accepts State bond to fund projects

The Town Council voted to approve an ordinance that allows the Town to procure bonds through the Local Government Infrastructure Program, issued by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Development Administration.

The Town applied for this bond in January to fund the Moser Road Substation as well as additional departmental upgrades. Electric Engineer Jay Waller from Preston Waller & Associates presented estimates for the Moser Road Substa-

tion project in August and January, where the total quote remained \$2,425,000. The quote includes labor, engineering, all parts and materials, contingencies, etc.

The bond, not to exceed \$4.2 million, can also help to fund other Town projects such as the Catocin Heights feeders, estimated at \$1.1 million, and \$348,000 for a new bucket truck. The total of the three projects, including the Substation, reaches \$3.8 million.

"We put a little extra on there so that if something increases by \$100,000, we're not totally shocked

by it," Mayor John Kinnaird said at the Jan. 23 meeting. "We're realizing up front that there can be cost increases between now and when we do the project."

Charles "Charlie" Day, Manager of the Infrastructure Bond Program, joined the meeting to answer questions about repayment of the bonds. He explained that the Council can lower the bond amount if they later find that the estimates are higher than the actual price.

Commissioner Marty Burns asked Day about early repayment and

any potential fees for doing so. Day explained that there are "lockout periods," which typically last ten years and during which there are redemption provisions. "It's because investors want to know when they lend us their money and purchase our bonds that at least for ten years they will receive a guaranteed investment stream," Day said. "Once we get to the ten-year mark, all bets are off and a local government can prepay all or a portion of its outstanding indebtedness." One caveat of the bonds, according to Day, is that the term of the loan cannot

outlast the useable life of the project.

According to Day, it's because of these "lockout periods" that the program can offer a lower interest rate to local governments. He went on to explain that because investors know that they will have the income stream for a minimum of ten years, they are more willing to accept a lower interest rate on their investment.

Thurmont has secured a 20-year loan for the bucket truck and a 25-year loan for the Moser Road Substation. According to Day, these loan terms are longer than what banks will typically offer, making the State program a better option with flat rates.

# Comments reinstated on Town's Facebook page

Over a year after the social media policy was implemented, the Town Council voted 3 to 2 to reinstate comments on the Town's Facebook page, with Mayor Kinnaird and Commissioner Wayne Hooper opposing the motion. The old

policy restricted comments on the Town's Facebook page, but allowed comments to remain open on other Town pages, such as "Thurmont Main Street." The policy was initially created to address bullying and threats toward the Council and other

residents in Facebook posts.

While comments will be reinstated, Kinnaird reiterated that residents will still be restricted from posting directly to the Town's Facebook page.

Commissioner Marty Burns, who was not a commissioner when the policy was implemented, requested to revisit the issue due to his concerns about First Amendment rights, a platform in his campaign. "To restrict anyone the ability to address their elected officials, which is what people really were going after, I think is counterproductive to a democratic society," he said.

Town Attorney Leslie Powell reviewed the policy for First Amendment rights issues and told the Council that the Town is constrained under the First Amendment not to delete comments since they are a gov-

ernment entity. However, this does not include comments that involve hateful or harmful speech. The sites can also remove comments that don't follow their specific guidelines.

Powell said the new policy would allow the Town to have the authority to remove public comments containing obscenities, discrimination, sexual content, illegal activity, and threats to health and safety. Before removing comments, however, administrators of the Facebook page would be obligated to record them through screenshots.

Before voting, Kinnaird told the commissioners that they "will" be subject to rude or threatening comments on the Town Facebook page. When Commissioner Bob Lookingbill told him that he can block them on his personal page, Kin-

naird reminded him and the others that they can block residents on personal pages but never on the Town page.

Commissioner Bill Blakeslee, who was a commissioner when the Council voted 4-0 to pass the social media policy a year ago, said he disagreed with restricting comments on Facebook. However, he wouldn't have voted to create a Town Facebook page in the first place had he been on the Council at the time. "But since it's on there, you gotta be big boys and accept it. Whatever they say, they say," Blakeslee said. "You can't just cut it out now."

Hooper stood by the original decision, pointing out that residents can email the Mayor and Commissioners or speak during public comment at the Town meetings. Hooper and Kinnaird were both concerned about the negativity and bullying, especially those that come from two commenters in particular. Kinnaird was also worried about the page being inappropriate for all ages to read due to vulgar language. "To me, the Thurmont Facebook page should be a Facebook page that all ages can read," he said.

Kinnaird also mentioned that some residents will ask for assistance on Facebook that requires action, which then gets lost in the comments. He was concerned that residents will ask for requests or repairs via Facebook rather than the appropriate methods.

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## TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Plans for new Public Works building take shape

City Manager Jim Wieprecht introduced plans earlier this year for the replacement of the current dilapidated Public Works buildings, allowing all the equipment and supplies to be housed in one building. Initially, both the public and the Council's response was frustration at the seven-million-dollar price tag that came with the concept, but Wieprecht added that the project has been on the Capital Improvement Plan for a number of years.

After a detailed presentation by Public Works employees showing conditions of the six current buildings, which included leaks, cramped spaces, and the overall ineffectiveness in protecting their equipment from vandalism and weather damage, the Council was convinced that something needed to be done.

Of the six buildings, three of

them were in poor enough condition that they should be demolished: the main shop, a concrete block building originally built in the 50s, the Roberts Mill Park shop, and the old police garage. The current machine shop and the other two buildings at Memorial Park can be saved for Parks and Recreation for equipment storage. Removing the three dilapidated buildings would also open additional space for parking and allow Parks and Recreation to add baseball batting tunnels to be used during inclement weather.

The proposed new building will be built on a five-acre parcel off Allendale Lane that already has water and sewer hookups. The building will sit along the southwest end of the parcel closest to the hookups to save on infrastructure cost. Councilman Christopher Tillman asked

if the remainder of the parcel could be used for a solar panel field. Wieprecht replied that they would need to discuss it with CGI energy consultants, but it could work.

Solar panels are included in the plan with the hope that it will be a net zero project, resulting in no cost to the electrical system. "It will most likely generate more electricity than it will use," said Director of Public Works Kevin Smeak. Mayor Christopher Miller commented that the Governor's Office grants look at solar panels as a positive for grant funding. Wieprecht said geothermal heating and cooling is also being considered.

The building is projected to include a designated chlorine storage unit, a wash bay for vehicle care, a mechanical room, a clerk's office for file storage, two addi-

tional offices, an IT room for future backup for the entire city, and a 40' by 80' salt bin. Employees will have a resting room to sleep or relax in when on long shifts, such as during snowstorms, a breakroom, two bathrooms, and a 40-person classroom useful for training sessions.

Assistant Director of Public Works, Randy Meyers, explained that the State is pushing for brine to be used more than salt during winter storms in the future and this building would allow for storage of the brine tanks inside, protecting the material used to store the brine which can be deteriorated by direct sunlight. "We may not see the requirement for brine for 10 years, but we want to be ready," he said.

Councilwoman Diane Foster has been an active participant in the search for grants for the new

building. She stated at the March meeting that Town staff are attempting to procure as much grant money as possible by automatically applying to all available grants where the building plans meet the grant requirements.

At April's meeting, Wieprecht asked the Council to approve spending \$331,700 to begin the complicated process of designing the site and construction plans. The plans will show exact details of the building's interiors and exteriors, details about stormwater management and landscaping, as well as other important factors in the building process. "To put this in perspective," said Wieprecht, "the wastewater treatment plant upgrade plans drawn in 2008 cost us \$495,000."

The Council approved the request to continue drawing up the plans in a unanimous vote.

## Main Street Advisory Board clarifies status

At the City Council's April meeting, Main Street Advisory Board Chair Brandi Bollinger presented the Board's evolution since their restart in December. "I want you to know that we are a Board of driven individuals that are complicated and are unpaid but are willing to make sacrifices to see success," she said.

Per City Code, the purpose of the Board is to strengthen the economic potential of the walkable business district. The six-member board is made up of representatives of six different subcommittees: design, promotion, economic vitality, organization, arts and

entertainment, and clean-green and safe.

Bollinger said it took her some time to determine where each subcommittee was in their evolution. Her biggest struggle as chair has been how to help each group succeed where they are and not where someone else thought they should be. She described the different stages that the six subcommittees fall into.

Some of the subcommittees are in the "founding" stage, where they are just beginning. She explained the need for support at this stage to form effective forward thinking partnerships to

progress and gain confidence in their objectives.

The second stage is "organization" where processes are documented, goals are created, financial requests are made and movement towards adopting bylaws begins. Bollinger said that the process to adopt bylaws has been made much easier with the City attorney rejoining town staff.

According to Bollinger, most of the subcommittees are in stage three, the "double hatter" stage. In this stage members are responsible for different roles or "wearing more than one hat," she explained. The work at this stage is still being done

by the subcommittee members and not volunteers making this a big challenge for them to commit to a scheduled timeline of events outside of larger scale community events i.e. cleanups, because they have so few volunteers.

Stage four is "transitional" which is where the Promotions subcommittee thrives. "They are great at asking questions such as what are you doing? What is working? What isn't working? Why do we do that? and what is the perception of this?" said Bollinger. These questions are key in aiding each subcommittee in achieving their goals.

The last stage is "Visions" where, "as chair I see possibilities to connect each of my committees to one another," said Bollinger. She said she looks at the connections between each committee, common events, goals, collaborations with the police department, parks and recreation and civic groups so everyone has the opportunities to be involved and share ideas in town.

"We are a Main Street advisory board not a Taneytown advisory board so our biggest struggle so far is what falls into our job description," said Bollinger. "We don't want it to always be about money or businesses but about people coming out to enjoy their Main Street."

## Additional classrooms slated for elementary school

At the April Planning Commission Meeting, Bill Caine, Facilities Planner for the Carroll County Board of Education, introduced a concept site plan to add four classrooms onto the east side of Taneytown Elementary School. These rooms would be specifically for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes.

Commission Chair James Parker asked if the additional classrooms were for existing students or additional ones. Caine replied, "both, as we are planning for the future, but we also need more space now." The elementary school currently has two classrooms for kindergarten and one pre-k classroom. "Kindergarten used to be a half day class, so they had a morning and an afternoon class, and two rooms were enough. Now there are four kindergarten teachers using empty first grade classrooms, computer labs and the health room, so we need two more kindergarten rooms," said Caine.

The new addition will use a portion of the existing pre-k classroom as a corridor to get to the new classrooms. The plans show one of the two new pre-k classrooms replacing

the old classroom. With the addition of a second pre-k classroom, this means the school will be hiring a second pre-k teacher in the fall. Caine explained that the school is preplanning for the expansion of the existing half-day pre-k programs into full-day pre-k programs per the Maryland Blueprint law that was passed in 2021 to make pre-k more available to every three and four-year-old in the state. The second pre-k classroom will be able to handle an additional 20 four-year-olds, allowing for some increase in capacity.

Other elementary schools in the area received additions in the late

2000's, however Taneytown was one of four that did not. Caine said the reason was because they were under capacity at that time, however they are now getting close to capacity and need the space.

Parker clarified his concerns with specific regard to traffic increases the addition may create. Caine explained that the school does not anticipate additional bus traffic; however, there's no way to tell how the addition will impact parent drop off numbers. "If we plan for 80 parent drop offs one year the next year we have 150," he said. Parker suggested changing the school bus

range from a one-mile radius to a half-mile, meaning that anyone beyond half a mile would need to ride a bus to school. A decision of that magnitude would be up to the Board of Education, said Caine. "We would love all kids to ride the buses," he said. "It costs millions of

dollars to run them, but we can't force parents to use them."

Darryl Hale, Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer, said the plans are flying through the county review process and to expect them to be back as soon as next month for concept plan approval.

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

### Congressman David Trone

I hear the same things all over our State. Maryland voters are tired of being pawns in a rigged system. Tired of politicians making promises that are never kept. Tired of the PACs and lobbyists who give contributions to stop progress on the issues ravaging our communities — addiction, mental health, a systemically racist criminal justice system, and more.

I'm tired of it, too. The middle class is struggling, and the average voter is left in the shadows every day. That's a big reason why I'm running for the United States Senate.

People have always asked me: why in the world would a successful businessman leave his company to run for office? My answer is simple: it's not about politics, it's about public service. I'm a public servant who knows what

it's like to fight for a better life for their family, someone who knows what it's like to struggle.

I grew up on a working farm, cleaning hog pens and selling eggs to make a living.

When I was 11, we had no working plumbing and had to use an outhouse. Then, my family lost our farm to the bank. They took our homes, our jobs, and everything we knew. So, I went back to school and started a business to help support my family.

From one small store, we've grown into the nation's largest retailer of wine and spirits, Total Wine and More. Today, we have over 200 stores in 28 states. I'm running because I've been incredibly privileged to live the American Dream. And I'm going to fight to make sure that every Marylander has an equal opportu-

nity to live that same dream.

I'll never back down from a fight. I never spent my days dialing for dollars or seeking fundraisers. I've focused on the only thing that truly matters in this fight: the people I represent.

I'm on the mission because this is personal to me — and I know they're personal to all of you, too. When my nephew Ian died of a fentanyl overdose in 2016, I realized that no family should have to go through the pain that mine felt. So, I've worked tirelessly to make that a reality.

Growing up, my dad was an abusive alcoholic. I had many loved ones who told me that they were struggling with their mental health. When I realized that there was not even enough care available for those who needed it, I started a task force in Congress to

address these problems.

When I realized that our criminal justice system was systemically racist, I focused on reducing recidivism and improving reentry outcomes for justice-impacted individuals. I launched the Trone Center at the ACLU to tackle unjust practices like cash bail and mandatory minimums, and I took that fight to Congress for the last 3 terms.

I know that folks in this community and all over the state feel left behind. They need a candidate ready to hit the ground running. And they need a candidate who knows what it takes to bring more of our federal tax dollars back to Maryland for programs and projects that will help the people here who pay those taxes.

If you look at my track record, I'm the only candidate in the race who will be ready to go on day one in the Senate. I'm the only one who has stood up for reproductive freedom 100% of the

time, and the only candidate who has stood against the death penalty 100% of the time. And while other candidates, Democrats and Republicans, talk about working on a bipartisan basis to get things done, the record is clear that I am the only one who really does it.

While my attention is on the primary, we need to think past May and worry about November. We can't afford to get this one wrong because the GOP is counting on Maryland to provide a vote to make healthcare and prescription drugs more expensive, and to make it harder for those to access Medicare and Social Security.

More than ever, it's time to send a disruptor and a change agent to the United States Senate. It's time to reject the status quo and finally put people over politics. On May 14th, I hope you will cast your vote for me — because there is more work to do.

### Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

May is here and nature is treating us to a spectacularly colorful show! I love seeing the mountain as the green leaves appear at the bottom and rise to the top over a few weeks. The amazing weather will also bring out bike riders, hikers, skateboarders, and runners. Be sure to give plenty of right-of-way for our neighbors and guests as they enjoy the great outdoors.

This month I want to thank our community volunteers. Thurmont has several citizen commissions including Planning & Zoning, Board of Appeals, Police Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Thurmont Addiction Commission, Ethics Commission, and Thurmont Green Team. Positions on these commissions

are filled by community volunteers. Each and every one of these volunteers serve our community by sacrificing their free time to attend meetings and events, and are deserving of our thanks and gratitude. Members are selected to serve for a term that average four years. I encourage everyone to please consider applying for these positions as they are available. Being a volunteer not only helps our town, but the act of serving the community can be personally satisfying.

The Town of Thurmont received our 8th straight Tree City USA award during the Greenfest. A large part of this award comes from the hard work of volunteers who help plant trees and flowers in Thurmont. Several hundred trees have been planted

by volunteers including school children, Scouts, adults, and Green Team members. Thurmont has always enjoyed a beautiful green canopy, the efforts of these volunteers will help ensure our community has trees to enjoy well into the future.

Thurmont is fortunate to have several wonderful organizations that work hard to make our community the best possible place to live in Frederick County. The Thurmont Lions Club sponsored the Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Community Park. The Lions held many events throughout

the year to raise funds for their many community projects. We have an amazing Scout organization that educates children in outdoor activities, sporting events, and valuable guidance so the Scouts grow into productive, considerate, and well-rounded community members.

There are many other groups and associations that work selflessly to improve the lives of our residents and make our community the best it can be. These volunteers have many reasons for doing what they do. Every one of them helps because of a deep-seated desire to make others lives better. They don't expect much in return, but we as

a community owe all of them a great deal of gratitude for their sacrifices.

Again, I would like to thank the members of the town commissions, and all the members of our many community organizations for all you do for our community. You may not always be thanked for your service, and unfortunately, there are those that are critical, but each of you should be assured that the majority of our community appreciates your hard work and commitment.

I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful month of May. As always, I can be reached by phone at 301-606-9458 or by email at [jkinnaird@thurmont.com](mailto:jkinnaird@thurmont.com).

### Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

As we are halfway through the Spring season it is the time of year to work on your list of chores that have built up over the winter. But you need to take time and enjoy other activities and May is full of things to do.

May 3-5 we will once again host the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service. This will bring families from across the country to Emmitsburg as part of the healing process from losing a loved one in the line-of-duty. Please help me welcome our guests and make them feel at home during their visit.

May 4th The Emmitsburg Eagles PTO will be hosting a Spring Festival at the E. Eugene Myers Community Park. There will be vendors and activities for the whole family.

May 4 The Emmitsburg Lions Club will have a Chicken BBQ at the VHC Activities Building on Creamery Road.

May 11 The Vigilant Hose Company will be holding their Annual Spring Fling at the Activities Building on Creamery Road

May 11 Mount Saint Mary's University will be holding their 2024 Graduation Ceremony which will bring family members of the graduates to celebrate this exciting event.

Please check the organization's social media sites for more detail.

I am excited that we are kicking off our new Citizen Alert and Notification Application. Please visit the town Webpage for more information.

Finally, I know many of you have

experienced water issues during the last thirty days and we appreciate your understanding. We have had several incidents that contributed to low pressure and brown water. The fire hydrant system was used for a fire incident along with annual hydrant flushing and flow testing. We experienced two water main breaks and a malfunction with a pressure reducing valve. We are taking steps to minimize these disruptions and will continue to upgrade our water system to reduce the effects to your homes and businesses.

I will be out and about walking the neighborhoods daily, and I hope to meet and chat with you to talk about your thoughts of our great little town.

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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Last month, I submitted my proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025. The operating and capital budgets are anchored in my administration's core values of accountability, inclusion, and sustainability. This budget reflects a huge amount of community input from my district-based listening sessions, public hearings, the Balancing Act survey, and emails. That feedback was important as I determined strategic investments that are fiscally responsible and data-driven.

For the 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row, Frederick County ranks as one of Maryland's healthiest counties, with health factors and outcomes far exceeding the national average. Good health is no accident. It takes planning and a commitment to making healthy choices. This proposed budget delivers a healthy Frederick County. Here are some highlights:

**Strong Financial Health** - The proposed budget sets aside healthy reserve funds, meets our long-term pension obligations, and makes tactical investments to protect our AAA bond rating from all three rating agencies. This saves taxpayers millions of dollars that we can then invest into the community.

**Education and Workforce Development** - Since taking office a little over a year ago, my Administration has

increased funding to Frederick County Public Schools by nearly \$60 million more than required by Maintenance of Effort. Frederick County now ranks among the top five counties in Maryland for funding above MOE. We are enhancing our apprenticeship program in partnership with FCPS to provide more opportunities for high school students in County government.

**Housing & Quality of Life** - This budget will help Frederick County deliver the services residents need and want to maintain good health and live their best lives. A one-time infusion of resources into the Housing Initiative Fund will expand current programs, such as homebuyer downpayment assistance, deferred loans, and housing rehab programs.

We heard repeatedly from the community about the need for a surgery coordinator at Animal Control to streamline operations and enhance spay and neuter services. This position is included in the proposed budget.

**Public Safety** - This budget invests in the people who keep us safe - those in our Division of Fire and Rescue Services, both career and volunteer, as well as Emergency Management, the Sheriff's Office, and the State's Attorney's Office. It focuses on improved service and training, as well as employee health

and wellness for all our first responders.

My proposal also establishes a budget to cover high insurance deductibles for our volunteer fire and rescue companies. The FY25 budget also honors the multi-year contract commitment we made to our firefighters, and it funds new contracts for our deputies and correctional officers to include key salary and benefit enhancements.

**Public Health and Human Services** - This budget provides funding to assist our seniors and veterans by enhancing opportunities within the Division of Aging and Independence. It includes funding for the Division of Family Services to expand assistance to children, youth, and caregivers. The budget also provides funding and staff support for hearing and vision screenings throughout Frederick County Public Schools.

**Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Transportation** - The farming community asked for an additional position in our newly launched Office of Agriculture to enhance customer service, which I have included. And we are adding a CDL trainer position to Transit to better train, recruit, and retain excellent Transit drivers.

The Division of Energy and Environment is implementing our Climate

and Energy Action Plan. This budget provides additional support, including project managers for the Clean Energy Program and the Power Saver Retrofits program. These investments not only help us meet our energy and climate goals, but also help generate energy savings to households living paycheck to paycheck.

Everywhere I go, I hear people talking about how important it is to invest in our aging infrastructure, especially our older school buildings. We fund new schools and additions through impact and mitigation fees that developers pay. But we can't use those funds to address our schools that were built 40 to 50 years ago and are in need of renovations or replacements to better serve our students.

This budget puts us on a path to addressing this challenge. While most of our neighboring counties have increased their property tax rates to account for rising costs, Frederick County's overall rate has not increased in nearly 20 years. We are proposing a property tax rate of \$1.11, which will generate nearly \$21.5 million in additional revenue annually and will be dedicated solely to school construction projects. This proposal amounts to an increase of \$15 per month for the average homeowner in the county. A majority of the County Council has committed to this change to ensure we continue to put our students first.

**Government Innovation** - Included in my budget is a 2% cost-of-living salary adjustment for County staff - one of the most requested items from the Balancing Act budget survey. This is in addition to a traditional merit increase. Together, this salary enhancement is on par with neighboring jurisdictions, including the City of Frederick.

Our Office of Communications and Public Engagement gets information about County functions, news, and updates to our residents. I am proposing several strategic investments in this office, including the addition of a bilingual multimedia tech and a social media specialist, as well as increased funding for translation services to ensure our County materials are more accessible.

**Economic Development and Jobs** - Frederick County's economy is growing at a steadier rate than the State overall. We are focused on identifying strategies to bring high-paying, quality jobs to our community, and to support local entrepreneurs who want to start or expand here. The budget allows us to recruit more businesses and to develop strategic plans for our economic development efforts. We are almost ready to launch our Economic Opportunity Plan through our Livable Frederick office which will explore how we can better plan employment growth throughout the County.

## County Council President Brad Young

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater presented the County's Proposed Budget for FY-25 on April 15. The proposed fiscal year 2025 budget totals \$981.9 million. It has a proposed property tax increase of five centers and dedicated for school construction. The proposed budget also provides for \$10 million above the State's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) educational funding requirement.

On April 23, the Council held a Public Hearing for the FY-25 Board of Education and Frederick County Government Budget. Following this Public Hearing, the Council held three days of Budget workshops on April 24, April 25, and April 26 from 10 to 4. During these workshops, the Council Members met with leaders from the Departments within the Frederick County Government to discuss Budget needs and priorities.

The Council will begin to discuss possible Budget Amendments on April 30. The Amendment proposal and approval process will continue after April 30. The Public Hearing for the County's Property Tax Rate will be held on May 7. The Final Budget with any possible approved Amendments

must be approved by the Council by May 31.

The County Council recently passed Bill 24-02, amending the Frederick County Code Regarding the Sustainable Monocacy Commission. Bill 24-03, passed by 6-1 vote, revises the Braddock Heights, Libertytown, and New Addition Electric Lighting District tax rates so that projected revenue covers projected costs.

Upcoming legislation includes Bill 24-04, Revising the Frederick County Building Code, Bill 24-05, Revising the Frederick County Electrical Code, and Bill 24-06, Revising the Frederick County Plumbing Code. I am sponsoring these Bills on behalf of the County Executive. Relevant documentation and the text of all Bills will be linked to our agendas. All documentation 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@frederick-countymd.gov](mailto:councilmembers@frederick-countymd.gov). Please visit our website at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/)

county council to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

And as always, if there is ever any-

thing I can do for you, please feel free to reach out to me and my office. You can contact me via email at: [BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov), or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is May. There are several important dates to keep in mind. The Adams County Chiefs of Police Association will host the Adams County Fallen Officers Memorial Service on Friday, May 3rd, at 10 at the Adams County 911 Center at 230 Greenamyer Lane, Gettysburg. At the service, a roll of the seven fallen officers of Adams County and the 2023 fallen officers of Pennsylvania will be read. If you have any questions concerning the services, please contact the Adams County District Attorney's Office. The Covered Device Recycling will be held on May 4th from 8-11 in Highland Township at 3641 Fairfield Road.

This spring event is for Park's Garbage Service customers living in Carroll Valley, Fairfield Boroughs and Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, and Liberty Townships. Just drive up. No appointment is required. Only the following items can be turned in:

computers, copiers, keyboards, modems, monitors, printers, routers, scanners, stereo receivers, and gaming equipment units, but not their peripherals. Note televisions must be removed from their wooden cabinets.

Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12th – a day we set aside to remember those “mom moments” that made us who we are today. The community is invited to the 3rd Annual Fairfield Area School District Art Exhibition hosted by the Carroll Valley Borough from April 26th to May 27th. Approximately 200 pieces of artwork will be displayed in the borough's conference room and halls. On Friday, May 10th, a reception will be held to meet these young artists from 4 to 6 pm. Come down to the Borough Office.

The Carroll Valley Trout Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, April 20th. Thank you, Council, especially Councilman Coby Gilbert,

for organizing the derby, where he and his volunteers welcome over 50 young anglers to Carroll Commons. Thank you to McSherrystown Fish and Game, the Laptook Family, and Redding's Hardware for their donations to the event. Coby told me, “The first youngster to catch his limit was from the 5-8 age bracket and did it in 12 minutes; everyone seemed to have a great time. Pictures can be viewed and downloaded by visiting [ronspictures.net](http://ronspictures.net).

As the weather improves (less rain and wind) over time, many residents are starting to rake leaves and gather fallen tree branches. The question is, what should we do with the debris? One suggestion is to transport the debris to the Washington Township Refuse Transfer Station at 12721 Buchanan Trail East (off Rt 16) in Waynesboro, PA. Before going, check out their website at [washwp-franklin.org/transfer-station/](http://washwp-franklin.org/transfer-station/)

or call 717-762-4413 for further information on what they accept and the cost.

Read the Carroll Valley Borough Ordinance 6-2008 if you plan to burn. The ordinance contains information about what you are and are not allowed to burn and your safety and supervisory responsibilities. The ordinance is in Chapter 20. To see a copy of the ordinance, go to [carrollvalley.org](http://carrollvalley.org), and on the home page, type open burning in the search box, and then click on the ordinance. If you have any questions, call the borough office at 717-642-8269.

May is known as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month”. May brings dog ticks and black-legged ticks, also known as deer ticks. These black-legged ticks' bite spread the bacteria that infect people and our lovable dogs and cats with Lyme disease. We live in a beautiful valley. However, we need to avoid tick-infested areas. For example, when walking through the woods, stay on cleared, well-traveled trails and avoid tall grass and

brushy areas. Wear protective clothing – wear light-colored clothing, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and shoes that cover your entire foot. Tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants. Shower within two hours of potential tick exposure to wash away before they bite. In short, keep yourself and your family safe while you are enjoying our beautiful valley.

The Borough meetings are Planning Commission (Monday – May 6th), Borough Council (Tuesday – May 14th), Parks/Recreation Committee (Wednesday – May 2nd) and Public Sewer Advisory Committee (Tuesday – May 28th). For Memorial Day, the Borough Office will be closed on Monday – May 27th. As the weather warms up, more residents will be walking on our trails – please be careful when driving, especially in the evening. To the residents, when walking at night, you should wear reflective clothing to be seen by drivers. If I can be of help, contact me at 301-606-2021 or email [MayorRonHarris@comcast.net](mailto:MayorRonHarris@comcast.net).

# Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Thank you to the poll workers for their time and diligence and to all voters who came out to cast their vote in the primary election on April 23rd. The township offices are closed during elections to allow for the space to be used for voting. We apologize to anyone who looking for regular township services that may have been inconvenienced. At our April Board of Supervisors meeting, we awarded a cleaning contract for our Municipal Building to Wetzel's Cleaning from Hanover. We are excited to work with them and want to thank the other compa-

nies who took the time to place bids that were not selected. The Board of Supervisors also selected Architectural Doors and Hardware from York to perform the needed repairs on our main entry door and the replacement of the Road Department shop door.

Within the last month, a lot has happened within the Road Department of Liberty Township. We had multiple events of severe flooding and trees coming down on the Township roads. We will be starting our Spring and Summer projects including ditching work on Girl Scout Road to open the ditches.

This work is in preparation for new pipes to be installed on Girl Scout Road. I was in contact with Deb Musselman from low volume roads to come out in May to see if there are options such as grants or other resources to help fund the future projects for Girl Scout Road. Our hope is to address the drainage problems this year and address the blackout issues next year.

We finished the soil samples on Bullfrog Road, and we are currently waiting for the results, and as soon as these come back, we can put the bid packets out. My goal is to have Bullfrog Road's full

depth reclamation done by August. During the last major storm, Wenschhof Road was closed for multiple days due to flooding and trees floating down the water and ending up on the road. I want to work to address Wenschhof Road for the parts that are intersected by Flat Run that have continued to flood and cause issues for residents.

I completed a PennDOT/PSATS Roadmaster's symposium in Hershey which was to educate roadmasters from across the state on new innovations to help their municipalities. One of the topics covered was HOP, which is a highway occupancy permit, and how it impacts residents who live along state roads. Another topic addressed was vehicle weight, what signage is used to enforce it, and how to address it on a local level. The Pennsylvania State Police taught the class and provided important information. Liquid fuels money was also addressed and how it can be utilized.

Don't forget to bring your outdated electronics to our electronics recycle event on May 4th from 8 to 11 in the morning at the Highland Township Municipal Building. All Southwest Group Parks Garbage customers are welcome to participate. Please see the flyer on our

website for a list of items that will be accepted. Remember our Pick Up PA Event is going on until May 31st. The Township was provided free supplies from PennDOT, such as gloves, safety vests, and trash bags. Please email [assistant@libertytownship.org](mailto:assistant@libertytownship.org) or call 717-642-3780 to coordinate the pickup of free supplies to participate in this event, and for more information. If you are participating in this event, you are more than welcome to leave your trash bags along the road, and notify the Township, and we will pick up those bags. You are also more than welcome to bring the trash directly to the Liberty Township Building for disposal.

Please remember on Memorial Day weekend to have fun but remain safe. Check with your local fire department to see if there are any burn bans in effect. If you choose to drink, please have a designated driver, or do not drive at all. Next month on June 8, the Fairfield Community Fire Company will be hosting an outdoor event with the gates opening at 10 and lunch and cash drawings starting at noon. There will be a chance to win up to \$5,000! For tickets to this event, contact the Fairfield Community Fire Company at 717-642-8842. This event is a great way to support our local fire department.



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*“This May 15th will be my 40 Year Anniversary as a Realtor! I am delighted to share with you, it has been a wondrous journey. It is a wonderful multi-faceted work which requires one to learn many different things. I have met many, many fabulous people, quite a few of whom have become lifelong friends; some have become family. It is gratifying to work with amazing realtors, lenders, inspectors, closing companies and many others, all the while living in a fantastic area with so much to offer! A big thank you to everyone, here or gone from us, who have graced and enriched my life beyond what I could have imagined. They will never leave my heart! My love and gratitude to you all.”*

*Our family is fortunate to call this gorgeous place our home. Jalé*

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**13 Kern Tr. & 13 Pinehurst Tr., Carroll Valley, PA**  
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**524 Country Club Tr., Carroll Valley, PA**  
Here is a great parcel, less than a mile to Liberty Mt. Ski/Golf Resort. A house on this lot offers a view of part of the Golf Course and Lake Mae. Very close to Gettysburg Battlefield and a few State Parks. .66 Acres. **\$12,500**

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

**4 Tiger Tr., Carroll Valley, PA**  
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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Marty Qually

It is time for another Adams County Broadband update. This update will primarily focus on past and future grant updates and next steps for the Adams County Broadband Taskforce, as we work to maximize results and grant funding for Adams County residents. We are continuing our outreach efforts to educate local elected officials and have begun networking with local and regional Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to get a better feel for their plans in our communities. Both of these efforts are a result of our 2023 Broadband Feasibility Study, which outlined seven areas of focus for our Broadband Taskforce. Please see previous articles to get up to speed on past efforts. If you would like to review the Adams County Broadband Feasibility study, simply go to the county website at [www.adamscountypa.gov](http://www.adamscountypa.gov) and scroll down to the broadband tab or follow the links to the county Planning Office page. Over the next two years there will be much activity in the broadband space, so keep tuned for even more news to come.

Let's start this update with the good news. Adams County and Comcast partnered on and receiving a \$9.4 million grant from the State to expand broadband services in many regions of Adams County. This was the first grant that the state rolled out for broadband last year and after much review the winners were announced in April. Of the over 50 approved applications throughout the state, Comcast's grant in Adams County was the third largest. That is no small achievement for our residents. It means that the Broadband Taskforce and county staff have positioned us well for success and that the state is listening.

In the coming weeks we will meet with Comcast staff to begin coordinating with municipalities on the locations covered by the grant and the timing of installing services. As a part of the grant process county staff were allowed to view the map of improvements proposed by Comcast. While I am currently not a liberty to share that map, details will be forthcoming. The vast majority of improvements will happen in upper Adams, but all totaled 23 municipalities will be impacted. The following municipalities are included in the project area: Berwick Township, Butler Township, Carroll Valley Borough, Conewago Township, Cumberland Township, Franklin Township, Freedom Township, Germany Township, Gettysburg Borough, Hamilton Township, Hamiltonban Township, Highland Township, Huntington Township, Latimore Township, Liberty Township, Menallen Township, Mount Joy Township, Mount Pleasant Township, Oxford Township, Reading Township, Straban Township, Tyrone Township, and Union Township. The areas within these coverage areas will mostly be areas where Comcast was previously not an option. Comcast has already reached out to us to begin to facilitate meetings with municipal officials. Once those are set up, we will have a better idea of the precise project areas.

In other grant news, we are waiting for a state response on a broadband grant applied for by the Center for Youth and Community Development (CFYCD). CFYCD specializes in forming coalitions to support youth and families gain access to services to strengthen families and communities. CFYCD are new to applying

for broadband funds, but they are no stranger to grant writing and serving the public through impactful coalition building. Their application for the Multi-Purpose Community Facilities (MFP) funds totaled \$2,000,000. If awarded, these funds will be used to purchase and renovate a building for the purpose of residents accessing health care monitoring, educational resources, and employment services. CFYCD has a contract on a property in Butler Township close to Biglerville. Leaning on their strength in coalition building, CFYCD included partners from low income services, our local VA office, senior and minority agencies, and the agriculture industry. Their vision is for not just a broadband access facility, but for a community digital hub, where many non-profits will be able to serve their more rural constituents. While not in the heart of Upper Adams, where broadband services are the worst in the county, this property will bring services much closer to the populations that need them and will be very accessible to many residents and non-profit partners.

Over the next few months a smaller state grant program will be released to improve device access to the internet. Residents may be able to afford an internet connection, but they may lack the devices needed to access the internet. This grant will provide small grants to assist organizations in getting devices to residents. We currently do not have many details on this grant, as the state has been focused on the larger grants. We expect more in the coming months. Based upon what we do know, the county anticipates reaching out to the Adams County Library System to gauge their interest in applying for these funds. Libraries are critical anchor institutions, where residents are already

using public computers to access the internet. Hopefully, this device grant will super charge their efforts. TBD.

My last update is about our outreach to local Internet Service Providers (ISPs). As I had stated, one of the focus areas from our Broadband Feasibility Study was to outreach to ISPs and WISPs (Wireless Internet Service Providers). These are the companies on the ground building out the infrastructure. While I would prefer that the internet was a public infrastructure, that is not where we are right now, so working with the providers is critical. Staff and the taskforce just had a meeting with Verizon representatives to gauge their interest in expanding in Adams County. There are about a dozen other providers interested in

applying for state expansion funds. The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program will grant our \$1.16 billion in funds to PA. If Adams County wants their fair share of these funds, we will need to coordinate with local and regional providers to maximize our efforts and reduce duplication.

While we are excited about the \$9,400,000 that Comcast was awarded, we are not sitting back and patting ourselves on the back. We are aggressively partnering on these other grants, so we can reach our goal that every resident and business has access to affordable high speed internet. Again, I encourage you to check out the county website and learn more. Feel free to reach out to me, if you have any questions. [mqually@adamscountypa.us](mailto:mqually@adamscountypa.us).

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# COMMENTARY

## Words from Winterbilt

### Facts and beliefs

Shannon Bohrer

When we are young, we are both consciously and unconsciously imprinted with certain beliefs that we carry with us for the rest of our lives. You expect to have those same beliefs, like right and wrong and other values and opinions over the course of your lifetime. It is understood that not everyone has the same beliefs, but your thoughts are that most people have some common beliefs. Having that foundation of core beliefs allows one to make sense of the world around them. It is a fact that science is real and explains much of our world. The earth rotates around the sun, and the tilt of the earth relates to our seasons. In fact, many of the beliefs, like science, are reinforced with general education.

As someone born in the late 1940s, the beliefs with which I grew up and believed in for most of my life have been questioned for several years. I do not see the world any differently but apparently many people do, and that perplexes me. I always believed there were good guys and bad guys, and the good guys outnumber the bad guys. As I grew, I realized that my perspective was often too simplistic. It is normal for people to have different thoughts, and in a free country that is real freedom. However, sometimes the different thoughts appear unreasoned in that, from my perspec-

tive, they have no foundation and that puzzles me.

For several years, watching or reading the news seems like watching re-runs of the old television series “Twilight Zone.” What is portrayed as real is often imaginary, and what is not real is represented as factual. Of course, toward the end of the show additional information often explains misleading information and truthfulness is revealed. It was like being intentionally misled, allowing you to question what you believe. In some ways, the show offered lessons on judging too quickly and without all the facts. When reading or watching the current news, the problem is that there is no reveal at the end to explain what some people believe.

*“You must always be willing to truly consider evidence that contradicts your beliefs and admit the possibility that you could be wrong. Intelligence isn’t knowing everything, it’s the ability to challenge everything you know.”*

-Author unknown

When I was young, we were vaccinated against polio, and it worked. COVID-19 is real and upon us. Yet people questioned not just if it was real but whether our government or a foreign entity created it. Vaccines were produced using accepted science, and people would not take them. Some even vilified some well-

known scientists because - they could. Disparaging individuals and organizations for telling the truth was perplexing since it was not logical from my perspective. I knew that anti-vaxxers existed, as they always have, but I had no clue there were so many. Furthermore, why vilify the government, doctors, and scientists?

The term “Alternative facts,” when first spoken, made the national news. The reality is that while the term was coined during the Trump administration, alternative facts or motives have existed for some time. It could be that people when confronted with information that does not fit with their reality, can ignore anything that challenges what they know, or believe they know.

On January 6, 2021, an insurrection occurred at the United States Capital Building in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the insurrection was to prevent the Electoral College votes from being counted, which would confirm the election of President Joe Biden. There are videos of numerous acts of violence against the Capital Police, also with recordings of verbal threats against members of Congress. Many, if not most, of the insurrectionists have stated they were there to protect our democracy. Many believed the election was stolen, yet there has never been any evidence, even with over sixty court cases.

Shortly after the insurrection members of Congress spoke out against the event, saying it was an illegal activity and that participants should be held accountable. The problem that devel-

oped was that the words and beliefs that were spoken - changed. The changes were subtle at first but gradually depicted something that did not occur. No longer were the insurrectionist criminals who should be arrested; those same individuals were transformed into tourists, then patriots and even hostages.

You would think that everyone could agree that someone who assaults a police officer should be arrested and charged with a crime. It is a fact that many were arrested and charged and have been found or pleaded guilty to the charges. Yet, many of the same politicians who vilified the event as criminal behavior have changed their thoughts. One congressperson traveled from Texas to Florida to meet an insurrectionist who was being released from jail. The congressperson, Louie Gohmert, presented the insurrectionist with a flag that had been flown over the capital. Gohmert stated she (the insurrectionist) “is a patriot and American Hero.” Even the “Twilight Zone” would have trouble explaining Gohmert’s actions and words.

In the late 1950s, I watched a television show called “Dragnet.” The show starred Jack Web as Sgt. Friday. At that time, it was the only show about police work, but television was still young. I remember Sgt. Friday interviewing witnesses and victims, often repeating the phrase, “Just the facts, ma’am, just the facts.” Can anyone imagine Sgt. Friday saying, “Just the facts, ma’am, just the facts,” then I will decide what

the real facts are.

As someone who has spent over four decades in law enforcement, I know that facts are critical in the criminal justice system. No one ever goes to court and offers alternative facts. In a book, “A Spy Among Friends,” during World War II, Kim Philby was an Englishman spying for Russia. The Russians believed Philby was a double agent. Russian agents were sent to England for the purpose of exposing Philby as a double agent. The agents followed Philby, and when they lost him, they attributed it to Philby’s brilliant spy craft. While they found no evidence that he was a double agent, they still believed he was a double agent. Strong beliefs, with no factual evidence, do not make the belief true.

In a recent survey, ten percent of people believe the earth is flat. The last president of the Flat Earth Society said the society had members all around the world. Obviously, there are people that have strongly held beliefs that if true, would refute science and facts. In a perverse way strongly held beliefs can prevent a person from accepting new information that challenges those beliefs. Sometimes what we know or think we know can prevent us from learning.

*“Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts.”*

-Daniel Patrick Moynihan

To read prior editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Common Sense

### The party’s over

Robert Reich

On a recent ABC’s “This Week,” host George Stephanopoulos asked New Hampshire’s Republican governor Chris Sununu about his recent switch from supporting former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley for the Republican presidential nomination to supporting former president Trump.

“Your words were very, very clear on January 11, 2021,” Stephanopoulos reminded Sununu. “You said that President Trump’s rhetoric and actions contributed to the insurrection. No other president in history has contributed to an insurrection. So, please explain.”

Sununu responded, “For me, it’s not about him as much as it is having a Republican administration.”

Near the end of the interview, Stephanopoulos said: “Just to sum up, you would support him for president even if he is convicted in classified documents. You would support him for president even though you believe he contributed to an insurrection. You would support him for president even though you believe he’s lying about the last election. You would support him for president even if he’s convicted in the Manhattan case. I just want to say, the answer to that is yes, correct?”

Sununu replied, “Yeah, me and 51 percent of America.”

Stephanopoulos: “I’m asking you

about right and wrong. You’re comfortable with the idea of supporting someone who’s convicted of a federal crime as president?”

Sununu: “No, I don’t think any American is comfortable with any of this. They don’t like any of this, of course, but I mean, when it comes to actually looking at each of these trials as they kind of take place whether it’s this year or next year or as they kind of line up. Right now this is about an election. This is about politics.”

Hello? Politics is not about right and wrong?

I haven’t seen or heard a clearer indictment of the Trump Republican Party.

Friends, the Republican Party is over.

That’s tragic, because American needs two parties capable of governing. It needs two parties with a sense of the common good, even if their interpretations of it differ. It needs principled people in government. Even if politics is sometimes dirty and often frustrating, a functioning democracy depends on it.

It’s tragic to me personally, too. I got my first job in government in the Ford administration (for those of you too young to remember, Gerald Ford was a Republican). I argued Supreme Court cases in Ford’s Department of Justice. Years later, as secretary of labor under Bill Clinton, I worked closely with several Republicans in the House and Senate to enact the Family and Medical Leave Act, raise the min-

imum wage, and protect worker’s pensions.

My father was a Republican who voted for Dwight Eisenhower for president in 1952 and 1956. His father, my grandfather, was a Republican who voted for Alf Landon for president in 1936 and Wendell Willkie in 1940.

The Republican Party once stood for limited government, active opposition to Soviet aggression, and a balanced budget.

Now it stands only for Trump and his authoritarian neofascism. It demands total loyalty to Trump. It has turned his big lie about the 2020 election being stolen into a litmus test of that loyalty. It has no principled core — no sense of right and wrong.

Gerald Ford, the first president I served, is as far from the current Republican Party as was or is any Democratic president.

Sad to say, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation recently declined to present the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service to former Wyoming representative Liz Cheney out of fear that a future President Trump would retaliate against the organization by taking away its tax-exempt status.

In response, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer David Hume Kennerly resigned from the foundation’s board. In his resignation letter, he reminded the board that “Gerald Ford became president, in part, because Richard Nixon had ordered the development of an enemies list and demanded his underlings use the IRS against those listed. That’s exactly what the execu-

tive committee fears will happen if there’s a second coming of Donald Trump.”

Kennerly added:

“Did [Lieutenant] Gerald Ford meet the enemy head-on [in World War II] because he thought he wouldn’t get killed? No. He did it despite that possibility. This executive committee, on the other hand, bolted before any shots were fired. You aren’t alone. Many foundations, organizations, corporations, and other entities are caught up in this tidal wave of timidity and fear that’s sweeping this country. I mistakenly thought we were better than that. This is the kind of acquiescent behavior that leads to authoritarianism. President Ford most likely would have come out even tougher and said that it leads directly to fascism.”

Gerald Ford’s biggest mistake as president was to pardon Richard Nixon. At the time, Ford believed that America had to be shielded from the pain and disruption of a president put on criminal trial and possibly imprisoned. Yet to many Americans, the fact that Nixon would not be held accountable felt like another assault on the common good.

To make matters worse, Nixon continued to insist he had not participated in any crimes. In his 1977 television interviews with British journalist David Frost, he conceded he had “let the American people down” but refused to admit to any wrongdoing.

He said, “If the president does it, that means it is not illegal.” Those words continue to haunt America.

In the end, Nixon pulled off an extraordinary political heist. He persuaded millions of working-class Americans that the Republican Party was their home. Beginning in 1968, Republicans won five of the next six presidential elections. All used Nixon’s playbook, relying on a coalition of corporate America and the white working class, and using racial dog-whistles like “law and order” and “welfare queens.”

Nixon infected the modern Republican Party with a sickness that would ultimately kill it. Donald Trump has finished the job.

Governor Sununu’s willingness to destroy American democracy so his party could stay in power is shared by most Republican office holders today. It is a rejection of American democracy — an abrogation of the self-government that generations of Americans have fought for and died for.

The death of the Republican Party is not to be celebrated. It is a tragedy. It is testament to how fragile our democracy has become. It illustrates what happens when presidents are not held accountable. It is evidence of what occurs when decades of economic gains go mainly to the top. It shows that many Americans have lost sight of our history and ideals, or have become so cynical and hopeless that they are willing to chuck it all in favor of an atrocious human being who claims to be on their side.

To read other articles by Robert Reich visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# The Liberal Patriot

## The Democratic patriotism problem

Ruy Teixeira

Democrats suffer from a patriotism gap. They are viewed as the less patriotic party and Democrats are less likely than Republicans and independents to view themselves as patriotic. Here are some examples.

- A Third Way/Impact Research poll in late 2022 found 56 percent of voters characterizing the Republican party as “patriotic”, compared to 46 percent who felt the same about the Democrats.
- In Gallup’s latest reading on pride in being an American, 55 percent of Democrats said they were extremely or very proud of being American, compared to 64 percent of independents and 85 percent of Republicans who felt that way.
- Perhaps most alarming, in a 2022 poll Quinnipiac found that a majority of Democrats (52 percent) said they would leave the country, rather than stay and fight (40 percent), should the United States be invaded as Ukraine was by Russia.

So the patriotism gap is alive, well, and persistent. Why is this? One key factor is that, for a good chunk of the Democrats’ progressive base, being patriotic is just uncool and hard to square with much of their current political outlook. As Brink Lindsey put it in an important essay on “The Loss of Faith”:

The most flamboyantly anti-American rhetoric of 60s radicals is now

more or less conventional wisdom among many progressives: America, the land of white supremacy and structural racism and patriarchy, the perpetrator of indigenous displacement and genocide, the world’s biggest polluter, and so on. There are patriotic counter-currents on the center-left—think of Obama’s speech at the 2004 Democratic convention, or Hamilton—but these days both feel awfully dated.

Similarly, liberal commentator Noah Smith observed in an essay simply titled “Try Patriotism”:

I’ve seen a remarkable and pervasive vilification of America become not just widespread but de rigeur among progressives since unrest broke out in the mid-2010s...The general conceit among today’s progressives is that America was founded on racism, that it has never faced up to this fact, and that the most important task for combatting American racism is to force the nation to face up to that “history”...Even if it loses them elections, progressives seem prepared to go down fighting for the idea that America needs to educate its young people about its fundamentally White supremacist character...

That conventional wisdom is a problem. It’s why “progressive activists”—eight percent of the population as categorized by the More in Common group, who are “deeply concerned with issues concerning equity, fairness, and America’s direction today”—are so unenthusiastic about their country. Just 34 percent of progressive activists say they are “proud to be American” compared to 62 percent of Asians, 70 percent of blacks, and 76 percent of Hispanics, the very groups whose interests these activists claim to represent. Similarly, in an Echelon Insights survey, 66 percent of

“strong progressives” (about 10 percent of voters) said America is not the greatest country in the world, compared to just 28 percent who said it is. But the multiracial working class (noncollege voters, white and nonwhite) had exactly the reverse view: by 69-23, they said America is the greatest country in the world.

The uncomfortable fact is that these sentiments, and the view of America they represent, are now heavily associated with Democrats by dint of the very significant weight progressive activists carry within the party, which far transcends their actual numbers. Their voice is further amplified by their strong and frequently dominant influence in associated institutions that lean toward the Democrats: nonprofits, foundations, advocacy groups, academia, legacy media, the arts—the commanding heights of cultural production, as it were. It’s just not cool in these circles to be patriotic.

Why does this matter? Most obviously, it puts the Democrats on the wrong side of something that’s quite popular: patriotism and love of country. Even after a decade of decline in our contentious times, 67 percent of the public says they are extremely or very proud of being an American. Another 22 percent say they are moderately proud. And, as Smith correctly observes: “People want to like their country. They can be disappointed in it or mad at it or frustrated with it, but ultimately they want to think that they’re part of something good.” Making people feel bad about the country they live in seems like a recipe for failure.

But the problem goes deeper than simple unpopularity, though that is not insignificant. Lack of patriotism undercuts Democrats’ ability to mobilize a coalition behind what they say they want: a robust and far-reaching program of economic renewal. One of the only effective ways—really, the most effective way—to



mobilize Americans behind big projects is to appeal to patriotism, to Americans as part of a nation. Indeed much of what America accomplished in the 20th century was under the banner of liberal nationalism. But many in the Democratic Party blanch at any hint of this approach because of its association with darker impulses and political trends. Yet as John Judis has pointed out, nationalism has its positive side as well in that it allows citizens to identify on a collective level and support projects that serve the common good rather than their immediate interests.

Democrats have tried uniting the country around the need to dismantle “systemic racism” and promote “equity”...and failed. Democrats have tried uniting the country around the need to save the planet through a rapid green transition...and failed. It’s time for Democrats to try something that really could unite the country: patriotism and liberal nationalism.

The New Deal Democrats were moderate and even small-c conservative in their social outlook. They extolled “the American way of life” (a term popularized in the 1930s); they used patriotic symbols like the “Blue Eagle” to promote their programs. In 1940, Roosevelt’s offi-

cial campaign song was Irving Berlin’s “God Bless America.” Under Roosevelt, Thanksgiving, Veterans’ Day, and Columbus Day were made into federal holidays. Roosevelt turned the annual Christmas Tree lighting into a national event. Roosevelt’s politics were those of “the people” (a term summed up in Carl Sandburg’s 1936 poem, “The People, Yes”) and of the “forgotten American.” There wasn’t a hint of multiculturalism or tribalism. The Democrats need to follow this example.

If liberal nationalism was good enough for A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin, for FDR and JFK and MLK, it should be good enough for today’s Democratic Party. Democrats should proudly proclaim that their party is a patriotic party that believes America as a nation has accomplished great things and been a force for good in the world, a record that can be carried forth into the future.

Funny that progressives should lose track of this.

Patriotism...It worked. And it can work again.

Words of wisdom.

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

# Good Day Neighbor

## Fabric of humanity

Dorothea Mordan

We humans are tribal, forming groups to survive. We build small towns and big cities, and improve ourselves with education. We communicate with other tribes when it suits us. We have established social norms of behavior. We follow these rules from birth to death, trusting our tribe. For the most part it works.

There have always been innovators among us, the ones who rock the boat and bring changes. Travel by horses became vehicles with horsepower. Rigid conformity was forced to make room for civil rights. We are on edge when changes happen, but it became pretty nice to be able to cross the country in a few hours’ plane ride, rather than in a covered wagon for a few weeks or months.

Society thrives on a blend of routine work and changes brought by innovative twists in the road. What about the twists that change us? Life changes in an instant. A new baby is home, healthy in every way, until you notice that one or two normal milestones are missing. One day it becomes crystal clear that something unexpected is going on. One day a person is becoming an adult, living

their best life. The next, an accident, virus, bad luck takes away some self care abilities.

You are now a caregiver.

You now need care.

Historically, troubles have been a family thing, self-contained, or with help from one’s church community. Sometimes, the “trouble” was something to be shunned. Isolating “abnormal” people from “normal” ones. Isolation can still happen to any of us. Even with many support options, there is difficulty finding and accessing them. In our modern system of support, there are so many agencies, government or private, that we can live our “normal” lives with limited awareness of a persistent, life long illness, injury or disability happening to “not me”.

One evolving diagnosis is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). I have known many people—family, friends, acquaintances—with a diagnosis of ASD. From this vantage point I see ASD and other developmental “disabilities” as being entwined with “normal” behaviors. I think of them as part of the fabric of humanity, conditions to learn from, not simply to be fixed. From developmental disability to cognitive decline, these are all part of the fabric of humanity.

Over the last few decades, the fabric of humanity has been coming out into the front yard, parlor, and no longer hidden in the attic, or an institution. Discussing developmental conditions is so normal now that it is hard to imagine how hidden they were a relatively short time ago.

Over time how we phrase and distribute support services has evolved as well. It can appear there are so many “services” that those in need must be receiving them, right? Qualifying for support is one of the first hurdles. Lines are drawn differently for a variety of needs. In Maryland, to be considered to have an intellectual disability and qualify for certain support services, one must have an IQ below 70. Maybe it’s time to redraw a few lines when connecting a diagnosis to support.

The biggest question in many families is “What will they do when I am gone?”

My husband and I, as well two other friends each raised a child with a developmental disability but without an intellectual disability, kids who “fell off the cliff” after aging out of the public school system. There are many components of our society that could help our kids live independently, if we could just put together the right combination. Matching support to need, combined with our current workforce issues has made many of us the home support service for our at-risk family

members. We decided to do something, to try something different.

Kitsune, Inc. is our 501(c)3 non profit, with an education and life skills mission to address some needs—to take some pressure off. We spent a few years, pre pandemic, designing a model for independent living for capable, but at-risk people. This project is still in the planning stage. We also had the beginning of an idea for a resource database, the resource list we wished we could find when we were raising our kids.

This month we are beginning to publicize our Kitsune Life Skills Resource Database, [KitsuneLifeSkillsdb.org](http://KitsuneLifeSkillsdb.org). Have a look around, then drop us a line on our [kitsuneinc.org/ContactUs](http://kitsuneinc.org/ContactUs) form.

The idea is simple: A simple searchable database: Organization name, Domain URL, category of Service, services provided, and population served. The result is a focused list of organizations that meet the criteria of your search. The goal is to pare down the “helpful” but endless results from an internet search. The database is free to search, and no information is collected from visitors.

Our idea became a reality after Lesley Lopez, candidate for Congressional District 6, listened to the Kitsune mission and goals, then connected us to coders who could implement our idea. With the right solution, our

years of pondering became a reality in about 8 weeks.

Jerry Alexandratos, founding board member of Kitsune, is running for the Frederick County Board of Education in our upcoming election.

Special Education is a focal point of our Board of Education. There are serious budget concerns for FCPS. We need people on the board who understand budgets, and know how to connect resources to students. Jerry Alexandratos, Janie Monier and Chad King Wilson Sr. each have personal experience with special needs family members. Each are long time advocates for special needs students. Chad King Wilson Sr. has a Master’s Degree in Special Education.

Frederic County’s Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) has sent a Special Education Questionnaire to each candidate. You can read their responses here: <https://frederickcountymdsecac.com/boe-candidates-2024>

In our upcoming Primary Election, please consider Lesley Lopez for Congressional District 6, and Jerry Alexandratos, Janie Monier and Chad King Wilson Sr. for Board of Education.

2024 is the Year of the Vote. Please make yours count.

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

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Apples United Church of Christ

**Marjie Despeaux**  
Secretary of the Church Council at Apples UCC

I want to welcome you to Apples Church in Thurmont. Founded in the mid 1700's, Apples Church is one of the oldest churches in Frederick County. We want to let others know about our beautiful church and all the good we try to bring to the community. At Apples, our mission is community outreach and support.

We help support the Thurmont Food Bank, the Thurmont Ministerium, we provide two scholarships to Catocin High School seniors, and give back to the community whenever or wherever we can. Our congregation is getting older and smaller, just like other churches, and we want to change that dynamic. Anyone who comes to Apples would surely feel the warmth, the love, and the caring of our congregation.

### Why I Chose Apples United Church of Christ

From the moment I walked into Apples Church, I felt welcome, and I immediately felt like part of a "family." There is a genuine comfortable feeling there where you can talk, laugh and just be yourself. Apples has a long-standing love of music, and it was definitely evident that day, with an exceptionally talented organist and a "small-but-mighty" choir singing favorite hymns. There have also been times at Apples when a world-re-

nowned opera singer will show up and sing a tune. Apples is a 'well-oiled' machine that runs smoothly without anyone being asked to "do what they do." You will see children lighting the candles while holding onto the hand of a 2-year-old toddler.

You will see Mike and Kathy collect the offering, Becky treating us to a weekly "Children's Chat," including her special homemade "chocolate locust treats", and you just might catch Eli 'borrowing' a few bags of those treats from church members because he needs a few more goldfish. You will hear Pastor Beth asking if there are any joys or concerns to share and you will also see children coloring on the floor and playing with Noah's Ark. At Christmas there is an alter filled with colorful poinsettias and a Creche' in every window. At Easter you will see beautiful flowers in the windows and smell the scent of fresh hyacinth. An Easter Egg Hunt follows on the beautiful and historic church grounds.

Why did I choose Apples? I do not sing very well, but I love music. I have a wonderful family already, but I have now added new members to my family tree. And, most importantly, ALL are welcome here.

### Welcome to our Meditation Trail

A small dream has come to fruition on the grounds of Apples United Church of Christ. In the Spring of 2023, a small group of folks vol-

unteered to create a trail. The trail is a place to walk along, sit on a bench, watch nature, pray, or just relax for a little while. A group of volunteers showed up and immediately got to work. They measured it out, put the orange flags in the ground and began to cut out a winding path through the woods, being extra careful not to damage trees, flowers, or vegetation unnecessarily. They were especially mindful not to take anything away from the habitats of the local wildlife as we have witnessed deer, owl and even a mother hawk taking care of a nest of babies high up in a sycamore tree nearby. It did not take long before the volunteers had a path carved through the woods, and the mulch spread for the surface of the trail. Our hope for the Meditation Trail is that benches are added along the way, ones that are dedicated to the memory of a loved one, a place where you can go and sit and be in remembrance and in prayer. Or you could simply walk along and be a bird watcher or get to know the names of the birds, trees, plants, and wildflowers that you see along the path.

Special thanks to those that helped, we have a unique group of folks, and they came from places you might not expect, such as Leesburg, Virginia, and Dubois, Wyoming.

So, thank you for the vision, Paula. Another beautiful trail has been added to Thurmont, where everyone is welcome to walk, sit, relax, and appreciate the peaceful calm and serenity of the Apples Church Meditation Trail.

If you would like to share your talents and knowledge of local birds, trees, flowers, etc., we certainly welcome your expertise as we would like to add informational pieces along the trail.



### Have you ever been to an Apples Church Yard Sale?

Twice a year we FILL the pavilion to the TOP and enjoy three days of hard work, fun, and fellowship. And food! Apples Church is famous for their delicious homemade apple pies. Folks return each year just to make sure they can get their hands on a full-size model or the smaller 'hand pie'. We even sell fresh apples from the local orchard. Our hot dog stand and baked goods are popular as well, just ask the people who return year after year who remember how good the food is and who are looking for freshly baked cookies.

You never know what you might find here, a new toy, an antique toy, a faithful old tool from someone's garage, a board game for the kids, books by the armfuls, bikes, pet carriers, furniture, you name it. Once I

even found a "Corn King" plaque, made by Nuns in a Texas convent, which I very proudly gave to my husband for Father's Day. Why not? I told you we have fun!

We are happy to show you around our 198-year-old church. Did I mention that Apples will celebrate its 200th birthday in 2026? Some folks show interest in our cemetery and grounds, which then begins a pleasant, educational, and unexpected tour. We also have a newly created meditation trail which is open to all and a beautiful way to look at freshly blooming Spring flowers or colorful leaves in the Fall.

This is one way of celebrating our fellowship here at Apples. We work hard and we enjoy our time with each other and with our new 'guests.' Many are looking for a bargain or something specific, but a few stop by just to drop a few dollars in our donation jar and leave with nothing. We then donate a sizable portion of our proceeds to a person or organization in the Thurmont area that is in need.

You never know what you might find at our yard sale, but I guarantee you will leave with new friends and a smile on your face. And, hopefully, you leave with pie filling on your hands.

We warmly invite you and your loved ones to join us at our church, a place where community and faith come together in a spirit of welcome and warmth. Whether you are seeking a spiritual home, looking for a place to explore your faith, or simply wish to experience the peace and serenity that comes with being part of a loving, supportive community, our doors are always open to you. We are committed to creating an environment where everyone can find solace and inspiration. Come visit us this Sunday to experience the joy of fellowship and worship. We look forward to welcoming you into our church family!

Apples UCC services are held each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

*To learn more about Apples United Church of Christ visit them on-line at [www.applesucc.org](http://www.applesucc.org) or better yet join them for Sunday service.*

**Huge Yard Sale!**  
Benefiting Apples Church and the Community

Join us Friday and Saturday, May 10th and 11th  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tons of great stuff for sale!  
Awesome hot dogs and baked goods available!

**YARD SALE**

Apples United Church of Christ  
7908 Apples Church Rd.  
Thurmont  
301-606-2169  
Service every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

**Tom's Creek United Methodist Church**  
*Come journey with us...*

May 11 - Down East Boys Concert on the Hill  
Free Dinner - 4:30-5:45 p.m. Concert 6 p.m.  
The Promised Land - 10918 Taneytown Pike, Emmitsburg

July 6 - BBQ Fundraiser (Dine-in/Carry-out)  
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Tom's Creek UMC Fellowship Hall  
10926 Simmons Rd., Emmitsburg

July 27 - The Hysongs Concert on the Hill  
Free Dinner - 4:30-5:45 p.m. Concert 6 p.m.  
The Promised Land - 10918 Taneytown Pike, Emmitsburg

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**Graceham Moravian Church**

Join us for Worship  
Sunday's at 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Next Served With Grace Free Dinner  
May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 - 7 p.m. - All Welcome!

**Annual Spring Yard Sale - June 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Graceham Moravian Church**  
Phone: 301-271-2379 8231-A Rocky Ridge Road,  
Thurmont  
Facebook Live - You Tube  
e-mail- [admin@gracehammoravian.org](mailto:admin@gracehammoravian.org)

## THE BOOK OF DAYS

## Machiavelli



What an unenviable immortality is that of Nicolas Machiavelli! Out of his surname has been coined a synonyme for treacherous craft. But like many other high coloured, popular beliefs, that of Machiavelli's unmitigated diabolism does not endure critical scrutiny.

Machiavelli was born, in Florence, in 1469, of an ancient, but not wealthy family. He received a liberal education, and in his 29th year he was appointed secretary to the Ten, or committee of foreign affairs for the Florentine Republic. His abilities and penetration they quickly discerned, and dispatched him from time to time on various and arduous diplomatic missions to the courts and camps of doubtful allies and often enemies.

The Florentines were rich and weak, and the envy of the poor and strong; and to save themselves from sack and ruin, they had to trim adroitly between France, Spain, Germany, and neighbouring Italian powers. Machiavelli proved an admirable instrument in such difficult business; and his dispatches to Florence, describing his own tactics and those of his opponents, are often as fascinating as a romance, while furnishing authentic pictures of the remorseless cruelty and deceit of the statesmen of his age.

In 1512 the brothers Giuliano and Giovanni de Medici, with the

help of Spanish soldiers, re-entered Florence, from which their family had been expelled in 1494, overthrew the government, and seized the reins of power. Machiavelli lost his place, and was shortly after thrown into prison, and tortured, on the charge of conspiring against the new regime. In the meanwhile Giovanni was elected Pope by the name of Leo X; and knowing the Medicean love of literature, Machiavelli addressed a sonnet from his dungeon to Giuliano, half sad, half humorous, relating his sufferings, his torture, his annoyance in hearing the screams of the other prisoners, and the threats he had of being hanged. In the end a pardon was sent from Rome by Leo X, to all concerned in the plot, but not until two of Machiavelli's comrades had been executed.

Machiavelli now retired for several years to his country-house at San Casciano, about eight miles from Florence, and spent his days in literary pursuits. His exile from public life was not willing, and he longed to be useful to the Medici. Writing to his friend Vettori at Rome, on the 10th December, 1513, he says, 'I wish that these Signori Medici would employ me, were it only in rolling a stone. They ought not to doubt my fidelity. My poverty is a testimony to it.'

In order to prove to them 'that he had not spent the fifteen years in which he had studied the art of

government in sleeping or playing,' he commenced writing 'The Prince,' the book which has clothed his name with obloquy. It was not written for publication, but for the private study of the Medici, to commend himself to them by proving how thoroughly he was master of the art and craft of Italian statesmanship.

About 1519 the Medici received him into favour, and drew him out of his obscurity. Leo X employed him to draw up a new constitution for Florence, and his eminent diplomatic skill was brought into play in a variety of missions. Returning to Florence, after having acted as spy on the Emperor Charles Fifth's movements during his descent upon Italy, he took ill, and doctoring himself, grew worse, and died on the 22nd of June 1527, aged fifty-eight. He left five children, with little or no fortune. He was buried in the church of Santa Croce, where, in 1787, Earl Cowper erected a monument to his memory.

The Prince was not published until 1532, five years after Machiavelli's death, when it was printed at Rome with the sanction of Pope Clement VII; but some years later the Council of Trent pronounced it 'an accursed book.'

The Prince is a code of policy for one who rules in a State where he has many enemies; the case, for instance, of the Medici in Florence. In its elaboration, Machiavelli makes no account of morality, probably unconscious of the principles and scruples we designate by that name, and displays a deep and subtle acquaintance with human nature. He advises a sovereign to make himself feared, but not hated; and in cases of treason to punish with death rather than confiscation, 'for men will sooner

forget the execution of their father than the loss of their patrimony.'

There are two ways of ruling, one by the laws and the other by force: 'the first is for men, the second for beasts;' but as the first is not always sufficient, one must resort at times to the other, 'and adopt the ways of the lion and the fox.'

The chapter in which he discusses, 'in what manner ought a prince to keep faith?' has been most severely condemned. He begins by observing, that everybody knows how praiseworthy it is for a prince to keep his faith, and practice no deceit; but yet, he adds, we have seen in our own day how princes have prospered who have broken their faith, and artfully deceived their rivals. If all men were good, faith need never be broken; but as they are bad, and will cheat you, there is nothing left but to cheat them when necessary. He then cites the example of Pope Alexander VI as one who took in everybody by his promises, and broke them without hesitation when he thought they interfered with his ends.

It can hardly excite wonder, that a manual of statesmanship written in such a strain should have excited horror and indignation throughout Europe. Different theories have been put forth concerning The Prince by writers to whom the open profession of such deceitful tactics has seemed incredible. Some have imagined, that Machiavelli must have been writing in irony, or with the purpose of rendering the Medici hateful, or of luring them to destruction.

The simpler view is the true one: namely, that he wrote The Prince to prove to the Medici what a capable man was resting idly at their service. In holding this opinion, we must not think of Machiavelli

as a sinner above others. He did no more than transcribe the practice of the ablest statesmen of his time into luminous and forcible language. Our feelings of repugnance at his teaching would have been incomprehensible, idiotic, or laughable to them. If they saw any fault in Machiavelli's book, it would be in its free exposure of the secrets of statecraft.

Unquestionably, much of the odium which gathered round the name of Machiavelli arose from that cause. His posthumous treatise was conveniently denounced for its immorality by men whose true aversion to it sprang from its exposure of their arts. The Italians, refined and defenceless in the midst of barbarian covetousness and power, had many plausible excuses for Machiavellian policy; but every reader of history knows, that Spanish, German, French, and English statesmen never hesitated to act out the maxims of The Prince when occasion seemed expedient.

If Machiavelli differed from his contemporaries, it was for the better. Throughout The Prince there flows a hearty and enlightened zeal for civilization, and a patriotic interest in the welfare of Italy. He was clearly a man of benevolent and honourable aims, but without any adequate idea of the wrongfulness of compassing the best ends by evil means. The great truth, which our own age is only beginning to incorporate into statesmanship, that there is no policy, in the long run, like honesty, was far beyond the range of vision of the rulers and diplomatists of the 15th and 16th centuries.

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

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# ECOLOGY

## Spiders

**Anne Gageby**  
 Director of Environmental Education  
 Strawberry Hill Foundation

I have a confession: I'm terrified of spiders. Yes, I'm an environmental educator and yes, I spend the bulk of my time outdoors so it doesn't make sense. I'm around spiders all the time, especially now that it's spring. I can't walk outside without seeing one every few feet. And I can't even tell you why I'm so afraid of them. There's just something about the crawlies that edges a little close to nightmarish.

I've spent years working on this fear because spiders are so important to our world. The insect population would be unbearable without spiders. And they in turn are food for larger predators. The world needs spiders. So why can't I love them?

There are some spiders I can be around without having a nervous breakdown. Cellar spiders are

mostly fine and some jumping spiders are almost cute in photographs. And Mickie, Strawberry Hill's resident tarantula, is pretty cool to look at in her enclosure. So maybe it isn't that I'm completely terrified of spiders but I definitely don't want them on me. To be fair, I've walked through innumerable spider webs in my life and it never gets any easier. And it's certainly never fun.

I recently taught a Watersheds and Wetlands program to sixth graders and a highlight of one of our stations was seeing a fishing spider moving across Middle Creek and coming to rest on a stick near us. I picked up the stick to show my students and heard more than a few yelps of surprise. The kids were horrified because this spider was rather large – about two inches long including leg span. When we put it back in the creek it moved across the water at a remarkably slow pace, seemingly unbothered by our intrusion into its territory.

Male fishing spiders are about half the size of females, so our spider

could have been a male or it may have been a juvenile. I wasn't going to get close enough to tell. Either way, the kids were morbidly fascinated by the spider and how easily it rested on the stick as we observed it. Fishing spiders aren't aggressive, nor are they known to bite unless handled improperly. For being a huge spider with an intimidating appearance, they are actually quite tame. Not that I plan on picking one up.

Fishing spiders (dolomedes) are regularly confused with wolf spiders (lycosidae). Both have similar coloring and depending on the species can be a variety of gray, brown, tan, etc. Both are often found inside homes and garages though their woodland habitats are slightly different. Fishing spiders are found in wet areas of woods such as creeks and riverbanks. As their name suggests, fishing spiders are excellent at fishing though their prey are mostly insects. They have excellent eyesight and fine hairs on their legs which detect vibrations in the water much like a web-spinning spider feels vibrations on spider silk. That's a pretty cool aquatic adaptation and not their only one. Fishing spiders are able to submerge their bodies under the surface of calm water. The hairs on their body trap air bubbles and allow them to breathe while they wait for prey. They've been known to stay submerged for an astonishing 30 minutes at a time.

Wolf spiders, on the other hand, are found in drier wooded areas, backyards, gardens, meadows, and homes. They build or take over existing tunnels in the soil, under stones and firewood. Inside a



The barn spider (*Araneus cavaticus*) is a common spider native to North America. They are around three-quarters of an inch in length and are usually yellow and brown in color. They often construct their webs in wooden human structures, hence their common name. The species is notable for being the basis for the character Charlotte in the book *Charlotte's Web*.

home, they seek shelter under furniture and other protected, covered spaces. They primarily hunt at night though they're frequently seen during the day. Wolf spiders are generally not aggressive and prefer to run than attack. When cornered or threatened, they will bite though their venom isn't medically significant unless a person is allergic.

There are roughly 30,000 species of spiders worldwide, 3,000 of which are found in the United States. Pennsylvania is home to around 45 species of spiders. Of these, only two are known to be medically significant: black widows and brown recluses. Black widows are native to our state but brown recluses are not. Generally speaking, brown recluses are not common as they struggle to survive our cold winters unless they find a suitable space to overwinter inside a heated building. They are more frequently found among items shipped in from other states. Still, it's smart to keep

an eye out for both black widows and brown recluses because their bites are problematic at best.

The thought of a spider jumping on me is enough to make me break out in a cold sweat but I have to admit there's something almost adorable about jumping spiders, at least on a video or in a picture. They're stocky and colorful, and don't look menacing the way a black widow does. Jumping spiders belong to the Salticidae family and our area is home to four species: the zebra jumper, emerald jumper, bold jumper, and bronze jumper. Most are quite small, shy, and harmless with a tendency to flee rather than bite.

Jumping spiders are interesting little creatures for a couple of reasons. Some species are known to be tetrachromatic, meaning they can see all the colors in the visible spectrum, and, unlike humans, they can see the ultraviolet portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. And there's a study going on in Germany that found evidence that jumping spiders might dream. Yes, really! Researchers discovered that jumping spiders rest upside down on silk thread and while in this position the spiders's legs curl, they twitch, and even show signs of eye movements similar to those in sleeping humans. It's believed they go into a REM sleep-like state and exhibiting these behaviors is indicative of dreaming. Even the most arachnophobic person has to admit that's pretty cool.

Spiders in general have another fun adaptation: their blue blood. Human blood is red due to iron-containing hemoglobin transporting oxygen through our system. But spiders, along with octopuses, horseshoe crabs, snails, lobsters, and a handful of other creatures, don't use hemoglobin to transport oxygen. Instead, their blood contains hemocyanin which contains copper instead of iron, resulting in blue-presenting blood. In a world of primarily red-blooded creatures, that's a fascinating adaptation.

When I take the time to consider the list of things that make spiders unique, I have to admit, they're pretty interesting. I may not want one crawling up my arm and I may or may not run screaming from one now and then, but they are kind of amazing. At least from a distance.

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

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# Close encounters with wildlife in the baby season

John Zuke  
Naturalist

With pleasant spring weather comes more time outside and more chances for encountering the many local wild animals and their young. This is a busy time of year in the cycle of life, and there will be lots of new babies for the next several months. For the safety of people and the well being of the animals we may encounter, it is useful at this time of year to understand some realities about our local wildlife. So often when we collect a wild animal as a pet or “rescue” one we believe is in need, we are really unintentionally harming the animal or the environment.

Maybe most importantly, wild animals should not be raised as pets. That cute little animal you found and want to bring home will grow up. It will have specific needs to remain healthy, such as being fed a specialized diet (every half hour in some cases), vaccinations or medicine, and particular habitat requirements. Also it may live a lot longer than someone wishes to keep a pet. Its behavior will change as it matures. Some animals imprinted on people when they are young become aggressive as they grow up. And removing animals from the wild can have negative impacts on the population of native species.

Baby animals that have been kept in captivity even for relatively short periods of time should never be released back into the wild. Being captive, they never learn how to find food and avoid predators and other social skills of their species, or they lose those critical skills quickly when cared for by people. Well-meaning people who decide to free their animal back to the wild are usually dooming them to starvation or death by predation.

Additionally wild animals can carry diseases, some that can be carried without showing symptoms. Bringing a wild animal into your home exposes your whole family and your pets to potentially fatal diseases. In fact, it is against the law to raise most types of wild animals in captivity. There are federal and state regulations that are intended to protect both people and our precious wildlife resources.

Often during spring and summer we can encounter baby animals that appear to be abandoned or orphaned and need rescue: a baby bird on the ground that can't yet fly, baby rabbits or squirrels or a fawn with no parent visible. We should only intervene when it is absolutely certain that the animal is orphaned, injured, or in danger. The best chance for the animal to mature and have a successful life cycle is for it to remain in the care of its parent.

When young birds are learning to use their wings for flight, they will often fall to the ground

below their nest site. The parent is nearby and will continue to take care of the young. It may be a day or two or three before the baby can fly up into trees and bushes, but this is an important step in its development. What you can do that will help the most is keep cats away from the area. If the bird is feathered and can perch, place it in its nest or the nearest tree. If it can't perch, place it under a bush or a more protected area, but still accessible to the parents. If it is unfeathered, gently place it back into the nest. It is a myth that the parents will smell human on the baby and not take care of it. Most birds actually have a very poor sense of smell.

Owls and hawks are protected by federal law and should only be handled by licensed wildlife handlers. It can also be dangerous to try to rescue these birds of prey because the parents are very protective and have been known to injure people venturing near their young. They also have special dietary needs. Meat from the grocery store, no matter the quality, does not meet their needs, although they will eat it and appear none the worse for wear. A licensed raptor rehabilitator has the skills and knowledge to raise and release these birds back into the wild where they belong.

Rabbits, squirrels, and other small mammals are often seen in yards when they are first exploring away from their nests. They usually don't need to be “rescued” even if the parents don't seem to be around to care for them. The parents avoid the nest during the day to avoid drawing attention to the young to protect them from predators. They are vulnerable during this time in their development. Keeping cats and dogs and kids away from them for a few days will give them a fighting chance to mature.

Many times people hiking or working in fields or along the forest edge come across fawns that

are curled up on the ground with no parent to be seen anywhere nearby. They are usually not abandoned! This is the normal behavior of the deer during the day. The parent is not far off and is still taking care of the fawn. If it is in a safe spot, it is best to leave it alone.

Many animals are “rescued” each year that would have been much better off if left in their natural environment. However there are some situations where rescue is necessary. Do rescue an animal that has visible injuries or that has been attacked by another animal, especially a cat. Rescue is necessary if the animal has been hit by a car or lawn mower, or if it is swarmed by flies or ants. Birds need rescue if they have flown into a window and remain stunned or unable to fly after an hour. Any animal tangled in netting, fishing line, or stuck on a glue trap needs rescue.

You can help protect many young animals by not letting your cat run free. Cats in the United States kill millions of wild birds, small mammals, and reptiles each year.

It takes a lot of skill and experience to be a wildlife rehabilitator. There are no days or even hours off when caring for injured wildlife. Rehabilitators are not funded by the government and rely on donations and their own funds for the food, medical supplies, veterinarian visits, cages and other equipment required to help wild animals in need.

The following websites have very useful information on wildlife rescue:

Opossum Pike Vet Clinic and Animal Hospital: [opossumpikevet.com](http://opossumpikevet.com) “Injured Wildlife”

Second Chance Wildlife Center in Gaithersburg, MD: [scwc.org](http://scwc.org) “Wildlife Rehabilitation” and “Rescue Guidelines”

This area of Maryland and Pennsylvania is home to many types of wildlife. They belong in the wild. Enjoy observing them and their young from



The best action to take if you encounter a baby bird on the ground with no parent visible is to leave it alone. You should only intervene when it is absolutely certain that the animal is orphaned, injured, or in danger.

a respectful distance as they grow and disperse, but remember that sometimes the most considerate thing we can do for wild animals is to not

interfere in their lives.

To read other articles by John Zuke visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Land Conservancy celebrates preservation-minded landowners

The Land Conservancy of Adams County honored landowners who preserved property over the previous year and welcomed one new member to its board of directors during its annual dinner on Thursday, March 14, at the Adams County Historical Society.

The organization honored 4 landowners who preserved Adams County farmland, woodland, open spaces, and freshwater streams in 2023. These landowners were Hanover Shoe Farms, Inc., which preserved 751 acres in Mount Pleasant Township; Harvey and Christine Lee, who preserved 54 acres in Germany Township; Janice Newcomer, who preserved 68 acres in Reading Township; and the American Battlefield Trust, which preserved 48 acres in Cumberland Township and Gettysburg Borough. In the 29 years since its

founding in 1995, the organization has worked with local landowners to preserve more than 13,295 acres in the county.

Voted onto the Land Conservancy of Adams County's board of directors at the dinner was Kelly Alsedek who had previously served on the board from 2015 to 2020.

Before the banquet, dinner attendees participated in a silent auction and raffle that raised more than \$3,800 in support of the Land Conservancy's mission of preserving Adams County's rural lands and character.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County is a fully accredited, member-supported non-profit land trust that works to preserve the rural lands and character of Adams County. For more information about the Land Conservancy and the events surrounding Land Conservancy Month, visit [PreserveAdams.org](http://PreserveAdams.org).

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## SCIENCE MATTERS

## Woolly Mammoths, fat dogs &amp; living fossils

Boyce Rensberger

There have been some cool developments in science that I think readers will find interesting, but they don't require all the space this column normally occupies. So here is the first of what may become an occasional list of briefs based on recent scientific reports.

Quite by accident, all three of these items deal with genetics. That's the area of science that I know best and follow most closely. In the future I'll try to range farther afield.

If you like these short items, let me know by writing to me at the address at the end. I'll answer everyone who writes.

Bringing Back The Woolly Mammoth

A biotech company says it has taken a major step toward its stated goal of recreating the woolly mammoth. The American outfit, modestly called Colossal Biosciences, labels its process "de-extinction."

As the company puts it on its website, rather breathlessly, "we endeavor to jumpstart nature's ancestral heartbeat. To see the woolly mammoth thunder upon the tundra once again."

What the scientists say they did was to take skin cells from a living Asian elephant, grow them in a dish and then chemically treat the cells to make them lose their specialized functions. The treatment includes things like removing attached molecules that block some genes from working. This resets the genome to a version of a stem cell. In principle, these cells are typical of those in a very early embryo, capable of multiplying and diversifying into the many specialized cells of a whole organism.

The company says it now will re-engineer certain genes that dif-

fer between mammoth and modern elephant to be like those in tissues of real woolly mammoths found frozen in Arctic ice. The genome of these extinct beasts is thought to be fairly well known. This kind of detailed genetic modification is possible using a relatively new technique abbreviated CRISPR. Then nuclei of those modified cells would be injected into an egg from a living elephant. (The egg's original nucleus would first be removed.) That egg would then be implanted in the uterus of a living surrogate mother elephant.

Don't order your tickets yet for Pleistocene Park. Many difficult steps lie ahead, but some quite reputable scientists are affiliated with the company, and I wouldn't discount the promises they make. By the way, if you want to learn more about this and if you enjoy highly developed (maybe even too developed) websites, I recommend the company's at colossal.com. Use your device with the biggest screen.

#### Overweight Dogs May Feel They Are Starving

Labrador retrievers and flat-coated retrievers are two of the most obesity prone dog breeds. Many beg for more food even after finishing a meal.

Now a team of scientists from the University of Cambridge in England have found what appears to be the cause. Significant percentages of these breeds are born with two genetic mutations that prevent their gut from sending the normal chemical signals—a specific hormone plus an endorphin (the brain's natural opioid)—that tell the brain they are full and happy. So, these dogs just keep eating unless their owners are strict about what's for dinner. One of the mutations also produces a hormone that regulates the body's



Might we see woolly mammoths like this in Pleistocene Park?

energy expenditure. Dogs with that genotype are less energetic, slower in metabolism.

In their sample of dogs, all healthy pets, they found these mutated genes in 12 percent of Labs and 60 percent of flat-coats.

The researchers speculate that these mutations originated at some time in the breeds' past as ways to cope with food scarcity—slow down but keep gobbling when food is available.

"To maintain a healthy body weight," the researchers write in their report in the journal *Science Advances*, "owners of affected dogs must restrict food intake to below that which would maintain a healthy body weight in wild-type dogs because of their lower energy expenditure."

The scientists speculate that similar mechanisms may operate in people.

#### How Living Fossils Resist Evolution

Charles Darwin coined the term "living fossil" to refer to species that appear not to have changed in many millions of years. These include horseshoe crabs, sturgeons, and a few others.

Now comes a study of another living fossil, the gar fish, that

finds these animals have scarcely mutated their genes in more than 100 million years. The scientists think the reason is that these species have amazingly effective DNA repair mechanisms.

In almost all other species, if a mutation arises, there is a process that either repairs the damage or causes the cell to die before it can give rise to a new individual or to a tumor. All cells, including those in human beings, have DNA repair mechanisms. That's because our DNA is being damaged thousands of times each day. Damage is typically from such things as natural radiation, reactive forms of oxygen, chemical carcinogens, sunlight, and simple mistakes in the mechanisms that replicate our genes to carry out cell division.

There are several different repair mechanisms. Basically, they involve molecular machines in all our cells that literally crawl along each DNA double helix, "looking" for signs of damage. If they find a problem, they either repair it or simply block or delete the errant sequence. Or they may trigger a process by which cells commit suicide. The loss of one wayward cell is no big deal.

Now back to the gar and a study published in the current issue of

Evolution. There are two different species of gar that have been identified in the fossil record, both of which survive today. They have been separated evolutionarily for more than 100 million years. These two species of Jurassic gars look nearly identical to their descendants living today.

In places where both live, it has been found that they can interbreed and produce fertile offspring. That's the classic evidence that different species don't have significant genetic differences. In fact, by one traditional definition, that means they could be considered the same species.

After comparing sequences of DNA from the same genes in many other species—it turns out that the rate of genetic change in gars is anywhere from half as fast as in other species to 1000 times slower.

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](mailto:boycerensberger@gmail.com).

To read other articles by Boyce Rensberger, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## It's just business

Jack Deatherage

The county website offers a subheading in the "Maps" link where we can access another link to see who owns what in Frederick County. I check the site to see how much land someone owns, what the boundaries might be, what the state tax burdens are, how recently properties have changed hands and what they sold for. I have to admit I was surprised to discover who owns the lot the post office sits on. Out of curiosity I began looking at various properties around town -mostly rentals- and discovered many of them are not owned by people living in town, or in the state.

I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised. Many of the people I used to hang with moved out of state when they were ready to start families. As their parents aged out- died or went into nursing homes- the kids sold the old home places to out-of-towners who could afford the ever increasing housing costs here. I wasn't surprised that grandchildren of some of the better off Emmitsburg families, having moved out of state, are now buying up houses in town and jacking rents up by as much as 65%.

Growing up in families that survived the Great Depression and World War Two by taking care of family and neighbors down on their luck, it comes as a serious shock to me to see such increases enacted by the generation following me. "It's just business" I'm told.

As one of the recent applicants for a then vacant commissioner seat remarked during an interview, "We have a large percent of our population below the ALICE line..." (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed -earning more than the Federal Poverty Level, but barely enough to afford the basics where they live.)

A quick look at the 2023

ALICE report for Frederick County shows that 52% of the families in Emmitsburg are at the ALICE level of poverty. That's a single individual income of above \$12,880 but below the ALICE Survival Budget of \$47,220. (The DW and I wouldn't know what to do with \$47,220 a year!) How are retirees, trapped below the ALICE level of poverty, supposed to pay the new rent increases? They aren't of course. They are supposed to move into publicly assisted rental units, which currently have waiting lists that number close to 100 applicants!

The DW and I are fortunate enough to carry no debt on our house or car, though both could use thousands of dollar worth of repairs- dollars we are currently putting into the community garden. We aren't paying hundreds a month for cable and smart phones. We don't have health insurance bills and rarely need to see a doctor. We don't dine out. We borrow books and movies from the library and seldom burn more than \$20 a week in fuel for the car. Still, we're barely getting along on little more than half what ALICE says a working individual needs to survive in Frederick County.

We're very much aware how quickly our situation can change for the worst. We've seen family and friends who were much better off than we are, lose everything they'd acquired during their lives to cover the loss of good paying jobs, drastic rent increases, the onset of clinical depression. Stressful situations often led to declining health, poverty and mercifully- death.

Sometimes the DW and I are able to step up and help struggling family or friends. Sometimes other family members and a rare friend or so have helped us out of tight financial situations.

There is a saying circulating among conservatives and

libertarians, "Hard times create strong men, strong men create good times, good times create weak men, and weak men create hard times." -Michael Hopf's post-apocalyptic novel "Those Who Remain". As a Boomer, the first generation that benefited most from the last strong men's effort to create good times, I can see the hard times a coming.

Dad rarely spoke of growing up in rural Tennessee during the Great Depression or what it was like to serve in the Army Air Corps during WWII. At best he'd toss me a book and tell me to read it. When I'd ask why, he'd say, "That's what it was like."

Mom on the other hand talked often about dropping out of school to work in a factory so extra money came into the house to pay the bills. She first paid the shop foreman five dollars each week to keep her job. After giving her mom the bulk of her pay she had a dollar fifty to spend on herself. She'd pool that money with the pocket change her sisters had to buy a record player and other items the family could enjoy the use of. She also helped care for her aged grandmother until the woman died at home.

Two of Mom's brothers severed in the European Theater during WWII. Both were wounded, both would get that "I've been in a hell you'll never understand" look when they talked about their experiences. (I saw that same look on the faces of Vietnam veterans dealing with PTSD.) Stronger people than I'll ever be.

I've been told by older rela-



52% of the families in Emmitsburg, your neighbors, are living in below the ALICE level of poverty.

tives that my siblings and I were ungrateful for the sacrifices our parents made for us. My response has always been, "Before I can be ungrateful I have to be aware of the sacrifices." Having had more than fifty years to think on my parents' and grandparents' lives I now see how weak I am because of their efforts to give me a better, softer life than they had. Now I'm both ungrateful and grateful. Ungrateful because I wasn't prepared for hard times. Grateful that I might know enough to aid the current generation of youngsters in surviving the coming hard times as they are forced to become strong people.

Oddly, or maybe not, several physically and mentally disabled mentors have told me we need to gather together our families, neighbors and friends to create a community that stands a chance of surviving hard times. Going it alone rarely works, even for a strong person. To that end, First Sister now lives with us. She has useful skills- she can sew, knit, cook, deal with lawyers and

accountants, and garden. Neither she or the DW are afraid of hard work. I bring to the table the ability to lie down next to hard work and catch a nap.

A thing I've noticed about many of my mentors- they seldom dwell on what "better off people" have. If they remark on the better off at all, it's usually in the form of a question- "How did they manage to get all of that, and what did we do wrong?"

When I remind them we were drunken... umm fools, and worse, they nod in agreement and move on to how we can improve things for our community. Envy and bitterness doesn't help any of us. If anything, I find those worse off than myself, but still working to make others lives better, more admirable than those who seemingly have everything one could possibly need. Call it familial or community responsibility- it's never "just business".

To read past editions of *The Village Idiot*, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Gardening trends, 2024

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

As with clothing, paint colors, art, and furniture, we are drawn to trends. Gardening is no different.

Gardening styles, design and plants change with the times. Some trends seem to be influenced by economic needs, some by plant breeding and some by the environment. These are my observations, by what I've seen in the nurseries and garden centers, and by what kinds of questions I get in my job as a horticulturist. Here are my observations of top trends for 2024:

Choosing Native plants is one of the biggest trends today.

Making plant choices based on the environment and our impact as opposed to just what looks pretty is foremost in many gardeners' minds. Much information is available to the gardener about pollinators and their impor-

tance to our food system, whether it's our food as humans, or other insects, birds and mammals.

As we become more knowledgeable in this area, the awareness of our impact on our surroundings, the recognition that plants evolved with the insects has made native plants a definite trend.

Native plants are becoming more available in the nurseries and garden centers. Many are marketing areas within their stores that focus on native plants. There are many more cultivars of native plants being introduced in the industry - shrubs and perennials especially.

Vegetable gardening isn't going away any time soon. So many questions come into the extension office on "how-to's", "what-are's", and "can-I's" when it comes to this garden practice.

Folks are wanting to grow their own food, so they know where it comes from and how it's grown.

Making environmental decisions on garden crops plays a big role in how people are selecting and preparing their gardens. From no-till practices to selecting heirloom plants and seeds that can be collected year after year has become a trend.

Planting in raised beds, using flowers to mix in with vegetables to attract pollinating insects, and composting have become a big part of vegetable gardening. No longer do we see long rows of vegetables in a tilled garden. Reduction in pesticide usage by rotating crops and practicing companion planting has become more of the norm.

Fruit trees and fruiting shrubs are becoming more popular.

Gardeners are becoming more interested in less pesticide usage and recognize that the best way to control that is by growing their own fruit.

Although I see this as a trend, the jury is still out to determine whether it becomes a long-term practice. With organic fruit easily found at farmer's markets and in the grocery store, it may be too hard to manage

### Frederick County Master Gardeners May Seminars

**May 4:** "Integrated Pest Management (IPM)" Manage pests with ecosystem-based methods to minimize the use of pesticides. Learn how to identify, prevent, and manage plant problems using biological control, habitat changes, and cultural habits.

**May 25:** "Growing Herbs Here & There" Learn about the variety of both annual & perennial herbs you can grow in-ground and/or in containers. See how you can plant an herb garden as well as merge herb plantings into your flower

and vegetable beds. Take a look at how herbs are grown throughout our demonstration garden, including in our clever herb spiral.

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.

For more information and sign-up links, visit the Events section of the Master Gardeners Frederick County website or call the extension office at 301-600-1595.

fruit trees and shrubs on your own, but time will tell.

Houseplants have been on the rise for the last several years.

Anyone can grow houseplants. You don't need a yard to manage plants indoors! This trend is easily recognized when shopping at garden centers and even box stores and grocery stores. Houseplants can be inexpensive, and there is something for every environment.

Native grasses and native carex are becoming readily available in the nurseries.

Ornamental grasses were a hot item maybe 15 - 20 years ago, but managing ornamental grasses that are not native it quite the chore. From trying to divide them, to some escaping into the natural environment, non-native ornamental grasses have gone by the wayside. BUT, the native grasses are now the trend. Native grasses are being recognized as a plant that provides a food source for many critters, including birds and insects. In addition, they aren't aggressive like many of the non-native ornamental grasses are, and they provide beauty and movement to the garden. Most are easily grown and easy to divide, if necessary.

Carex, a low growing plant, resembles a grass and provides that look to the landscape. Many carex are happier in a shady spot, or part shady spot, although some do tolerate the sun. When purchasing carex, be sure to do the research about the particular one of interest so the environment you choose is the right one.

Pennsylvania sedge, Carex pennsylvanica, is a favorite species. Very soft and flowy, this plant likes shade, and when in a group of the same species, looks like a wave as the wind brushes against it. In contrast, Carex plantaginea, plantain sedge, is much coarser in

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

texture, and looks good in a group or as an individual.

Hydrangeas continue to be a trend. From the native species to the non-native species, hydrangeas are loved by many.

The native hydrangeas consist of the oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) and the smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*). Oakleaf hydrangea likes a bit of shade and can get up to 6' – 7' tall and wide, so a big shrub. However, there are smaller varieties that will stay around 4', like 'Pee Wee' and 'Munchkin'.

There is also a variety that gets pink/red flowers - 'Ruby Slippers' - which is different from the straight species that has white flowers. These flowers are conical in shape, and quite showy. The leaves are oak shaped, hence its common name. They bloom in the summer, usually in July, and the flowers last until winter. Of course, they turn from white to brown, but even brown they put on a show, till they drop off. The fall color is red and quite stunning.

Smooth hydrangea, *Hydran-*

*gea arborescens*, is also more of a shade plant. Morning sun is best, with afternoon shade. These have white flowers, growing on this year's growth, an important piece of information when it comes to pruning. Four feet is typically their height and width. As in many plant groups, there are varieties that have special attributes. 'Incrediball' sports a huge rounded white flower; and 'Invincibelle' is a pink variety.

A hydrangea that thrives in full sun is the Pee Gee hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*). Not native to the US, it still does great in our area. This, too, is a large shrub, reaching 6' – 8' high. It has a large, conical flower, and the leaves are elliptical. It is also a summer bloomer with white flowers, changing slightly pink as it ages. 'Limelight' is probably one of the most common varieties, being a bit smaller than the straight species. It reaches about 4' – 5' tall.

The hydrangea that many of us think about are the pink and blue ones. These are *Hydrangea mac-*

*rophylla*. Non-native plants, these guys like part shade. The color of the flower is determined by the pH of the soil. More alkaline, more blue; more acid soil, more pink. That said, there are some varieties that keep more of their color in any soil. Be sure to read the labels when purchasing so there are no surprises.

Container gardening is becoming big. With limited outdoor space, using containers can provide the need for working with plants, attract pollinators, and provide color.

Many folks are turning to containers for a few reasons, in addition to limited space. When growing in containers a gardener can control the type of soil, nutrients, and water. Many plants can be grown this way, from annuals and vegetables, to perennials, shrubs and even trees. Size of the container will control what is planted in it, and of course sun and shade play a huge role in plant choices. Nonetheless, this type of gardening is a win.

My hope is that many of these

trends become "normal" gardening practices. Plants come and go, and trying to grow newly introduced varieties is always fun. But the environmental trends we are seeing can change our future. The way in which we garden, the decisions we make, and the practices we incorporate on our land and balconies impact us and the critters around us.

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

## Small Town Gardener

Vacation is important—even for gardeners

Marianne Willburn

Many years ago I wrote an article entitled "Beans or Beach?" - bemoaning the difficulty that serious gardeners have with leaving their gardens like normal people and taking vacations.

"If it is a year that we have decided to visit our family in California the question is always "when"? Seedlings are started in February, the Cold Frame Shuffle is scheduled for March, and the rest of the spring/summer months from April through September? Forget about it. The fall is about the harvest, and I'm hardly likely to cosset and cajole three hundred pounds of vegetables only to leave them hanging come October. November and December, January and February are peak flying times [read: expensive], and also happen to be peak winter storm times for housesitters sitting at the end of a two-mile gravel road without electricity."

But it wasn't just about what you missed, I pointed out in the article. It's what you came back to.

"Even a late summer's week at the beach is a concern to those of us who till the soil and squish lawn grubs with gusto. Our Mid-Atlantic climate acts like a magical elixir to weeds, grass,

vines and all things green. Leave for a week, and an Amazonian jungle greets you upon your return."

The situation hasn't changed much since I wrote those words. If anything, it's technically gotten harder to leave, as I have more seedlings, more plantings, and more once-a-year-can't-miss things than I've ever had.

For gardeners who fall asleep dreaming of new planting schemes, it's incredibly hard to detach from views we have spent the previous year working to improve, even when we desperately need a vacation - or could benefit from seeing other people's views at that time of year to teach us something about our own. But we must.

The garden will always be there, but the ability to travel and spend good time with the people in our lives that we love, may not be. We simply mustn't let the minute by minute of our gardens keep us from enjoying important or spontaneous major moments when the opportunities arise.

It's not as if I don't still struggle with this conundrum. This year as I packed to go away for a long overdue unplugging in parts sunny and foreign, I found myself wistfully scanning the landscape charting those lost moments, rather than [rightfully] thinking about all I would gain in new experiences (not least of all, the experience of time away from my laptop and phone).

Just as I was starting to feel almost

resentful that I had to pull out my sunscreen, sandals, and linen trousers when I really needed and wanted to get the *Taxodium* transplanted, I glanced at the barrel sitting next to it and had a flashback of its three sister barrels bobbing down a raging, river-covered field three years ago.

That day I was handed a large dose of perspective when a flood ripped through our valley and carried many plants and garden paraphernalia to new forever homes down the river to Georgetown (I hope they're using the croquet set).

The flood came right after two weeks of killing myself to get everything planted, which I had indeed accomplished, but to the detriment of fully enjoying a rare visit by my two sisters and nieces and nephew. The flood and subsequent devastation and clean up taught me that, no matter how hard you work, and how many sacrifices you make, and how bravely you work through the back spasms and think you're tough and wonderful, it can all be taken away tomorrow.

Reflecting on that reality has an incredibly sobering affect. It's allowed me to find time in my schedule for important things - not because there was time to find, but because there was time that needed to be made. That has meant delegation, some strategic planning, some favor-pulling, and some gymnastics, but it meant I could enjoy an opportunity or two that doesn't come around all that frequently.

If you're a serious gardener and feeling yourself instinctively saying no to family and friends and opportunities because the poppies are blooming that week, the baby seedlings need watering, or the fragrant wisteria panicles need your full, undivided, gob-smacked attention, be honest with yourself - when won't they?

Kiss the ones you love while you can under a wisteria-covered arch somewhere else instead. *Carpe diem.* - MW

Marianne is the author of *Big Dreams, Small Garden*. You can read more at [www.smalltowngardener.com](http://www.smalltowngardener.com).



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# PETS

## Being Zeke

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

The first thing that made me realize something was amiss was the white ball of cotton in front of the door when I opened it.

I knew immediately it was batting from a pillow – the stuff they put inside to make them fluffy.

I also knew immediately that it shouldn't be on the rug by my front door. It should be inside a pillow.

I looked about a foot and a half further down the foyer and, lo and behold, I found another piece of fluff. Indeed, there was a whole trail of them in what appeared like some messed up version of rose petals or something.

The detritus led me to the middle of my living room where it looked like a bomb had gone off – one made of batting. It actually looked like the fake snow I've seen in Christmas displays at the mall – that's how much of it was covering the carpet.

I dropped my head for a second. After the day I had just had, this was, quite literally, the very last thing I wanted to come home to. I was starting to think somehow the universe had it out for me. I seriously debated whether or not I had the energy to clean up the mess.

At that exact moment, I heard a small noise that seemed to be coming

from the under the middle of the mess. It sounded like a snort.

That's when his head popped up and I was able to meet his brown eyes.

It was Zeke. My Jack Russell Terrier whom I had just adopted two months ago.

Truly, I figured it was him from the get-go, but I wasn't completely sure he was actually inside the mess.

When he pulled his head completely out of the fluff, I could see his little tail wagging, pushing more of the batting around the floor.

He had pieces sticking to his ears, his mouth and his chin. He looked like some kind of a messed up canine Santa.

He also looked ridiculously happy to see me. I swear he seemed to be saying, "Hey, ma, you gotta get in here. It's so much fun!"

You know those moments in life where you teeter on the verge of either tears or laughter? When it could seriously go either way and whichever way it falls, the outcome is going to be pretty drastic? Like the tears are going to be the ugly crying and the laughter is going to be the maniacal kind?

That's where I was, suspended in the silence. I could actually hear my mother's grandfather clock ticking in the other room. There were no other sounds. I really didn't know which way my reaction was going to go.

That's when Zeke sneezed. It shot a whole mess of batting off of

his chin and even moved some of the pile on the floor.

His tail never stopped wagging.

That's when I felt the laughter come up from my abdomen. I actually half stumbled, half fell over the recliner in front of me and just let it rip. I laughed so loud and so hard, my stomach actually hurt. Tears were, in fact, rolling down my cheeks.

And Zeke? He was in my lap, dancing around like he was so proud to have been the cause of my joy.

I couldn't help but kiss him. He returned the favor.

They had warned me at the shelter about Jack Russell Terriers and the trouble they could get into. They said Zeke loved to destroy squeaky toys. I had learned that myself, but I didn't think he'd go after the pillows on my couch.

I was still wiping tears as I cleaned up the mess. Zeke thought it was a game of keep away.

I still couldn't get mad at him. Because when I signed those adoption papers, taking responsibility for this four-legged ball of madness, I knew I was taking the bad and frustrating with the good and heartwarming.

I knew Zeke was just...being Zeke.

After the vacuum came out and we both had dinner and I was searching online for a dog crate for my boy, Zeke came up and put his paws on my knees and for a split second, he looked like he might be trying to say he was sorry for the mess.

I leaned down to kiss his nose and I told him, "It's okay, baby. We'll learn each other's little quirks as we go along. You and me are the forever kind of love."

He seemed to get exactly what I was saying.

*Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter in Chambersburg, Pa., 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). CVAS also operates a thrift store in Chambersburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the store.*



Griddle was surrendered to the shelter when her owner was moving and could not take her with them. She is an 8-year-old brown tabby and has her own opinions about things. She likes attention on her terms. If you understand cats like Griddle, please consider giving her a second chance. She would love a place to call her own!



Kratos is a uniquely marked black-and-white cat who came into the shelter as a stray. While he loves attention, he doesn't care too much for being picked up. Kratos loves getting his chin scratched. He's about 3 years old and would really like to know what a loving forever home is all about. Could you show him?



Athena was surrendered to the shelter when she was not getting along with the other dog in the home. She is a 3-year-old terrier mix who is super sweet. She knows how to sit and is very food-motivated. Athena loves attention and enjoys playing with squeaky toys. Because of her past history, she will need to be the only dog in the home and may be too much for small children, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply. Athena would love to have a second chance at a loving forever home soon!



Sky is a 7-year-old terrier mix who came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't have a lot of information about her, but we do know that she is one loving girl! Sky did test positive for Lyme and Anaplasmosis which are both tick-borne diseases and is currently on medication to treat them. She also had a mammary tumor removed during her spay surgery, which was found to be benign. Because we don't have any past history on Sky, an age restriction for children may apply.

For more information about Griddle, Kratos, Athena, or Sky, 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



# Cruising with your pooch

Bethany Davidson  
FCAC's Humane Educator

Spring is here! The sun is out and temps are rising which means many of us humans are beginning to indulge in one of life's simple pleasures, driving around with the windows down and our music up. It's only natural that we'd want our pups to experience the joy of the warm breeze in their hair too. All over the roadways dogs can be seen with their ears and jowls flapping in the breeze, but what many pet owners don't realize is that this happy scene can very quickly take a dangerous turn that could lead to some serious injuries for our furry friends.

First, open windows are an exit. Unrestrained dogs sitting near an open window can easily jump out of car to follow that irresistible scent or chase that furry critter. Jumping out of the car whether it's stopped or moving could cause various abrasions and even fractures or worse yet could lead to your dog being hit by a car or causing a much larger accident.

Let's say Fido knows better than to jump out of the car, he's still at risk for a whole host of injuries especially if he's sticking his head out the window. Roadways are



littered with dust and debris that can easily hit your beloved pooch. That high-speed shrapnel can cause all kinds of cuts and injuries to their eyes, ears and mouths including scratched corneas. Even gusts of wind pose a threat and can lead to burst eardrums and the like.

So what do we do if we want to keep our dogs safe while still let-

ting them enjoy a car ride? There are tons of different products on the market to help. There are various types of seat belts or better yet crates to keep dogs of all shapes and sizes inside your vehicle. You can purchase screens for your car windows that will allow that breeze and all those great smells to reach your dog while keeping your Fido in and all that flying debris out. And for those canines that just refuse to keep their heads in their car, well, they make doggles to protect their eyes.

Don't have the extra cash to invest in these products? There's an easier alternative to keep you pet safe. Simply roll down the window a bit, never more than halfway. This allows your dog to experience the breeze and sniff all those wonderful smells while staying safe. Just ask adoptable dog Evan. On a recent outing staff only cracked the back windows for him, but he still enjoyed every minute of his car ride.

Open windows are just the beginning when it comes to riding safely with our pets. If your dog enjoys logging miles in the car, be sure to research all the other ways to reduce their risk of injury while enjoying one of life's simple pleasures.



Funyun was brought to the shelter by a Good Samaritan and found as a stray on Thomas Johnson Dr. He was not wearing a collar, nor was he microchipped. Funyun is friendly, doesn't mind being picked up, and enjoys sitting in a lap.



Rex needs your help! He is heartworm-positive and needs an adopter who is willing to see his treatment through until the end. He was found as a stray on February 5, not much is known about his past. For information on heartworms in pets, please visit [www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org).



Luna was adopted from the shelter in May 2023 but returned in February because her new owner was moving and could not take her along. At four-years-old, Luna has so much to offer. She is young enough to enjoy walks and play time but old enough to just sit and relax. Young kids startle Luna, so her ideal home has teenagers or older.



Before arriving at the shelter, Demi was being trained to be a service dog. She is extremely intelligent and knows approximately ten different commands. So why is she at the shelter? Demi has anxiety; therefore, she was unable to complete the training to become a certified service dog. She hopes to find a family that can help her work through her anxiety and provide her with daily exercise as well as mental stimulation.

For more information about Funyun, Rex, Luna, or Demi 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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# FROM THE DESK OF SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE ...

## Colt Black

As a father I've witnessed firsthand the struggles of my children, their friends, and students overall. The frustrations they feel when struggling to grasp basic English and math concepts. The lack of knowledge of world and U.S. history that teaches important generational lessons of where we come from and the shaping of where we are headed to as a society. The complete lack of lessons in civics and understanding of our foundational documents and individual rights. And the absolute failure to teach basic life skills such as basic financial literacy and home making which enables all students to be prepared to become productive and independent members of society.

Students who are frustrated, often act out creating disciplinary issues for staff and teachers making it more difficult for all to learn. Parents are becoming equally frustrated with the lack of communication from schools regarding everything from student's disciplinary and developmental issues to the possible need for special educational intervention.

Parents are having to make decisions to seek diagnosis and treatment of learning disabilities outside of school because FCPS is unwilling

to provide the proper services to these students even though the law says they must. And once a diagnosis of a learning disability is received, getting cooperation from school officials to implement IEP's or 504 plans often comes with getting attorneys involved. This is beyond atrocious.

Parents who once were treated as a partner in their students' education have now been left in the dark. Not because of teachers, guidance counselors, or even principals but the administration of FCPS. They have effectively tied the hands of staff who interact with our children every day in favor of policy which stifles cooperation and creates unnecessary burden on all involved.

As a taxpayer, it is shocking to the core to see FCPS's budget approaching \$1 billion dollars. Currently for this year the 2024 approved budget was \$910,180,476. When one reviews the public documents available, they paint a picture of concealment. Sure, expenditures and revenues are outlaid; there are nice pie charts showing percentages and categories of expenditures which are broad in nature leaving much to be desired with respect to understanding where the money goes. We've all seen every year since at least 2014 in the letters from the

superintendent of FCPS to the County Executive request for funding to build new schools. Yet interestingly only one new school has been built in that time. So, one must ask where's the money?

As a citizen, it is presumptive that the vast majority of our friends and neighbors see value in assuring that children are educated so they have the opportunity to become productive, independent, successful members of our community. Yet when we examine what is going on in our schools it doesn't take long to realize that something isn't right.

When we hear about schools in such a state of disrepair so bad that teachers are walking through water in classrooms from leaking pipes and the roof and plywood is covering doors we must ask why? Is the money entrusted to the Board of Education being spent where it's supposed to? So often we talk about raising the salary of teachers and staff but regardless of the salary would you want to work in a building like this? Of course not. It would be no wonder FCPS had recruitment problems; lack of care in our facilities would make any future staff ask themselves, "If they don't take care of their schools, are they really going to have my or my students' best interests at heart?".

We must ensure that schools are

safe, welcoming places if we ever wish to recruit the best teachers and staff possible.

This is true for bus drivers as well. If their buses are not comfortable to ride in, no one is going to enjoy traveling to an also crumbling down school. I went on a field trip with one of my children to the Naval Academy and not only were most of the bus windows stuck open, but the heater also didn't work. And it was not a warm day. Not one student, parent, teacher, or the driver himself was happy. This was not the first time a bus ride had been chilly or uncomfortable either, sometimes the windows are stuck closed instead! My own children have told me examples of buses breaking down, having to turn back to the school because the bus was having a mechanical problem or problems with windows, heating, or air conditioning. We all know vehicles fail. It happens. But it should not be a consistent problem for drivers or students.

It is also important to consider that in civil society not every career requires a college education. For years the measure of success and financial mobility has been regarded as one that is only accomplished by attending college. Look around our county, does every career require

a degree to be a success? What about our restaurant owners and staff? Or local landscaping companies? Does every business owner in downtown Frederick have a degree? What about our farmers, tradesmen like plumbers, masons, or electricians? The answer is no, students who plan to go directly into the workforce after graduation need to be shown how proud we as a community are of them. Often, they are simply overlooked and even seen as "less than", than their college bound counterparts. Our education system needs to take into consideration the skills needed to become a productive citizen, no matter where your career pathway leads.

In closing, whether you have children in the school system or not in Frederick County, the members of the school board who you elect are important to every citizen. Why? Because the elected members of the school board control about half of the county's budget. This impacts every resident of the County because no one like higher taxes. And as your next elected member of the Frederick County Board of Education I pledge not to raise your taxes or your children. To find out more about our campaign, volunteer, or donate to support our efforts please visit coltblack.com.

## Angie Vigliotti

My name is Angie Vigliotti and I am running for a seat on the Frederick County Board of Education. I am currently determined to bring about funding for general education and much-needed reform in special education. My journey began a few

years ago when I became aware of the mistreatment of children with disabilities in the school system. The U.S. Department of Justice's report from December 2021, which charged Frederick County Public Schools with illegally secluding and restraining children

with disabilities, hit close to home. My own son was among the 125 children involved in thousands of incidents over a two-year period.

Even before autism was widely recognized in Frederick County, I took proactive steps to address my child's developmental disorder by diving into research and workshops.

Following the Department of Justice investigation, I began volunteering with the Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint. With them, I review legislation to make it more accessible to the community. Additionally, I served on the FCPS Blue Ribbon Task Force, which was established to address the investigation and provide recommendations to the school system.

As a parent who has witnessed my child's abuse, I understand that most families simply seek validation. As a Board member, I hope to offer valuable recommendations and work collaboratively with other members to address the challenging issues facing the county's educational system. I currently provide services with the Maryland Autism Waiver program and teach life skills to children in the autism community. I also assist families in understanding how to become eligible for state services.

My dedication extends beyond my campaign. I serve on the Maryland State Autism Waiver Advisory Committee to represent the voice of thousands of families on the waitlist. I advocate for reduced wait times and ensure that children have the opportunity to learn essential life and community skills before aging out of services.

Throughout the years, I have become a prominent spokesperson for Frederick County at the local and state education boards. If elected to the Board, I aim to provide recommendations for special education and ensure that the school system fulfills its settlement agreement with the Department of Justice.

It is important that FCPS school staff receive proper training to handle crisis situations involving children, and that expanded and improved programs supporting children with diverse disabilities are offered to families in this county. Personally, I believe that every child deserves acceptance and safety while receiving an education, and I am determined to make that a reality.

In addition to special education reform, I recognize the significance of addressing other pressing issues. I aim to secure funding for transportation and facilities, and I am committed to forming partnerships with organizations and being accountable to the community. Brunswick High School needs capital improvement funds and this is a top priority for me. I believe it is in desperate need of rebuilding and I intend to rally the Board of Education and county officials to prioritize this school. Furthermore, I also recognize the need for facilities funding for public charters such as the Environmental school and Montessori schools. If I am effective in this, I can also help some of the other schools that are in desperate need of renovation and rebuild.

A satellite career and technology center at Brunswick is also very important to me. I believe skilled workers make for strong communities in our future. I feel students should have the opportunity to learn a trade or attend college without incurring heavy debt.

To learn more about my campaign, please visit votevig.com.

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# CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS...

## George Gluck (D)

November 5th will be the day that we either entirely lose the precious democratic experiment begun in 1776, or the day we restore it!

Our main concern should be which federal candidate, running in any party primary election, for any position, President, Senator, or Congressional Representative is, first, most likely to fight for our democracy, and second, most likely to win the general election.

As an immigrant, who first registered

to vote in 1968, as an "FDR" Democrat, I experienced the goodness of this country, and know that regaining this goodness is within reach. One of our campaign slogans is "Make America GOOD Again. This time for ALL of US! If you wish to learn how we have come so close to losing our democracy, please follow the four links at the top of my campaign homepage sites.google.com/view/georgegluck.

Next on the homepage, you can see a postcard the campaign would like to send

each registered voter. Near the top is an indication of what we need to do to commence our journey to restoration of our democracy: "To accomplish this, we will, most of all, return and enhance our democratic institutions and processes, beginning with new examinations of campaign financing, registration and vote suppression, and gerrymandering."

Why do I feel that I would be most able, of the sixteen of us on the ballot, to win the general election? The answer begins two decades ago, when I became a high school math/science substitute teacher in Con-

gressional District 6. First. For MCPS, then shortly after FCPS, and now WCPS, GCPS, and finally ACPS (just weeks ago). As such, you could say I've taught over 80,000 CD6 constituents, almost all of whom are old enough to vote, and may well still live in the 6th District. It matters not at all to me where they, or their parents, sit on the political spectrum. My goal has always been to teach at least one student in each class at least one thing, and I believe I'm still batting 1.000!

From my first campaign in 2009, I have promised to fill our office with

members of all recognized parties, unaffiliated voters, and those who are not registered to vote. This way, if, for some reason, a constituent does not feel comfortable speaking with me, there will be somebody who they can feel comfortable speaking with.

After Democrats passed, and President Clinton signed the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), sending 70,000 good Maryland jobs overseas, I realized the leadership of my party had lost their way. For two decades after that, I was neither a Democrat nor a Republican.

## Lesley Lopez (D)

In a political landscape where rhetoric often overshadows substance, my campaign to represent you in Congress is built on a foundation of proven results, lived experience, and an unwavering commitment to respect and bipartisanship. Now in my sixth year as a state lawmaker representing part of the Congressional 6th district in Montgomery County, I understand the issues that matter to you because I have lived them, and I know how to get things done because I've been doing it successfully for years.

One reason I stand out among candidates in the Democratic primary is that while we share similar values—like protecting reproductive choice, ensuring safety for our children, and addressing climate change—I have the unique distinction of having a proven track record as a lawmaker. In my two terms as a Delegate, I've taken on some of the toughest issues and dealt with some of the toughest personalities, consistently earning bipartisan support. That kind of success isn't about luck; it's about learning how to be a leader.

As a mom of two young boys, I don't have time for political theatrics. I teach my children to be respectful, even with people they disagree with, and to treat

everyone with dignity. Yet, I don't see the same behavior from my opponents, who often engage in negative campaigning. This approach turns off voters, so I'm offering you a better option: a candidate who focuses on accomplishments rather than aspirations.

Being a lawmaker isn't just about working across party lines; it's also about collaborating with people in your own party who might have different perspectives. I understand why people become disenchanted with the government when all they see is conflict. That's why I focus on getting the job done. If someone is committed to serving their community, they're a partner to me, regardless of party affiliation.

As a former president of the Women's Caucus, I played a significant role in leading key reproductive rights bills during the last legislative session. These laws are now protecting clinics in Hagerstown and Allegany County. This demonstrates my commitment to our shared values and my ability to turn ideals into action. What sets me apart is my ability to work across the aisle. Every one of my bills has received bipartisan support, including those on child safety, hate crimes, and predatory lending. My biggest biparti-

san achievement was the passage of a ban on ghost guns, which required collaboration with law enforcement and advocacy groups. This success led to an invitation to the White House, and the bill now serves as a model for bipartisan legislation across the country.

I bring a unique perspective to my work as a lawmaker, drawn from my working-class background and personal

experiences. Raised by my grandparents after my mother, a Navy veteran, returned from active duty, I had to navigate adulthood and put myself through college while working multiple jobs, including as a domestic worker. This, combined with being a working mom, instilled a strong work ethic and a deep understanding of the struggles many Americans are facing everyday. I bring this perspective to my

work, always seeking to improve the lives of working and middle-class families.


I believe voters are looking for candidates who can rise above the noise and focus on what truly matters. As your representative in Congress, I will bring the same level of respect, commitment, and proven experience that I have in Annapolis. Thank you for reading this, and I look forward to earning your partnership.


### George Gluck

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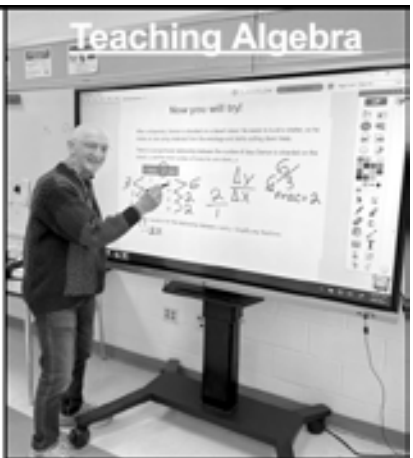


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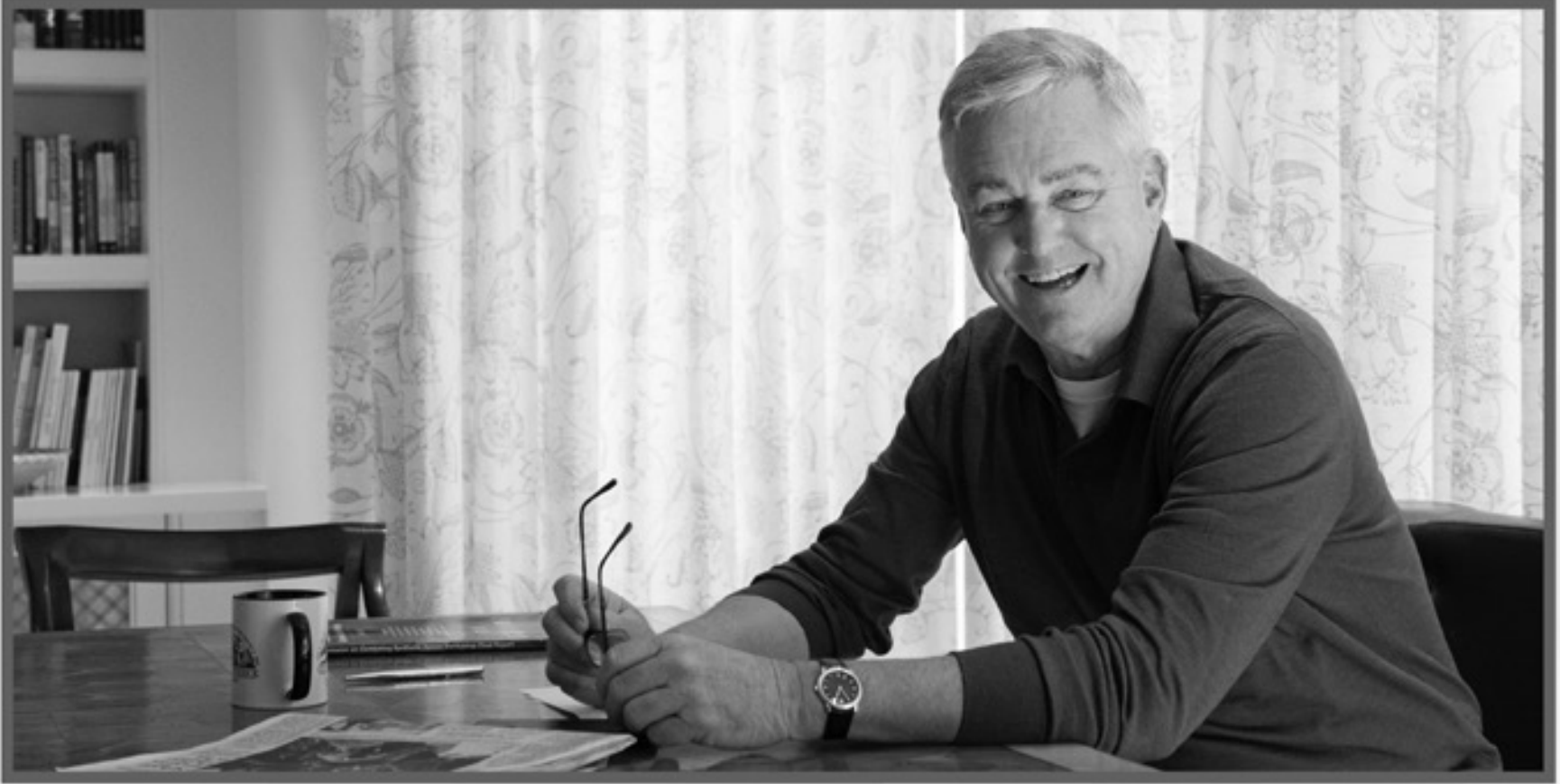
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**DAVID TRONE**

When I travel around Maryland, I keep hearing the same thing. People are tired of political gridlock and inaction. People want action and results on the important issues we face.

### My Progressive Views

I'm proud to be a progressive on the issues. I am working to make our economy better for all Marylanders, and that includes making the very wealthy and corporations pay more taxes. I am always working to protect and improve Social Security and Medicare. I favor restoring abortion rights for all Americans. I am fighting the MAGA right and Donald Trump to protect our democracy. And I never take a penny from PACs, Lobbyists, or Corporations because you are my only special interest.

### Getting Things Done for People

But many progressives in Congress don't know how to get things done. I do. Maybe it's because I've run a successful business, Total Wine & More, or maybe it's just the way I am wired. Getting elected to Congress has been an honor, and I am there only to get things done. While my party isn't in the majority in the House, I've found that by reaching out to members of the other party, I can find common ground. I've been able to pass meaningful legislation to help those with opioid and other addictions, expand access to mental health care, lower the cost of prescription drugs, and deliver infrastructure dollars to help the 6th Congressional District.

### I Humbly Ask For Your Vote on May 14th

I am confident that I can do even more for Marylanders and America in the U.S. Senate. I humbly ask for your vote on May 14th. I am the strongest candidate to defeat Larry Hogan in November, and that's critical to keeping the Senate in Democratic hands and stopping the MAGA right from threatening our democracy.



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## Union Bridge to celebrate National Train Day

**Brian Mahoney**  
**Western Maryland Railway**  
**Historical Society, Inc.**

May 27, 1852, 64 years after Maryland was admitted to the Union, a company later to become the Western Maryland Railroad Company was chartered by the Maryland Assembly. It was called the Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick Rail Road Company. It was founded by prominent businessmen, and farmers in the Carroll, and Fredrick area. The group of men included names that are still quite familiar today in the area. Names like, Atlee, Clemson, Longwell, Green, Haines, McKinstry, Motter, Roop, Reese, Rinehart Slingluff, Shriver, and Smith.

The name of the Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick Rail Road was changed to Western Maryland Rail Road Company on March 2, 1853 by a special act of the state legislature.

Construction of the railroad west from Owings Mills to Westminster was completed by 1861, and further to Union Bridge by November, 1862. Legend has it that the first locomotive into Union Bridge was the two-driving wheeled Canary, so called because of its small size, and restless activity, Irvin, Taylor, Norris and Company were the early contractors, and operated the road as construction progressed. The road was turned over to the WM stockholders on January 1, 1863, along with two locomotives of 20- and 25-tons each: the Green Spring and the *Western Maryland*.

The WM bought the locomotive *Patapsco* in April 1863. In July of 1863 the Federal Government took "military possession" for five days, and the road became the line of supply for the Army of General Meade during the battle of Gettysburg. The railroad moved troops, and supplies Westminster, and Union Bridge for the Federal Troop. After the battle the railroad carried Confederate prisoners, the wounded, and the dead to Baltimore.

Union Bridge became the western terminus of the new railroad until 1871. A large shop complex was built in Union Bridge in 1864 to repair locomotives and rolling stock of the railroad. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, 1868 around 8pm., the machine shop, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, and other building and improvements, with the exception of engine house, caught fire, and burned down. The fire originated in the oil storage house.

The line was extended west from Union Bridge reaching Detour in 1868. It reached Emmetsburg Junction (Rocky Ridge) in 1870. The line was extended through Mechanicstown (now Thurmont) and reached Sabillasville in 1871.

Washington County and the

City of Baltimore both wanted the railroad to be extended to Hagerstown, and were both willing to endorse \$300,000 worth of the road's second mortgage bonds to help to do so. This was done, and the first train entered Hagerstown on June 6, 1872. The line was then continued west to Williamsport to connect with the C&O Canal, a distance of about 6 miles, by December 18, 1873.

By the early 1900s the railroad had decided that the old wooden station and offices in Union Bridge no longer suited the need of the railroad. A new brick station, and two story office building was built.

Trains began using the new station on November 15, 1902. The new office build were being occupied by the officials of the railroad located here.

By the 1960 the shop complex in Union Bridge had out lived its usefulness as most the work it once did was how being performed at a much large complex in Hagerstown. Passenger service had ended in the mid 1950s, and offices were no longer need as their occupants had also moved to Hagerstown.

At the time a group local people step forward to save the office building from demolition. The Western Maryland Railway Historical Society was founded in 1967 to obtain the office building from the railroad.

The railroad sold the society just the office building for a \$1.00 with the stipulation that we had to maintain it in good repair, or they would come in and tear it down. Over the years since then the society has been able fully restore the office building and the station. The society how owes both building, and the ground they sit on. Today the museum is open to the public on Sunday afternoons, and Wednesdays.

Since that time the society has restored the office building, and expanded the museum complex by purchasing the adjoining REA express shed and depot from the railroad. We have also added to the displays four ex Western Maryland Railway cars to our museum complex. There is the oldest serving WM Caboose, a hopper car, a WWII troop kitchen car, and a box car that was among the first to wear the modern Speedlettering Logo of the railroad. We also own a passenger coach that is on loan to the Cass scenic Railroad.

We have been holding a Nation Train Day since 2011 on the second weekend in May because that is the closest date to the anniversary of the driving of the Gold Spike on May, 10, 1969 when the transcontinental railroad was completed connecting the east and west parts of the United States.

The overall purpose of the society is preserving a portion of America's rich railroad history. We do this by providing programs for commu-



Union Bridge's Western Maryland Railway Historical Society Museum Complex will host a special open house on May 11th to celebrate National Train Day and the joy of trains and train travel.

nity organizations, publishing educational materials drawn from our collection, supporting activities related to railroading, and by making historical records available to groups and individuals researching railroad history. With the cooperation of the Western Maryland Railway, the Society established a Museum in Union Bridge in the buildings that once served as the station, the company's main offices and express shed. The entire complex was built in 1902.

The Western Maryland Railway Historical Society is one of the few organizations of its kind to own and operate its own museum. This affords members and the public alike the unique opportunity to enjoy and study our collection to its best advantage. It also serves as a focal point for Society activities and events.

The Museum complex houses our extensive collection of WM artifacts and memorabilia, a voluminous photo archive, archival material directly from the Western Maryland Railway, and an extensive railroader's library featuring historical and technical publications about the WM and other roads of the region. Major exhibits include the caller's boards from Hagerstown, Md., and Ridgeley, W.Va., and the CTC panel for most of the Lurgan Subdivision.

Integral parts of the organization are model railroad layouts. A permanent N-scale layout, which represents the Union Bridge to the Twin Bridges (west of Thurmont) section of the East Subdivision of the Western Maryland Railway in the 1950s, is housed in the Museum. There is also a 4 x 16

foot HO scale layout on display in the depot building.

The organization also supports the modular group's HO-scale layout. This group has built and continues to build numerous interconnected modules depicting scenes along the former Western Maryland Railway. The modular group represents the Society at train shows and certain Society and community events. The layout can be as large as 30 x 70 feet.

The Museum is open to the public Sundays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed for lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), and by appointment. Tour groups are also welcome, with at least 30 days advance notice. To arrange a time, call 410-775-0150 and leave a message, or write the Society at WMRHS, P.O.Box 395, Union Bridge, MD 21791-0395.



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# HISTORY

## The Contralto

Rev. Charles Maloy, C. M.  
St. Joseph's Parish

Continued from last month

### Chapter 2

Nearing the town on the return his ears were pierced by the shrill calliope of an auto, an unaccustomed sound in that region, and rising above the last descending hill a large car sped past him, a noisy crowd of college boys within. He smiled as the youthful occupants yelled with all the contempt of the plutocrat for the less fortunate, the horse shying at the waving hats and arms. The dog trotted on ahead, coming to an abrupt stop at the foot of the hill where he gazed at the form of a young woman who sat on the roadside, her face buried in her hands. The posture attracted the attention of the Professor who, halting, murmured to himself, "a fair demoiselle in distress."

"Beg pardon," he said aloud, "you seem to be in trouble."

"Yes, air," aising her tear dimmed eyes, "my horse took fright at that auto which just passed and ran off."

"Did he throw you?"

"No," with spirit, "I got off to hold him when I saw the machine approaching, and as I attempted to remount he took it into his head to bolt."

"Did he drag you?" dismounting.

"No, simply gave my ankle a twist," with a smile that ended in a twitch.

"You must take my horse, he is very gentle; I shall remove the saddle."

"That isn't necessary," with a light blush as she directed his attention to the divided riding habit.

"Of course not," he agreed with an arriere pensee to the effect that every-

one in Emmitsburg was not behind the times.

"But really I couldn't think of making you walk," she protested weakly.

"Nonsense!" laughing and bringing the horse nearer, "come, up you go."

She attempted to rise but, the effort causing her pain, would have fallen had not his arm caught her round the waist.

"Just a moment," he pleaded; then lifted her bodily into the saddle. As he adjusted the stirrups he looked up and there was a defiant gaze in her eyes. When all was ready he told her to proceed, instructing her as to the methods of handling the horse, and stepped aside.

"I would prefer you to walk near him," she said, "my nerves are a little shaken."

"Just as you wish," taking his place at her right stirrup, telling the horse to be good, and the girl that this was the first time the "Admiral" ever had the honor of carrying a woman. The ride was a very quiet one, she sitting the horse and looking straight ahead, he, at first having endeavored to make conversation, joking about the mishap, inquiring every few steps about her ankle, found this one-sided, and relapsed into silence. Before entering Main Street, however, the girl pulled the horse up saying:

"This will be the talk of the town."

"What, my picking you up when you had sprained your ankle? If they be so sorely in need of matter for gossip, I consider myself a benefactor in supplying it."

"Oh! you don't understand," she returned with anxiety.

"Perhaps I don't; could you enlighten me? I don't see the least impropriety in not leaving you to bleach your bones on the mountain road," smiling at his mock heroics.



Post card depicting St. Joseph's Parish Rectory ~ 1900.

"Well, I don't care what they say," starting the horse defiantly.

"Thank you; I am glad you are not going to rob the Good Samaritan of his halo."

Turning into the village they could hear windows being raised, suppressed calls of warning from house to house. Emmitsburg, awakened to a new sensation, was enjoying it to the full. The Professor bowed from side to side as he recognized acquaintances, but the girl sat the horse with the posture of Jeanne D'Arc facing her God-inspired mission. Near the Square stood a group of people, a man holding a restive horse. A tall, light-haired, young woman stepped from the sidewalk inquiring:

"Are you hurt, dear?"

"Just a twisted ankle."

"I caught him before he got to the house," said the man with the horse, "I didn't want him to frighten your mother to death."

"Thank you, Tom; now I shall change and ride him home."

"Oh, Marion, dear! please don't get on that beast again, he will kill you," pleaded the light-haired girl.

"Better not Miss Marion," advised Tom, "he's pretty nervous."

"Let the Professor ride him," suggested one of the group, "you stay where you are."

Without comment the Professor took the bridle from Tom Greavy and vaulted into the saddle. The horse cavorted about the Square for a while, but realizing there was more than a woman's hand in control, submitted gracefully, allowing himself to be guided alongside the other, and the two moved down the street at a decorous pace.

At a large house near the lower end the girl announced simply: "This is where I live," turned in the gate, followed by her companion.

A tall woman in middle life, showing marked evidences of refinement, opened the door as the young woman slid from the Admiral's back: "What is the matter, Marion, are you hurt, child?"

"No, mumma dear, the Professor and I have been swapping horses," but noticing the look of reproof on her mother's face, quickly added, "I twisted my ankle and this gentleman rescued me."

"I am exceedingly grateful to you sir," bowing, "won't you come in?"

Looking at the girl who had sunk into a chair, and thinking he saw an appeal in her eyes, he swung from the saddle just as an old man came from the stable to lead her horse away. Tying his own to a post, he mounted the steps:

"Had I not better get a doctor?" he

asked. "Yes," said the mother hastily, "what am I thinking of?"

"No, mumma dear, the sprain is nothing serious, I shall be well in a day or two," but the expression of pain on her face negated her optimism.

"I shall telephone for Doctor Brawner at once," declared the mother, hurrying into the house.

"I dislike that old fellow, he is a mollicoddle."

"You require his orthopedic skill just now, so you must tolerate his shortcomings. Will you take my arm and allow me to help you into the house?"

The girl tried to rise, but sank back with a tearful laugh. Without a word he picked her up, carried her into the house, placing her in a chair and putting another as a rest for her injured limb, then without a by-your-leave began to unstrap the riding-boot. The shoe removed, he felt the ankle professionally, remarking that it was swollen greatly. Looking at the young lady on whose face there was a shade of embarrassment, he reddened in turn.

"Pardon my impulsiveness," he begged, "I have had some experience with injured members, and my anxiety got the better of my respect for the proprieties."

"I wasn't thinking of that," she said, again blushing as her mother entered the room.

The doctor would be here in a minute, so the Professor took his leave after asking permission to call



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# HISTORY



Rev. Mgr. Dennis J. Flynn, L.L.D. 15th President of Mt. St. Mary's College.

again. Riding up the street he was the object of black looks from Mrs. Neck, who trundled her perambulator along the sidewalk.

## Chapter 2

Seated that evening on the piazza of the rectory which overlooks the valley to the west, the Professor narrated such of the day's events as he thought would interest the Rector. When asked the young lady's name he realized he had not learned it, and proceeded to give a description of her physical appearance, which caused the Parson to lift his eyebrows in astonishment at its eloquent minuteness. His picturing powers were loosened as under a stimulant.

"It must be Marion Tyson," declared the Rector, "and a very fine girl she is."

"She lives in that large Queen Ann cottage at the lower end of Main Street."

"Yes, that is the Tyson's; Marion and her mother Anna reside there; the father, John is a Government contractor in Washington."

"They struck me as above the level of Emmitsburg."

"They are, and consequently the object of much envious gossip."

"That explains her diffidence in accepting my aid, she said the people would talk."

"It's strange she admitted the idea for Marion is very independent and seldom consults the whims of her neighbors. She ought to be more careful, though, about horses, she has met with several accidents."

"The horse is gentle enough, but unaccustomed to motors, especially freighted with a crowd of yelling hoodlums who imagine they rule the county."

"I have spoken to Father Flynn about that, but young George, Judge Motter's son owns it, hence his immunity from criticism."

"Some irate farmer will fill him full of buckshot yet," airily; then, "I say Governor, who was the tall, light-haired, willowy girl who spoke to Miss Tyson at the Square?"

"I should say from your description that it was Miss Seabold, a great friend of Marion. But do you know,

Harry, you impress me as unusually interested in the ladies?"

"Homo sum, nihil humanum alienum me ease pub."

"And once that human begins to appeal in its female form science and philosophy become as ashes in the mouth," a remark which showed the Parson was wise in his generation.

After a few puffs of his cigar the Rector said, "Mr. Isaac Annan called here this afternoon."

"Mr. Isaac Annan? Oh, that cad I threatened to lick," the old anger blazing up. "Was he desirous of a personal encounter?"

"I hardly think so, in fact I should say he was decidedly meek."

"I made a fool of myself this morning, Governor," quickly contrite. "I want to apologize for it, I am getting you into difficulties by my hot-headedness."

"Don't worry about me, my boy, and the more occasions you find to make a fool of yourself as you did this morning the better. I have been aware of that poker game for some time, and have endeavored by talking to make Elder stop it; your threat regarding Annan's carcass has been more effec-

tive than all my preaching."

Emmitsburg received its latest sensation in various ways, expressing judgments according to the bias of the juries. At Peter's the general verdict was that the Professor was a brick, though Dr. Brawner opined Marion Tyson was wiser than most people gave her credit for, admitting, however, she had a rather severe sprain.

The Dentist's house, Miss Lansinger declared it was all a put up job on Marion's part to become acquainted with the Stranger, while dainty Mrs. Forman avowed that she was somewhat unconventional. Dr. Forman, himself, wanted to know if the Professor was to leave the girl on the road to die.

But the clash of opinions threw off most vivid sparks at a meeting in Mrs. Martha Hopp's kitchen. Mrs. Neck could hardly take time to do her dishes, leave her youngest in care of her husband, and get over to discover what defense the Holy Terror had for the Tyson girl now. She had always extenuated Marion's supposed scandals, even when she was dismissed from the Academy, but the custodian of morals felt her arraignment would in the present instance be too strong for any other verdict than guilty. Walking into the kitchen she exclaimed shrilly:

"I suppose you have heard it!"

"God Almighty! heard what?" snapped Mrs. Hopp, and anyone not deafened by the emotions of an outraged moral sense, would have known from her tone that she was fully cognizant of the startling affair.

Mrs. Neck, heeding on: "Marion Tyson rode the Professor's horse down Main Street this afternoon and they say pretended to have a sprained ankle just to make his acquaintance."

"God Almighty! Marion made that skittish beast of her's run away I suppose, and the Professor ought to have left her on the road to die and all because the tongues in town are hung in the middle and clack at both ends and some people can't mind their own business and, bah!"—the peroration of Mrs. Hopp's speech was lost in a generous infusion of snuff.

"Well, I don't care, she is a brawn

thing and it's just like her to take up a flirtation with that fellow and bring a bad name on this town."

"God Almighty! Mary, if any woman could break her neck after a man the way you did after that poor galoot Joe Neck, I'd like to know."

This argumentum ad hominem served to check Mrs. Neck in her flow of moral indignation and caused her to take another tack. She came back at her adversary with: "Don't swear so, Mrs. Hopp, and you such a church member."

"God Almighty! woman, I ain't swearing, and as for my being a church member, I don't go half as much as you do, and when I go, I do it to worship God and not to find something to tell about my neighbors."

Mrs. Neck felt her grievance against Marion and the Professor intensified by this encounter with the Holy Terror and declared that she would never darken her door again, to which the latter retorted something about good riddance. Wending her weary way home, she poured out her grief to her husband, who held the position of cowman at the Academy. He felt bound to say something to assuage the sorrow of his much moved wife.

"Don't take it to heart so, Mary. Mrs. Hopp's getting on in years and she does think a heap of Marion."

"Well, that don't give her the right to insult me, one of her oldest and best friends, and you mark my words that Professor don't mean good to the young girls of this town."

"Oh! I don't know, Mary, the men think he's a all-right feller."

"Joe Neck! even you turn against me," she screamed and snatching the baby from him rushed into the best room, slammed the door and gave way to a paroxysm of grief. Joe, taking his hat, went down to meet the evening train.

In the large house at the end of Main Street sat Marion, her ankle, pHoppd on a chair, stinging from Dr. Brawner's liniment applications, reciting to her mother the details of the afternoon's adventure. She was almost ecstatic in her admiration of the Professor's horsemanship, telling how with a few deft movements he had made the fiery Prince do just as he wished. Every item of his appearance was discussed, his manner of wearing his cap commented upon as a possible index of his disposition. His age was guessed at, inquiry instituted as to why his hair should be turning grey. Had her mother noticed what beautiful blue eyes were hidden behind the thick lenses of his glasses, and how did he manage to wear pince-nez when riding?

continued next month



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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## May 2

### April Wettest In Memory

The month of April kept its record to the very last day, of being an unusually wet and cold month for its place on the calendar.

The week ending April 30, was the most favorable of the crop season to date. It was characterized by sunny weather, which was favorable for drying out the soil, for plowing, and for general farming activities. Much plowing was done. Temperature for the week average normal.

Wheat and rye crops are in good condition, except poor to fair in lowlands. Grasses are fair. All are improving, but making slow growth. Ryes are beginning to head. Early sown oats are also coming up.

Apple tree buds are now showing and continue to swell in the northern part of the counties. They are ready to open, or opening. Peach, pear, plum, and cherry trees are in full bloom. Strawberries are also coming into bloom.

Planting of early potatoes, of peas, and truck crops, made good progress during the week. In some localities planting of early potatoes and peas have been finished. Early potatoes, planted in March that failed to come up, as a rule, are rotting or have rotted. Tomato seeds are being sown, early sown tomatoes are up.

The season continues fully two weeks behind the normal. Warm and continued sunny weather is needed.

### Some Little Newspapers Need Killing

The other day, a daily newspaper, in commenting on the advent of radio, said it might kill some "little newspapers", and so much the better - "they need Killin - but worthwhile papers would not be hurt."

This is worth telling to those who think their hometown should have a "little newspaper". It is an open statement that ought to cause home folks to see what they are doing when they cut out the home paper.

If the "little newspaper" is wanted; if it is perhaps only a necessary evil; if the home neighborhood would be worse off without it, then it must be kept alive

by proper support.

For many years, or since the advent of rural delivery, "some little newspapers" have been hard hit by the strenuous efforts of daily newspapers to cover the wider field opened up. The fact that most of them have refused to be "killed", must be very objectionable to "worthwhile papers", and now, if radio will help do it, "so much the better."

No doubt "some little newspapers need killin", just as some big ones deserve the same fate - is the opinion of some. But, lots of people and things do not get what they "need."

### Men Teachers And Boys

A school principal is reported as having said it is unfortunate that more men teachers cannot be employed in the schools. He has a school with many children, whose parents are un-naturalized aliens. He said that the boys from many of these families need a man teacher very much. Apparently in the countries where their families came from, the women are regarded as inferior, and the boys catch something of this contempt.

While the native boys do not seem to object so much to be controlled by women, that they were often more lawless than the children of the aliens. The democracy and sense of freedom of American life goes so far that children are allowed to manage their own affairs entirely.

There is a certain age when most boys have some contempt for womankind. Creatures that don't know the baseball rules look like an inferior of beings to them. They get well over that point of view in due time. But at that period of savagery in their lives of these young barbarians, a man teacher is a wholesome force.

Some men will always go into public school teaching because of their love for the profession, or because they use it as a steppingstone to college work or other positions. But to attract more of them into the ordinary run of teaching positions, salaries would have to be raised considerably; men should be paid at least twice as much as women teachers.

Perhaps more fellows would go into this work if they realize that the men who entered it are regarded with unusual respect and affection. They may

not get wealth in money, but they are rich in friendship of the countless young people whom they help to raise in life.

## May 9

### Harney Civil War Veteran Dies

Sunday morning, William Forney, an aged veteran of the Civil War, died at his home, from the affirmatives of old age. He was in his 91st year, and is survived by his wife and two daughters.

### Methodist Approved Ordination Of Women

The ordination of women as local pastors in the Methodist Ministry was approved by the Methodist Episcopal general conference by a decisive majority. Their admission to the itinerary and membership in the annual conference however was unanimously defeated. "It's one thing for a women to led a local parish, but the leadership of the church requires thoughtful decision making that only a man can do," said one church Elder.

### Horse Killed As Auto Crashes Into Team

A horse driven by Frank Arnold was killed Friday night on the Emmitsburg Pike when a Buick machine struck the team. The buggy was demolished. Arnold was pinned beneath the buggy, and John Brenton, who was with him, was thrown out and considerably bruised. The radiator of the Buick was damaged, the lights were broken and the fender bent. The driver was cut about the face by flying glass from the broken windshield.

### Emmitsburg Burgess Reelected

42 votes were cast in the Emmitsburg election on Monday. Harry Stokes, was reelected Burgess by that number, and Charles Keilholtz, getting the same number as the new commissioner, succeeding Cyril Rottering, whose term expired. The other two commissioners are William Morrison and Francis Matthews.

## May 16

### Barn Burned After Lighting Strike

The first real thunder gust of the season occurred shortly after midnight,

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Tuesday night, and was a severe one for a starter. The lightning was sharp, following a very hot day, but the rainfall was slight.

Lighting from the storm hit the barn on the farm of Harry Freet, near Taneytown, around 1 o'clock on Wednesday morning, and it was entirely destroyed with its contents, the horses and cattle were saved, except one calf. A lot of feed of different kinds, and all of his farming, implements, except a manure spreader, and a plow that was outside were burned.

Mr. and Mrs. Freet were awakened by the strike, and it was only by quick work on their part that the stock was rescued, as the fire burn very rapidly. Several adjoining buildings narrowly escaped, the rain, no doubt, helping to confine the loss to the one building.

### 1923 Honey Crop In Adams County

A report on the number of beehives and honey production in Adams County, during 1923, is given in a report just issued by the State Department of Agri-

culture. According to the report, the county possessed 2,077 hives, valued at an average of four dollars each, the total value being \$8,308. The honey produced was 23,225 pounds, the average price received for the crop being \$.26 per pound, for a total value of the crop was \$6,038.

The number of beehives and the production of honey in the state during 1923 was less than for the proceeding years. The reduction is attributed to the reduction in hives as a result of the Foul Brood Disease, for the control of which a law was passed requiring beekeepers to house bees in modern hives with movable frames.

Reports on the outlook for beekeepers in the county for the present indicate that the cold spring has depleted the food stores of the bees. It is declared that some losses to beekeepers will follow unless they provide honey or syrup for the bees until warm weather sets all the bees to produce food through natural resources. Feeding now, it is declare, will carry the bees along and keep up their food, rearing activities.

Hives that were wintered in cellars,

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

and in winter crates are in better condition than those, which went without protection on summer stands, and in single wall hives.

## May 23

### Methodist Vote For Church Union

By a vote of 842 to 13 the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church voted for a union with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The General Conference of the Methodist, Episcopal Church, South, will now be called into general session, and is expected to approve the proposition with similar unanimity and enthusiasm.

The united church will have 8,270,704 members, estimating constituents on the basis of three to every two members, Methodism will be able to claim that one American in every five is a Methodist. The Methodist Church counts in its membership only those who are actual and active members of the church.

### Army Leases Land For Air Corps

The U.S. Army Aviation Service has leased land from George Sauble outside of Taneytown to be used as an aviation camp, and expects to begin its use of it the last of this month. The plan is said to require eight camps, likely extending from Gettysburg to Washington. The object will be observation and landing practices for planes and balloons, and will be part of the training required for airplane army service.

It's likely that the use of the field represents a part of Army War College instruction, including a wireless station, and if so, will be of considerable importance.

The advanced quota of army occupants of the Sauble field arrived on Wednesday. They represent a detail of southern enlistments of the War College, and will have practice in a portion of the maneuvers of the College's field course. Three tents have been erected for officers, and four for the men. In all, they will be about 10 officers and 30 men and the camp will continue for about 10 days.

The camps are part of a large field plan, made up of over 30 like camps, representing an imaginary battlefield covering a wide area, contemplating part of an emergency plan of national defense.

The principle purpose of the camps

is to demonstrate means of communications among the various camps. Part of the communications will be worked out by the use of airplanes of which there will be between 15 to 18 maneuvering between Gettysburg and Walkersville. After communication has been established among the various camps by the Signal Corps, the theoretical armies will maneuver into positions sent out by the staff officers from their headquarters in Gettysburg.

### Decoration Day

Decoration Day will be observed next Friday in Taneytown. The parade will form at the Square at 1:30. All World War, Civil War, and Spanish War veterans and fraternal orders are asked to join in. The parade will proceed to the cemeteries and decorate the graves. Please bring your flowers to the schoolhouse in the morning. After decorating the graves and the Soldiers' Memorial, there will be a service in the opera house.

Decoration services will be held in Harney on Saturday evening. All are requested to meet at the school ground promptly at 5:30 where the line of march will be formed and proceed promptly to Mountain View Cemetery, then to the United Brethren Cemetery, then proceeded to the Lutheran Church where the services will be continued.

In Thurmont, Memorial Day exercises will not only ensure the graves of the soldiers are strewn with flowers, but also those of the departed brothers of the several fraternal orders that will take part in the exercise.

In Fairfield, Memorial Day services will be held on Saturday starting at 2 o'clock. All citizens of the town and surrounding communities have been invited to participate in the ceremonies and parade. The parade forms at 1 o'clock. Grand Army members will be given the post of honor in the parade, the automobiles in which they will ride being followed by a number of other cars, all highly decorated.

### Class Of Two At Fairfield High School

One of the smallest classes to be graduated from any high school in Adams County, if not in the state, will be set forth from the Fairfield High School, when commencement exercises are held for the two members of the Class of 1924.

On Tuesday evening, commence-

ment exercises will be held for the two graduates in the auditorium of the high school. Mary McCleaf, one of the two graduates, and valedictorian of her class, will deliver the valedictorian address and present the history of the Class of 1924.

John Kittinger, the other member of the class, and salutatorian, will give the address of the second highest member of the class, and also a paper on the "Flag Of The Free."

### Baseball Club At Emmitsburg

The Emmitsburg Frederick County League baseball club has been re-organized for the coming season. Louis Mundorff, proprietor of the Hotel Sagle, being reelected manager. It was then moved that responsibility for the management of the team be left entirely in his hands, members of the Board Of Directors of the Emmitsburg Ball Club keeping hands off.

Plans for raising money with which to finance the club during the season was also discussed. It was announced that arrangements had been made with the Reverend Hayden, proprietor of the movie picture house, where pictures are shown weekly, to show Dickens's famous novel "Oliver Twist" the evening of May 29. The proceeds from this picture will be given over to the Emmitsburg ball club. A strawberry festival for the benefit of the team will also be given on May 30, and a game a ball will be played on the same date. The county league season will open the middle of next month.

## May 30

### Fire Company To Hold Carnival To Raise Funds

The fire company realizes the need of an up-to-date, fire engine, not only for better and quicker town service, but for the protection of out-of-town property. Various plans are being considered for raising the funds for the purchase, to which citizens of the town and local community should liberally respond. A carnival company, that makes a business of operating in conjunction with fire companies, has been engaged for the week of June 16, more about which will be given in the next edition.

### Methodists Repeal Ban On Amusement

The Committee on Amusements of the Quadrennial General Conference of the

Methodist Episcopal Church adopted a report which provided for repealing the rule that a Methodist cannot dance, play any games of chance, or attend theaters, horse races, circuses, dancing parties, nor dancing schools, and leave it with the individual conscious of a Methodist, to take only such amusements, as can be used, in the name of the Lord of Jesus.

The report included a "solemn warning" against a widespread form of amusement which heretofore has not received an official rebuke from the church - the movies. It does not propose to prohibit attendance at theaters and movies, but lifts up a note of warning, particularly against attendance upon immoral, questionable and misleading, theatrical and motion picture performances. The report is taken to mean that Methodist can go to good theatrical plays and movies, but not too immoral, questionable and misleading ones.

### Telephone Rates To Be Increased

The C&P Telephone Co. will increase rates by 10%, which will be evenly applied to the various branches of the service. This action has been indicated for sometime, by various announcements, and claimed to be based on the needs of the company in order to pay fair dividends, and to maintain

the physical value of the company at a high standard.

The new rates are expected to go into effect sometime this fall. The increases expected to add from \$800,000 to \$1 million to the company's revenue. The question involves a great deal of figuring and estimating a fair inventory of the value of the company's property, over which there may be widely differing opinion.

No one ever welcomes an increase in expenses, without a corresponding increase in service, and there is always sure to be a ready opposition to advances made in charges by large corporation; but, in this particular instance, the company makes a very strong case, indeed, and as the C&P provides vendors such excellent service, and the very recent, tremendous storm and flood disasters, substantiated by it, will help very materially towards making the proposed advances in rates, justifiable, if not, altogether palatable.

The company statement, in brief, will be found in a very large advertisement in this issue, which we earned a lot of money from for carrying.

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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# CARROLL VALLEY HISTORY

## Reflections on the development & growth of Carroll Valley

Kathy Megyeri

Are you interested in learning about Carroll Valley's rich history? You should definitely book a visit with Bill McCleaf, the 78-year-old patriarch of a local family that has a farm in the heart of the borough and has been around longer than the borough itself.

William "Bill" McCleaf Jr. is the oldest of four and was born in Gettysburg in 1946. His parents lived in Cashtown before purchasing the 146-acre farm adjacent to our current borough hall shortly after his birth. There is a barn on the property built during the Civil War and four houses, the oldest of which was built in the 1700s, and includes Bill's, which he built in 1972. In the 1950s and early 1960s, Bill recalls picking cherries on area farms with Gary and Bob Sanders. After picking all day, they sold them to Musselman's in Biglerville for three cents a pound.

Before building his home on the family farm, Bill was drafted into the Army. He served as an infantryman (E-5) for two years, from 1967-68, and was sent to Vietnam for one year. He reflects sadly on that experience but focuses fondly on the memory of his fellow soldiers who weren't as

lucky as he was to return home. Following his service, he returned to the McCleaf farm and married Margaret. Bill and Margaret had two children. Bill's son is a surveyor in Gettysburg, and he has two sons, 9 and 11. Bill's daughter lives in Hanover, so the farm stands as an LLC so it can remain in the family forever. Bill and Margaret were married for 47 years before her passing four years ago.

Evident in his practices, Bill has a commitment to the farming way of life. He still cultivates hay on 30 acres, primarily for mulching and for sale to local horse owners. The McCleaf farm has remained largely unchanged over the years. His father's 72-year-old John Deere tractor, which was originally purchased for \$1500, is still kept in the shed. In addition to his own farm, Bill also farms other acreage, including the lower tracts and the former location of the zoo, showcasing his dedication to preserving the land and maintaining his traditional way of life.

Having lived on the McCleaf farm virtually his entire life, Bill has witnessed many changes in this community from before Charnita to the present day. He says the area used to be totally farms until Charles Rist devel-



Bill McCleaf giving one of his famous community hay rides with his prized Antique John Deere tractor in Carroll Commons.

oped the Charnita Ski area, which brought in more city dwellers and more traffic. Back in the 1970s, Bill helped the Charnita Developer by cutting trees for the roads for Frank Snyder and mowing grass for Charlie Rist for six months. He is acutely aware that growth in the Valley has surged, the traffic is heavier, and many newcomers demand more services to "turn this area into more of a city environment." But he is content with country living on

the McCleaf farm and doesn't see the need for many of the services newer residents demand.

The McCleaf family's connection to the Charnita Ski Area, now known as Ski Liberty or Liberty Mountain Resort, is deeply rooted. His wife worked as a cashier there for a decade, and his brother Joe has been a snowmaker there for 20 years. These are not just jobs, but roles that reflect their fondness for the other local residents employed there, further

strengthening their ties to the community.

Bill is well-known for giving hayrides at various community events. In fact, he has received several accommodations from Carroll Valley for his community contributions over the years. He's proud of his membership in St. Mary's Catholic Church and the fact that he helps other farmers in the community and works part-time for a local construction company. For years, he has hosted his Fairfield High School Class of 1964 at their reunions when class members reconvene every five years, either at the Sportsmen's Club or the McCleaf farm (where, of course, he offers hayrides!) Even though Bill attended Catholic school from second to seventh grade, he returned to the Fairfield School District, where his dad drove a school bus. Still today, his classmates meet once a month at Ventura's or other restaurants to reminisce and reconnect, although the number of classmates has decreased to seven or eight.

Reflecting upon simpler times, Bill fondly recalls when community get-togethers consisted of ballgames, Boy Scout demonstrations, and picnics. However, he is excited about this year's 50th Anniversary Celebration, which he believes is important because residents can enjoy another of his famous hayrides, as well as the opportunity to honor the mayor for his many contributions.

Bill can't imagine life anywhere else. He intends to be buried someday alongside Margaret at St. Mary's Cemetery. "This is my home forever," he said, "as my family and our land are here, and what better legacy can there be when the Borough named our street address 180 McCleaf Lane?"

Bill is a significant part of this community as he is our premier hay wagon driver, and frankly, this community could not imagine life without him either.

To read past editions of *Frederick County History*, visit the *History* section of *Emmitsburg.net*.

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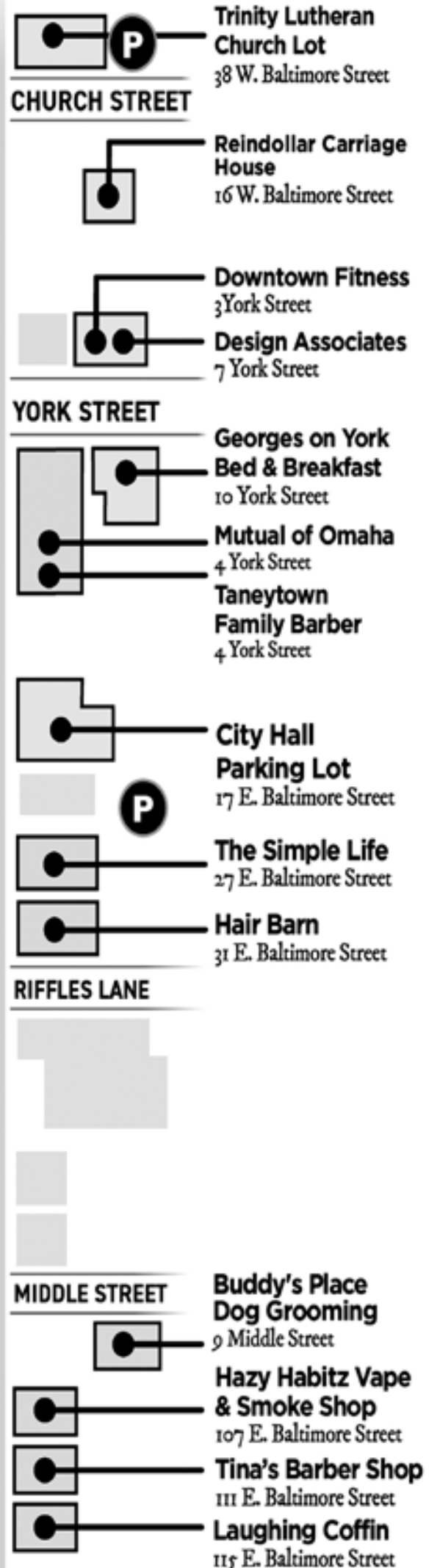
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BALTIMORE STREET



# COOKING

## May flowers...

Sonya Verlaque

My middle son is a baker-bot. He moves to help in the kitchen and going with me to cooking classes. His sweet smile usually ends up scoring him some extra treats when we go to farmers markets and bake sales. Cue the "He's so cute, here's a little treat" as they hand a 5 year old an extra éclair! He has recently become so interested in plants, foraging and growing things in our garden. These recipes are simple botanical recipes that you can make with your baker-bot at home.

**Lavender Earl Grey Cookies** These lavender Earl Grey cookies are chewy, buttery sugar cookies infused with the floral flavors of both Earl Grey tea and dried lavender petals, and it doesn't taste like soap.

*Ingredients - for the Lavender Earl Grey Cookies:*

- 2 ¼ cups (9.5 ounces or 270 grams) all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbs finely ground Earl Grey tea (from 3 tea bags or 4 tsp loose leaf tea)
- ½ tsp culinary-grade lavender, finely ground
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp kosher salt
- 1 ¼ cups (8.80 ounces or 250 grams) granulated sugar
- 1 cup (8 ounces or 227 grams) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 large egg
- 2 tsp pure vanilla extract

*For garnish*

- 2 Tbs granulated sugar

*Preparation*

For the Lavender Earl Grey Cookies - Prep your oven and pans. Position a rack in the center of the oven and pre-heat the oven to 350°F. Line two half sheet pans with parchment paper. Mix the dry ingredients: In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, Earl Grey tea, lavender, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream the sugar and butter. Beat on medium-high speed until light, fluffy, and doubled in volume, 2 to 3 minutes, using a rubber spatula to scrape down the bottom and sides of the bowl as necessary. Reduce the mixer to low and add the egg. Add the vanilla and beat until just combined. Scrape down the bottom and sides of the bowl.

With the mixer on low, gradually add the dry ingredients and beat until just combined. Scrape down the bottom and sides of the bowl once more, and beat on low for an additional 30 seconds. Use a 3-tbs cookie dough scoop to portion the cookie dough into balls. Place the cookies at least 3 inches apart on the prepared sheet pans. Sprinkle the tops of the dough balls with the remaining 2 Tbs of sugar for garnish before baking. Bake one pan at a time for 12 minutes, or until the edges have set but the centers are still gooey. The cookies will look puffed when you pull them out of the oven, but will fall and crack into the perfect cookies as they cool. Cool the cookies on the pan on a wire rack for 20 minutes, or until the edges and bottoms of the cookies have set and feel firm to the touch.

Serve and store. Serve warm or at room temperature. The cookies can be stored in an airtight container or zip-top bag at room temperature for up to 3 days.

**Magic Color Changing Violet Lemonade**

The pigment that makes violets purple is actually pH sensitive, so this is not just a fun flowery lemonade to make but also a neat science experiment for kids. You do have to make two solutions to experience the magic, but it's worth it.

*Ingredients*

- violet tea: 2 cups violet flowers (just the flower, ensure that they are unsprayed) and 2 1/2 cups boiling water
- simple syrup: 2 cups water and 2 cups sugar
- lemon mixture: 6 cups water and 1 1/2 cups lemon juice
- violet ice cubes (optional): prettiest violet flowers and water

*Preparation*

First make the violet tea - gather enough flowers to measure 2 cups of violets. This is a great job for kids - make sure to include just the flowers not the stem or leaves. (Nothing horrible happens if a few stems get in, they just don't have the color.) Pack your violets into a quart mason jar and pour over the boiling water. Poke them down to make sure they get submerged and then cover and store in the fridge for 24 hours for best results, but steeping them for a few hours is also ok.

You can make the optional violet ice cubes at the same time- just pick out a handful of the nicest blooms and freeze them in a ice cube tray overnight for a beautiful decoration.

Next make the simple syrup - put the water and sugar in a sauce pan and cook over medium heat until the sugar is melted and fully dissolved.

Make the two mixtures: strain



German (Dutch Oven) Pancake

the violets out of the violet tea - squeeze them to get all of the color out. They should be a deep purple-blue. In the first pitcher, combine the strained violet tea and the simple syrup, as sweet as you like. Refrigerate.

In a second pitcher mix the lemon juice and 6 cups of water. (Again you can increase the lemon juice to taste) Refrigerate. Enjoy your lemonade:

*When you are ready to drink your lemonade put some ice cubes in a glass and add 1/2 cup of the blue violet mixture. Next add 1 cup of the lemon mixture. If you are doing this with kids let them add the lemon for maximum amazement! It will turn from a deep purple to a pink color like magic.*

**German (Dutch Oven) Pancake**

This is an easy pancake that looks impressive but is easy enough for a weekday. It puffs up then falls and has wonderful buttery crispy edges and can be topped with whipped cream, syrup or just powdered sugar.

*Ingredients*

- 1/2 cup milk
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp table salt
- 4 tbs butter

*Preparation*

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Add 2 tbs butter and the blueberries in a 10-inch cast-iron skillet and place in the oven as it heats. Remove once the butter melts; 3 to 5 minutes. As the butter is melting, in a bowl whisk together the milk, eggs, maple syrup, and vanilla. Add the flour, cinnamon, and salt; whisk until very smooth with no dry flour remaining. Remove the skillet from the oven and brush the melted butter to grease the sides of the skillet. Quickly but carefully pour the batter into the center of the hot skillet. Give it a quick stir to distribute the blueberries if necessary. Return the skillet to the oven and bake until browned and nicely puffed; 20 to 25 minutes. Remove from the oven and dust with confectioners' sugar.

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



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# MOMS' TIME OUT

## Yes Ma'am

Mary Angel

Some weeks ago, I ran into Pop Shelf to grab a few things. Truth is, it was the day before Easter, and I was exceptionally behind filling the baskets. As I picked up the last few items I needed, I did self-checkout, and headed for the door. As I got to the door something amazing happened. Not magical amazing, but "Yes" amazing.

The young couple in front of me were also leaving and he held open the door for his girlfriend. Then he waited for me to get to the door and held it open for me as well. It didn't stop there, as I was walking through the door, I thanked him and then he said something I hadn't heard in a long time. He said, "Yes, ma'am"! This is a phrase I use to hear all the time, but lately it has fallen to the wayside. Maybe because of the times we live in, and maybe because of the way we are raising our kids. The question I am trying to figure out is whether or not our kids are a disrespectful generation or just conditioned that these little niceties don't matter.

When the young man said that to me, I absolutely beamed. Seriously, I was grinning ear to ear. I do know some people who would have been offended at being called ma'am. They would have, in turn, responded with, "How old do you think I am?!" In actuality that is not how I took it at all. I simply thought he was being sweet and respectful.

I have raised all four of my children to say, "yes ma'am" and "yes sir" without thinking. To me this is polite and a sign of respect. It was never meant to be an acknowledgement of advanced age in any way, but a way to say I respect you and sometimes a nice way to address someone whose name you do not know. The young man at Pop Shelf could have said, "You are welcome", but "Yes ma'am", in that circumstance, said, "You are welcome, and I respect you". What a tiny yet meaningful gesture.

This leads me to another dilemma, and that is how we, the recipient, choose to receive this gift. I choose to think people are being kind, polite, and well mannered. Others may choose to think the person is calling them "old" or they are being a smarty pants. Sometimes in life we can make a good situation turn bad because of our own interpretation of the facts.

My first job out of college was for a non-profit that helped the homeless. I would say, "Yes ma'am" to all the ladies I worked with. I was fresh out of college and very nervous about my first job. I was in awe of my coworkers, with their vast knowledge on the programs we offered. One of them very abruptly asked, "Stop speaking to me that way, I am not your mother". I was completely thrown. I had not singled her out

with any of my comments, nor had I treated her like my mother, but something in her past made her react like that. I asked her to sit down with me so we could talk things through. It went very well, and she did finally understand, but I had to promise not to say yes ma'am to her ever again. I am still a little confused to this day, that I had to agree not to speak to her respectfully ever again. Not that she wanted me to disrespect her, but she had this hang up and I had to respect that.

As I stated before, all of my kids were raised to say, "Yes ma'am" and "Yes, sir" whenever the opportunity arises. What better place to show this respect than in school and to a teacher. As many of you know, I have homeschooled all four of my kids in different grades in their lives. Although they have each taken an individualized path, all of them went to public school in high school. All of them had something else in common and that is their use of respectful language and how it was received. Each one of them has a different, albeit similar, story about saying one of these two phrases and it not being received well.

"What did you mean by that?" "Don't speak to me that way!" "You aren't going to get a better grade by being a brown noser" These are just a few of the responses they got from acting the respectful way they were raised. I can't entirely blame the teachers, because I am sure their response was partially ingrained in them. A lot like Pavlov's Dogs, I believe teachers are treated so disrespectfully, it can become a knee jerk reaction to think



that is how a student is acting towards them.

I think it is time to break that cycle. If we start raising our kids to be respectful of others, especially teachers, and we let our kids and teachers know that we aren't against them but for the teachers, then maybe we can change the assumption that kids are being smart mouthed instead of respectful. Let's face fact, kids, as a rule, are testing the waters every day, especially high school aged kids. They are navigating raging hormones, the stress and fear of the looming real world, and crazy interpersonal relationships, so some smart alec comments are inevitable.

I am personally dealing with a hormonal 16-year-old daughter, and I am not sure I am going to survive. She is either super sweet or her head is spinning 180

degrees while she spews some of the most venomous words I have heard. The good news is, at every parent-teacher conference I am told she is one of the most respectful and kind students they have ever had in a class. So, although I can sometimes wonder what demon has possessed my sweet little girl when she is at home, I know when she leaves the house, she musters up all of the respectful upbringing we have given her, and she treats others with kindness.

Now the question is, when is it too late? My answer would have to be never. Teach by example

and teach whenever the opportunity arises. Kindness and respect can be taught in many different circumstances. A kind word when someone is feeling down, a card to let someone know you are thinking of them or brightening stranger's day by holding the door and showing them respect. Take every opportunity to show your kids how easy it is to be kind and respectful and before you know it, they will be emulating your behavior without realizing it.

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



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# FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month, we asked our writers to reflect on the meaning of Decoration Day by remembering those who have served for our country.*

## Freshman

Paul J. Mignini

Gracie Smith  
MSMU Class of 2027

Who was Paul J. Mignini? This is an excellent question considering the United States Military Archives can't even answer it. However, I will do my best.

Paul Mignini, born on January 25th, 1922, was an Italian-American with ambition like no other. He was the husband of Virginia Conklin and father to Paul Mignini, Jr., Carolyn Vinovich, Connie Lampieri, Edith Mignini, Victoria Unglesbee, and Mary Keeley. He was the grandfather to Jennifer and Julie Lampieri, Jamie Unglesbee, Jr., Paul J. Mignini, III, Rebecca and Matthew Smith, William and Katie Doyle, and Nick and Chris Vinovich. I, Gracie Smith, am writing to you as his great-granddaughter.

While I was just 10 months shy of meeting my great-grandfather, I hope to continue his legacy by informing you of his incredible experience during World War II. All I ever knew of my great-grandfather was that he had fought in the war, and earned a Purple Heart for his acts of bravery in sav-

ing another sailor. Nevertheless, this story never satisfied me. For years I have been curious about his time in the war and what exactly he did. I can now confidently and proudly say that I have uncovered it all.

According to the official draft papers I discovered in the depths of the internet, on June 29th, 1942, Yeoman Mignini registered to serve. He volunteered to go in place of his elder brother who was drafted so he could stay behind and provide an income for the rest of his family. It wasn't until the fall of 1942 that his service initially began.

On October 24th, 1942, Yeoman Mignini was deployed to fight in Operation Torch: The Invasion of North Africa, led by none other than Dwight D. Eisenhower. Now, what was the plan for Operation Torch? Operation Torch began on November 8th, 1942, with the landing of 107,000 British and U.S. troops at Casablanca (Western Task Force), and the Algerian cities of Algiers and Oran (Eastern Task Force). The landings signaled the beginning of the end of Axis power in North Africa. On November 5th, Eisenhower established his command post at Gibraltar, Spain, undetected by the incoming German U-boats. The primary goal was to take over all the ports in North Africa and slowly reconquer lost territory. This

campaign was so successful that Eisenhower and General George Patton would then invade Sicily and later Italy.

However, Yeoman Mignini never made it to Casablanca, not in the way they planned. He sailed across the Atlantic Ocean on the USS Tasker H. Bliss, a troop transport ship part of convoy UGF-1. Its route was to depart from Norfolk, Virginia, and arrive in Fedhala, Morocco on November 8th, 1942. The ship had 235 troops on board and weighed 12,568 tons. At around 18:30 hours on November 12th, five torpedoes were fired at the three ships in Yeoman Mignini's convoy; the USS Edward Rutledge, the USS Hugh L. Scott, and the USS Tasker H. Bliss. The German submarine responsible for this was U-130, commanded by Ernst Kals. The first two ships went down almost immediately, but the USS Tasker H. Bliss remained burning in the water until around 02:30 hours the next day before it sank. At least 75 people would be killed in the attack from the three ships that went down. This would later be recognized as the Naval Battle of Casablanca.

From this attack, Yeoman Mignini had suffered oil burns in his eyes. This, however, didn't stop him from swimming in the flaming bay with an injured soldier for eight miles to the

Casablanca beach. The Baltimore Sun paper printed on December 6th, 1942 wrote about Yeoman Paul Mignini and interviewed him about his experience in the war. The paper says, "He became a soldier in a sailor's uniform". From this, he went on to be awarded a Purple Heart Medal.

Once Yeoman Mignini had reached the African shore with the injured sailor, the army took him and began treatment for his oil-burned eyes. He lay that night in a Catholic church with other minorly wounded sailors. The next day, Yeoman Mignini traveled into the fallen city of Casablanca. He and other "ship-less" sailors were put aboard another transport ship heading back to the United States.

His mother, Cesira Mignini, was informed of the attack while Yeoman Mignini was en route home. It was a cold morning in early December when Yeoman Mignini returned to his home in Baltimore, Maryland. Mrs. Cesira Mignini asked no questions, her son was home for Christmas.

This brings me to the importance of Decoration Day, more commonly known as Memorial Day. War, combat, battle, shootings, bombings, sinkings, death; nobody knows how difficult it is to speak about something if they haven't experienced it. As my great-grandfather asked when

he returned home, "Do people really know there is a war going on? Do they really know other guys aren't so lucky and are dying?"

I never met my great-grandfather. My family told me stories about him, but no one quite knew what he did in the war other than earn a Purple Heart. This prompt gave me the perfect excuse to dive into my family history and solve the cold case of my great-grandfather's war service. After hours, days even, of research, fact-checking, and cross-referencing, I finally know what Yeoman Mignini accomplished during the war.

This Memorial Day, I urge you to learn about your family history. I urge you to call your relatives and ask them to share their stories. I ask you, how are we supposed to carry on their legacy if we do not know it? How are we supposed to appreciate everything our family members went through so that we could live the way we do today? Memorial Day is a day of remembrance and a day to honor our fallen soldiers. I ask you to learn about what we should be remembering.

As my great-grandfather said, "It isn't for a Mignini to be afraid."

To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Sophomore

Decoration Day: honoring my grandfather

Devin Owen  
MSMU Class of 2026

During the meeting to discuss our prompt for May, Mike asked us if we knew what Decoration Day was and what it was about. Everyone at our meeting sat there in silence and looked at Mike with blank stares, waiting for him to fill us in. What we know Decoration Day as is Memorial Day, and unfortunately, we associate the day of memorial with cookouts, drinking, beach days, and fun. In reality though, the day is about honoring those who have served and now have passed.

In honor of Decoration Day, I would like to tell you all about my grandfather, John Ribinsky, Sr., who served two tours in Vietnam as an Airborne Ranger and Sergeant. Grandpop spent quite a bit of time in Germany, but his time in the war isn't something he wanted to talk about much—he did a lot of things he wasn't proud of, and at a very young age too. When he did talk about his time at war, he said it was "kill or be killed," he didn't have much of a choice in the decisions he made. Grandpop was drafted in 1965, when he was only 21 years old—he didn't sign up for the war, but he was forced to go. Can you imagine? When my mom talks about her dad, she always says that he was a "badass of the time." He was exposed to some nasty things during this time of his life, and when he described it to my older sisters, he said that he was simply just trained to kill people and survive. In 1971, he was honorably discharged and was awarded two Bronze Star Medals, Air Medal,

Vietnam Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Meritorious Unit Citation. From there he worked his way up to a tugboat captain, a very well-known one at that! I cannot imagine what six-years at war can do to a man. Sometimes people have to do things they never would've imagined themselves to do in order to survive, and all we can do is lend a shoulder for them to lean on when they need it.

Unfortunately, I never got the opportunity to spend much time with Grandpop. He moved out to California prior to me being born and only visited us once in my childhood years. The last time I saw him in person I was only three/four years old, so even from then I don't remember much of his last trip out to Delaware. However, even through the distance of coast to coast, we managed to maintain a relationship throughout the years. Grandpop valued penmanship and art a great deal, so it never came as a surprise to me that he would write letters whenever he could. Looking back, I think my Grandpop was the only man I've met who could write in cursive handwriting—and my goodness was it beautiful. He used to send little gifts with his letters too: they were usually a bunch of pens that he would find around, and I still have most of them to this day. There was one letter that he sent with a heart-shaped necklace with a dove in the center of it, it was beautiful—it now hangs from the mirror of my car so that he can be with me wherever I go. He was also a big supporter of dreams, especially mine. I once told him on a phone call that it was my dream to go to Cornell University to study Veterinary Medicine and boy was he thrilled! From that point forward he made it his mission to find and send me any-

thing he could on Cornell—he even managed to find a first edition magazine from/about the school and sent it my way with a heartfelt note about how happy he is to be able to share my dreams with me. Granted, I never ended up going to Cornell (I applied and was rejected), but I think he would still be just as excited for me being here at The Mount and pursuing my love for writing. After all, he is the one who created such a love through teaching me the importance of writing letters.

His death came as a shock to my whole family. We had just spoken with him a few days prior about the holidays and what he was up to. During these few days, my sister and her husband had actually talked to him about moving him out to Delaware to live with them in their new house so that he could be closer and get to meet his great-grandchildren. Grandpop passed away on Monday December 19th, 2022, after a really bad fall outside. His knees were always very weak, he said it was from all of the jumping he did as a paratrooper during the war. This man was one of the most stubborn people I had met, always wanting to show us that he could handle anything and do whatever he set his mind to—it makes sense why I am the way I am, its genetics. As painful as his death was for us, especially knowing that we weren't there to do anything about it, there was a peace of mind in knowing that he passed while being truly himself—stubbornness and all. May he be resting in peace and knowing that he is so dearly missed here on Earth.

With Decoration Day approaching us very quickly, I want to reiterate the importance of celebrating those who served and have since passed on. My mother mentioned that the men coming back from war during this time weren't always welcomed with open arms and bright smiles. Grandpop told

us that many soldiers were viewed as the bad guys because of what they did while at war, or because they survived and some others didn't—there was no life other than military when they got home and from there, they had to figure out what to do. On Decoration Day this year, let's take a look at the lives we live and how lucky we are to be where

we are, and then with that in mind, take a moment to remember those who died and those who fought to get us to this point. Thank you to those who have passed for your service; we will always remember and value you.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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## DECORATION DAY

## Junior

## Remembrance

Dolores Hans  
MSMU Class of 2025

In the stillness of the morning, the droplets coating the blades of grass cling to the hair on my ankles and create the dampness I hate to feel and the squeak of my sneakers I hate to hear. I wonder if a time will come when I can choose to go places, rather than be “voluntold” by my mother. If I was older, I wouldn’t have to accompany my grandma to a place that has very little meaning to me and feel guilty for not caring more than I do. I wish I did know, or feel, or whatever it is that causes someone to want to go visit a stranger’s grave. But the squeak of my sneakers, the carsick feeling I get after sitting in the backseat, the dampness of my socks, and my tired eyes prohibit me from surpassing the bare minimum of care. I’m here, I’m here for Grandma, and this means a lot to her. I keep repeating this to myself to get me through it. As I stroll past the curb and through the grass I pass stone after stone, engraved and

decorated with flowers, some few, some bunches, some wilted and some stiff with purpose. I walk through the maze of stones, clutching my grandma’s hand as she clutches the handkerchief she’s been using to dry the few tears that have dared glide somberly over her cheeks.

We stop at the grave of a stranger. Well, stranger to me. To my grandmother, was a beloved friend. I had heard a story or two before but I had no personal connection to the man. I close my eyes and try to picture him and my grandma and how she must be devastated without him, and how hard it must’ve been for him to fight for our country. Empathy and empathy alone makes a tear stream down my face. Am I doing it right? Is this remembrance? Is this how we honor them? I hope I’m doing enough.

When I first heard of “Decoration Day”, I didn’t know what it was. When I discovered its meaning, all I could think of was how it felt to stroll past the graves of strangers, decorated with flowers, knickknacks, and photos.

My family is very patriotic. We have many family members who have served in the marines, national guard,

and army. My Great Pop Pop was in the army. He never spoke about it to me before he died, probably because I was so young, but sometimes I think about if he watched the sunset when he was overseas, just as he always sat on the back porch and taught me how to love watching a sunset. He always told such elaborate stories about his life to me when I was a child, and to this day I don’t know what is true. I like to imagine him entertaining his squad with elaborate stories that are crazy, but just crazy enough to be true, or pretending to eat bee stingers, or finding a flower somewhere and telling them how he breaks the arms of people who touch his flowers. I remember when my Great Pop Pop died. At his funeral they draped a perfectly folded American Flag over his casket, and that flag was later folded into a perfect triangle and handed to one of my other family members. I wonder how many other thousands of funerals this was a part of, and how many other thousands of children witnessed their loved one’s casket draped with our flag.

My Uncle John is still alive, but I don’t see him anymore. He was in the marines. He also never told me sto-

ries, but I remember him coming to my house in full uniform a couple times. I remember how strong and manly he looked. I would trust him to defend a whole world, but defending a country seems fitting too. He had the best laugh, just like my dad. I like to think that he provided some laughter for others while on duty and inspired them with his strength the way he inspired me.

My brother joined the National Guard when I was in high school, and I still keep with me the letter he sent me from boot camp. Just as my Great Pop Pop and Uncle John were probably cracking jokes, here was my brother telling me to save him a slice of pizza for when he gets back.

Though I don’t know anyone personally who died in service, I know it is important to keep them in my heart and in my prayers. Though they are strangers to me; I am also a stranger to them, and that did not hinder their decision to sacrifice their life for me, so the least I can do is take a day to extend a prayer of thanksgiving for what they’ve done for my life.

When my life is filled with joyful moments like those I experience on Memorial Day, with family gath-

ered around and the grill turned on, I will remember those who died in military service. When the sun passes through the trees and warms the grass, I walk through on my way to greet a family member I haven’t seen in 6 months, I will remember those who gave their life for my sake. When the classic rock music starts to play and my dad and uncles, with their identical beards and identical laughter, all begin to discuss whatever hilarious thing has happened to them recently, I will remember the veterans. When I mix chalk in water and paint the American flag on my little brother’s backs, and they start to chant “U.S.A” as they run through the yard, I will think how proud I am to be American. When the guests have all left and it is just me and my family at the end of the day, and we search “patriotic movies” on Amazon Prime, and inevitably land on something starring Mel Gibson, I will appreciate the opportunity I have to do so because of the sacrifice of a stranger.

*To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

## Senior

## Why Decoration Day?

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

“Do any of you know what Decoration Day is?”

It’s our staff meeting in April, five o’clock in the library. The sun pokes its golden rays into the window, and around us, college students are busy at work, studying or reading or talking. Your trusted *News-Journal* staff sits in a circle, discussing our goals for the next edition, when editor Mike Hillman asks this question. Silence spills upon us, and we all exchange puzzled looks.

“Is it—a day celebrating decorations?” someone asks, and it might’ve been me. After some scattered laughter from the staff, Mike shakes his head. “Anyone else?” he asks.

When we’re all quiet, he tells us to Google Decoration Day. We race to our phones like it’s some competition, and after quickly typing in the words, we fall upon a *very* familiar term: Memorial Day. *Memorial Day?* And then it hits me: It’s about to be May, and Memorial Day is in May, and Mike wants us to write about Decoration Day, but why was it even called Decoration Day if we never use that name anymore?

When I think of Memorial Day, I think of pools opening in the summer, and blue chlorinated water, and too many children swimming in circles. I think of cookouts and days off and hot dogs. And honestly, I will fully admit: the purpose of Memorial Day rarely crosses my mind on this occasion. I’m too busy prepping for the cookouts or planning to enjoy the beautiful weather.

But why Decoration Day? American Battle Monuments Commission says, “The 30<sup>th</sup> Day of May 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorat-

ing the graves of comrades who died in the defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land.” The idea of “decoration” has to do with the graves of those who so willingly gave their lives to fight for our countries. Immediately after learning this definition, I’m sent back to my childhood, when my grandmother would take my sister and me on drives to the cemetery. On bright, blue-skied days, the graves would be adorned with flowers, little bursts of colors that distinguish each gravestone.

I had a conversation about this concept with a friend. Why are cemeteries deemed as scary? Why do we think they’re haunted, and that we must stay away from them? Cemeteries are beautiful, sacred places where we can connect with our loved ones, physically and in the most human way possible, beyond their deaths.

So, why is the holiday not called “Decoration Day” anymore?

American Battle Monuments Commission continues by saying, “Over the years, the meaning of Decoration Day evolved, gradually expanding from a commemoration of Civil War dead, into a day to honor fallen members of the American armed forces from all wars.” While the embodiment of the holiday remains, we continue to expand upon its meaning through constant and present reflection. In a way, it’s heartening to know that Memorial Day immediately manifests honor, celebration, and remembrance.

ROTC Cadet at the Mount, Junior Lorenzo DiVentura, echoes this meaning in his work with his service to our country in his collegiate years. Although Memorial Day falls outside of the academic calendar, DiVentura is still heavily involved in acts of service on the holiday. “I’ve volunteered with my local VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) to participate in firing parties

at cemeteries and parades for Memorial Day,” he says. DiVentura joined ROTC not only because the military has always been a solid, reliable option for his future, but also because his great-grandparents and cousins have served at one time or another and have inspired him to continue doing so. “My plans are to commission with the PA National Guard, and then find a civilian job from there,” he says.

But above all, he argues that knowing the history of Memorial Day is extremely significant. “Knowing the meaning of Memorial Day is important because the 3-day weekend and BBQs don’t come from nowhere; thousands of tombstones came first,” DiVentura says. This Memorial Day, he plans to continue remembering those who have served and lost their lives for our country.

So, does it matter what we call Memorial Day, so long as we implement its values? While the name “Decoration Day” is a beautiful ode to the flower-adorned graves and the humanely connection we have with cemeteries, “Memorial Day” also encompasses the innate and important value to remember.

On Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, do these things in addition to your cookouts and pool days: Visit your local veterans cemetery and lay flowers on the graves—to those you don’t know, and to those you do. Call a family member who once served, and thank them. Read stories and articles about those who have passed, and truly, truly dwell on what this day was originally for. I promise, there are ample days in May to swim or host a barbeque. For those who gave their lives, the very least we can do is exchange a couple hours of thoughts, prayers, and reflections in return.

To close this article, I’d like to personally thank Cadet Lorenzo DiVentura and the rest of the Mount St. Mary’s University ROTC Cadets for their promise to our country and their

mission to make days like Memorial Day full of remembrance and honor.

The U.S. Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program, offered at Mount St. Mary’s University, partners with the military science department at McDaniel College to provide a military pathway post-graduation. Many ROTC cadets, including DiVentura, are guaranteed jobs

following their service and have spent their time at the Mount taking regular classes alongside ROTC Advanced Courses. The cadets have developed values of challenge, competition while building meaningful skills that will last for life.

*To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*



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# LIBRARY NEWS

**Blue Ridge Summit Free Library**  
The Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will hold its fourth annual Mother's Day Plant Sale on the Plaza on Saturday, May 11 from 8 to noon.

"The sale, which is a fundraiser for the library, features a large assortment of annuals, perennials, native plants, hanging baskets, vegetable plants, herbs, and houseplants. These make perfect gifts for Mother's Day," said library board member, Megan Warner.

In advance of the sale, plant donations of all kinds are wanted. The library can provide pots for those willing to pot up their donated plants. "Or, people can bring their bare root plant donations to us, and we will pot them up," Warner said. "We are calling

them 'you dig 'em, we pot 'em' events, and they will be on Sat., May 4, noon to 2 at the library. All plant varieties are welcome." For more information about the plant sale, call the library at 717-792-2240.

**Mondays** – Children's Story Time from 4 to 5. Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 to minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

**Wednesdays** – Coffee Club from 3 to 4, 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 to 6, just hang out or play Wii, play board

games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

**Saturdays** - Join us at 10:30 for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club meets at 5:30 on May 21. 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 May 20th at 5.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit [www.fclspa.org](http://www.fclspa.org) or call 717-792-2240

### Frederick County Libraries

The Emmitsburg Branch library will celebrate the adage of "April showers bring May flowers" with new programs this month. "Little Sprouts" beginning May 1 at 10:30 a.m. invites your little ones to become garden experts as they create, explore, and learn how to care for plants. Elementary age children can discover how to care for plants and gardens in the "Junior Gardeners" program on Wednesdays, May 8,

and May 22 at 3:30 p.m.

"My Grown-Up and Me" invites children and their grown-up celebration of Mother's Day by creating crafts and memories," on Saturday, May 11, at 11 a.m.

Calling all young writers ages 12-17! We're inviting Teens to practice the craft of writing, share their work, and enjoy the wonderful world of writing with the "Maryland Writer's Association-Teen Writer's Club" on Thursdays, May 2, and May 16 at 5:30 p.m.

Is your stuffed animal friend in need of a vacation? Join us for a Saturday morning family story time at Thurmont Library at 11 a.m. - bring your stuffed friend and feel free to wear your pajamas. After story time, register your special stuffed friend for a sleepover at the library then pick them up again on Sunday, May 5 between 1-5 pm. You will receive a special gift of pictures showing all the fun and activities your stuffed animal had overnight at the library! All stuffed animals are welcome for drop off on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Join us at Thurmont Regional Library as we welcome graphic novelist Vera Brosgol to Frederick County! Known for her graphic novels, *Anyá's Ghost* and *Be Prepared*, Vera will discuss her new middle grade graphic novel "Plain Jane and the Mermaid", answer questions, and sign books. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

"A Conversation on International Affairs with Shaun Donnelly" begins on Wednesday, May 8 in the Small Meeting room at 7 p.m.

Thurmont Regional Library is an Early Voting Center for the 2024 Primary from Thursday, May 2 through Thursday, May 9 between 7 a.m to 8 p.m.

Visit the library website to discover so much more. Any questions, call Emmitsburg Library at 301-600-6329 or Thurmont

Regional Library at 301-600-7212.

### Emmitsburg Branch Library

Wednesday, May 1, 15, 29: Little Sprouts (Birth to 5), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Monday, May 6, 13, 20: Family Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Monday, May 6, 13, 20: Little Adventurers (Birth to 5), 11-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 8: Junior Gardeners (Elementary), 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 2, 9, 16, 23: STEAM Discovery (Elementary), 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 9: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags for Hope (Birth to 5, Elementary), 6-7 p.m.

Saturday, May 11: My Grown Up and Me (Birth to 5, Elementary), 11 a.m. - Noon

Thursday, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Tween Fiber Arts Workshop (Grades 4-7), 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 14, 28: RPG Game Night (Teens), 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 2, 16: Maryland Writer's Association Teen Writer's Club (Teens), 5:30-6:30 p.m.

### Thurmont Regional Library

Wednesday, May 1, 8, 15, 22: Toddler Storytime (18 months-3), 10:30-11 a.m.

Thursday, May 2, 9, 16, 23: Musical Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Monday, May 6, 13, 20: Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Monday, May 6, 13, 20: Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten (Ages 3-5), 11:15-11:45 a.m.

Tuesday, May 7, 14, 21: Baby Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 4: Stuffed Animal Storytime (Birth-5, Elementary, All Ages), 11-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 4 – Sunday, May 5: Stuffed Animal Sleepover (Birth-5, Elementary), 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, May 11, 18: Family Storytime (Birth-5, Elementary, All Ages), 11-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 7, 21: Elementary Afternoon Stem (Elementary), 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Thursday, May 9, 23: Tween Evening (Elementary), 6-6:45 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7: Meet the Author: Vera Brosgol (Elementary, Teen, Adults), 6-7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1: Teen De-Stress with W.A.G.S (Teen), 4-5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8: Teen Open Craft Hour (Teens), 4-5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15: Teen Tiny Painting (Teens), 4-5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22: Sphero Racing (Teens), 4-5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29: Teen Sand Art (Teens), 4-5 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, May 3-5: Memory Lab by Appointment (Adult, All Ages) open Library hours.

Wednesday, May 8: International Affairs Conversation with Shaun Donnelly (Adults), 7-8 p.m.

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Frederick County Public Schools

Rae Gallagher  
Vice President, Board of Education

Along with spring weather, allergies, and more sunshine also comes to arrival of the County budget season as we plan for school year 24-25. The FCPS Board of Education submitted a budget request to County Executive Fitzwater with the priority in providing the best academic and extracurricular experiences for our students, totaling \$992 million. This included just over \$81 million in additional budget requests above last year's maintenance of effort funding.

The budget request falls into four primary categories: recruiting and retaining staff while maintaining competitive salaries;

responding to enrollment growth by adding 200 school-based positions; providing additional supports to students including expanding inclusive pre-K, behavioral support, specialized programming for our special education students, and school psychologists; and addressing the ongoing inflationary increases that the school district is facing. On April 15, County Executive Fitzwater publicly released her proposed budget, which included approximately \$30 million for the Board's request.

The student enrollment of FCPS continues to grow exponentially. FCPS added 801 students last school year and anticipates another 1,200 students during the upcoming year. In order to

balance the budget over the next two months, the Board anticipates making significant, difficult decisions. There are no easy options that will not directly affect our teachers, staff, and students.

Facing a difficult budget season, the Board acknowledges that inadequate funding will impact the district's ability to maintain and enhance educational programs, resources, and facilities for students as we address our future growth and development. As a result, FCPS put a freeze on any central office hiring for the remainder of this fiscal year as well as a freeze on all non-discretionary and non-salary expenses for the remainder of this year. Throughout the month of May, the Board will work to balance the FY25 operating budget given the challenge of our fiscal reality.

County Executive Fitzwater also proposed a property tax increase of 4.7%, raising the tax rate to \$1.11 per \$100 of assessed value, specifically designating these funds to school construction needs. The average additional property tax raised will be approximately \$15/month for the average household in the county. This funding, if approved by the County Council, will allow FCPS and the County to respond to aging infrastructure needs while simultaneously responding to student enrollment growth.

On a lighter note, at the end of April FCPS named finalists for the Washington Post Educator Awards. Rock Creek Special Education teacher Peter Ricciuti and Thurmont Middle School principal Janine Smith are the 2024 FCPS nominees this year. The

Educator and Principal of the Year Awards recognize educators who go above and beyond the day-to-day demands of their positions to create exceptional learning environments for their students. Mr. Ricciuti joined the Rock Creek faculty in 2012. He leads the Rock Creek gardening program, an essential component of the life skills curriculum.

Mr. Ricciuti is currently a participant in Leadership Frederick County. Ms. Janine Smith has served at Thurmont Middle School since 2018, first as an assistant principal and then as principal beginning in 2020. Ms. Smith has been a powerful advocate for students in the Catoctin High feeder pattern and is known for her collaborative spirit. Ms. Smith graduated from Leadership Frederick County in 2017 and is a former FCPS Teacher of the Year finalist.

## Fairfield School Board

The Fairfield Area School Board plans to raise taxes by 3.63 percent this year.

During their April 22 meeting, the board unanimously approved a \$22 million preliminary budget proposal. The board expects to give the budget final approval on June 24. Business Manager Tim Stanton told the board the budget focuses on tackling deferred maintenance, building a three-year capital plan, and saving money for a possible expansion of the Adams County Technical Institute.

Stanton said the proposed tax increase will cost the average homeowner \$98 annually.

In October, ACTI Administrative Director Sean Eckenrode told the board the school is seeking a new location in central Adams County. ACTI serves all Adams County school districts except for Upper Adams.

The board agreed with Stanton's proposal to save \$200,000 per year for ACTI so the district is prepared for when the bill arrives. If ACTI changes its plans, the district will reallocate the money.

"Any dollars you put away now saves that interest on the bond down the road," Superintendent Thomas Haupt said.

The board also plans to contrib-

ute \$8,000 towards a high school courtyard proposed by 11th-grade students Delaney Gass, Bella Kozack, and Tristin Barnhart. The trio has raised \$3,000 to date and continues to fundraise and apply for grants.

Board members want to help them achieve phase one of their goal before they graduate. Next year, the district will use the \$11,000 total to install a sidewalk platform, pavilion, seating, and electricity. Future phases include

a butterfly garden, landscaping, and a fish pond.

The board is also budgeting to reseal the high school parking lot at a cost of \$100,000. Board members hope to seek assistance for the project from Liberty Mountain Resort, which uses the lot on weekends.

Stanton will not be seeing the 2024-25 budget process to completion. His last day with the district was April 22. Stanton did not cite a reason

for his resignation but told the board he enjoyed his two years at Fairfield. He added he wishes he left the district in a better financial shape but believes they are working towards that goal by hiring Assistant Business Manager Scott Wilt as his replacement. Stanton said he has known Wilt for about 7 years and believes him to be one of the area's most talented school business professionals.

"My legacy is I left you Scott," he said.

### First Friday

# BINGO!

**Join us for our next bingo Friday, May 3**

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BINGO STARTS @ 7 p.m.

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# ARTS

## New Spire Arts presents Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas

String duo Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas bring an evening of innovative music to New Spire Arts in Frederick on May 5. From intimate chamber music to energetic dance music and Scottish to global tunes, this duo has set a new standard for fiddle and cello in traditional music.

The musical partnership between performer Alasdair Fraser, “the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling”, and brilliant Californian cellist Natalie Haas spans the full spectrum of traditional Scottish music and returns the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of it all. Fraser has a musical career spanning over 30 years, with a long

list of awards, accolades, radio and television credits, and feature performances on top movie soundtracks (Last of the Mohicans, Titanic, etc.), later being inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame in 2011.

Haas, a graduate of Juilliard, is one of the most sought-after cellists in traditional music today and has recorded with masters of the fiddle world including Mark O’Connor, Natalie MacMaster, and many more. Since the duo’s debut recording, Fire & Grace, which won the Scots Trad Music “Album of the Year” award, the two have gone on to record five more critically acclaimed albums



that blend a profound understanding of Scottish tradition and cutting-edge string explorations.

Tickets may be purchased

online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street. Discounts are available for students, chil-

dren, military, and seniors.

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2023-24 season can be found at WeinbergCenter.org.

## GCCA announces Spring 2024 concert season

Gettysburg Community Concert Association (GCCA) is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to cultivate an interest in good music and dance, and to provide opportunities for its members to attend performances given by outstanding artists. The upcoming GCCA Spring Concert Season offers three classical music concerts in Gettysburg as well as three additional concerts presented by the community concert associations in Waynesboro and Hagerstown, for free through a regional agreement.

GCCA fulfills its mission of bringing great classical performers to the area by opening the Spring Concert Season on April 9 with ensemble132, a quartet of musicians from a roster-based chamber music collective with innovative programming centered around new arrangements of existing masterworks and classic repertoire. Next, the Hyperion String Quartet, an exciting talent emerging within the field of chamber music since their formation in 1999 at the Eastman School of Music, returns to the GCCA stage to provide an encore

performance on May 7.

To conclude the season, Frisson (ensemble) showcases some of the brightest of classical music’s stars with an engaging program for winds, piano trio and piano quartet, and features oboist, Thomas Gallant. The venue for all concerts is St. James Lutheran Church, 109 York Street in Gettysburg, at 7:30 p.m. This concert, postponed from a November date, is rescheduled for a June 11.

The regional partners in Hagerstown and Waynesboro offer pop and country music entertainment:

Key of G Live! Tribute to Garth Brooks (April 25, 7:30 p.m. at the Maryland Theatre, Hagerstown); Real Deal Country with Katie Deal (Sunday, April 14, 3 p.m., Waynesboro High School); and the Dallas Brass - repertoire includes Dixieland, Swing, Broadway, Hollywood, & patriotic music. (Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m., Waynesboro High School).

An adult membership for all six concerts is \$50. Adult single admission at any of the three venues ranges from \$20-\$25. A GCCA membership offers an exceptional live entertainment value. Children

to age 18 and college students with ID are admitted free. Tickets and memberships may be purchased at the door.

For information visit [www.gettysburgcca.org](http://www.gettysburgcca.org); call 717-339-9610; e-mail [info@gettysburgcca.org](mailto:info@gettysburgcca.org).

The Gettysburg Community Concert Association (a non-profit membership organization) 2023-2024 Season is supported in part by a grant from PA Council for the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of PA and the NEA, a federal agency; the Adams County Arts Council’s STAR Grant Program.

## Way Off Broadway Theatre’s Summer Theatre Camp

Registration has begun at The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre for its 2024 Summer Theatre Camp which will begin on July 22nd.

For over 20 years, Way Off Broadway has been offering budding young actors and actresses the opportunity to hone their craft

during the theatre’s annual summer camp. These camps focus on all aspects of musical theatre through vocal music, acting exercises, and basic choreography as students rehearse for a full musical produc-

tion at the end of the session.

This year’s camp will be held July 22nd – August 1st from 10 to 4 p.m., Monday – Thursday. Camp is open to students ages 9 and older. Registration is \$500 per student.

Instructors for Way Off Broadway’s 2024 Summer Theatre camp will once again be Bill Kiska, the theatre’s Executive Producer, and Megan Elizabeth West, one of Way Off Broadway’s performers and music directors.

For its theatrical production this summer, the camp will be presenting Legally Blonde, JR. Adapted from the hit movie and award-winning Broadway musical, Harvard’s beloved blonde takes the stage by glittery pink storm in this fun and upbeat stage show. Legally Blonde, JR. follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. When Elle’s boyfriend, Warner, dumps her and heads to Harvard, claiming she’s not “serious” enough, Elle takes matters into her own hands, crafting a showy song-and-dance personal essay and charming her way into law school. Befriending classmate, Emmett, and spunky hairdresser, Paulette, along the way, Elle finds that books and looks aren’t mutually exclusive. As Elle begins outsmarting her peers, she realizes that law may be her natural calling after all.

Registration is limited and being done on a first-come, first-serve basis. For complete details about this year’s camp, including registration information, visit the theatre’s website at [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).

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# MOUNT ARTS

## SPARC at the Mount

Emelie Beckman  
MSMU Class of 2026

Greetings, Emmitsburg News-Journal. My name is Emelie Beckman, and I am currently a sophomore at Mount St. Mary's University. Beginning in fall of 2024, I will take over as Fine Arts Reporter, succeeding graduating senior Ashley Walczyk.

I was born in Stockholm, the capital of the small country of Sweden. We are located in the most northern part of Europe and our language is Swedish. We are historically famous for the vikings, while modernly famous for our meatballs and furniture stores. The Nobel Prize comes from Sweden, as well as Spotify and Minecraft.

One might wonder why I chose to come to the Mount. To be honest, I had no idea what the Mount was before I came here. My agency was contacted by coach James Stevenson from the Mount's track team in the winter of 2021, and since opportunities for track and field athletes are much greater in the States, I chose to move halfway across the world to come here. As you might have concluded, I am on the Mount's track and field team. I specifically do pole vault, which was something that started off as a crazy idea in 2016 that I have simply stuck with ever since. Beyond that I really enjoy reading and writing. I am majoring in English and Communications, and my intentions are to become a journalism in the future. Besides this, I have always had a huge interest in the visual and performing arts. I grew up doing theatre and my dad worked as an art teacher for parts of his life.

As a child, I was always encouraged to express myself creatively, whether it be in music, art, or performances. I remember putting on plays with my friends in our parent's living rooms. Usually I would be the writer, director, leading actress, and producer. My more laid-back friends would just go along with my crazy ideas. I was just that kind of a kid who loved to perform. Adult Emelie has shifted that focus into her writing and sport performances. However, this early interest

in the arts and my current ambition to become a reporter all led me to apply to the position as the Emmitsburg News-Journal's new Fine Arts Writer. I cannot wait to see what fun articles I will share with you readers.

This month, Mount St. Mary's University hosted its yearly SPARC Festival, a celebration of academic excellence composed of senior honors presentations, panels, poster sessions, lightning talks, as well as artistic, musical, and theatrical productions. This year, the festival took place over the course of three days, from April 17th-19th.

The music department kicked off SPARC activities with its stunning performance of the opera Dido and Aeneas. Leading singer Eryn Fitzgerald along with her co-stars and ensemble delivered the striking story of Dido and her lover Aeneas, who must separate due to the latter's return to Rome, becoming a tragedy that ends with a heartbreaking suicide. Along with wonderful acting and singing, the Mount community was treated to a performance unlike anything seen before on campus. The Horning Theater stage at Delaplaine Fine Arts Center was for the first time in a long time filled to the brim, and some of the audience even had to watch the performance on a screen in one of the nearby classrooms.

Additionally, on the following Thursday, Mount senior Liyah Curry presented her comparative study of two American female composers, Amy Beach and Florence Price. Her study dove into that of privilege, class, race, and sex. Curry compared the upbringings and opportunities of the two composers, most prominently stating that while Beach and Price both struggled with the patriarchal system of their time, their opportunities differ more since one is white and the other black. Curry further dwells on how marriage was a major source of opportunity for both women, highlighting how the old system was highly unfair and how astonishing the work of these two women truly is when put into the perspective of their time. Curry reflected, "Doing this

research and then getting to perform it really made me appreciate these two women a lot more. It's different with context. With context I have switched my approach to their music, and I can now perform what they would want me to perform." Curry's presentation was emotional as well as immersive, and she believed the best way for her audience to get familiarized with the composer's was through their music.

Williams Art Gallery held the collective works of the Mount's art students in their Senior Art Exhibition. The Gallery was filled with a variety of works all differing in style, composition, material, and technique. Oil paintings, sculptures, and ceramic pieces all strongly displayed a sense of uniqueness springing from the number of different artists all sharing one show.

On the second day of SPARC, senior Emma Edwards held a presentation on her art show called "Your Motherhood Imprinted in Soul" which was on display in William's Art Gallery earlier in the semester. Edwards guided her audience throughout photos her gallery and spoke to her creative process. The main inspiration behind the show was her mother's poem, written shortly after the death of Edwards' grandmother. Edwards herself spoke about how she found her inspiration for the show's name in one of the last lines written by her mother, conveying how art ultimately inspires art. The show most prominently contained works of ceramic wind chimes and beautiful charcoal illustrations of birds. Edwards says: "I wanted to make this show as much of a whisper as I could. I wanted it to be gentle and caring." Her joy, passion, and love was clearly visible during her entire presentation.

For his last semester before retirement, Professor Kurt Blaughter and his student crew performed An Iliad. Originally by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'hare, An Iliad is a modern retelling of Homer's Iliad performed as reading theatre. The three performers from the Mount, students Laila Jefferson, Alexis Mobley, and Brooke Schneidreith, took turns to theatrically read the script for the audience. The play commented on historical as well as modern warfare, with an overall message that humans



The ENJ staff welcomes Emelie Beckman, from Stockholm, Sweden, as the new Mount Fine Arts writer!

have not changed as much as we would like to believe.

Finally, the Mount's literary magazine, Lighted Corners, also held an event during SPARC, presenting their 43rd Volume called "Currents." The Editor of the Emmitsburg News-Journal, Claire Doll, also serves as the Editor-in-chief of the magazine. Claire spoke to how the name had come from the many images of water running throughout the magazine, whether it be the ocean, tears, or the warm steam coming from a homy kitchen. The event included live readings and presentations of writing and art throughout the publication. The

digital magazine can be viewed online at [msmary.edu/lightedcorners](http://msmary.edu/lightedcorners).

As the academic year comes to an end, the Mount's Visual and Performing Arts department will be holding a May Day Concert at Patriot Plaza on May 1st at 4 p.m. as well as a Student Music Recital at the Horning Theater in Delaplaine that same evening at 7 p.m. As we count down the days to commencement, the Emmitsburg News-Journal thanks you for your interest in the Mount's fine arts!

To read past articles by Emelie Beckman or Ashley Walczyk, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# CATOCTIN SPORTS

## The unyielding success of Catoctin track

Richelle Zheng  
Class of 2025

Catoctin's spring sports teams are living up to their full potential, with numerous back to back games. Notably, Catoctin's outdoor track and field, and softball teams have made amazing accomplishments so far this season.

Catoctin's men's varsity outdoor track and field teams had their first meet of the season on March 28, at Hoover-Josenhans Invitational, held at Clear Spring High School. In the men's varsity 200-meter dash senior Ronald Etzler finished first, with a time of 24.22 seconds, which also marks his new personal record for the season so far! Not far behind follows sophomore Ayoola Animashaun, in fifth with a time of 25.26 seconds. Gavin Sheetz ran an impressive time of 55.76 seconds in the men's varsity 400-meters event, putting him in first place! Gabriel Riling competed in the same event and ran a time of 56.37 seconds, placing him third. Freshman Seamus Riddle competed in the men's varsity 800-meters event, and secured a time of 2:22.48 minutes. His personal record placed him in fourth place, in the event. Catoctin's 4x200 relay team, consisting of Animashaun, David Stiley, Etzler, and Riddle placed first with a time of 1:42.38 minutes! Additionally, the men's varsity 4x400 relay consisting of Santiago Cañadas Fraga, Brian Vasquez, Michael Metz, and Riling finished first with an outstanding time of 4:04.25.

The girl's outdoor track and field team competed in the Dwight Scott Battlefield Blast

Invitational on March 30 at Boonsboro High School. Senior Ava Thompson ran in the 200-meter dash and finished with a new seasonal time of 30.46 seconds! Freshman Hadley McQuay competed in the 400-meter event and secured a personal best time of 1:09.55 minutes. Kylie Foster also ran the 400, finishing with a seasonal time of 1:16.88 minutes. In the 1600-meter event, Aniston Casne's time of 5:42.26 placed her fifth in the competition. Additionally, Keira Taylor placed fifth with a personal record of 12:25.54 minutes in the 3200 meter race.

Both track and field teams participated in the Red, White and Blue Classic meet at Francis Scott Key High School, held on April 6. In the 200-meters dash, Furious Trammel started off his outdoor track season with an exceptional time of 22.36 seconds, expertly placing him first! Dennis Lease ran a fourth place time of 53.13 seconds in the 400-meters event. Additionally, Lease ran in the 800-meters event with a time of 2:12.55, placing him in fifth place. Riling marked a time of 10:20.7 minutes in the 3200-meters event, placing him in first! Sheetz ran in the 110-meters hurdles and 300-meters hurdles, locking in fourth place for both events. Lease, Etzler, Sheetz, and Trammel made a great relay team, as they manifested first in the 4x400 relay race, with an outstanding time of 3:36.78 minutes! Finally, in the 4x800 relay race, Etzler, Lease, Fraga, and Riling worked together to win first place, with a time of 8:35.77 minutes.

From the girls team, Taylor



Catoctin's softball team celebrates an incredible run.

placed fifth in the 800-meters dash with a time of 2:33.61 minutes. Junior Aliyah McLain competed in the 1600-meters event and achieved a new personal record time of 7:00.79 minutes. Casne placed third in the 3200-meters event, finishing with a personal record of 12:31.04 minutes. Olivia Baker, Casne, Katelyn Bell, and Taylor competed in the 4x800 relay race, placing second with a time of 10:46.88 minutes.

On the field, at the Sam Singleton Scorpion Classic held on April 19-20. Deacon Mcllvaine placed second in the varsity shot put event. Mcllvaine's 50-00.25 throw marked a new personal best! Similarly, Bryce Bowers threw a 33-06.25 shot marking his new personal best. On the junior varsity team, Bagnet threw a 29-02.75; along with Dylan Jesse with a 75-03 shot in the discus JV finals, which placed him in seventh place. It's fair to say that Catoctin's outdoor track team continues to impress competition, and bring pride to the Catoctin community!

Catoctin's softball team has had a great start to their season as well. Their first game took place on March 22 at Catoctin High School, against Liberty High School. The team, playing offense, had two outs with all bases loaded. Thanks to sophomore Tatiana Owens, a base was made on balls, later scoring a run. Madison Ott made a single hit, scoring two runs, resulting in Cougar vic-

tory! In addition, Aubrie Courtney aided the team's win by making two home runs and a walk. Bralyn West contributed two hits, along with Meghan Gray, who made a hit that led to two home runs and three planned walks. On defense, Courtney threw an incredible fastball that was unable to be hit, giving the girls an edge, ultimately resulting in the girls win of 8-7! Ott was given the spotlight as athlete of the week due to her walk-off single and Courtney was also given a shout out for her two home runs that led to the Cougar's win.

On March 25, Cougars softball competed against Middletown High School at home. During the team's offensive plays, Cassidy Kreitz led the team with four hits, two home runs, a double hit, and encouraged three runs! Rae-gan Miller pitched in, by making three hits, a triple hit, a double hit, and driving three runs. Moreover, West made two double hits; and Courtney, Madison Ohler, and Ott all added two hits each. Additionally, Gray and Sammie Simmers each contributed a run batted-in hit, respectively. On the defense, Courtney struck out four of three innings, only permitting one earned run for the Middletown Knights! Kreitz struck out two innings and pitched two shut-out innings. Nearing the end of the game, the Cougars made a double play with the Knights on second and third base. With one out in center field, Ohler caught a fly

ball and threw to home, outing the player at third base. Then, Gray threw a ball to Courtney, who then tagged a retreating opponent. The Cougars were able to sit comfortably with a 16-2 triumph because of their strategic plays.

The girls had their next game on April 4, against Smithsburg High School. Taking another win of 16-1, the girls increased their overall record to 3-0 for the season so far. Some offensive highlights from this game include West contributing four hits, four run batted-ins, and a double hit, leading the team. On top of that, Kenzie Lewis also chimed in with three run batted-ins, and Owens with two hits. Gray guided the team to their victory by making a two run home run which was permitted by Simmers who batted double hits.

Moving on to the Cougar's most recent game against Clear Spring High School, the girls won 17-1. Gray led the team to victory by making three hits, a double hit, a home run, and two run batted-ins. West dealt a good hand with a home run and a double hit, which added five runs. Lewis also allotted two runs with two hits. The Catoctin varsity softball team is on track to states, considering their record of 10-2! The Catoctin community is excited to see what developments will occur in spring athletics!

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.



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# Mount Swim and Dive dominates in conference

Steve Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

In early January 2024, the members of the Mount St. Mary's men's and women's swim and dive team gathered at an aquatic center outside of Orlando, Florida with training and more importantly, winning, on their mind. Coming off their first season in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Association, the team had weathered their freshman year in the conference pretty well, and with the looming conference championships in February almost upon the team, this break from racing, plus the good weather, was a timely reprieve from the sporting calendar thus far. This mid-season preparation was an interruption from the rigorous and sometimes monotonous six-month long season that somewhat uniquely crosses over both academic semesters at the school.

But before this training camp in Florida, the Mountaineers competed in a hard fought and tiring fall half to their season. A quick start to the season began at the American University Relays when the Mount raced in a field made up of American, Georgetown, Howard, and George Mason. With the women's team placing 4th and the men's team 5th, personal success defined the first invitational meet of the year. The Men's 3x100 Yard Breaststroke Relay team included Jacob Wallace (C'24), Griffin Distler (C'24), and Aidan Grady (C'25) placing 3rd in the event rankings, and the Women's 200 Yard Medley Relay team made up of Hanna Aggen (C'27), Christine Lazari (C'26), Dahna Yoon (C'24), and Maddy Samuels (C'24) placing 4th in their respective race.

In the follow up dual-meet against American in Emmitsburg on October 6th, the season improved as the Mount swept both 200 Meter Medley Relays, close wins in the Men's 100 Meter Freestyle and Women's 50 Meter Freestyle, as well as wins in the Men's 50 Meter Butterfly and Women's 100 Freestyle. This led to a competitive finish in their first dual-meet. Both teams fell short against Howard the next week, but comfortable three-digit wins against Messiah on October 21st put the team in high spirits as they travelled back to Emmitsburg to face the rival Virginia Military Institute on Senior Day.

With a formidable 179.5-108.5 win on the women's side of the day, with top performances from the relay team of Aggen, Lazari, Samuels, and Abby Steckiel (C'26), the sights of spectators turned to the men's field; specifically, the final race of the afternoon: Men's 200 Meter Freestyle Relay. The relay team, made up of Austin Toland (C'26), Lucas Hancock (C'27), Antonio Gurri (C'27), and Nic Santorelli (C'24) were under pressure to perform,

as the scores were close going into the final event. Toland finished his leg of the race at 23.84 seconds, nearly a second off VMI's Matthew Picard's first leg of 24.32 seconds. From then, the middle racers on both teams traded off close legs of no more than a couple milliseconds apart. The final leg of the race then came down to Santorelli, the team's anchor, and VMI's Dalton Cosner. With both swimmers tied neck and neck heading toward the wall, it was Santorelli who touched the tiles first, he had beaten Cosner by 00:08 milliseconds. The pool deck erupted as the men's team had beaten the Keydets in the final race of the day to make it a 151-142 win in Emmitsburg.

"That was just awesome, the pool was electric," said Seth Garbanzos (C'25), one of the captains of the men's team. The captains of the Mount's men's and women's swim and dive teams have some of the more unique responsibilities of any of the athletic teams on campus. "It was a team vote. We had a couple of names to choose from that they wanted to be captain who had leadership skills," added Julie Veilleux (C'24), one of the senior captains of the women's team. Sofie Allison (C'24) added that the coaches and training staff of the team wanted prospective leaders to make an application and write a letter detailing their leadership qualities and why they wanted to be a captain in the first place. That leadership feeds into many duties that would be reserved for coaches in other Division I programs such as planning events and organizing team meetings. This included the scheduling and running of swim lessons that the team runs to help raise money for the program. Another senior captain for the men's team, Jonah Hancock (C'24) expanded on this leadership and told of a captain's duty, not only at practice but on race day. "Swimming is a very mental sport, so being there for your teammates is one thing,



The Mount competed in their second MAAC Championships at the SPIRE Academy and Institute in Geneva, Ohio.

not getting too emotional because you are a leader on the team, and being there not only for when the team is down but for when the team is up helps a lot."

After a tiring fall half of the season, the team was split in two, with one half going to the Franklin and Marshall Invitational and the other half going to the Eastern College Athletic Conference Winter Championships in East Meadow, New York. At first, racing against a field of schools may seem a daunting task compared to the head-to-head competition of a dual meet. But from the perspective some, it seems more individualistic. "There are a lot of swimmers at these midseason meets, but I would say you feel more individualized as a swimmer, obviously you want your school to win, but that's the time where I [and the team] can improve my personal goals," added Garbanzos. Jacob Wallace, the final men's team captain added that in the pressure of racing at a de facto conference meet that execution is key not only for improving individual's personal times, but for point winning for the team as a whole.

After returning from Florida in January, the team had raced in a two-week dual meet corri-

dor against Lafayette and Loyola before travelling to Geneva, Ohio for the MAAC Conference Championships in mid-February. The SPIRE Academy and Institute, the pool that hosted the championships this year is reminiscent for many on the team, as that is where the Northeast Conference Championships were held in 2021 when many of the seniors on the team were in their first year of the program. This may have been the reason for some of their success, but preparation and experience is what helped many succeed as multiple school records were set at the meet. The top of the podium for the Men's 50 Meter Freestyle belonged to Toland as he set the new school record in the event

with a time of 20.12 seconds. And during the same session, the relay team of Aggen, Lazari, Samuels, and Meghan Speicher (C'25) broke the school record for the Women's 200 Meter Freestyle Relay with a time of 1:34.41.

The second-place finish of the Women's 200 Meter Freestyle Relay earned the team a spot at the CSCAA National Invitational Championship in Ocala, Florida. But they were not alone as four members of the men's team, Wallace, Grady, Toland, and Jason Fitch (C'24) earned a spot at the prestigious invitational.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## All healing is emotional healing

Jefferson Breland

Last Fall, I wrote about Fall cleaning. Now that Spring is here, one might rightly think, I would write about the more commonly known Spring cleaning.

Well, you are correct. And I know it is the month of May and this Spring will be over soon. I wish to remind you, generally speaking, it is never too late to begin anything.

In this article, I wish to clean up, so to speak, or examine a couple of prevalent beliefs. One is the belief we have little control over our health. It is a commonly held belief that our genetics are carved in stone and there is nothing we can do about it.

The second belief I wish to address is that there are “good emotions” and, therefore, “bad emotions.” I venture all emotions are necessary and lead to better health when they are expressed in way that serves life.

One of the foundations of acupuncture and therefore Chinese medicine, is a framework of observation based on nature called, “The Law of the Five Elements.”

This system is amazing. It can be applied to everything in nature from the interactions of molecules to the expansion of the Universe. It can be applied to decision-making as well as the health of our body—mind—spirit.

To annoy any physicists, I call it a “Theory of Everything.” (You know who you are and what I am talking about. And yes, contact me and let’s talk.)

According to the Law of the Five Elements (5E), the cycle of seasons is divided into five seasons. Yes, five, Winter, Spring, Summer, Late Summer (the gooey time of year from roughly mid-July through mid-September), and Fall.

Each of these seasons has correlations to different aspects of nature and specifically, the human experience.

While the framework is relatively simple compared to, say, algebra, it is a very different way of looking at the world. It is easy to get lost in the details of the theory, so I shall attempt to peak your curiosity while keeping it very simple.

If you want to learn more, go to [www.tcmworld.org/what-is-tcm/five-elements](http://www.tcmworld.org/what-is-tcm/five-elements) or give me a call or email. I love to share what I know about this stuff.

In a nutshell, the 5E framework looks at the human experience in relationship to and as part of the natural world. These relationships include season, climate, color, sound, taste, odor, senses, organs and meridians (energy pathways), and emotions.

According to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and quantum physics, everything is energy. Therefore, all of the 5E relationships are energetic relationships.

Of these relationships, generally speaking, emotions have the biggest influence on our health. The root cause of approximately 95 to 99% of all modern illness can be traced to an emotional imbalance that then leads to energetic imbalances in the body. These imbalances if not properly addressed will lead to an increasing array of symptoms.

After all, emotions are simply e-(nergy in) motion. When emotions get stuck or are not expressed appropriately, humans experience illness, mental as well as physical.

Modern Western medicine, especially the field of epigenetics, also recognizes the significant role emotions have on our health. My pathology professor in acupuncture school who was a genetic oncologist from Johns Hopkins Hospital returned from a conference on epigenetics one week

and declared that he had been going about his career all wrong.

He said only 5-10 percent of all cancers were caused directly by genetics. The rest of cancers (90-95%) were influenced by lifestyle- the way we typically live- food, drink, activities, morals, relationships, and emotions.

I should add this is not limited to cancer. Lifestyle influences our health on all levels from the common cold, to asthma, allergies, high blood pressure, heart disease, auto-immune diseases, you name it.

It is important to note lifestyle is based on beliefs. Many of these beliefs can seem invisible for the simple reason we have never taken the opportunity to examine why we live life the way we do. We have never known there are other ways of doing things.

We typically live life the way our parents lived their lives, as they lived their lives based on their upbringing. This is where the fallacy of genetic inevitability of disease can take root.

If we do the same things and have the same beliefs about life and therefore the same influences on our health as our predecessors, it will look like our health is genetically hard-wired. It isn’t. Genetics are merely a probability, not an inevitability.

The idea that genetics are written in stone is one of the least helpful beliefs in our health care system. It is the basis of treatment planning, testing, treatments, and insurance rates.

While it is important that medical professionals take a detailed family medical history, too often the history itself is identified as a “health risk.” This is a misuse of the information in my opinion. Very often, we look at our relative’s past health as our future.

The family medical history is an opportunity to reveal areas of concern, not make conclusions based on the experiences of other humans who happen to be related by blood. It is an opportunity to make changes and give our bodies a chance to use our innate healing ability.

The standard beliefs in our culture about health are the source of many strong and harmful emotions. When we look at our genetics as the source of life, not just the cause of illness, we increase the possibilities for a healthy life.



Howlett came into the shelter as a stray. He’s a 1-year-old Akita mix, who can be stubborn at times, but is a happy, handsome fellow. He likes to be around people and will need someone who has experience with stubborn breeds and is willing to work with him. Howlett knows to sit and shake and loves to go outside for walks and play in the yard! He is treat-motivated and enjoys Kong toys. Howlett did test positive for Lyme but is currently on antibiotics for it. Do you have the right spot for Howlett?

For more information about Howlett 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.

Now to my second point of this article.

Recently, in a conversation with the gentleman who was walking me through the contract for a new roof on my house, he asked, “Is it normal, to be, like, happy all the time? That doesn’t seem right to me.”

First you may note, this may not seem like a normal conversation with a roofing contractor. Secondly, you might ask, “Isn’t happiness a good thing?”

Well, firstly, this is a perfectly normal conversation in my life. I typically develop friendships/relationships where the “small talk” is maybe not so “small.”

Secondly, happiness is a good thing. And I venture it would be unusual and perhaps, not “healthy” for someone to be “happy” every second of every day.

In the 5E framework, there is an emotion associated with each of the five seasons. These emotions represent the energetic movement of each season. Out of balance, the emotions have an effect on the movement of energy in our body.

Please remember that emotions, in and of themselves, are not bad. It is simply an energetic response to life and its events. It is what we do with them that matters most.

A simplified list of the seasons and their associated emotions is: Winter- fear, Spring- anger, Summer- joy, Late

Summer- worry, Fall- grief. Obviously, we don’t just experience each emotion only in that season. The correlations of the 5E framework are in constant motion every moment of every day.

Just as each season of the year is necessary for life to unfold and continue from year to year, each emotion is necessary for us to experience life fully. If we pass up the opportunity to experience an emotion it would be as if we skipped one of the seasons during the year.

Emotions are an expression of the relationship we have with the world around us. When we allow ourselves to experience emotions in a balanced way and let them move through us, we know more about life. We know more about the common human experience.

The challenge of emotions comes only when we suppress them. This is the beginning of imbalances that can lead to a less fulfilling life on all levels. Each of the energies of the emotions informs our bodies and allows them to function in a more healthy way. We experience emotions for the purpose of living life at its highest levels of body—mind—spirit.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg. He can be reached at 410-336-5876.

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# HEALTH AND FITNESS

## Winter to spring activities

**Linda Stultz**  
Certified Fitness Trainer

The cold weather is hopefully behind us for now. During the winter months many of us stay inside and that leads to being sedentary more than we realize. Watching television and playing videos games occupy more time than a lot of people like to admit. Some people are also still working from home and that means sitting in front of the computer for long periods of time several days a week.

Health professionals recommend getting up and walking around for a few minutes every half hour if you are sitting and working on the computer. They also suggest taking a walk

through the house at each commercial if you are watching TV. Doing this simple activity can help with blood circulation, moving muscles and getting your heart rate up which are all important for your health. These are just a few things you can do while you are inside to keep moving your body.

Spring is a great time to start that walking, jogging or bike program you have been thinking about. The weather is warm and pleasant and it feels great to get outside since it is not freezing anymore. Some people like to walk or exercise in the cold weather but most are more likely to start and stick to an outside exercise routine when the weather is nice.

Spring is also a busy time, cleaning up the yard from the winter

winds and clearing out the flower beds. Getting the ground ready to plant the vegetable garden is another big job. It's a good idea to go for a few walks, maybe rake the leaves left from the fall or do some type of medium exercise before you jump right into the harder, more intense work of the summer. Get your muscles and body stretched out and built up before you start those big summer jobs you thought of while sitting inside during the winter.

I don't know about you but I am so glad to get outside in the warm weather and just enjoy the sunshine. Sunshine is the best way to get Vitamin D that we all need. Just ten to fifteen minutes a day in the morning sun, before the sun gets really

hot and the rays are strong can be enough to boost and maintain our vitamin D level. Of course, sunscreen is extremely important to protect our skin from harmful rays that can burn quickly.

There are several components to maintaining your health. Eating healthy and moderately, staying hydrated, thinking positively and exercise are all part of achieving our health goals. Any of the above can be challenging but if we set our mind to it we can reach our goal and we will feel better because of it. Challenging others in a group setting may be the way for some people to start, stick to and achieve the weight and health goal they are looking for. Some people may need to challenge themselves and work on the things they want to accomplish on their own. What-

ever way works for you, the important thing is to compile a plan and get started on it. You may find you change course a few times until you figure out what is going to work for you. Health and fitness is not a one size fits all program, just don't give up. Keep looking for and challenging yourself until you find your routine and see the progress you are searching for.

I always tell people to Keep Moving, you will be glad you did and I firmly believe that. I'm always looking for new ways and ideas to help people find the right plan for them so if you have any ideas I would like to hear them. You can send me your ideas or give me a call at 717-334-6009. Working together is the best way I have found to help each other. Enjoy the warm weather!

### Nature Alliance Offers Mid-Day Meditation

The Gettysburg Nature Alliance is inviting individuals to embrace tranquility amidst historical surroundings with their upcoming meditation classes at the Barn at Sachs Bridge. Beginning on April 18th, these sessions will run every Thursday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Set against the picturesque backdrop of Sachs Bridge and fields, the barn provides an idyllic setting for meditation, whether you're a seasoned practitioner or new to the practice.

Led by experienced instructor Julie Albert, participants will engage in various techniques including gentle movement, pranayama (breathing practice), and medita-

tive practices such as mindfulness, guided meditation, and loving-kindness meditation. Julie brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the classes, having trained extensively in yoga and meditation disciplines since 2002, and becoming a certified instructor in 2011.

The classes are \$7 per session or \$30 for all six sessions. However, members of the Gettysburg Nature Alliance can enjoy these sessions for free. Due to limited space, pre-registration is required. Participants are encouraged to bring along water bottles, yoga mats or meditation cushions, blankets, and comfortable attire for the sessions.

Founded in 2019, the Gettysburg

Nature Alliance is a non-profit organization committed to the preservation, education, and rehabilitation of Gettysburg's habitat and heritage. Their mission emphasizes the importance of

safeguarding both natural habitats and historical landmarks for future generations to appreciate.

If you're ready to embark on a journey of self-discovery and relax-

ation, join the Gettysburg Nature Alliance at the Barn at Sachs Bridge, located at 720 Pumping Station Rd., Gettysburg.

### Frederick County Health Department and Addiction Policy Forum Launch Anti-Stigma Initiative to Improve Community Responses to Addiction

Frederick County Health Department is honored to have been chosen as one of 100 pilot sites to partner with Addiction Policy Forum as part of a nationwide Anti-Stigma Initiative. This Initiative is focused on reducing stigma and increasing knowledge about addiction in their communities.

Frederick County community members are invited to participate in a survey to gather a better understanding of the attitudes and knowledge people have of addiction. The survey is open to Frederick County community members 18 years or older. It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and all responses will be anonymous. To take the survey, click here. To take the survey in Spanish, respondents will need to select "Español" under language in the top right corner of the survey. This survey will be open through May.

Addiction is one of the most stigmatized health conditions on earth. Individuals with substance use disorder are often stereotyped and subjected to discrimination. These negative atti-

tudes and behaviors, also known as stigma, prevent people who are struggling from reaching out for help and isolate families affected by the disease who fear being judged by their communities.

"We are excited about bringing this pilot to Frederick County", says Jessica Ellis, Harm Reduction and Diversion Programs Manager. "We want to hear from our community members so that we can reduce addiction stigma in ways that are unique to our community. We want everyone in our community to feel comfortable asking for the help they need."

The survey will help measure addiction knowledge, support for public health responses to addiction, and perceptions around addiction in the community. The results will help inform strategies to better educate, collaborate, and advocate needed resources and strategies to curb the addiction crisis across the community and state.

For more information about Behavioral Health in Frederick County, visit [Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BHS](http://Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BHS) or call 301-600-1755.



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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of May

Professor Wayne Wooten

For May 2024, the moon is last quarter on May 1<sup>st</sup>. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the waning crescent in the dawn passes just south of Saturn, then close to Mars and Mercury on May 6<sup>th</sup>. It is new on May 8<sup>th</sup>, a month after the historic totality in April. First quarter moon is May 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Full Flower Moon on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. It returns to last quarter on May 29<sup>th</sup>, marking the 27.3 day long synodic month for the moon to return to the same phase (last quarter in this case). And it again passes slow moving Saturn on May 31<sup>st</sup>, marking the 29.5 day sidereal month to return to the same place among the stars. This two-day difference in these months is of course due to the fact that the moon is moving along with our revolving earth around the Sun, so it needs these two extra days to play catch up with our earth-sun alignment with the background stars!

Mercury is in the dawn, and at greatest western elongation at mid month. Venus is lost in the Sun's glare, not to return to the evening skies until summer. Mars is low in the east at dawn, and will not be back in the evening skies until winter. Jupiter is vanishing into the sun's glare at dusk as well. Only Saturn, well up the dawn sky, is far enough from the Sun for good telescopic viewing, and its rings are closing down, compared to last year, as it approaches its own equinox, when its rings disappear with earth based scopes as we view them edge on.

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, bin-



The cosmos is about to put on a show! We are on the cusp of a rare celestial event — a nova outburst in the constellation T Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. The star system Corona Borealis, also known as the “Blaze Star,” is predicted to erupt in a magnificent display of light, potentially becoming visible to the naked eye for a week!

oculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about April 30th, visit the [www.sky-maps.com](http://www.sky-maps.com) website and download the map for the new month; 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. Also available is wonderful video exploring the sky, available from the Hubble Telescope website at: [www.hubblesite.org/explore\\_astronomy/tonights\\_sky](http://www.hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky). Sky and Telescope has highlights at [www.sky-andtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts](http://www.sky-andtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts) for observing the sky

each week of the month.

The winter constellations will soon be swallowed up in the Sun's glare, but Orion is still visible, with its famed Orion Nebula, M-42, seen below the three stars marking his famed belt. Dominating the southwest is the Dog Star, Sirius, brightest star of the night sky. When Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare in two months, this sets the period as “Dog Days”.

The brightest star in the NW is Capella, distinctively yellow in color. It is a giant star, almost exactly

the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with Castor closer to Capella, and Pollux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. The “regal” star Regulus marks the heart of the celestial lion. Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we “arc” SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the “northern crown”, a shapely Coronet that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations that look like their name. The bright star in the crown's center is Gemma, the Gem Star. But it may be rivalled in just a few days or weeks!

Keep checking out the lower right rim of the crown nightly. Science is based on understanding a phenomena well enough to make predic-

tions, and if our understanding of the dwarf novae outbursts is right, the “Blaze Star”, T Corona borealis may erupt between now and September! Based on its last two outbursts, it may rival Polaris at second magnitude for a few days, making it surpass Gemma in brightness, but fade back to 10,000 times fainter at 10<sup>th</sup> magnitude.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four-sided grouping. The arms of Virgo harbor the Virgo Supercluster of Galaxies, with thousands of “island universes” in the Spring sky. We are looking away from the place of thickly populated Milky Way, now on the southern horizon, toward the depths of intergalactic space.

On a dark sky site, you can spot the closest and brightest globular star clusters, Omega Centauri, on May evenings with your naked eyes about 12 degrees above the southern horizon when it is at its highest in the south, about 9 p.m. at the end of the month. It is fine in binoculars, and resolves beautifully into about a million sun with larger scopes.

To the northeast Hercules rises, with his body looking like a butterfly. It contains one of the sky's showpieces, M-13, the globular cluster faintly visible with the naked eye. Find it with the T Corona borealis chart on the previous page midway on the top left wing of the cosmic butterfly, then take a look with a larger telescope and you will find it resolved into thousands of stars! Still, it is smaller and farther away than omega, and pales in comparison, but is high enough to be observed for observing it for several hours. Omega is only out for about two hours an evening in the far southern sky.

## Farmers' Almanac

*“The phrase ‘working mother’ is redundant.”*

-Jane Sellman (1955-)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Rain and very warm, then turning dry and cooler (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); occasional showers, then dry and slightly cooler (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry, then scattered afternoon thunderstorms and mild (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); thunderstorms, then dry with record heat (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); dry and very warm and then afternoon showers and thunderstorms with heavy rain (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); scattered showers and then dry and cooler (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

**Extreme Weather Watch:** The Town and Country Almanack sees heavy rains and possible flooding in the Mid-Atlantic Region (22, 23, 24).

**Full Moon:** May's Full Moon occurs on Thursday, May 23rd and its name depends upon who you were talking to. To many Native American tribes, it was called Flower Moon, due to the many flowers starting to blossom during this month while the Huron tribes specifically chose to call it Budding Moon for the very same reasons! But if you asked a colonial farmer, he would have said its named was

Milk Moon because of the noticeable increase in milk produced by his dairy cows in the month of May.

**Special Notes:** The National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 2nd, was established in 1952 at the suggestion of Reverend Billy Graham (1918–2018). It was signed into law under President Ronald Reagan in 1988. Rogation Sunday falls on May 5th, Ascension Thursday, on May 9th, Whit Sunday (or Day of Pentecost) falls on May 19th, and Trinity Sunday is May 26th.

**Holidays:** Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Sunday, May 5th. Mothers are honored on Mother's Day, Sunday May 12th. That “very special lady” needs to be treated like royalty today, so plan a nice dinner out, send her a sentimental card with a nice arrangement of flowers, or just give her a telephone call to say, “I love you”! Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 27th. On this day, we honor those who have died in defense of our freedoms, Their unyielding service and sacrifice protect our way of life every single day!

**The Garden:** Carrots, lettuce, potatoes, corn, beans, peas and most popular vegetables, with the exception of the warmer weather crops, can be seeded

or planted into the vegetable garden at any time now. Wait until mid to late May before planting the warmer weather crops like Tomatoes, Squash, cucumber, pumpkins and peppers. It's still not too late to fertilize your trees and shrubs. Use a Rhododendron or Evergreen type of plant food to feed evergreens and other acid loving plants like Azaleas and Rhododendrons, Camellias and Junipers, etc. Use an all-purpose garden fertilizer (10-10-10) to feed roses, deciduous shrubs and trees. Be sure to water the fertilizer in thoroughly after it is applied.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (18, 19, 20); weeding and stirring the soil (9, 10); planting above-ground crops (11, 12, 21, 22); harvesting all crops (23, 24, 25); best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); slaughtering and butchering meat (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14); harvest and store grains (1, 2, 3, 4, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); Transplanting (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14); weaning of small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

### J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living:

*“Keeping one's eyes, ears, and mind open and mouth closed, often leads to a more thorough understand of life's problems”*

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# COMPUTER Q&A

## Webmail vs email-program

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computets

We live in a world full of options, and email is no different. You might already be married to an email provider, be it Gmail, Yahoo!, Comcast all of them give you access to your email from their website. What you may not realize is that you aren't required to access your email from their website. Remember we are living in a world of options, and you might be happy with the benefits of using a program versus your webmail.

### What is an email program?

You've probably heard of Outlook, Microsoft Office's email program. While this is a paid program there are other programs you can access your email from for free such as Thunderbird, Mail (Windows 10) or the now retired Windows Live Mail. An email program lets you access your email without having to go to your email providers website.

### What are the benefits of using an email program?

By accessing your email through a program rather than via webmail, you can greatly decrease loading times and you'll no longer be bombarded by advertisements. You can still access your email from anywhere and if setup as an "iMAP" account, your email will sync back to the server meaning that any device that accesses your email will see the emails that you received as well as emails you have sent.

You may wish that you had made the switch sooner when you discover that you can mark all that unread email you will never open as "read" so that it no longer tells you that you have unread mail. Or perhaps you will appreciate that you can automatically setup rules so that when emails arrive that fit a specified set of criteria, those emails are handled in one of many ways including moving to another folder, trash or forwarding the email.

If your email is setup on your device, you have the option of creating folders and saving emails on your local computer (rather than just on the server) which can be useful if you want to ensure your emails don't get accidentally erased off the server. Some email providers have storage limits and can, as they see fit, remove emails from their server to make additional storage space available. Should you ever decide to switch between your current email provider and another one, you can easily save or transfer emails from one account to another using your email program.

### Which email program is best for me?

Some people prefer to use a specific program because it is what they have used at work or because

it is familiar to them. Microsoft's Outlook is a paid program therefore unless you have Office 365 or pay outright for the software you may want to consider one of your other options. Thunderbird is our free E-mail application of choice and was created by Mozilla the makers of Firefox. The Mail application comes pre-installed with Windows 10 and is nice for basic users but lacks many features.

### What are some things to consider?

Using an email application will require a little bit of setup. Most email servers can automatically be configured just by entering in your email address and password, others may require you to manually obtain and enter the proper configuration settings. Yes, you will need your email password, and yes, even if you don't remember or know your password you have one. If you aren't sure what it is, you

can visit your providers website and rather than logging in with your saved password choose "forgot password?" to reset it to a new one. Your email contacts is the biggest thing you want to be aware when using an email application. While your email will sync in both directions your email contacts will not. You can however manually back them up to your computer or keep them updates on your webmail just in case.

### What if I need help?

Let's face it, most of us are not professionals when it comes to technology and it's okay to admit you need a little help. There are lots of free tutorials online on how to setup the applications mentioned above as well as others that are available. Most email providers have their email settings posted on their website, and if not, they can be obtained by calling customer service.



The key advantage of an e-mail program is that you never have to worry about not having access to your old emails should your on-line service go down.

If you have been the victim of a scam, Jester's Computers can help; whether you require a cleanup of your device, advice or one-on-one support. Contact Jester's Computers located in Fairfield by calling 717-642-6611, emailing customerservice@jesterscomputers.com or by visiting us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com.

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Joshua Foust

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Last year, Frederick Health performed over 8,500 surgical procedures.

By growing its operations and capabilities, Frederick Health has positioned itself as a leader in surgical excellence. It includes significant investments in technology, highly skilled staff, and a strategic expansion into new areas of surgery. It also includes actively recruiting world-class surgeons from some of the best programs in the country. This thorough approach has been years in the making.

"Year over year, we advance the level of excellent, innovative surgical care offered here," says Dr. Leudvig Sardarian, Assistant Vice President of Medical Affairs, Perioperative Medical Director at Frederick Health.

While Frederick Health offers innovative care in a wide range of specialties, robotic surgery has been a priority in the last several years. Robotic surgery allows surgeons to perform many types of procedures with more precision, flexibility and control than is possible with conventional techniques because it extends the capabilities of their eyes and hands.

Recognizing that in the next 5 to 10 years, robotic surgeries will expand to be an even larger part of the surgical care spectrum, the healthcare system is leading the way by investing in this technology. In fact, Frederick Health Hospital has performed more robotic surgeries than any other community hospital in Maryland and has nationally recognized leaders in robotic surgery as part of its surgical team. These advancements ensure that residents can access more complex surgical treatment without the need for lengthy travel.

"Robotic surgery is not only the future of medicine but truly the present reality," Dr. Sardarian adds. "Robotics are going to be a huge aspect of surgical procedures in the very near future. Luckily, we are leading the way in that push."

With 20 surgical operating rooms, including three cardiac catheterization labs, and dedicated labor and delivery surgical suites, the focus remains on delivering high quality surgical care while accommodating an increasing number of patients and a wider range of procedures. The healthcare system has also continued to hire the best support teams, from Registered Nurses to Surgical Techs. From a patient's initial consultation to final recovery, the Frederick Health team is truly there every step of the journey.

"It always comes down to workforce and we are absolutely investing in the right people," says Dr. Sardarian. "That includes world-class surgeons and a dedicated surgical care staff who ensure that procedures are conducted effi-

ciently, safely, and with the highest level of patient care."

This excellence in both routine and complex surgical procedures is important given the community's growth.

Frederick County is the fastest-growing county in Maryland. To meet these evolving needs, the healthcare system has invested in a range of specialty surgical services such as orthopedics, ear, nose, and throat (ENT), interventional cardiology, and thoracic surgery (chest). It also has robust general sur-

gery capabilities to handle the more common surgical needs such as hernia repair or an ACL tear. This commitment distinguishes Frederick Health as a destination for surgical care.

"You can get the highest quality surgical care you need, right here in Frederick," adds Dr. Sardarian.

Dr. Sardarian, who grew up in this area, has witnessed Frederick Health's growth firsthand. Over the years, he's noted a significant increase in patients from neighboring counties like

Montgomery and Washington, indicating a growing awareness and confidence in Frederick Health's surgical capabilities.

"We are thoughtfully investing and operating as a growing healthcare system, not one that is shrinking. We are a destination for patients seeking surgical care," adds Dr. Sardarian.

That change is truly exciting, he says.

"The perception of Frederick Health as a small community hospi-

tal is changing. We're gaining recognition, both locally and nationally, as a trusted source of care. Before, people had to go to Baltimore or DC for surgery. Now they don't and the community is taking notice. That's exciting to be a part of."

As Frederick County grows, Frederick Health continues to invest in the future of healthcare delivery, ensuring access to expert providers, innovative procedures, and a seamless delivery of care.

To learn more, visit [www.wegotyouback.org](http://www.wegotyouback.org).



Dr. Heather Chalfin, Urologic Surgeon and Taylor Rose, PA, Frederick Health Medical Group, discuss results with a patient.



Dr. Leudvig Sardarian, Assistant Vice President of Medical Affairs, Perioperative Medical Director, Frederick Health.



Dr. Maurice Smith, Medical Director Frederick Health Medical Group, Chest Surgery, prepares for surgery using minimally invasive lung biopsy robot.

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