

Woodsboro - Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 4, NO. 9

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

SEPTEMBER 2024

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Upcoming election puts Walkersville's future on the line

More than in any prior year, the upcoming Town Council election will shape the future of Walkersville for years to come. The election on September 9th will see all five Commissioner seats open for the last time, thanks to a resolution passed earlier this year to stagger the length of terms to limit the turnover within the Town Council.

To initiate the staggering of terms, for this election only, the candidates with the highest vote count will serve for four years and the three top candidates with lower votes will serve two-year terms that will expire in 2026.

By staggering terms, current Council members hoped to alleviate the stress that a full turnover of the Council and the Burgess could have on town staff. It would also give the incoming Council members the chance to learn from established members.

Going forward, terms for both Burgess and Council Members will increase from the current three years to four years, which means the town will have elections every other year going forward.

Current Commissioners not seeking a seat include Gary Baker

and Mike McNiesh. Incumbents seeking re-election include Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert and Betsey Whitmore-Brannen. New to the race are Chris Regen, Bob Yoder and current Planning Commission member Russ Wench. Burgess Chad Weddle is also seeking another term, and is running unopposed.

Coming on the heels of the contentious 'growth' or 'no-growth' debates, this spring, this election provides the residents of Walkersville to place on the Council representatives that reflect their position on the matter.

Current three-term Council member Gary Baker chose not to run for a seat this year, stating his desire to see others take the opportunity to serve their Town as his driving reason. "I have been a proponent for term limits, and this is my self-imposed limit." His 95% attendance rate at meetings proved his dedication to the Town, however his desire to spend time with his family also encouraged his decision not to seek re-election. Baker is also liaison to the Planning Commission.

Council Member Mike McNiesh also chose to end his



Tom Gilbert, one of the more highly respected members of the current Walkersville Town Council, is seeking another opportunity to serve his community.

controversial time as a commissioner to focus on his family, although he is not ruling out a potential run in the future. After being removed from the Town Council in late 2022 due to failure to attend three Council meetings in a row, he was able to reclaim his seat in early 2023 due to a hotly contested special election.

For new candidate Chris Ragen, his goals are, "to combat residen-

tial growth, focus on blighted properties in town, and to push for further transparency and public input in town matters." His desire to represent the residents of Walkersville and oppose additional residential growth spurred his interest in joining the Town Council. "We do not need to chase the growth trend and ruin the town we all love," he said.

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79th Glade Valley Community Show set to begin

The Glade Valley Community Show is going on its 79th Year. This year's show will be held September 24 through the 26, at the Walkers Overlook.

The Glade Valley Community Show was started in 1945 by the Glade Valley Grange. The show started at the old Walkersville Elementary/High School which is now FCPS Staff Development Center. The show was then held in the old firehall upstairs which is now Walkersville Town Hall and at the activities/bingo building at the Walkersville carnival grounds. It was moved to the new high school in 1978 or 1979. The grange partnered with the Walkersville FFA Alumni and the Walkersville FFA Chapter in 1971. The Glade Valley Grange dissolved in 2022.

The Glade Valley Community show now consists of 5 partners. It is a collaborative effort between the Walkersville FFA Alumni, Walkersville FFA Chapter, Glade Valley Lions Club, Johnsville Ruritan Club, Mt. Pleasant Ruritan Club, the Walkersville Business Professional Association and the Glade Valley Community Services, all non-profit organizations which have all united in a common cause to educate, support,

and promote agriculture and agriculture education.

The show provides the opportunity for all residents in the Walkersville High School feeder school area as well as members of sponsoring organizations to put on display their best home-grown produce, yummy baked goods, and finest selection of handiwork within the last year.

Every year the show hosts a cake auction, the cakes, pies, cookies, and breads entered by exhibitors. This cake auction is a huge part of the Glade Valley Community show. In 2023, the auction brought in \$30,000. The funds raised from the cake auction are used to help off-set expenses associated with putting on the show, but more importantly are used by the partner organizations for use in providing scholarships and helping with travel for the Walkersville FFA members to attend conventions, contest, and leadership events.

"We are grateful for the generosity extended to the show by Mark Lynch, owner of the Overlook, in providing the use of this beautiful facility again and in upcoming years." said Brittany Sanders, Community Show Chair



Who doesn't love the Community Show's Milkshake Contest?

in announcing the return to Walker's Overlook, "His generosity has allowed us to continue a tradition for the community."

The community show is a non-profit charitable organization. Financial support can be tax deductible. Premium funding is provided by the Maryland Agriculture Fair Board through a

grant. Community Show Books are always available at local businesses throughout the Glade Valley Community. The show's premium book has a full listing of classes to enter items as well as exhibiting rules and regulations. For more information visit the community show website at www.gladevalleycommunityshow.com.

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WOODSBORO NEWS

Town drafts MOU for ball fields

Following the decision last month by the Town Council to allow a local resident associated with a 14-and-under and 18-and-under boys traveling baseball team to refurbish the town's baseball field located next to the new skateboard park, representatives of the New-Midway-Woodsboro Recreational Council challenged the decision, stating that according to a 1993 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), they had the exclusive rights to use of the field.

A perplexed Burgess Barnes, however, stated that the 1993 MOU was superseded by a 2016 MOU that did not give the Recreational Council exclusive use of the field and that the Town was in the process of drawing up a new MOU on its use.

The field, the smaller of the town's two ball fields, was originally constructed by the Recreational Council as a softball field, hence its small size. Later it was converted to a "kids" baseball field and then back to a softball field, said Councilman Bill Rittlemeyer.

But, for at least the last three years, the field has gone unused and unmaintained. As a result, the dirt

infield has been taken over by grass and weeds and the outfield looks like a pasture.

The Recreational Council said that the reason they had not done any work on the field was because they were told not to perform any maintenance on the field until the new MOU was drawn up and signed by both parties.

Recreational Council representatives said that they would be loath to spend money on upgrading and maintaining the fields if others would be allowed to come in and "undo" their work. "We don't want to put money into building batting and foul ball nets if another team can take them down or damage them."

The tacit request by the Recreational Council for exclusive use of the fields did not sit well with Burgess Barnes, who said he would work with town staff to fast track the work on the new MOU, but was not supportive of an exclusive use agreement on both parts.

"Given that the Recreational Council has only one baseball team, I see no sense in giving them exclusive use of both fields. One maybe, but not both. These are town facil-

ities and should be open to all residents to use."

Barnes suggested that the smaller field can and should be used on a "reserved" basis, with those wishing to use it reserving it in advance, much like they do the town tennis courts.

At the July meeting, Rittlemeyer, who serves as the Park Commissioner for the Town, was supportive of the use of the smaller field by the 14-and-under traveling baseball team but was against its use by 18-year-olds.

"Eighteen-year-olds can hit a ball harder than 14-year-olds, so with 18-year-olds, we are going to have more foul balls falling into yards of homes adjacent to the field along Copper Oaks Court."

The resident requesting its use acknowledged Rittlemeyer's concern, as did Barnes, but the requestor said the issue could be alleviated by a higher back stop fence or fencing along the 3rd base baseline, which the traveling team would pay for.

Barnes said the Town was in fast development of a new MOU with the Recreation Council that will set out the terms of their use of the town's ball fields.

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P.O. Box 394
Woodsboro, Maryland 21798
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Senior Advisors:

Boyce Rensberger
Dorothea Mordan

Executive Editor: Michael Hillman, editor@wv-nj.com

Managing Editor: Dolores Hans

Assistant Editor: Devin Owen

Reporter-at-large: Alex Hayes

'Does It Make Sense' Editor: Katie Wherley

English Editor: Rachel Sheehan

News Reporter: Jamie Kahl; news@wv-nj.com

Graphic Design and Layout: Brian Barth, timebombstudios.com

Advertising: Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

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Dredging of park pond on hold

Efforts to dredge the pond in the town's park have been put on hold, for at least this year, due to the limitations placed on Community Parks and Playground (CPP) grants, which the Town was hoping to use to fund the project.

Commissioner Bill Rittlemeyer told his fellow commissioners that projects which utilized CPP grant funding are not allowed to seek additional grant funding for future work after accepting the CPP funds.

Unfortunately, Rittlemeyer explained that the Town used CPP funding to install the current aerator in the pond back

in 2015, so we will not be able to seek a grant from them to dredge the pond.

At the July meeting, Rittlemeyer suggested that the Town dredge the pond in the town's park before it's filled with silt to such an extent that it would no longer be considered a pond, "but a marsh."

Rittlemeyer noted that over the years silt had been building up in the pond to the point that during last year's drought, Israel Creek, which feeds the pond, stopped running, resulting in the pond level dropping to the point that it was less than 12 inches deep in some spots.

The pond, which serves as a "fill buffer" to prevent the creek from overflowing its banks and running onto Route 550 or into the back yards of homes along Copper Oaks Court, is no longer performing that task, Rittlemeyer explained. During heavy rains last fall and this spring, the creek routinely rose to the level of the street and into back yards. While it didn't block the street or flood a yard, it's only a matter of time before it does.

Rittlemeyer told the Council that he had reached out to a specialist who would be willing to come look at the pond and give the Town an estimate

for what it would cost to dredge out all the accumulated silt and restore the pond to its initial state.

"It's not going to be cheap," Rittlemeyer said. Burgess Barnes agreed with concerns over the status of the pond, and, along with Rittlemeyer's fellow commissioners, was encouraged to get a cost estimate from the dredging specialist so work could begin on submitting the CPP grant paperwork.

While Rittlemeyer was clearly disappointed that the Town could not seek funding from the State's Community Parks and Playground grant, which

is set up to be used for restoration projects, like dredging the pond, for which the state will pay 100%, he suggested the Town wait until next year and apply for a Project Open Space (POS) grant, and even thought they only pay 90% of out-of-pocket expenses, "90% is better than nothing."

Burgess Barnes and the Council agreed to defer work on the pond until next year. "Hopefully, as we didn't crowd the field this year asking for POS money, next year other towns will open the door for us to get funding for this much needed project."

Teeth to be put into zoning citations

At the request of the Town's zoning compliance officer, town staff will meet with the town lawyer to facilitate the next steps to be taken when a zoning citation violation is ignored.

The compliance officer told the Council that there were multiple people in town that had received multiple notices of violations of town codes who had yet to take any action or, for that matter, seemed inclined to take any. "Without some sort of monetary penalty, people are free to simply throw the citations in the trash."

The compliance officer said he talked to his counterparts in Walkersville and Thurmont and both suggested that he and the town staff get together with the town lawyer to draw up a notice that can be issued to the resident

following the failure to address a zoning non-compliance.

This would include language notifying the recipient that unless the non-compliance was addressed, the recipient of the notice could/would be taken to court for a summary judgment.

Burgess Barnes agreed that something had to be done with those who have repeatedly failed to correct non-compliance. "In the case of notices of lawn height, this will give the Town the option to hire a lawn company to come in and cut the lawn and give the homeowner the bill. And if they refuse to pay the bill, the Town will be in a position to put a lien on the property."

He continued, "We may not get our money back right way, but the homeowner will not be able to sell their property until

the lien is settled. So we'll get paid one way or another."

The Town's compliance officer also brought up the disparity between how some properties are treated versus others. "It's hard to cite people for having an unlicensed car on their property only to have them point across the street at a lot in the business district with 80+ unlicensed cars and have them ask me why they can have 80+ cars yet they get cited for having only one."

Barnes said he was aware of the situation and that back in the early 1990s, "there had been some sort of 'gentleman's agreement' between the Town, the Burgess at the time, and the property owner to allow the storing of cars on the lot. But the lot has turned into a 'junk

yard,' which is not allowed under the current town code."

Barnes said that the Town will also address this particular issue when they meet with the town lawyer.



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WALKERSVILLE NEWS

GVAA Cheer seeks fundraising opportunities

At the August Parks Commission meeting, Erin Rethemeyer, treasurer for the Glade Valley Athletics Association (GVAA) 'Cheer' Board, presented the concept of placing a fundraising shed to the left of the existing concessions stand at Heritage Farm Park to raise money for Cheer. Rethemeyer explained that her company, Federal Stone, planned to donate an eight-by-seven-foot shed along with the pavers to place the building on. Even though the shed would have a solid floor, items would still be stored in Rubbermaid totes for extra protection. The shed would be open for sales at every home football game.

Currently the football team utilizes the food concession stand,

a table at the entrance gate and another tent for fundraising during their games. They sell apparel, hats, and other items. Cheer offered to sell yard signs with the football team's logo at their shed to help promote the team.

Cheer plans to sell apparel, cups, magnets, hand clackers, plushies, yard signs, and keychains with a 'Cheer' based theme. Rethemeyer was adamant that the items sold would not conflict with what the football team sells: "We don't want to compete with football but all of the away games we go to have spirit sheds to fundraise from," she said. "We spend just as much time on the field as football does."

The majority of the funds raised would be used to replace

cheer uniforms and pom-poms. The uniforms they have now are several years old and are in desperate need of updating. Commissioner of the Cheer Board, Mallory Boram, explained how they can no longer order specific pieces from the supplier because the uniforms they have are so outdated: "Each year our program increases in size and interest and right now we are struggling with uniforms. We've had to turn girls away because we cannot supply them the uniform," she said.

Ennis asked if Cheer would be able to sell their items at basketball games as well. Boram said they would need to discuss that possibility with the school but for now their focus was on the football games.

Parks Commission Member Anna Newman asked if the football organizers were ok with the addition. Boram assured the Commission that they have been discussing the idea with the football organizers and assured them that Cheer has no desire to compete with their fundraising. GVAA president, Michelle Fyock chimed in saying that Football is not concerned with the fundraising aspect, but they are concerned with the addition of a permanent structure.

Commission members as well as Rethemeyer and Boram all pointed out that the shed could easily be moved because it is just set on pavers and not permanently installed in the ground. Rethemeyer explained that if they

were to use a tent to sell from there would be no easy way to store the merchandise between games. A shed would allow them to efficiently sell and store their items.

Commissioner Liaison Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis showed her support of the idea, "I think cheerleading should have an opportunity since football already has a stand and that's a permanent structure. They should be able to have something there to support their program."

Cheer has a new board bringing fresh ideas to the table and new leadership, "We are really just trying to do our best for the program and our girls," Rethemeyer said.

The Parks Commission voted unanimously in favor of the project. Rethemeyer and Boram will continue discussing the idea with GVAA and Town Commissioners.

Election puts Walkersville's future on the line

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Regan's other concerns regard the renovation (if possible) of multiple run-down buildings in Town and improving activities for both the youth and aged communities of Walkersville. Overall, Ragen wishes to be a voice for the residents and to hold the government to a higher standard of transparency, "I will be open to the people of Walkersville to hear their complaints, concerns, and if needed to hear their grievances."

Candidate Bob Yoder has been a

resident of Walkersville for 35 years and his decision to run for Town Council was fueled by belief that with his extensive business background and problem-solving abilities he could, "add value, with a commonsense approach" to the Board. He shared some of the concerns he learned from residents which included traffic safety, holding a 'no growth' viewpoint, abandoned facilities, and water cost concerns. "I'd like to use my experience with budget management to help improve how the town puts together its yearly budget. The budget needs to be more consistent and informative, so the residents

of Walkersville will have a better understanding of how their taxpayers' dollars are being used," he said.

Current Planning Commission member Russ Wench is throwing his hat in the ring once again for a Council spot. He has served Walkersville on the Board of Appeals for three years, Planning Commission for 20 years and as a past Council member for 10 years. As a member of the Planning Commission, he has been vocally against allowing growth in Town, "those that are familiar with my record know that I have repeatedly voted "no" to more development," he said. "Looking ahead, my focus on no-growth

remains, ensuring that Walkersville continues to be a place we are all proud to call home."

Current Council Member Ennis is the current liaison to the Parks Commission and a resident for 38 years. In commenting on why she is running for Town Council again, she said, "I believe I still have good communication with citizens and a strong desire to serve our community." With multiple completed projects under her belt including an accessible playground for children of multiple abilities, more multimodal paths, a foot soccer field, and replanted trees, she intends on continuing the memorial tree and bench program as well

as updating the tot play area at Community Park. "Working toward a more sustainable town is important to me," she said. One of her goals would be to see Walkersville have electric vehicle charging stations and move forward to becoming a Sustainable Community.

Council Member Brannen failed to respond to requests from the News-Journal on why she was running again and what she hopes to accomplish if elected to the Council would be.

To learn more about the positions of each of these candidates, read their position papers on pages 4 & 5.

Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project to skirt Union Bridge

The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) has small towns in Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick Counties concerned over their futures. The 70-mile project is a 500,000-volt (500 kV) transmission line designed to respond to growing electric needs in Maryland and the surrounding region.

PJM, the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) which is responsible for operating and planning the regional electric grid in all or parts of 13 states, including Maryland, determined that system reinforcements are necessary due to significant system overloads in the region. In 2023 they began seeking solutions to address this need.

Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG), an award-winning New Jersey energy company, was awarded the project and during their evaluation of existing rights-of-way (ROWs) in the defined project area, it was determined that the existing ROWs can traverse through populated areas and developed neighborhoods, environmentally sensitive areas (i.e. wetlands, waterways) and established parkland. PSEG has

attempted to minimize impacts in these areas in their initial proposed routing, however they were unable to completely avoid the above areas.

The PSEG team will consider information gathered from multiple public information sessions, meetings with elected officials and agencies, and comments submitted to the project website before determining the best route for the lines.

An article written in the Brunswick-News Journal said, "There are ten possible routes between the two endpoints, several of which run through Frederick County. None are close to or in

Brunswick, or for readers of our sister publications – Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Taneytown, Woodsboro or Walkersville – although it will skirt Union Bridge".

A resident of Union Bridge questioned the Council on the project at July's meeting. Mayor Perry Jones said, "They have everybody in an uproar, and I think people must stay on top of this." He suggested concerned citizens contact their delegates and senators and let them know they are against it.

PSEG will pick its preferred route by September, after which it will apply to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC)

for a "certificate of public convenience and necessity" (CPCN). A CPCN is required before any construction can begin and is the final step in determining whether the project will or will not occur. A CPCN allows a new power gen-

erating station or high-voltage transmission line to be constructed.

A more detailed article was published in the Emmitsburg News Journal last month and is available on the website.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Tom Gilbert

About 8 1/2 years ago, I retired from MidAtlantic Farm Credit after more than 37-year career. Shortly after retirement, I was approached by Burgess Weddle and agreed to be placed on the Walkersville Board of Appeals. This served to wet my appetite for the Town government.

I began to attend some of the Town's semi-monthly meetings and six years ago, I ran for one of the open five commissioner seats for election in 2018. Subsequently, I won a seat and began my service in public office.

The Town has progressed significantly over the past six years while providing better services and amenities and solving problems that have arisen. The first key problem was how the Town would pay \$1.9 million to Frederick County to

ensure facilities to take care of the effluent wastewater generated by the new, state of the art water system about to go into production. With my background in finance, I was called upon to prepare the loan documents to acknowledge the loan terms fair to both sides of the General Fund and Water Fund.

There have been many proposals approved by the Town Council during my two terms and we as a community have a lot to be proud of:

The Walkersville Wire, modeled after the Frederick County School announcement program to keep locals informed of activities, has been widely accepted - but more should sign up. This can be easily accomplished on the Town website.

While the compost facility at

Heritage Park was closed by Frederick County, the Town Council step forward and approved a "yard waste" program where waste would be picked up at their driveways from early Spring through early Winter.

A Senior Tax Credit program was adopted. Residences of lower income seniors now receive a 50% tax credit on properties valued at more than \$7 Million. Walkersville is the only municipality, outside of Frederick City, to offer this benefit.

Renovation of the downstairs of Town Hall was completed during COVID. The meeting room now has better sound system and visual monitors. These have been used to educate citizens and improve the reporting at meetings. The reception area and offices were refurbished and now are more secure.

The Town partnered with Fred-

erick County to provide shade awnings at the library to protect young children and staff from the sun in the summer.

Being a social member of both the Walkersville Fire Company and Walkersville Rescue Company, I know the hard work that these volunteers do to keep the Town safe and secure. I have supported the Town's providing annual funds to each and will continue to do so.

Glade Village was repaved in 2020. The completed restoration of Maple Avenue with new sidewalks and roadbed was a big, costly project completed recently. Green Street is on the list to be improved.

Town parks remain well maintained and the envy of many municipalities.

The tax rate remains low for any municipality of Walkersville's size in Maryland.

The Town has adopted a program to repair sidewalks. I will try to move this along by pushing to "shave" some of the rising pads that are not in driveways leading to less cost and quicker repair.

With Town population, there is a need for a center to serve the Town, particularly seniors. This may be a new building or taking over an existing building.

Finally, I will commit continuing efforts to uphold the Town Ordinances as adopted.

While I admit I am not a visionary, I will commit to listening and considering any worthy causes and suggested improvements as they arise. I think I've done this the past 6 years and would like opportunity to do it for four more.

I humbly ask for your support in the upcoming Town Council election so I may continue to serve you and our community.

Bob Yoder

The following is a brief introduction of myself. I am married to my very loving wife Cindy,

and have two adult children. I have lived in the town of Walkersville for over 35 years. During that time, I have seen growth and a lot of changes in the town. I also experienced many personal life changes in that same time.

I am a retired IT Network Manager who was responsible for a large staff of engineers reporting directly to me. My experience included managing multi-million-dollar budgets and negotiating large scale national contracts for a major corporation. I created, built and managed nationwide network infrastructures. This included designing new network architectures and creating plans for implementation, along with participating in the actual installation. Additionally, I taught and trained engineers in this discipline.

Over my many years in the business, I participated in public speaking engagements, as the main presenter, to train hundreds of other engineers and managers about network infrastructures.

I served as Chairman and Treasurer of a large credit union with assets exceeding 130 million dollars. In addition, I served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for a large nonprofit organization. I am a fiscal conservative, and believe in being a good steward of tax payers' money. While speaking to many residents in our town, I learned the following are some of their concerns:

- Neighborhood traffic safety caused by speeding, congestion, and long delays during rush hour.
- NO GROWTH - I have always been for "No Growth"
- Commercial areas and facilities that are abandoned or improperly maintained causing them to become eyesores to the community.
- We need to ensure the collection of appropriate fees to maintain infrastructure services and beautification of our town.
- What is going on with the water cost? Keeps going up.

I decided to file as a candidate for one of the Town Commissioner positions because I believe I can use my extensive business background and problem-solving abilities to add value, with a "common sense" approach, to this committee. I'd like to use my experience with budget management to help improve how the town puts together its yearly budget. The budget needs to be more consistent and informative, so the residents of Walkersville would have a better understanding of how their taxpayers' dollars are being used.

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Glade Valley Lions Club
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Activities

During the first Quarter of this Lion Year, the Glade Valley Lions Club and Walkersville High and Middle School Leos Clubs will be:

- Hosting New Teacher and Administrators to Glade Valley Schools on September 26, 2024 at Glade UCC
- Co-sponsoring the Glade Valley Community Show on September 24 through September 26, 2024
- Sponsoring the Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest with students at Walkersville High and Middle School in September
- Hosting a Table at Woodsboro Music Festival on October
- Participating in the District 22W VDG Challenge Service Activity in September through November 2024
- Volunteering at the Maryland Horse Shows in October


To find out more about the Glade Valley Lions Club visit:
Our website: www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/gladevalley
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...CANDIDATE FOR WALKERSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

Chris Ragen

Over the past several years, Walkersville has been marching towards an inflection point. The people of Walkersville have repeatedly rejected the idea of additional residential building while the planning commission and some town commissioners have refused to abide the will of the people. Now the people have the chance to elect a board that will represent them. It is my intention to be a part of this change and to represent my fellow citizens. Walkersville has suffered from the rampant growth in Frederick City and the wider county. We have been plagued by increased traffic, congestion, storm water runoff, and more.

As we've watched, Frederick has encroached further and further north along US 15, and even now stands ready to consume all of the farm land on the western side up to Sundays Lane. It has been proposed that addi-

tional housing would drive home prices down and allow starting families to move to Walkersville. There is no possible way for enough houses to be built to cause a fall in house prices drastic enough to create this effect. The most basic townhomes in Discovery average near \$280,000, and per one developer at a planning commission meeting in July, developers are not interested in building low-cost homes.

The idea that Walkersville could ever build enough homes to drive prices down to something reasonable with the emerging regipolis of Frederick so close is a fantasy. To achieve this, Walkersville would have to give up its agricultural barrier and that is unacceptable. In short, I oppose additional residential growth in Walkersville, we do not need to chase this growth trend and ruin the town we all love.

Despite growth being the preeminent issue, there are other issues to address. When I speak to my fellow citizens I hear consistent complaints

about blighted buildings, specifically the long-suffering building that once housed Marsala's Restaurant in downtown, and the troubled buildings in the Walkers Village Shopping Center. If elected I intend to seek aggressive solutions to turning these buildings around without infringing on the property rights of their owners, instead seeking economic development grants and cooperation to get these buildings in line if possible.

The efforts of current commissioners Betsy Whitmore-Brannen and Mike McNiesh to seek better communication and transparency within the town government need to be bolstered and continued. During the hotly contested meetings over additional residential growth, some commissioners resented the public's input and during the farcical ouster of Mike McNiesh one referred to their own constituents' indignity as chaos. That is not only ridiculous but shows a staggering lack of compassion for the feelings

and desires of the people of Walkersville. I pledge that should I be elected, I will be open to the people of Walkersville to hear their complaints, concerns, and if needed to hear their grievances. Beyond that, I want to continue the work to keep the government transparent and accountable including those who are appointed rather than elected.

Finally, we can do better for the people for the town especially the young people and our aged community. Walkersville has a plethora of both but we have a severe lack of activities for both age groups. We need to better utilize our parks for the benefit of both groups. There has been talk about a dog park and a skate park, it is my contention that a skate park placed in Walkersville Community Park would be an ideal solution. Walkersville Community Park is situated directly behind Walkersville High School and easily accessed from both Walkersville Middle and High without the need to cross Mary-

land 194. Second, I would propose that the local community be allowed to decorated the ramps and obstacles in the park, primarily to give it some color but also to increase the sense of ownership the community feels in the park. If the young people can decorate or paint the ramps, they will feel an increased ownership in the park and be much more vigilant for acts of vandalism and malicious behavior in "their" park.

For the aged community, we have miles of trails, some recently repaved, and copious green spaces where programs and gatherings can be held to increase social interaction and physical health. As we get older our health and mental wellbeing becomes harder to maintain and it takes a community to address these concerns and it becomes our responsibility keep our valued older generations hale and hearty.

I would like to represent you and fight to maintain our community, God Bless.

Russell Winch

I'm running for re-election as Walkersville Town Commissioner because I care deeply about our community and its future. I've had the privilege of serving the Town in many capacities: first on the Board of Appeals (3 yrs), next on the Planning Commission (20 total years), and as an elected Town Commissioner (10 years). I've worked hard to ensure Walkersville retains its unique charm while making necessary preparations for the future.

One of my top priorities has been to help control the growth of our town

in a way that respects the needs and desires of our residents. Walkersville has a special small-town character that we all cherish. I've been heavily involved in the update of our Comprehensive Plan, which serves as the blueprint for how Walkersville will grow and evolve. As are many in Walkersville, I am opposed to further growth. Those that are familiar with my record know that I have repeatedly voted "NO" to more development. We have seen several new developments recently, and I am sure everyone has seen what increased

growth does to our roads and schools.

Along with my various roles in Walkersville's government, I've made it a point to be actively involved in our community. I've had the honor of leading for our fine young boys in both the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and volunteered in many leadership capacities for GVAA Baseball. My participation in these programs has allowed me to connect with families and young people in our town, helping to guide our next generation of leaders. I have also represented Walkersville at the county/state level via leadership roles on the Mary-

land Municipal League, Frederick County Chapter.

Another area I'm passionate about is ensuring that our town remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone. I've supported initiatives that strengthen community safety, and I've worked to ensure that our local parks and recreational spaces remain well-maintained and accessible for all residents.

My professional background as an engineer has given me a unique perspective on problem-solving and planning. I approach issues with a focus on practicality and long-term impact, ensuring that decisions made

today will benefit Walkersville for years to come.

Looking ahead, my focus no-growth remains, ensuring that Walkersville continues to be a place we are all proud to call home. If re-elected, I will continue to champion community interests, responsible government, and work hard to keep our town the vibrant, welcoming place it is today.

I'm asking for your vote because I believe my experience, dedication, and deep love for Walkersville make me the best candidate for this role. Together, we can continue to make Walkersville a great place to live and raise a family.

Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis

I have lived in Walkersville for 38 years and am honored to serve as a town commissioner. My husband David and I raised our two children here and proud to say they are thriving adults. I feel it is important to serve your community and I have done so for many years. Volunteering as a Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader, children's ministry chair, Sunday school teacher, board of trustee member, GVAA volunteer coach and score keeper, Frederick County Parks and Recreation Commission, co-chair of the Toy Shop for Glade Valley Community Services are some of the ways I have served.

I believe I still have good communication with citizens and a strong desire to serve our community, so I

have decided to run for commissioner again. There is still more work to be done to benefit all of our citizens. I have worked with the Parks Commission on improvements in the parks and think there is more to do. We now have an accessible playground for children of multiple abilities, more multimodal paths, foot soccer course, planted trees. I will continue the memorial tree and bench program as well as update the tot play area at Community Park.

Renewable resources and sustainability are important ideas for our community. I am interested in working on getting solar power on town buildings to offset the cost of power as well as use a renewable resource. Working toward a more sustainable town is important to

me. I would like to see Walkersville have electric vehicle charging stations. Also, help our town move forward to becoming a Sustainable Community.

ing a Sustainable Community.

Communication is important no matter what organization, town you are involved. I plan on continuing to improve the communi-

cation with our citizens.

I have a good working relationship with town staff, communities and volunteer groups. I plan on continuing these positive relationships.

WALKERSVILLE INFO	
Mon., Sept. 2	- Town Office Closed - Labor Day
Wed., Sept. 4 - 7 p.m.	- Parks Commission Meeting
Mon., Sept. 9 - 7 a.m - 8 p.m.	- Town Election
Tues., Sept 10 - 7 p.m.	- Planning Commission Workshop
Wed., Sept. 11 - 7 p.m.	- Town Meeting
Mon., Sept. 23 - 7 p.m.	- EDC Meeting
Tues., Sept. 24 - 7 p.m.	- Planning Commission Meeting
Wed., Sept. 25 - 7 p.m.	- Town Meeting
website: www.walkersvillemd.gov	
phone: 301-845-4500	 Walkersville:Our Town



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GOVERNMENT

County Councilman Brad Young

I recently attended the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) conference from August 14 to 17. MACo is a non-profit, non-partisan association of all Maryland counties. The Association's membership consists of county elected officials and representatives from Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. Through MACo's advocacy, training, education programs, and annual conferences, members are provided with endless opportunities to improve their capacity to serve their residents. Conferences bring the counties together with the shared goal of improving the lives of all Maryland residents and visitors.

The Council returned from their summer recess on August 20 and has resumed regular Tuesday meetings. We have several pieces of legislation that will advance through our legislative process in the coming weeks. Bill 24-11, sponsored by Renee Knapp on behalf of the County Executive, Establishes a Historic Preservation

Tax Credit. Bill 24-12, sponsored by Council Member Steve McKay, creates a new section in Frederick County Code that defines the conditions upon which a temporary residential growth moratorium may be declared, as well as the conditions upon which such moratorium would end. Both of these Bills are scheduled for a public hearing on August 27, 2024 at 7pm. We welcome public participation at all public hearings.

Bill 24-13, sponsored by Council Member Jerry Donald, Amends the Frederick County Building Code to clarify usage of agricultural buildings for agritourism. Bill 24-14, sponsored by Council Member Jerry Donald on behalf of County Executive Fitzwater, amends Chapter 1-19 of the County Code related to Agritourism Enterprise Zoning. The public hearing for Bills 24-13 and 24-14 will be held on September 24, 2024 at 7pm. For the most up to date agendas, full text of Bills, and Bill schedules, please visit our website.

The County Council will be discussing the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project on August 27. I had signed on to a statement in opposition to this project with Council Members Steve McKay and Mason Carter on August 8.

Several weeks ago, members of the Frederick County Council learned about the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP). This project came as a surprise to us, just like it did for many of our residents, and just like it did for residents in Carroll County and Baltimore County. The MPRP would be constructed by the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) as part of a large regional utility system upgrade managed by Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection, or PJM. PSEG seeks approval for a new 70-mile 500kV transmission line between southern Pennsylvania and the Doubs substation near Adamstown. PSEG has proposed several alternative alignments for this transmission line but

there is one inescapable conclusion – regardless of which alignment may be selected the MPRP project will severely impact Frederick County, our residents, their properties, and for many, their livelihoods.

We three council members opposed the MPRP as proposed and stipulated the following:

We call upon PJM to revisit its proposal award to PSEG, and to prioritize solutions that maximize the use of the existing BGE right-of-way.

We call upon the FERC to critically examine PJM's proposal award to PSEG and determine if it was done properly and in the public interest.

We further call upon the FERC to require PJM to comply with the requirements of FERC Order 1920 and to place the MPRP project on hold until Order 1920 requirements have been satisfied.

We also requested the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to accept this letter into its public record as a statement of opposition by the named Frederick County Council Members to the MPRP

project and urge the PSC to reject PSEG's proposed alignments for failing to meet the procedural and substantive standards required for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

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 voice-mail to be forwarded to each Council Member, or email us any time at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov. Please visit our website at www.frederickcountymd.gov/council to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

And as always, if there is ever anything 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, or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes

Greetings, I hope everyone had a good Labor Day weekend. I am not a fan of this Holiday as it means summer is ending, but that brings cooler temperatures and Fall adventures for all to enjoy.

This month was quiet and there is not a lot to update on but, at our August 12th meeting we discussed that unfortunately we could not get a grant to have the pond in the park dredged but we will continue to look at options to

get it corrected. We also discussed that a company has reached out in the interest of being the town's new water and sewage operator as our current operator's last day is going to be August 31st.

As far as the town hall update

which I know seems to be going on and on, things are happening. The loan was signed, and we are almost through the permitting process. In addition, the brick, shingle, and shutter colors were all picked out and we are excited about that as we are getting closer and closer every day to breaking ground.

Believe it or not, Woodsboro Days is next month. Look for the ad here in the paper in the September and October additions. It will be held on October 19th this year and the plans are for it to be even bigger and better than ever. If you would like to be a vendor, please reach out me at hbarnes@woodsboro.org or 301-401-7164.

As always, I encourage everyone to support Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS) if you have clothes or food donations as they are always in need of items for

members of the community. For more information, please contact GVCS by email at gladevalley.org@gmail.com, or call 301-845-0213.

If you have any questions, concerns, complaints, or compliments please feel free to reach out to me at hbarnes@woodsboro.org or by phone at 301-401-7164.


Woodsboro Town meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. In addition, Planning and Zoning meetings are at 6pm on the First Monday of the month as needed. If you have an item for the agenda, it needs to be submitted 14 days before the P&Z meeting. The current location for meetings is the St. Johns United Church of Christ located at 8 N 2nd. The public is always invited to attend.

HELP

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GOVERNMENT

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

With schools back in session and summer beginning to fade, I am excited to kick off a new season filled with fresh opportunities. September brings the energy of new beginnings and exciting events in our communities. From the Great Frederick Fair to fall festivals and farmers markets, we have a lot to look forward to! Plus, September is Deaf Awareness month and kicks off Hispanic Heritage month, which starts September 15. Let's embrace change, community, and connection as we move into the last few months of the year.

Maryland Budget and Fiscal Outlook

In August, I was fortunate to join colleagues from across the state at the Maryland Association of Counties Conference. This non-partisan event brought together leaders from all levels of government and the private sector to examine how we can meet county priorities through innovative solutions and partnerships.

The conference closed with a keynote address from Governor Wes Moore. The Governor spoke about Maryland's econ-

omy and the State budget. He focused on how we must move forward now that the influx of federal COVID funding has ended for state, county, and local governments across the country.

Governor Moore emphasized the importance of putting data at the center of the budget process and defending our priorities while living within our means. I anticipated there will be some difficult conversations regarding the state's fiscal year 2026 budget.

What will this mean for Frederick County? Well, the Maryland state budget provides billions in funding to local governments. With Maryland rebalancing and refocusing the state budget, we may not see the same level of funding to counties that we have received in recent years. While it is difficult to predict with certainty what decisions will be made, we can expect to see tightening across the board.

Fortunately, Frederick County has a diverse economy. With a strategic and responsible approach, I am confident that together we can navigate shifting priorities brought on by statewide fiscal challenges. My administration will

continue to prioritize fiscal responsibility while providing programs and services that make our county a great place to live, work, and thrive.

Upcoming Public Meetings for the Investing in Workers and Workplaces Plan

You may have heard recently about the Investing in Workers and Workplaces Plan, a joint initiative of the Livable Frederick Planning and Design Office and the Frederick County Division Economic Opportunity. The goal of this plan is to identify commercial centers, redevelopment opportunities, and barriers to enhancing commercial tax revenue in our County.

Livable Frederick and Economic Opportunity staff will host initial outreach meetings for this plan in the coming weeks. I encourage residents to attend an upcoming meeting to help shape the future of Frederick County's commercial centers.

Meetings will be held at the County's Prospect Center, located just off Route 15 at 585 Himes Avenue in Frederick. There

are three sessions: one on Thursday, September 19 from 6 to 8, another Wednesday, September 25 from 2 to 4, and Wednesday, October 2 from 6 to 8. All meetings will contain the same information, so you only need to attend one meeting to learn more and offer comments.

Our planning efforts shine the brightest when developed with engaged, committed, and knowledgeable members of the community who are willing to share their understanding of the complex issues, difficult challenges, and enticing opportunities. Together, we can ensure that employment growth areas maintain a sense of place and are a positive investment for the entire county, while meeting the needs of workers and employers.

If you have questions about the plan or upcoming meetings, please contact Denis Superczynski, Livable Frederick Planning Manager by calling 301-600-1142 or emailing DSuperczynski@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program

I am proud that Frederick County has long been committed to preserving our rich historic resources and landmarks. One way we help preserve

our history and enhance our unique identity is through the Rural Historic Grant Program.

If you own a historic property located in an unincorporated area of Frederick County, you may be eligible to apply for this program. Grant applications will be accepted beginning September 1 through November 30, 2024. Award notifications will be made in early spring 2025.

The Rural Historic Grant Program helps fund rehabilitation, restoration, and preservation of rural historic properties. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis up to \$50,000.

The Frederick County Division of Planning and Permitting will hold public workshops to provide information about the program and details on how to apply. These workshops will take place on the following dates:

- August 27 at 7 (Virtual)
- September 3 at noon (Virtual)
- September 11 at 6:30 at the Walkersville Library
- September 23 at 6:30 (Virtual)

To review additional information or register for a workshop, please visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/HistoricPreservation.

County Councilwoman Renee Knapp

A quiet summer turned into a stressful one for many county residents as we learned about the impending Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) that would bring new high voltage transmission lines Frederick County, potentially running through several residences and farms with successful agritourism operations. Because of significant system overloads projected for our regional electrical grid system, the MPRP determined that new overhead transmission lines are required to reinforce reliability with increasing regional demand for power.

The communication from MPRP to County and County residents has been unacceptable. This project was identified by MPRP as a critical component for regional reliability in February of 2023, and project planning began in early 2024. Public informa-

tion sessions didn't happen until July, and they intend to submit their final route recommendation to the Maryland Public Service Commission sometime this fall. That leaves only weeks for meaningful outreach to affected residents, and for residents to voice their concerns or opposition.

As a county elected official, I can be a vocal advocate for county residents affected by the MPRP, but the County Council and the County Executive cannot deny or approve this project.

Frederick County sent a letter to the MPRP to convey our disappointment with the lack of communication and called on them to create a transparent and inclusive public process. MPRP should conduct extensive and robust public outreach, including well-advertised public meetings and mailed communications

to all potentially affected residents for the duration of this project.

In addition to the lack of timely communication about the MPRP, an adequate explanation about why the existing rights of way cannot be used with updated equipment has yet to be presented. The potential disruption to people's lives and businesses demands these answers. We expressed opposition to putting new transmission lines on lands and

historical sites in Frederick County that have been preserved by local, state, or federal designations. We informed them of the considerable harm that could come to growing agritourism businesses, if new high voltage power lines are installed on or near them.

We are engaged in this process and advocating on behalf of County residents. However, since the County Council does not have a vote on the

final plan, it's important for residents to also keep expressing their concerns and demanding better answers from the decision makers. Final decisions have not been made yet, and engagement makes a difference. Last month MPRP revised a transmission line plan in Loudoun County, Virginia to use and upgrade existing power lines after hearing similar appeals from residents and local government. Hopefully, MPRP will be as responsive to the residents of Frederick County.

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Woodsboro Days

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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

A police shooting

Shannon Bohrer

On July 6, Sonya Massey, a 36-year-old black woman, was shot and killed in her home. She was shot by Deputy Sean Grayson of the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office in Woodside Township near Springfield, Illinois. The shooting was captured on a police body-worn camera. This became a national news story and was repeated for days. The news reports often mentioned other well-known stories of police shootings, implying a pattern of excessive use of deadly force by police. While the press coverage had similarities to previous incidents, the reported employment history of Officer Grayson was unusual and concerning.

Ms. Massey had called the police, reporting an intruder in her home. When the police arrived, they searched the outside area before entering the house. At one point, the police questioned her, asking if it was all right. She responded, "Yes, I took my medications." Some of the interactions were captured on body police cameras. When asked about her mental health, she responded, "I love y'all."

When the officers requested identification, she looked through her belongings for documents. After she found her identification, an officer told her something about a pot of water boiling on the stove. She responded by moving to the stove

to remove the pot from the stove. As she did this, she told the officers, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus." The officers moved back while she had the pot of boiling water in hand. She questioned why the officers were moving back, and Officer Grayson said it was because of the boiling water. She repeated, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus."

Officer Grayson had drawn his gun, and after threatening to shoot her, Ms. Massey apologized and dropped to the floor behind the counter. The officers approached, and Officer Grayson shot her. According to the initial reports, Ms. Massey was holding the pot of water over her head when shot. Another officer called in (on police radio) about the shooting and started to administer first aid when Officer Grayson told him, "She's done." The police radio traffic also includes someone saying that Ms. "Massey's wound was 'self-inflicted.'" In a later report, Ms. Massey "threw steaming hot water on a chair next to the cabinets."

The incident was captured on a police body camera; however, Officer Grayson's camera was not turned on. Officer Grayson was fired, then "indicted by a grand jury, on three counts of first-degree murder (he fired three rounds) and one count each of aggravated battery with a firearm and official misconduct."

The day before the shooting, Sonya's mother called 911, reporting that her daughter was experiencing mental issues. She expressed con-

cern about any police response to her daughter's residence. Donna Massey said, "I don't want you guys to hurt her, please." There is no reporting if the information were given to the responding officers, nor if it would have made any difference.

According to the news reports, Officer Grayson had an unusual background, working for six different police agencies in a four-year period. Prior to his employment as a police officer, he was in the military and discharged for serious misconduct. Officer Grayson was also charged with driving under the influence—two times. The serious misconduct was not defined but may have been related to the driving while intoxicated incidents.

We see videos and read about alleged police misconduct, which results in officers being charged with criminal offenses. What is often missing in the reporting is the officer's history before the misconduct.

In this case, being discharged from the military for serious misconduct, two serious driving offenses, and employment with six different police agencies in four years should give one pause or at least question the officer's suitability for employment. We do not know how the case against Officer Grayson will be resolved, nor if his unusual background will influence the outcome of his trial.

Could prior officer abnormal or uncommon behavior(s) predict future incidents? We hear and read about police misconduct but are rarely informed of previous transgressions that relate to or might predict criminal actions. If we had a better

understanding of this, might we be able to reduce future incidents?

The George Floyd murder could be used as an example. When George Floyd was killed, Officer Derick Chauvin was charged, found guilty, and sentenced to twenty-two and half years of incarceration. When the crime occurred, Officer Chauvin had been a sworn officer for nineteen years. It was reported that during his career, eighteen complaints were filed against him, and "he received two letters of reprimand for misconduct." He was also involved in three police shootings, and he received two commendations.

Although Officer Chauvin had eighteen complaints, I was only able to find one reported incident in Officer Chauvin's background. In 2017, Officer Chauvin used unreasonable force against a 14-year-old boy. He restrained the boy by kneeling on his back/neck and hitting him with a flashlight. The boy asserted that he could not breathe and lost consciousness. The victim did survive the incident. Was this one of the letters of reprimand? If the reporting is correct, Officer Chauvin could have been charged with a crime. Could that incident have predicted the killing of Floyd? We do not know if there are other concerning incidents.

When the Department of Justice charged Derick Chauvin with violating George Floyd's civil rights, they considered charging him with the 2017 case as another civil rights violation. The prosecutors wanted to use this incident in Chauvin's trial; however, "The incident was deemed inadmissible as evidence in Chauvin's

murder trial." If the police agency, supervisors, and police administrators knew about this one incident, could they have some responsibility?

When officers are accused of poor behavior or charged with committing crimes, the officers can be held accountable. We have witnessed this in the George Floyd case, the Terry Nickols case, and others. Maybe we should be questioning not just how the incident occurred but also what is the responsibility of the agency, the training unit, and supervision. If the behavior of an officer is either not acceptable or criminal in nature, is that predictability of future behavior?

In the case of Sonya Massey's shooting, we know little of the previous behavior of Officer Grayson; however, what we do know bears further examination. Being discharged from the military for serious misconduct, which was? Being charged twice with driving under the influence and then being employed with six different agencies in just four years. We know very little, currently, about his past behaviors with these agencies.

I believe the majority of police officers do good work and protect the citizens. However, if we examine the past behaviors of some officers, could we prevent these occurrences? "What's Past is Prologue" is a quote from William Shakespeare, which tells us that past behavior indicates future behavior.

To read prior editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net

The Bulwark

Standing up for the rule of law

Dennis Atergut

To many of us have taken our democracy, our rule of law, our civic norms and our freedoms for granted."

Sometimes political trends are hit-you-over-the-head obvious. Other times, you have to stand back and squint to detect the pattern. If you look at a handful of seemingly disparate events across the country from the last few weeks, you will see something promising for our future: defenders of the rule of law working against Trumpist attempts to erode it.

First up, a story from the American Bar Association, that once-stodgy mainstay of the lawyering profession. On August 2, the ABA's bipartisan Task Force on Democracy sounded a call to arms to lawyers to get active defending the rule of law.

The task force is headed by Michael Luttig, the conservative icon and retired federal judge, and Jeh Johnson, the secretary of homeland security during President Barack Obama's second term. Several of the task force members are prominent lawyers—including Maureen O'Connor, a former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio; Thomas B. Griffith, a retired Republican-appointed federal judge; Ben Ginsberg, the preeminent Republican

expert on election law; and Jeff Rosen, a liberal legal-affairs commentator who runs the National Constitution Center. Other well-known task force members include Dick Gephardt, Heather Cox Richardson, Danielle Allen, Carly Fiorina, Chris Krebs, and The Bulwark's own Bill Kristol.

"The challenges we are facing cannot be solved by legislators or a president alone," the task force warned in a statement. All of us have a responsibility to help address them, with those in the legal profession having a heightened role: Lawyers have the unique skills and obligation to defend democracy, the Constitution and the rule of law as each takes an oath to do just that. Every American lawyer must play a significant role in rebuilding trust in our elections, educating the public on the rule of law and how democracy and the Constitution underpin what we all value in our everyday lives.

The task force's document includes lists of specific actions that lawyers and bar associations can take to stand up for democracy, from becoming poll workers to writing articles countering disinformation to hosting civic events.

Second, the body that governs the ABA, its House of Delegates, this week adopted a statement of principles that was issued by the Society for the Rule of Law. The society is composed of some of the country's most eminent conservative lawyers, all of them Republican or formerly Republican. Their "Statement of Principles to Pre-

serve, Protect, and Defend the Constitution, the Rule of Law, and American Democracy," now joined in by more than 2,000 lawyers across the country, includes these pledges:

To support and defend the fundamental American principle that no person is above, beneath, or beyond the law.

To respect, support, and defend the constitutional rights of all Americans.

To accept, honor, and respect the results of elections by the American people.

To respect, support, and insist upon the peaceful transfer of power upon which our constitutional republic is premised and depends.

These principles once seemed like apple pie. They help form the foundation of a constitutional republic—one where, as Tom Paine put it in Common Sense, "the law ought to be king."

But in the last decade, Donald Trump and his lawyer-enablers repeatedly attacked those principles, most infamously while attempting to overturn the 2020 election.

Those enabling, unethical attorneys did not go unchallenged. Important lawyer-activist groups stood up to defend their profession and its ethical standards. Activist professional groups filed successful disciplinary complaints against the likes of Rudy Giuliani, John Eastman, Jeffrey Clark, and Lin Wood.

Now, the ABA has mounted the barricades to defend the precepts that uphold our democracy. The adoption of the Society for the Rule of Law principles and the document from the

Task Force on Democracy are both permission slips and a catalyst for individuals and legal organizations to join the defense of the rules that ensure our safety and freedom.

That includes Big Law, the country's major law firms, whose silence, with few exceptions, has been deafening.

Now for the third major development. From Arizona we learned two things about the grand jury of ordinary citizens who back in April indicted Giuliani, Mark Meadows, and Republican fake electors from the scheme to overturn the 2020 election.

First, the grand jury had wanted to indict Trump himself, the central actor in seeking to destroy the lawful transfer of power. The Arizona attorney general's prosecutors reportedly recommended against it to avoid further complicating the former president's federal prosecution. Leaving him out, of course, would also simplify an already complex case for Arizona prosecutors.

Then it was reported that lawyer Jenna Ellis, Giuliani's sidekick after the 2020 election, agreed to cooperate with the Arizona prosecutors. Along the same lines came the news that one of the indicted fake electors has pleaded guilty.

Activist lawyer groups had previously succeeded in having Ellis disciplined last year for her ethical breaches, demonstrating that efforts to ensure accountability to rules and law can register in serious consequences.

We are seeing how the law is a force to be reckoned with—but only if it is defended and acted upon when under assault. That is what connects the

news from the ABA and from Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes, whose office brought the indictments. Both the primary professional organization in the law and its defenders in a state prosecutor's office are standing up for the rule of law and the integrity of the legal profession.

Institutions fail without action in their defense. That's what the ABA has done. And that's what the Arizona prosecutors and grand jury did.

What happens in politics and what happens in law are intertwined. Mayes, you might remember, was elected by a margin of just 280 votes. Had it not been for every citizen who voted, there would have been no Arizona prosecution of Giuliani, Meadows, and the fake electors in that pivotal battleground state. Likewise, the outcome of this November's presidential election will determine whether Trump himself will face justice for his attempt to overturn the 2020 election. If he wins re-election, his federal prosecutions will judder to a halt.

Donald Trump and his MAGA party are trying to destroy the rule of law in our society. Prosecutors like those in Arizona and organizations like the ABA have stepped forward to defend it. Each of us can, in our own way, join in this effort. This is not a moment to stand on the sidelines wondering whom the rule of law protects. It protects all of us.

To read other articles from the Bulwark, visit www.thebulwark.com.

The Liberal Patriot

The “Blue Wall” matters for more than just its electoral votes

Michael Baharaeen

As the Democrats gathered to formally nominate Kamala Harris as their 2024 presidential nominee, pundits, analysts, and operatives were debating what the party’s path to victory might look like this November. Biden’s weak polling left the Democrats’ “Blue Wall” in the Rust Belt as his only real path to 270 electoral votes, as states like Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada, which backed him in 2020, were beginning to look out of reach.

However, since formally entering the race, Harris’s favorability numbers have dramatically improved, and the surge has opened up multiple possible avenues for getting to 270 and winning the Electoral College, including going through the Rust Belt or the Sun Belt.

Others have gone even further. Early in her campaign, advisers close to Harris reportedly debated moving beyond older, whiter, and slightly more rural states like Michigan and Wisconsin altogether and alternatively focus on younger, less white, and more urban states further south. According to Politico, “Harris’s emerging brain trust... [believes her] relative strength with young, Black and Brown voters will put more states in play. The Midwest is not where the opportunity is for her. The opportunity... is going to be Nevada, Arizona, Georgia, Pennsylvania.” One ally told The Atlantic she hoped to see Harris challenge the idea “that pol-

iticians have to appease older white voters in order to be successful.”

So far, Harris doesn’t appear to be taking the bait. Her campaign has already allocated substantial resources in both regions and plans to invest even more in them this fall. Still, the idea that Democrats may eventually try to look beyond the Rust Belt states, whose demographics are increasingly less likely to reflect the party’s, and instead try to build a map that revolves more around states home to the “rising electorate” carries immense risks.

Let’s start with the electoral implications of making such a move. The Blue Wall, comprising Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, contains 44 electoral votes.

In the 2010 midterms, the Republicans made sweeping gains in all three states and maintained them throughout most of the following decade. But Democrats have rebounded since then and shown they can still win in this region. They have reclaimed the governorships in all three states; gained a state-government trifecta and captured all statewide offices in Michigan; flipped Pennsylvania’s Republican-controlled U.S. Senate seat and state House; and won a majority on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which later tossed gerrymandered Republican legislative maps, giving Democrats a chance to make big gains in the state government this fall for the first time in over a decade.

So, while these three states may not be demographically appealing to some in the party—their shares of non-college white voters and rural voters are higher than the national average—Democrats

are still very much competitive here, especially with the right candidates. And, in fact, these are the three swing states in which Harris currently leads Trump in the polling averages.

Now, let’s move south. There are four presidential battlegrounds in the Sun Belt this cycle: Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and North Carolina. Collectively, they possess 49 electoral votes, five more than the Blue Wall. Many Democrats see the demographics of this region as friendlier to them: relative to the national average, all four states either have higher shares of non-white voters (Nevada), college-educated voters (North Carolina), or both (Arizona and Georgia).

However, with the exception of Nevada, there is no recent history of sustained Democratic support in this region. Rather, most of these states have been GOP-leaning over the past two decades.

Certainly, Democrats are showing signs of life in all four states. In Nevada, they have won every presidential election since 2008 and controlled both chambers of the legislature almost without interruption over the past couple of decades. In Arizona, they flipped the governor, secretary of state, and attorney general offices in the 2022 midterm election, and they’re just two seats shy of a majority in each state-legislative chamber. In North Carolina, they have won the last two races for governor and have controlled the secretary of state and attorney general offices for over a century. In Georgia, they now control both U.S. Senate seats.

The point here isn’t that Democrats have to decide between one region or the other; it’s that the data show there’s no reason for them to give up on the Blue Wall anytime



soon, even if its demographics are seemingly less “friendly.” They have a longer track record of success there, including recently, and Harris is leading Trump in the region’s three states.

But there’s another, more understated reason why the Blue Wall is important to the Democrats, one that has less to do with strategy and more with image: it basically remains the party’s last connection to Middle America. Let’s say Harris loses Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin but wins anyway by sweeping the Sun Belt toss-up states. Democrats would be building a map that is concentrated on the coasts and in highly educated states like Minnesota and Colorado, devoid of support in most of the middle.

Moreover, maps like this would also underscore the Democrats’ shift away from the working class—long the backbone of the party—and its increasing reliance on more affluent and college-educated voters. In 2020, Biden won 27 states and DC, and in just eight of them, including in all three Blue Wall states, was the share of non-college voters higher than the national average. Meanwhile, the electorates in all but

two states (Kansas and Utah) that backed Trump were disproportionately non-college-educated.

All this risks reinforcing a growing image of the Democrats as the party of the elites while allowing Republicans to claim the mantle as the party of the working class and Middle America.

In a two-party system, coalitions should try to appeal to as many types of voters as possible, and college-educated voters living in coastal states of course deserve representation too. But there are far more non-college voters in the country and electorate. Non-college whites, specifically, continue to make up a large majority of the voting public and are overrepresented in the Midwest—and the Blue Wall. Democrats can’t build a winning coalition without a significant share of them, a lesson that should have been learned in each of the last two presidential elections. But just as important: they also can’t claim to represent all of America if their electoral map has a glaring hole in the middle of it.

To read other articles from the Liberal Patriot, visit www.liberalpatriot.com.

Good Day Neighbor

I’m on team teacher

Dorothea Mordan

My husband spent over twenty years as an on the road service technician for a chemical company that sold cleaning chemicals to industrial laundries. A high percentage of customers were hospital laundries. His job prioritized two things. First, designing, installing and maintaining the pumping systems that automate the washing system, ginormous contraptions sometimes as big as a house. Piles of laundry entered in one end, went through various cycles of wash, rinse and spin. They exited at the other end ready for ironing and folding. Second was getting the cleaning chemistry mixed correctly to take out dirt, stains, and other stuff. He has a saying, “In hospitals, everything comes to the laundry. EVERYTHING.”

In our schools, everything comes to the teachers. EVERYTHING.

Our public schools provide education and preparation for entering our greater society. Reading, writing and arithmetic taught alongside working with others, asking questions, listening to answers.

The good, the bad, and the ugly. A teacher sees relationships grow between

students, or sometimes students who turn on each other. Whatever happens on the bus, in the lunchroom, or hallway, teachers hear about it. Other parts of a student’s life may result in disruptive behavior in the classroom. What we call bad behavior can get a child sent to the principal, or to a counselor. Teachers often see it first, and later have a hand in directing that child toward a solution.

Special Education and IEPs. Daily class routines create structure most of us can conform to. This can benefit all students, and build their understanding of our society. IEP details, such as special education staff working one-on-one with a student, are additional layers added to the routine. As we learn more about neurodivergence, we narrow the gap between what we call “normal” vs “special” or “developmental”. While we as a society try to keep up with it, teachers see social norms changing at the speed of children growing into young adults.

Parents and public school administrators have perspectives that range from the super organic (at home) to the super defined (administration). In the middle, teachers (with their own advanced degrees) are living the experiences of real people that produce the statistics and

anecdotes that fuel post graduate degrees of public school administrators. While we parents and admins identify pressing issues and logical solutions, teachers are asked to implement any and all of our requests, and then produce results that can be measured.

I have recently been on an FCPS Task Force as a parent member, helping to gather pros and cons of a potential school safety policy. For the purpose of this column what matters is that I learned that gathering a group of parents, teachers and administrators for conversation on a specific school safety question is a great way to learn other perspectives. The people on the Task Force, along with many parents, teachers and staff I have met in my life—as a child, parent and now grandparent—have one thing in common.

Trauma.

Many school policies that address safety are the result of trauma. Like the truism that we finally get a traffic light after too many fatal car accidents, parents who demand solutions for their kids, are trying to heal from trauma. Teachers advocating for workplace conditions are addressing trauma. Teachers can absorb as much of their students’ trauma as their own. As a task force member, I was privileged to hear stories from parents, teachers and FCPS staff. While their private

stories can’t be shared here, it is safe to say that each of us were present because we knew first hand about traumas experienced by one or more children.

I have a lot of experience with the Special Education and IEP system, in Anne Arundel and Frederick Counties. Several years ago, we were made aware of our child’s danger when a student mediation group told their staff sponsor that our child was a target. A group of students had found our child’s weakness and pounced. All of us grown-ups got involved by paying attention, asking questions. The situation was resolved by identifying the ring leader, and one school staff member laying down the law.

This presented multiple perspectives that were addressed by acting as a community. A neurodivergent child needs support, but in what form? Another child is growing up with bullying behaviors, but why? Can either benefit from counseling? Can their parents? Teachers see all of the surface behaviors and interactions, and they can guide students in various directions to find solutions. They can’t make decisions for students or parents, and they can’t change external factors. But they can and do show up every day to be the conductor of their classroom orchestra.

What’s often missing in finding solutions? Community. Our public school system has a complicated array of poli-

cies and requirements that add up to a lot of time spent on details rather than interactions as a community. Working on school committees is a start for getting to know the other adults in our children’s lives. Participating in the public school community through events or parent volunteer opportunities work too.

Bring your voice to the table, and your vote to our elections. Voting directly impacts our school community. Proposed restrictions, such as book bans, hit home for teachers. As kids get their first taste of our greater society, teachers are the first line of defense, of books, of ideas, of individuality. The infamous Project 2025, written and supported by the GOP and Trump, includes the elimination of the Department of Education as a featured part of the plan.

We have a teacher on the ballot this November. Tim Walz, who says “Never underestimate a public school teacher.” Tim Walz was in the Army National Guard and a teacher for many years. That was before he was elected to the US Congress, and Governor of Minnesota.

I’m on Team Teacher.

2024 is the year of the vote. Please make your count.

To read prior editions of Good Day Neighbor, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net or visit her website: ChandlerDesignsLimited.com.

PASTOR'S DESK

The Body of Christ

Pastor Chad Weddle
Glade United Church of Christ

Glade United Church of Christ

For the last five weeks our church, which traditionally uses the Revised Common Lectionary as a guide for scriptures, has been reading part of the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St John. This section is sometimes called the "Bread of Life"

John records that after the Feeding of the Five Thousand, that Jesus withdrew again to a mountain by himself. John 6:15 - However, the crowds would not let Jesus be alone and found him on the other side of the lake - John 6:25

At this point Jesus confronts the crowd saying that they are not really looking for him but instead looking for another free meal. This leads to Jesus declaration in John 6:35 that 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'

In preparation for one weeks sermon, I came upon the quote from St. Augustine (Augustine of Hippo) St. Augustine said "Believe what you see, see what you believe and become what you are: the Body of Christ." This helped to open my eyes to the spiritual idea that having taken communion, we are called

to be the body of Christ to those whom we encounter on our daily journeys.

Similar to a phrase I heard in my youth group time "What would Jesus do". These concepts, ideas, statements help me on my daily walk to try and be what Jesus taught and more importantly demonstrated. First and foremost, to show love to those we come upon in our lives. That is often easy to show to those who love and care for us. But it certainly is not easy to show love, mercy, forgiveness ... to those that do not love me, to those that may have said or done something that has hurt me, or to someone that I may think in a worldly sense is "my enemy".

All of us sin and fall short of living perfect lives. John's words and St. Augustine's quote have helped me to strive to do better. To stop and think that I have the chance to show those I am encountering that Jesus words and actions mean enough that they change my actions and attitudes. That instead of replying to hatred, violence and those who disagree with me with negativity, that I, the body of Christ, am called to show kindness, mercy, and love.

Glade UCC is located at 21 Fulton Avenue, in Walkersville. Glade Church was founded in

1750 by Rev. Michael Schlatter, a German Reformed pastor. The original church was located on the outskirts of Walkersville (1750 to 1896) and then moved to Fulton Avenue.

Around 1748, the Rev. Michael Schlatter from the Holland Synod was sent to the Monocacy area to organize churches for the German Reformed settlers. Rev. Schlatter wrote that "a new Reformed congregation was formed in 1750," and referred to it as "the Church in the Glades."

From 1750 until 1833, Glade Church was part of the Frederick Charge, which included most of the German Reformed churches. There were 10 pastors, including Rev. Schlatter, serving this charge.

Soon after the formation of the congregation, a log church was built on Glade Road about one and a half miles from Walkersville. At about the same time, a log schoolhouse was built across the road. It remained in operation until after the Civil War. Land adjacent to the log church was used as a "graveyard," a well-maintained cemetery to this day.

As part of the Frederick Charge, many developments took place at Glade:

In 1781, Glade Church was granted by the Maryland General Assembly about five acres of land from the Daniel Dulaney estate, Monocacy Manor; this was being farmed by the John Cramer fam-



ily who had allegedly received the land from Lord Baltimore to settle.

Following new and repaired log churches, a brick structure was built in 1781. In 1833, the Reformed congregations at Glade, Woodsboro, and Creagerstown became Glade Charge. Later, the Charge was re-aligned to include only Glade and St. John's, Woodsboro.

The Rev. Atville Conner (1892-1898) oversaw Glade Church's move from the country to the town of Walkersville in "the Mt. Pleasant District" on one acre of land purchased from John Stauffer. The new church was built and dedicated in 1896. In 1899, the old church was torn down and materials from it were used to build a new parsonage next to the church.

In 1915, a new organ was installed and later electrified. Electric lights were used for the first time in 1916.

In 1957, Glade Church became part of the United Church of Christ, and changed its name to Glade United Church of Christ (UCC). In 1983, the Glade Charge was dissolved, and St. John's and Glade became single churches. In 2000, as Glade UCC entered and embraced the 21st century, the people of Glade celebrated 250 years as a congregation.

We hope you will keep in mind some upcoming events: Worship and Picnic at Creamery Park on Sunday September 8, at 10:30. Our Turkey, Ham, and Oyster Suppers held at the Walkersville Fire Hall on Fri Nov 1st from 4 to 7 and Saturday Nov 2nd from 11 to 4.

We worship on Sundays at 10:30. All are welcome. For more information about the church please see www.gladchurch.org or call the church office at 301-845-6775

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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 Sept. 7 - Ret. Army Chaplain Mike McCauley
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 Sept. 22 - Sue Clabaugh
 Sept. 29 - Pastor Kelly Crenshaw
 Oct. 6 - Rev. Dr. Richmond Laney

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 John 14:27

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All are welcome

If you are unable to join us in the sanctuary you may view our services on our YouTube channel.

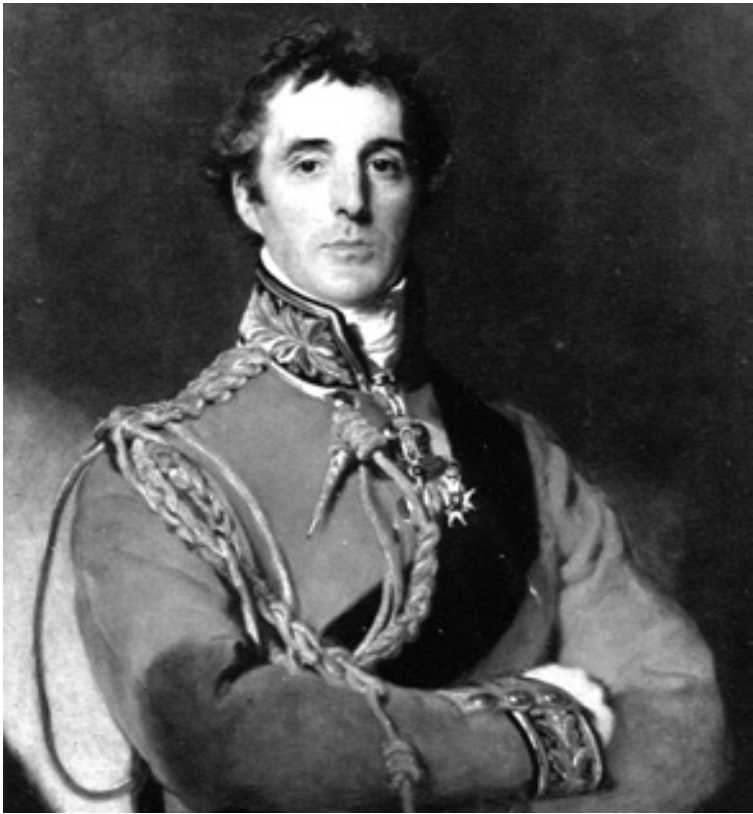
<p>Free Community Dinner September 3rd - 5 - 7 p.m. September 21st - 5 - 7 p.m. (Co-sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran) <i>All are welcome!</i></p>	<p>Annual Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale Fri., Oct. 18 & Sat., Oct. 18 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. For info about space rentals contact: Robin at 301-639-1206 Breakfast & lunch available for Purchase both days</p>
<p>Fall Soup & Sandwich Sale Fri., Oct. 18 & Sat. Oct., 19 Look for more info in next month's ad. Preorder on our website.</p>	<p>Save the Date! Annual Holiday Bazaar Sat., December 7 - 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact Robin at: 301-639-1206 for more information!</p>

For more information on how to access our services please visit our website or contact the church.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

The Duke of Wellington



On the 14th of September 1852, died Arthur, Duke of Wellington, the most illustrious English-man of his time, at the age of eighty-three. He had performed the highest services to his country, and indeed to Europe, and the honours he had consequently received were such as would tire even a Spaniard. While so much honoured, the duke was a man of such simplicity of nature that he never appeared in the slightest degree uplifted.

His leading idea in life was the duty he owed to his country and its government, and with the performance of that he always appeared perfectly satisfied. He was the truest of men, and even in the dispatches and bulletins which he had occasion to compose amidst the excitements of victory, there is never to be traced a feeling in the slightest degree allied to self-complacency. It was not in respect of stricken fields alone, that he proved himself the superior of Napoleon. He was his superior in every moral attribute.

The Duke was the younger son of an Irish peer remarkable only for his musical compositions. Arthur entered the army in 1787, as an ensign of foot. He passed through various regiments of foot and horse, and at four-and-twenty had attained the lieutenant-colonelcy of the 33d Regiment of infantry.

His first conspicuous appearance in our military history is as the chief of a little British army, which overthrew in 1803 a large Mahrattas force at Assaye by which the British power was established in that part of India. It is not required here that we should recite the series of campaigns in Spain and Portugal, extending between April 1809 and November 1813, by which he expelled the superior armies of Napoleon from the Peninsula, and enabled his troops to bivouac in unopposed triumph on the soil of France. Neither is it necessary here to repeat the particulars of his Belgian campaign of 1815, ending in his triumph over Napoleon in person at Waterloo. All of these transactions are already written deeply

in the hearts of his countrymen.

When Arthur Wellesley completed his military career in 1815, with the title of duke, and a multitude of other marks of the public gratitude, he was only forty-six years of age. Throughout the remainder of his long life, he devoted himself to the service of his country, as a member of the House of Peers and occasionally as a minister. It cannot be said that he shone as a politician, and his sagacity, for once, made a dismal failure in the estimate he formed of the necessity for parliamentary reform in 1830. Yet no one ever for a moment hesitated to admit, that the Duke was perfectly honest and unselfish in his political, as he had been in his military career.

The death of this eminently great man was the result of natural decay, taking finally the form of a fit of epilepsy. He was interred with the highest public honours in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The death of the Duke of Wellington was associated with much of that soldierly simplicity which marked his character generally. From 1829 till 1852, he was accustomed to pass two months of each autumn at Walmer Castle, away from the turmoil of parliamentary and official life in the metropolis. As Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Walmer was one of his official residences. Those ports have long survived the state of affairs, which once gave them celebrity as a

naval fraternity; but still the title of Lord Warden is kept up, with a few unimportant duties—Dover being the head-quarters, but Walmer the official residence.

The castle, built in the time of Henry VIII, is one of three, which defend the low coast near Walmer and Deal; it has had alterations made in it from time to time, to adapt it as a domestic residence. Here the great duke, as we have said, passed a portion of each year. His apartments were furnished in the simplest possible way; especially his bedroom, which besides an iron military bedstead and a coverlet, contained very few articles. The one window of that room looked out upon the sea; while a door, in an adjoining apartment, gave access to the ramparts of the castle, where the duke was accustomed to walk at an early hour every morning—a few guns around him, but a very lovely prospect in front.

His habits were as plain and simple as his rooms. From morning until night, every hour was apportioned with the utmost regularity. That faculty for order and organization, which had enabled him, in earlier years, to manage large armies, still remained with him till his death, when he was in his eighty-fourth year.

On Monday the 13th of September 1852, the duke rode and walked out as usual, dined as usual, and retired to rest at his usual hour. On Tuesday the 14th, his valet called him at the customary hour of six o'clock. Half an hour afterwards, hearing a kind of moaning, the valet entered the room, and found his master ill. The duke requested that his apothecary should be sent for. When the apothecary arrived between eight and nine o'clock, the Duke was in an epileptic fit, something similar to one from which he had suffered a few years before. The apothecary went back to prepare some medicines; but while he was gone, the symptoms became worse.

As the day advanced, the urgency of the case led to the dispatching of telegrams to London, summoning any one of three eminent physicians. The veteran suffered much during the day; he spoke frequently, but his words could not be understood. At four o'clock on that same afternoon, he breathed his last. Thus the Duke of Wellington died, with nobody near him,

among all his crowd of illustrious and distinguished friends, except one son, one daughter-in-law, a physician, an apothecary, and the ordinary domestics of the castle.

The Duke's coolness

Two striking instances of Lord Wellington's coolness are often noted: one, when in a fog in the morning, as he was pursuing the French, he found a division of his men, much exposed in advance, and nearly separated from the rest of the army, and the French in a village within a mile of where he was standing. He could see nothing. But, on some prisoners being brought in, and being asked what French division, and how many men were in the village, they, to the dismay of every one except Wellington, said that the whole French army were there. All he said was, quite coolly: "Oh! they are all there, are they? Well, we must mind a little what we are about, then."

On another occasion, just before the siege of Rodrigo, when the proximity of the French army placed them in considerable danger by reason of the non-arrival of their flank divisions, a Spanish general was astonished to find the English commander lying on the ground in front of his troops, serenely and imperturbably awaiting the issue of the peril. "Well, general," said the Spaniard, "you are here with two weak divisions, and you seem to be quite at your ease; it is enough to put one in a fever." "I have done the best," the Duke replied, "that could be done according to my own judgment, and hence it is that I don't disturb myself, either about the enemy in my front, or about what they may say in England."

On several instances he very narrowly escaped being taken prisoner. Once at Talavera, in the midst of the action; once, just before the battle of Maya, being surprised by a party of French while looking at

his maps. In the latter action, as he was carried away on the tide of a retreating body of young troops, the French lancers suddenly charged on its flank, and his only chance was in his horse's speed. "He arrived," Mr. Gleig writes, "hotly pursued, at the edge of a ditch, within which the 92d Highlanders were lying, and the points of their bayonets bristled over the edge. He called out to them as he approached, "Lie down, men!" and the order was obeyed, whereupon he leaped his horse across the ditch, and immediately pulled up with a smile on his countenance."

The duke's success no doubt was largely owing to his special mastery of details. In camp and on the march, equally methodical, he relied for victory on the preparations he had made. From the smallest incident to the greatest, he made himself acquainted with all that could affect the organization of his army, and the comfort of his men individually. Even the cooking of mess-dinners was his constant care.

Upon the first publication of his dispatches, one of his friends said to him, on reading the records of his Indian campaigns: "It seems to me, duke, that your chief business in India was to procure rice and bullocks." "And so it was," replied Wellington "for if I had rice and bullocks, I had men, and if I had men, I knew I could beat the enemy." Like Napoleon, though with a vast difference in scale, his army was the work of his own hands.

This mental activity, of course, widened the range of his achievements. Like Caesar, who is said to have written an essay on Latin rhetoric as he was crossing the Alps, Wellington passed the night previous to one of his battles in devising a scheme for a Portuguese bank.

To read other selections from Robert Chamber's 1864 *The Book of Days*, visit thebookofdays.com.



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ECOLOGY

Looking ahead

Anne Gageby
 Director of Environmental Education
 Strawberry Hill Foundation

Fall feels so far away. This is especially true during these vacillating end-of-season days in which temperatures can be quite chilly but are regularly in the 80s. But the slide into fall is happening here in southern Pennsylvania. The tiniest blush of yellows and pinks on leaves can be seen popping up at random along roadsides. They're a tantalizing hint of the spectacular colors to come.

A quiet stillness has settled around the Strawberry Hill campus. The Wild Strawberries kids have all gone back to school. The last summer camp field trip waved goodbye as they boarded their bus. We shared hours of laughter, fun, and learning as we built memories of another summer on the mountain. It was an incredible summer, for sure. Just outside my office window,

the mountain seems to have morphed into a gentle still-life. And yet behind the scenes is as busy as ever. The lull in activity this time of year allows us to prep and plan for the whirlwind that is late September through October. We have several big events coming up this fall at Strawberry Hill and I can't wait for the fun to start.

Sunday, September 8th we're hosting a free Grandparents' Day Hike from 10-11am. Spend the day exploring our beautiful campus as we search for signs of wildlife along the trails. Bring a packed lunch and spend the afternoon on the Nature Playground. This hike will stick to flatter areas of Strawberry Hill's campus.

Our Homeschool Days are back this fall and they're bigger than ever. Doors open at 9:45am and programs run from 10:00am until 1:00 or 1:30pm. The Nature Classroom will be open as part of the days' festivities. Each Homeschool Day features a dif-

ferent theme with activities designed with Pennsylvania Department of Education standards in mind.

On Tuesday, September 24th we're celebrating all things colorful with our Homeschool Days - Art in Autumn event. Celebrate the start of fall and all the beauty it brings to our forest. Join us for an art-tastic day of learning, creativity, and fun as we explore natural hair dyes and ink, nature journaling, patterns in nature, and even participate in an afternoon color run - with prizes, of course.

October 8th is Homeschool Days - The Sweet Side of Skunks. Ollie, Strawberry Hill's resident skunk and animal ambassador, is so excited for you to join us as we learn about and celebrate one of nature's most marvelous and misunderstood creatures - the striped skunk. Programs and activities include a habitat hike, skunk trivia, skunk tails and sweet treats, and learning about the science behind the stink including what to do if you or your pet are sprayed by a skunk.

And on Tuesday, October 29th we're exploring the mysteries of our beloved woods at Homeschool Days - In the Deep, Dark Woods. Discover why so many spooky folktales are rooted in the science of the forest as we venture out for a fall hike, explore natural "terrors" of the world, hear folktales from the forest, and have a meet and greet with our favorite owl, Strix.

To learn more about our upcoming Homeschool Days, visit our website strawberryhill.org and click on "Homeschool" under the Programs tab. Each day's link includes information on how our Homeschool Days help boost portfolios by connecting to specific curricular topics and ages. These events are a great opportunity for homeschool families to get out and have fun while adding to a homeschool portfolio. The Homeschool Days are primarily designed for



Strawberry Hill Naturalist, Amanda, introduces kids to Animal Ambassador Strix.

kids from Kindergarten through 10th grade, but all ages are welcome. Cost is \$7 per person (child and adult) or \$25 for a family of four or more.

Have a Girl Scout who's looking to earn badges? Strawberry Hill is a program partner with Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, and we have three upcoming programs designed to meet specific badge requirements. Scouts will receive a certificate of completion after the programs. These are programs you and your Scout don't want to miss!

Strawberry Hill Adventure Day will be on Saturday, September 14th, 2024, from 1-2:30pm. Join us as we go on a nature hike with a Naturalist, learn how to prepare for an outdoor adventure, and discover how to stay safe while out hiking. This program is designed to meet all Trail Adventure badge requirements. Scouts will be divided up by levels and will hike different trails appropriate for their ages and badge requirements.

Saturday, October 19th, 2024, from 8-9:30pm is our Strawberry Hill Night Science event. Explore the brilliance of the night as we learn how to use telescopes, discuss myths & leg-

ends about the moon, and explore nature with a night hike. This program is designed to meet the Cadette Night Owl and Senior Space Science Expert badge requirements.

And finally, Strawberry Hill STEM Day is on Saturday, November 2nd, 2024, from 1-2:30pm. Spend the day with us as we dive into creative fun exploring animal habitats, math in nature, and all things bugs! Tinker with some STEM-inspired crafts that you can take home. This program is designed to meet the Daisy math in Nature 1, Brownie Bugs, Junior Animal Habitats badge requirements. We will also have a tinker station that meets the requirements for Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Craft & Tinker badges. \$10 per Scout and parent chaperones are free.

Fall is spectacular on the mountain. There's something about the cooler temperatures and stunning colors that make outdoor adventures more fun. So, stop by Strawberry Hill and make the most of your time on the mountain. We can't wait to see you!

To read past editions of Ecology, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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THE RETIRED ECOLOGIST

Turkeys in the yard and memories of the past

Bill Meredith

"Of my three-score years and ten, twenty will not come again." ...A. E. Houseman, when contemplating cherry blossoms as a young man.

"Of my four-score years and one, another autumn has begun."

—B. Meredith, for no apparent reason.

In the "The Family Circus" comic strip last week, Grandma was bustling about the kitchen, and her little granddaughter remarked, "Grandma says she's seen it all, done it all, and heard it all. She just can't remember it all." I can sympathize with Grandma. You live a long time, you experience lots of things, and then when your eyes get dim and your ears don't work any more, it's easy to stop paying attention... especially if you think you've seen it all. So, at 7:25 A.M. on the 26th of July, my mind was miles away, and if my wife hadn't been looking out of the kitchen window just then, we would have missed the turkeys.

There were seven of them... and adult female and six young poults... and they came out of the thicket at the west end of the yard, where the locust tree fell over the week before. The mother was nearly three feet tall when she stretched her neck. She was wary and alert, placing her feet carefully as she walked and bobbing her head backward and forward with each step, watching for danger both at ground level and above. The chicks were about half the size of chickens, and they scurried about as kids do everywhere, pecking at anything that might be edible or otherwise interesting. Their wing and tail feathers were visible but not yet big enough for flying; if they got too far away, the mother would cluck and they would come to her at top speed, flapping their wings and occasionally getting a few inches off the ground. They stopped for a few minutes to peck at seeds under the bird feeder, and then wandered out of sight around the corner of the garage. They came again at the same time the next day, and one of the chicks actually came up onto the front porch and ate some fuchsia blossoms that had fallen from the hanging basket. Later, our granddaughter laid a trail of sun-

flower seeds down the walk from the birdfeeder to the porch, like Hansel and Gretel's bread crumbs, and we had high hopes that the entire flock would come onto the porch the next day. They did come back; but, alas, by the time they got there the chipmunks had stolen all of the sunflower seeds. Since then, they've come by nearly every day, sometimes in the evening as well as morning, and occasionally I hear them clucking in the Great Forest behind the house when I am working in the garden.

The six young ones are probably the survivors of a larger group. The average female turkey lays about a dozen eggs, and incubates them for 28 days; they would have hatched in late May or early June. The chicks can walk as soon as they are dry, and the mother would have taken them away from the nest as soon as possible, for the broken eggshells attract predators. The little ones peck instinctively at any small object that moves, and also recognize seeds as food. They recognize snakes, hawks and small mammals as enemies, but probably don't distinguish between raccoons, possums, foxes and feral cats. The ones in my yard ignored passing cars, but ran away if people walked by on the street.

Watching the turkeys from the kitchen window, it would be easy to assume the mother is behaving as a human mother would with a group of unruly pre-schoolers... watching, teaching, caring, thinking ahead to avoid known hazards... but this is not the case. Most of their behavior is instinctive rather than learned. Their mother has guarded them successfully so far, as directed by the pre-wired neural connections in her brain; but there is nothing in her

behavior that can be explained as maternal love or knowledge of the future. I learned this in an odd way over 50 years ago.

About the time I started graduate school at the University of Maryland, a biologist at the Beltsville Agricultural Center was studying hearing in birds, and had surgically deafened several turkeys for his experiments. When his study was finished, he had a group of perfectly healthy turkeys that were normal in every way except that they couldn't hear.

A young German biologist named Wolfgang Schleidt had just arrived at the Center to study the behavior of baby turkeys; he needed some female turkeys to sit on eggs and hatch them, and he was happy to take the deaf turkeys for that purpose. He put them in nest boxes with fertile eggs, and they cooperated nicely for the required period of time; but, to his surprise and dismay, when the eggs hatched, the foster-mother turkeys immediately attacked the babies and pecked them to death. Being a good scientist, Schleidt asked the obvious question: why did this happen?

He immediately designed several further experiments, and discovered that female turkeys do not automatically know what baby turkeys look like; they recognize them only when they hear them peeping. Baby turkeys begin peeping inside the eggs a few hours before they hatch; the mother hears them, and recognizes them. She is very protective at this time, and she assumes that any small moving object that doesn't peep is a potential predator... a rat, or perhaps a weasel... so she attacks it. This explained why the deaf turkeys had killed their hatchlings, and



it made Dr. Schleidt internationally known among students of animal behavior.

I was fortunate enough to meet Dr. Schleidt; when I completed my thesis research, he was one of the professors who participated in my final oral exam. That event happened 47 years ago, but it still runs through my mind every time I see a turkey. In fact, the first time we saw this family in the yard, I remarked to my wife, "Well, at least we know the mother isn't deaf."

It has been nearly a month since they first appeared. The young ones are now teen-agers, already bigger than chickens and able to fly short distances. Their voices

are changing, but they still peep to their mother, and she is still protective. It is tempting to think of them in human terms, like a kind parent patiently teaching her children how to get along in life; but I know better. So although "my" turkeys are endearing to watch, I cannot allow myself to become anthropomorphic about them. After all, Dr. Schleidt is still living; his photo stared sternly at me from his website when I entered his name in my computer. He would expect more than that from me.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Symphony of lights

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

Orange hues fade to purple, which rapidly descend into darkness. The sky resembles a backlit canopy with holes punched in it. Sultry summer air hangs on your skin and if you're lucky the magic begins to happen. The luminescent show begins with an overture from crickets and frogs. As a child your wonder and amazement are unparalleled as you run after the fluttering diamond like glint of lightning bugs. Your bare feet glide through the grass and you clasp your hands around these tiny little bugs in the hopes that you can inspect the phenomenon up close and personal. This natural light show subtly draws to a close by dawn, and may be doing so permanently.

Fireflies, or lightning bugs, can inspire awe in children and adults alike. Who can't say that they didn't spend summer nights running after this elusive illuminative force? To either catch and release or capture and hold in a jar empowered us as tiny masters and detectives of our natural world. Fireflies and lightning bugs are neither bugs nor flies. They are actually a type of beetle. What makes them a beetle is how their body functions. They have hardened forewings, called elytra, which extend in flight and will lay flush against their body when at rest. When in flight these ely-

tra will be raised for balance, and they'll rely on hind wings, located underneath the elytra, for movement. This feature is what classifies them into the beetle family.

There are more than 2000 different types of firefly species in the world, and are found on every continent except Antarctica. They produce light that can vary in color from yellow, orange, or green. Each species has a different flashing pattern, and some species don't actually light up at all. Primarily, they'll use these lights to attract a mate, but they can serve other purposes too. Some species will communicate to others with their flash. This can range from marking or guarding territory or to warn predators to stay away. They have a foul taste, so most would-be predators leave them alone as it is. When attacked fireflies do what's called "reflex bleeding". In the blood that is released is a chemical that tastes bitter and is actually poisonous to some animals. So, be careful of any pets that may try to eat them. On one particular evening though I had taken a stroll through Baker Park, and had stopped to sit down on a bench to talk with a friend. Ducks had been waddling by and every so often would lunge their necks out and snatch up a lightning bug. Apparently they didn't get the memo about not eating them, and I didn't see any keel over so I assume they're okay.

Adult fireflies aren't the only ones who glow though! Their eggs and larva (think babies) can also



There are more than 2,000 different types of firefly species in the world, and they are found on every continent except Antarctica.

glow. There are two chemicals in their tails that make glowing possible – luciferase and luciferin. These chemicals when combined with ATP (which is found in all living animals) will produce a glow. ATP should be a relatively stable level in healthy cells. In diseased cells the balance may be off. Scientists and doctors have put this knowledge to good use, and can detect potentially cancerous cells in people by injecting these chemicals from fireflies into diseased cells to detect anything from cancer to muscular dystrophy. Other medical uses include detecting blood clots, marking tuberculosis cells, marking the progressing of diabetes, and more. That's not all though! Scientist will also use these chemicals to detect food spoilage and have even equipped space craft to detect alien life with it as well. Fortunately, medical science has created a synthetic form so we don't need to commercially harvest them from

the wild anymore.

It's a good thing we aren't harvesting them from the wild anymore, and haven't in a sometime, because population levels seem to be declining by all accounts. The numbers aren't concrete yet, but some places in Asia are reporting up to 70% decline. Here in the US evidence is still largely anecdotal, but the research is underway. Researchers from Boston's Museum of Science, Finchburg State College, and Tufts University have teamed up to create an organization called Firefly Watch. Their goal is simple – "to track the fate of these amazing insects." They rely on volunteers, or citizen scientists, to help them by collecting data. It requires minimal effort or time on the part of the participant. According to the Firefly Watch website, "We hope that you'll be able to spend ten minutes checking your backyard for fireflies, one evening a week throughout the summer.

However, we realize that you lead a busy life and may not be able to collect data every week. Any information you can send us is valuable, as long as you fill out the observations form, and upload the results to us." With your help they aim to understand population distribution and the behavior of fireflies.

While the research is still ongoing to discover the extent of population numbers and decline there are a few theories behind the apparent abatement. The culprit is likely human interference. First and foremost, habitat destruction has taken its toll. Fireflies live in fields and forest edges. When these fields and forests get paved over fireflies don't migrate to new homes. They simply vanish ad infinitum, they're gone forever. Light pollution seems to be a major problematic factor. Street lights, porch lights, and landscaping lights can make it difficult for fireflies to find the blinking lights of mates, which can make it hard to propagate the species. Broad-spectrum pesticides can also negatively impact them too.

A few simple suggestions to aid the lightning bug are to keep the pesticide use down. Fireflies spend the day resting in grass and shrubs, so by limiting pesticide use they'll find it easier to avoid getting poisoned. You could also plant more plants, trees, and shrubs in your yard. It'll beautify your home, and create homes for them and other wildlife. While you're at it, you can install a water feature too! Fireflies prefer ponds and creek sides, so if you can include this addition to your home they'll love you for it. Turn off the outside house lights unless you need them to see. You'll save on energy costs and help cultivate an amorous atmosphere for fireflies.

The symphony of frogs and crickets wouldn't be complete without the light show offered for free from fireflies. Hopefully with better understanding we can help this awe-inspiring phenomenon avoid the decrescendo into oblivion that many species have faced. Let's conduct the sonata forward illuminating the summers of tomorrow.

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

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Placebo effect: hidden and powerful

Boyce Rensberger

Deep within the human mind lies a little-known power of extraordinary force.

It's called the placebo effect. You can also think of it as faith healing or as the power of suggestion or even as witch doctoring. Although often pseudoscientific, all these other labels succeed because of a phenomenon that biomedical scientists now know to be powerful and useful.

It's a power, or probably several powers, in the brain that can heal the body of many different (though definitely not all) ailments -- from warts and battle wounds to infections and headaches. The power must, however, be invoked in the right way. It doesn't matter what form the placebo takes. It can be a country doctor's sugar pill or a Navajo medicine man's five days of chanting and sand painting inside the sacred hogan. It can be a slap on the forehead from a faith healer (even one of the varieties shown to be outright frauds) or it can be a mother's kiss.

The paramount factor that matters, scientific experiments show, is that the patient truly believes the method can work. "Faith healing" turns out to be an apt name, though the religious kind of faith is not necessary. Faith in the method is. If that faith is present, messages go out from the brain to communicate with various physiological mechanisms throughout the body.

The placebo effect is not a cure-all. But many diseases are self-limiting, and the normal recuperative powers of the body eventually triumph. The placebo effect merely seems to speed up these normal processes.

Perhaps the most studied placebo mechanism is one that helps control pain. A dramatic example arose in the 1950s, when a curious form of surgery was being touted as a cure for the chest pains of angina pectoris. Heart surgeons would open a patient's chest and tie off the internal mammary artery. This was supposed to divert more blood to the heart's coronary arteries and relieve the pain. Early reports on the pro-

cedure, called an internal mammary artery ligation, were stunning. More than 90 percent of patients reported dramatic relief of pain, and 75 percent performed better on stress tests.

But some doctors were suspicious. They devised an experiment the like of which would not be allowed under today's ethics rules. Angina patients were randomly assigned to either of two groups. One group received the standard artery ligation. The other got a placebo operation, but those patients were not told. Both groups got the usual preparations for surgery and were anesthetized. Surgeons cut open each chest. In the placebo group, doctors merely looked at the artery and sewed up the incision. When those patients came to, they had the expected postoperative pain, a sure sign that something powerful had been done to them, and stitches in the right place.

Those who got the sham surgery reported just as much pain relief as those who got the real thing. Even though some 10,000 of the operations had been done, the experiment proved they were useless. It proved that what was doing good was the placebo effect. The patients believed that the most advanced techniques of modern medicine were being applied to them, and the placebo force did the rest. Internal mammary artery ligations were stopped immediately, but the question remains: How did the placebo force cure the angina?

The answer has become clear in recent years. When the brain wants to kill pain, it sends signals to the painful area, causing the local nerve cells to release a natural pain-killing substance called endorphin. This is the body's morphinelike molecule that also produces the "runner's high."

Pharmacologists at the University of California at San Francisco even measured placebo pills against mor-

phine. Before treating their pain with placebos, they gave volunteers the drug naloxone, also known as Narcan, which blocks the action of opioids. Amazingly, the placebos didn't work. Levine found that the amount of naloxone needed to block the placebo effect was the amount needed to block 8 mg of morphine. A typical morphine pill is 10 mg.

Pain is not the only thing placebos can treat. They are good for treating postsurgical wound pain, seasickness, headaches, coughs, anxiety and other nervous disorders. Placebos have produced improvement in high blood pressure, depression, acne, asthma, colds, arthritis, ulcers, headache, constipation and even cholesterol counts.

Because placebos can produce so many desirable effects, no test of a new drug or other treatment is considered valid nowadays unless it compares the new agent with a placebo. The placebo is designed to look so much like the experimental treatment that neither the patient nor the doctor can tell which is which. This is called double-blind testing. The doctor knows only a code number. After the whole experiment is over, the code is broken to reveal who got the placebo and who got the real thing.

Endorphins don't account for all placebo effects. There are several other natural substances that nerve cells can put out, and researchers suspect they accomplish many placebo effects. Called neurotransmitters, they include serotonin, dopamine, norepinephrine and acetylcholine. These molecules can carry messages from one nerve cell to another, and they can carry messages from the nervous system to almost any other cell of the body. Some even act on the cells of the immune system, boosting their capacity to fight infection.

Warts offer a dramatic example. Warts are a benign tumor caused by



"Hmm... better go with these."

a virus infection. They can sprout in clusters and persist for years, or they can go away for no obvious reason. They can also, as doctors have known for centuries, go away through the placebo effect. For many years the famous Merck Manual, a thoroughly scientific compendium, advised doctors to "hex" warts with an impressive ritual such as painting the warts red and invoking mystical powers. It works best with children, the manual said.

In a controlled experiment reported in the British medical journal *Lancet* in 1959, volunteers with warts all over their bodies were hypnotized and told that the growths on one side would disappear but not those on the other. Within weeks, exactly that happened to most of the volunteers. Hypnosis is a legitimately amazing phenomenon in its own right,

but its role in this case is thought to be that of a ritual that invokes the placebo power.

Doctors have been using the placebo force for thousands of years, whether they knew it or not. A good share of the benefit conferred by every therapeutic act comes from the placebo effect. Even if the drug or procedure has intrinsic benefits as well, the placebo effect will enhance the benefit -- so long as patients have faith in their doctors.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Sharing your gardening know-how

C.T. Ward,
Frederick County Master Gardener

Whether you garden with a few pots on an apartment balcony or care for more expansive beds in a suburban garden or on a 100-acre farm, you may sometimes find yourself keeping notes for next year on what you've planted, what died, and what did well, despite the drought. When did the lanternflies appear? What damage did they do to your garden? Which plants did they seem to prefer? How can you get rid of them?

Keeping those notes is a kind of nature journaling. In our July Master Gardeners' article, "Documenting Discovery," we discussed using nature journals to collect data. When you garden, for example, keeping a record of temperature, rainfall, location of plants, soil health, crop yield, etc., can help you guard against crop failure, pests and infection; and improve chances of success. In keeping such records we follow in our grandparents' footsteps, so to speak: Some relied on written records, while others went by instinct or oral traditions, taking notice of the world around them to predict temperatures, the best soil for the best crops, and even which seasonal pests they had to deal with.

While we still often share our gardening knowledge with our kids, neighbors, and friends

through oral means, today, many of us keep these garden notes electronically, along with photos; and we quickly find answers to almost any question electronically, too. We also have a wealth of information consolidated by research scientists from the observations recorded by "citizen scientists" like you, in their own backyard gardens, who have shared their gardening know-how. This community science allows you to participate and contribute data and information to ongoing scientific projects, whether it's connected with gardening or some other topic.

How does community science work?

You can contribute to scientific projects, large or small, by recording data from your own observations. Often, you help by presenting information about something you probably already do: observing and collecting data from what you see in your own back yard. Which birds come to your bird feeder, depending on what kind of seed you put out? What have you done to keep the squash borer from decimating your zucchini? Which flowers do bees, butterflies, hummingbirds seem to prefer in your back yard? Are the spotted lanternflies appearing in your area?

Submitting your data to these projects allows the administrators of the projects to combine

your data with that given by many other people. You might help to monitor best environmental practices, the health of local wildlife, or how nature is reacting to damage and the healing efforts we make.

For example, every February the Great Backyard Bird Count is held. Over four days, citizens all over the world count the species they see in a specific area and submit their findings. In 2024, more than 600,000 people around the world participated, identifying nearly 8,000 birds. Another recent project involves the ubiquitous spotted lanternfly: Household pets—dogs—are being trained to help researchers at the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences by sniffing out spotted lanternfly egg masses in vineyards and other places. The adults that emerge from those eggs are the latest pests to suck the life out of your plants.

Materials and time commitment may be minimal

Regardless of the data you are collecting, materials and even time commitments are normally minimal to participate. Starting out on a simple project that needs only a notebook and a writing utensil is a great way to begin. Many project administrators supply the community participants with the necessary materials needed to gather data. For example, the University of Maryland Extension Service recently was awarded a 500,000-dollar grant to work with farmers in the Delmarva region to study cover crops. They will not only study cover crops currently being used but also work with farmers to determine how they share their farming know-how with one another. The project administrators will give participants a customized cover crop plan and a stipend to incorporate those new strategies on their farms.

Opportunities to volunteer

You don't have to go big or go home. As long as you're making notes on your own gardening, share your gardening know-how by collecting information for a gardening-related project sponsored by local parks, forestry service, or other nature-oriented



One of the many community science projects is the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program. According to the website, "IMMP participants use IMMP's Data Portal to select and register sites, enter data, and visualize results. If access to cellular data or WIFI is available while in the field, data may be collected electronically on a tablet and entered directly into the Portal."

organization. Visit well known websites like <citizenscience.gov>, <iNaturalist.org>, <societyforscience.org>, <nasa>, and <nationalgeographic> for a list of verified and well-backed community science projects.

Team up with your local parks administrators and nature councils to see if there are current projects that need a helping hand. Even larger nationwide or global community science groups like the Great Backyard Bird Count can be completed in your home town or even from your own porch. Whether it's counting butterflies, feeding baby trout, or even helping to replace invasive plants with native varieties, you have many opportunities available. Besides taking seminars or classes through the local university extension service, explore ways to be involved in the support behind those groups. The more volunteers and volunteer hours, the more grant funds will come in to sup-

port local parks and wildlife services; in turn, the additional grant funds will keep them thriving and able to do more good in the community.

And many times, your volunteer efforts may only commit you to a short-term, one day or less period. So no worries about long-term commitments. Give a local community science project a try and learn more about yourself and your hometown environment as you share your garden know-how. There is a project out there for you!

Work with what you have

Much as with any new endeavor, jumping right into the thick of a new hobby or interest can be incredibly overwhelming. You don't need to take on each project you find, download all of the apps, or buy every fancy gadget to fully and wholly participate in community science. Start with what interests you and what you can already access, perhaps even a one-time, short-term commitment. Once you develop a balance and start to understand the process of community science programs, you may discover the same feeling that scientists and professionals across the globe feel when they delve into observation: the feeling that you are part of something greater than any single person and knowing that each little contribution helps us to more fully understand and appreciate this great world in which we live.

To read other Gardening articles, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

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THE MASTER GARDENER



Small Town Gardener

Garden motivation? I'll take books over screens every time

Marianne Willburn

This year marked my return to large-scale vegetable gardening after a three-year renovation project of my kitchen garden. However, due to a severe drought in the late spring and early summer and only nine water barrels with which to face its demands, it also marked my desire to immediately leave it.

Thankfully, in the early hours of the morning, when the day still felt promising, the birds were at the feeder, and my phone was charging somewhere I couldn't lazily grab it, there were books. Before the heat and temps built, I'd find myself leafing through sumptuous garden focused books and reading recipes that turned my eggplants into baba ghanoush, and my chard into grain.

And with no social media, politics, email quick-checks, or YouTube shorts to grab my attention away from the task at hand, I would find myself walking down to the kitchen garden with new purpose, dipping a watering can into a dwindling supply and doling out precious water to precious vegetables three years in the making.

My kitchen garden background: big ambitions

From rental digs to sloping lots, you can grow vegetables almost anywhere, with very little outlay; and I've certainly demonstrated this over the years. Fully renovating our current kitchen garden felt like a luxury, but stemmed from our desire to make it more manageable and useable – not only as a garden for vegetables, trial plants, and cutting flowers, but as a place to sit and experience the garden after a long day.

The project involved tearing down [now] rotten raised beds built eight years ago, leveling much of the

40x60 foot site surrounded by a picket fence, constructing a pre-fab greenhouse, building a retaining wall and rectangular pond, re-constructing raised beds with 4x4 posts, and building a 12x14 foot platform to sit within, but slightly above the scene.

Stone dust would make up the pathways, with more expensive pea gravel or granite dust to come along perhaps in a few years. And everything (including the fence) had to be painstakingly stained.

My kitchen garden reality: you're on your own

Apart from a fantastic summer's day when friends came to help put up the greenhouse; and a cold day in January when two others helped me ceremoniously plot the first lines of a geometric design; we did this work ourselves, in a wildly fluctuating lumber market, and with wildly fluctuating schedules.

To add more torture and time to the project, a flood in 2021 submerged the greenhouse panels in river water and greasy silt. Every 1cm channel of the double walled polycarbonate had to be cleaned with tiny bits of terry cloth shoved down the channels with a coat hanger, followed up with a stream from the power washer.

Thousands of them. And when I say "had to be cleaned," I don't mean outsourced.

The last big push of construction happened in November by my husband while I was at a garden symposium far away and couldn't object to the swearing coming, full-throated, from that part of the garden.

However, all that profanity culminated in a garden that was fully and intoxicatingly ready to plant this spring. And I planted with gusto. Arugula, kale, lettuces, broccoli, snap peas, spinach, mustards, and radishes emerged, filled our plates, filled our egos, and went over as the heat built.

Seed-reared cutting flowers and summer vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, egg-

plant, carrots, beets, chard, beans, sour leaf, Malabar spinach, ginger, and summer squash took their place and quickly shifted into high gear as the temps continued to rise.

My kitchen garden angst: severe drought

But temperatures built. And rain, it did not come.

In new raised beds where soil beneath the bed is still compacted and untouched by years of pioneering tap roots, a tomato plant will dry up before you can say 'Heinz.' Those beds were fully reliant on hand watering with collected water, and the resident gardener's mood. Mine wasn't good.

Motivation was sorely needed beyond inch-deep social media reels and ad-strewn recipes that inevitably led me elsewhere. And thankfully I found it in the sumptuous pages of Sarah Raven's Garden Cookbook that had been waiting for me to review it for another journal.

Newly excited, from there I pulled Christopher Lloyd's Gardener Cook from the shelves, Deborah Madison's classic The Greens Cookbook, and Marian Morash's happy simple recipes and growing instructions in The Victory Garden Cookbook.

Even as the rest of the ornamental garden dried up around me, mornings with Roots by Diane Morgan and The Four Season Farm Gardener's Cookbook by Barbara Damrosch and Eliot Coleman had me watering my beets and carrots and surprisingly, looking forward into fall vegetables.

And the kitchen garden continued to flourish, and we continued – and continue – to eat.

These tomatoes brought to you by the printed word

Feeling uncomfortably empty when you finish another screen session, or rather, when it finally lets you go? Books allow us to fully own our time with them. They are opened, absorbed, and closed.

No one sets their soundtrack, voices, or pace, to your experience. No one effortlessly links you down another rabbit hole, or tries to take your money for yet another brand, product or can't-live-without – even as they track your interest to populate the next round of scrolling.

The act of opening a book and turning its pages involves four of our five senses, and connects us to our past – even as its contents inspire our future.

If you've been turning solely to a screen for motivation, information, and inspiration in your gardening endeavors, it might just be the link you're actually searching for.

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

Frederick County Master Gardeners September Seminars

September 7: "Seed Saving for a Sustainable Kitchen Garden" Learn seed saving basics to ensure you always have a supply of your kitchen garden favorites. An overview of plant reproduction will be followed by a hands-on demo and seeds to take home for next season. Pre-registration is required.

plants can help your entire garden thrive. Tour the pawpaw patch in our Demo Garden.

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

September 28: "Pawpaws, a Little Known Treasure" Discover a native gem you can grow right in your own backyard! Find out how and why to grow this large, tasty fruit—and how native

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

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PETS

To those I never see

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

I was reminded once again of how many people out there are helping this shelter without even knowing it.

I talked with a lady who takes care of two cat colonies and has a host of her own felines as well. She feeds and medicates and makes sure that all the felines in her care are spayed and neutered and that is such a help to us, it's hard for me to express it in words.

There are others like her who help in the same way.

Some of these folks bring cats inside their homes and love them for the remainder of their lives.

Some of these folks take animals from family members who have moved or passed away, so the four-legged friend doesn't have to come to a shelter.

Some of these folks maintain other outside strays and make sure they have food and water and rabies shots and are spayed and neutered so they don't make any more cats.

These are the people that take care of cats who never come to the shelter.

These are the people who – out of their own pockets – pay for the services necessary to care for the animals. I want to make sure you understand that – it's money out of their own pockets that they use to take care of

these animals and I think that's utterly amazing.

They are absolute, beyond a shadow of a doubt, heroes in my mind and I very rarely ever get a chance to see them, let alone say thank you.

I was grateful to be able to talk the woman today and show my appreciation, but there are so many others out there like her that will never be able to hear my words.

A volunteer for the shelter is working on getting the cats fixed who showed up outside her home recently. She's doing this out of her own pocket because she cares about animals and she knows that if they are allowed to reproduce, the numbers will quickly get out of control.

So far, she has spayed and neutered six of the cats around her home.

Thankfully, I am able to express my appreciation to her, but it frustrates me that I'm not able to say thank you to others like her doing the same thing.

So if you are one of those people, thank you so very much. It's difficult for me to find the words to really be able to express the depth of my emotion here.

If you know people who do this, please tell them I said thank you and express the sentiments above.

The bottom line to managing pet overpopulation is spaying and neutering.



A simple act of kindness can make the day for a feral cat.

And for anyone who has fed an outside cat, you know how very quickly those numbers can multiply. I'm always shocked by how many times a female cat can get pregnant in a year and how many kittens she can have per litter.

I know it's difficult to see the stray cats outside – there are some outside my house who get fed every day (and are pretty much spayed and neutered) – but feeding them just isn't enough.

We have to make certain that they are spayed and neutered so the numbers don't get too big to handle.

We are definitely seeing the litters of kittens come into the shelter and the influx will continue well into the fall.

In the summer time we are always jammed full of cats at the shelter (and we definitely are right now) and in the springtime they are out making the babies that we will have to find homes for in the coming months.

I'm very proud that the shelter has held a monthly spay and neuter clinic for the past few years to help our local residents spay and neuter their cats.

I'm also incredibly grateful for the people who are doing this themselves. Animal welfare is not really a fight that can be done individually. It takes a whole lot of people working toward a common goal to make a difference in an animal's life.

I'm so grateful that the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter exists where we do. This community is generous and helpful and truly loves animals.

To everyone who is out there fighting for them: thank you so very much.

Especially those of you whom I never see.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at cvascomm@cvaspets.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. CVAS also operates a thrift store in Chambersburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the store.



Stinker came into the shelter because her owners could no longer care for her. She's around 10-years-old and a really nice girl. She just wants to be loved. Could you give this adorable Stinker the second chance she needs?



Panda came into the shelter because his owner could no longer have him due to landlord issues. He's a 3-year-old curious, affectionate black-and-white kitty who would really love to find his second chance. He's been around other cats and seems to do well with them. Do you have the right spot for this sweet guy?



Kathleen came into the shelter shortly after she had a litter of kittens. She and her babies went into a foster home, and Kathleen did a wonderful job taking care of her kittens. Now she is ready to find a home where she can kick back, relax, and be loved forever. Kathleen is a 2-year-old black-and-white girl who is just so sweet.



Abby was surrendered to the shelter when her owner could no longer care for her. She is a 2-year-old gray girl who is super sweet. Just look at those eyes! Abby would love to find a home where she could have a warm spot for her afternoon nap. Do you have a place like that?



Patchwork is a 3-year-old tortoiseshell cat who came into the shelter as a stray. She's a really nice girl who actually loves belly rubs if you can believe it! Patchwork does not seem to care for the company of other cats and may do best as the only cat in the household. She's got really pretty golden eyes and will make someone a sweet companion. Could that be you?

For more information about Stinker, Panda, Kathleen, Abby, or Patchwork call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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Meet Evan!

Bethany Davidson,
FCAC Humane Educator

I've been working at Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center for eight years now. Throughout that time, I've always had a favorite animal or two that get a little extra attention. Ok, they're downright spoiled. If you follow our social media, watch Pet Pals, listen to our radio appearances or have even taken a tour, you probably already know that for the last year the apple of my eye has been senior pit bull mix Evan.

Evan first arrived as a stray in March of 2023 and shortly thereafter we were paired up at a week-long training academy. We quickly bonded and he's been my favorite coworker ever since. I was happy for him when he was adopted at Christmas and sad for him when he was returned just a few weeks later in February. But all the time we've spent together has given me the opportunity to learn a lot about Evan making us better equipped to find his perfect forever family.

First, I'll state the obvious, Evan is a good-looking guy with those big brown eyes, even bigger ears and an infectious smile. He bounces between a cuddle bug who can't get enough belly rubs and an energetic guy who can't wait to play. He's incredibly smart and loves to train. He's already mastered sit, down, trade, touch, find it, search, and mat. He's never met a treat he didn't like. He thinks car rides and dips in the creek are the best. Squeaky toys are his favorite thing aside from his human friends, of course. When it comes to other canines, they make him a little nervous and he'd prefer to just pass them by rather than hangout. Anything smaller, well, he thinks they resemble his favorite toys and really shouldn't live any small furry pets. This guy is best suited as an only pet. He also has some decreased night and peripheral vision which makes him for life in a calmer environment with adults and older teens.

I learned all these things while Evan has been in the shelter, but they say that the best predictor of



Evan

an animal's behavior in a home in their behavior in a past home and a few months ago I got an opportunity to see what Evan would be like in a house when I fostered him for a weekend. In June, I was devastated when I was told my favorite little guy was sick. Turned out he'd eaten a few squeakers. Needless to say, his toy time is now strictly supervised. Post surgery Evan needed a quiet, stress-free place to recuperate so he came home with me.

During his Friday through Monday stay, Evan continued to show me what a great dog he is. He walked into my home confidently. He explored and sniffed, but never got into trash or counter surfed. In fact, the only thing he ever took off the end table was one of his toys. He happily napped on his beds on the floor and cuddled on the couch with me. He was remarkably quiet aside from a few snores. He didn't bark once. He also does this really cute thing where he'll nuzzle his head under your arm when he wants you to pet him. He loves to be close to his people. In fact, he followed me everywhere.

In Evan's previous home there was a lot of coming and going and activity especially after dark. That family noted that Evan would get tense, his hackles would be up and

sometimes he'd growl during these times. Because I was now aware of the issues with Evan's vision I kept a light on when it was dark and put a night light by his crate. Evan went to bed each night when I did in a crate in my bedroom. He quietly slept through the night and I didn't notice any of the issues his previous owner noted. He did well in the crate. He went in willingly and was happy to stay there while I showered or ran a few errands.

The only time I noted Evan being fearful was when we went out on our last potty break of the evening on a windy night. All the shadows from the moving tree branches made him nervous. And speaking of potty, I took Evan out every few hours and he never had a single accident in my house.

Now I know what you're thinking, if I love Evan so much and he did so well at my home then why don't I adopt him. The thing is I have a cat, who my mom of was kind enough to watch while Evan was at my home, and I have a busy lifestyle that keeps me out sometimes 14 hours a day. That wouldn't be fair for Evan. So I'll continue to spoil him, train him and talk him up until I can find him the family that he's been waiting for.

If you think your home might be the right fit for Evan, give the shelter a call at 301-600-1546.



Clyde is a six-year-old, handsome brown tabby. He lost his life-long home when his family moved, and they were not allowed to have multiple cats. Clyde can be shy in new environments but once comfortable is a sweet guy. He is a big cat, seventeen plus pounds, and loves to have his ears scratched. Clyde shared his last home with children as well as two other cats.



Violet arrived at the shelter as stray and shelter staff thought she may be a coydog, which is a coyote/dog hybrid. Coydogs are illegal to own in Maryland; therefore, the shelter tested her DNA. The results: 100% West Siberian Laika. Her breed is rare and categorized as a spitz-type hunting dog. Violet is three years old and is seeking a family with working or sporting dog experience.



Not quite a kitten, but not yet an adult, ten-month-old Marisol is the perfect age. She loves to explore and play but is always willing to cuddle up at the end of the day! Found as a stray, not much is known about her past. She enjoys visitors to her cage and has adapted to the shelter routine with ease. Her laid-back personality is sure to make her a great fit for any family!



Gemini is looking for a home that can offer her a new beginning. Before arriving at the shelter, she lived most of her life outside. She is friendly, warms up to new people quickly but can be startled by loud noises and fast movement. Not unlike a puppy, her next family will need to provide her socialization and teach her the ropes of living an indoor, pampered, life.

For more information about Evan, Clyde, Violet, Marisol, or Gemini, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.

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Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

Something for everyone at The Great Frederick Fair

Karen Nicklas, General Manager

The Great Frederick Fair will be celebrating its 162nd anniversary September 13th through 21st, as a pillar in the celebration of agriculture, education, and community in the County. The Fair kicks off on Friday September 13th for both the carnival as well as all the agricultural exhibits.

Since being founded in 1822, it has since expanded to include 10-days of agricultural events, competitions, education, carnival rides, delicious food, entertainment, and so much more. The Fair was established with a mission 'to promote Agriculture and the education of our youth about the industry of Agriculture'. The Fair's core activities encompass the exhibition of livestock, farm, garden, and hand-made goods, while encouraging through a system of awards (ribbons and prize money) improvements in techniques of production and the development of better agricultural products.

The Great Frederick Fair is a vital event in the community. Over \$1,000,000 will go back into Frederick County businesses who provide the services, products, utilities and programs that create The Great Frederick Fair year after year.

The Fair generates resources from

admissions, entertainment, carnival attractions, parking, commercial exhibits, memorabilia, sponsorships and non-fair rental of facilities to operate the 60-acre property throughout the year, produce the annual Great Frederick Fair and support educational and agricultural endeavors. The Fair also promotes and hosts a year-round farmers' market.

The Great Frederick Fair is a great venue for promoting agriculture to consumers. Drawing a large audience of over 200,000 people each year, many visitors are not familiar with where their food comes from, or how the products and byproducts of agriculture exist in their lives. Whether guests attend a concert, carnival, come to eat or shop from their favorite vendors, or enjoy the Free Kids Zone, we invite everyone to explore our Agricultural exhibits such as: The Birthing Center, Milking Parlor, Maryland Ag Ed Foundation Mobile Ag Lab, Fiber Tent, City Streets, Country Roads, the Duck Slide, etc.

Exhibiting is open to all Frederick County residents and not only promotes agricultural traditions, but also comes with incentives through awards, prize monies, and tickets to the fair. All participants receive a Season Strip Pass, which includes an admission ticket for EACH day

of the fair with their entry fee. To enter, the cost is \$12 for 1-3 items and \$24 for 4-6 items. Entering items encourages the community to be part of the Fair's 162-year tradition of keeping Frederick County Agriculture thriving!

Last year the Great Frederick Fair auctions raised \$917,855 – the Youth Livestock Auctions raised \$867,210 and the Cake & Baked Goods Auction - \$50,675. 10% of the proceeds were paid directly to the kids with the remaining funds used to offset youth programming fees and funded scholarships. Last year we awarded \$19,000 in scholarships.

Since 2012 the Mercer Family Vintage Art Contest & Auction has raised over \$100,000 benefitting Ag Ed programming in partnership with Frederick County Public Schools. Each year, over 18,000 FCPS children, pre-K-5th grade receive our Ag in the Classroom curriculum, and 5,000 FCPS children attend chaperoned school tours at the Fair.

For a complete list of free events that are included with your paid gate admission, please visit: GFFair.com/SOE to get a copy of the complete schedule of events and plan your visit.

Ways to Save at The Great Frederick Fair:



- Enter an item in the Household Building or Farm & Garden Building, Pay a \$12 Entry Fee and you will receive a Season Strip Pass (1 single admission each day of the Fair. (\$90 value)
- Advanced Online Gate Admission is \$8. (\$2 savings) – www.thegreatfrederickfair.com/tickets
- Carnival Rides are individually priced, but you can buy a Jack Pass online for \$35 which is good for 1 gate admission and 1 all-you-can ride wristband good for any one day of the Fair. (Sales for the Jack Pass end the first Friday 9/13) – Use code WFRE for \$5 off!
- Monday to Wednesday between 9 and 3, senior citizens over 65 get in free.
- Wednesday between 9 and 6 all Active-Duty Military in uniform or with valid military ID pay no admission.
- Friday all youth under the age of 18 will be admitted for free from 9 to 5.
- The Lunch Bunch program allows you to enter the fair between 11 and 2. Monday through Thursday for free admission to grab a bite to eat.

Admission: Adults (11 and older) \$10 at the gate; \$8 online. Children 10 & under always admitted free. Grandstand Ticketed Events can be purchase at www.thegreatfrederickfair.com – ETIX.COM (GFF's Official Ticket Partner), or call 301-695-3928 or visit the Box Office on Tuesdays & Thursdays, from 10 to 2.

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The Great Frederick Fair

Entertainment Lineup

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etix.com: official ticket co. of the Fair **etix**
PNC Bank official ticket sponsor **PNC**

9/13	Flo Rida
9/14	Bachman Turner Overdrive & John Waite
9/15	Tracy Lawrence with Sara Evans
9/16	Tractor Pull
9/17	Demo Derby Cars
9/18	Demo Derby Trucks/Vans
9/19	The Beach Boys
9/20	Riley Green w/ John Morgan
9/21	Casting Crowns w/ David Leonard

HISTORY

Williams History of Frederick County

Editor's Note: If the genealogist would identify the perfect county history—one containing equal parts of history and biography, and enough genealogy to make the blood race—Williams' "History of Frederick County, Maryland", published in 1910, would surely be his/her choice. As much of what Williams had to write about on the history of the Woodsboro & Walkersville area has already been covered in prior histories we have run, we decided to focus on the biographies printed in the book.

But as the old saying goes — 'buyer beware'. We recommend you take these biographies with a grain of salt as they were written by the subjects of the 'biographies,' not by Williams, making them, in reality, autobiographies. As Williams was paid to print them, the wealthier you were, the more pages you could purchase in the book.

That said, they do offer a unique insight into the life and times of the more wealthy individuals on the community in the early 1900s, and provide tidbits of names and events long since lost to the dust bin of history. In the meantime, we'll continue our hunt for more historical articles on the area.

John Wachter

John Wachter, is one of the highly esteemed and prosperous agriculturalist in the Johnstown District, was born February 3, 1859. He is a son of Michael and Rebecca Wachter, and is descended from one of the long settled families of the county.

The American ancestor of the Wachter family was Michael Wachter, a native of Germany. Accompany by his wife, Maria, he came to this country, and settled in Pennsylvania. He afterwards removed to Frederick County, where he is among the early settlers. He was the father of Jacob Wachter, who was born December 27, 1782. Jacob was the father of Michael Wachter.

Michael Wachter, father of John Wachter, was born May 9, 1821, and is living at the age of 88 years at Utica Mills. He learned the blacksmith trade, and this vocation he followed for 14 years. He then purchased the farm of his father, and followed agricultural pursuits for half a century. Michael was married to Rebecca Reese. She was born in 1823. They are the oldest couple in the Lewistown District, and members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Utica Mills. They were the parents of 10 children, seven of whom grew maturity.

John Wachter, son of Michael and Rebecca Wachter, secured his education in the public school at Utica Mills, in the Lewistown District. When he was 18 years old, he began to learn the trade of a carpenter under William Cromwell. He was engaged in this trade for 14 years, and during that time helped to build many edifices, among them the church at Utica.

In the spring of 1890 John bought the small farm, which she now lives from Elias Shorb. This place contains 34 acres of fine agricultural land, and

lies about 9 miles north of Frederick, near Utica. It is improved with a fine two-story, framed dwelling, a fine barn, and all the necessary outbuildings. John is one of the well-known and highly successful farmers of his District. He is a man who has one his own way in the world, and a success as well deserved.

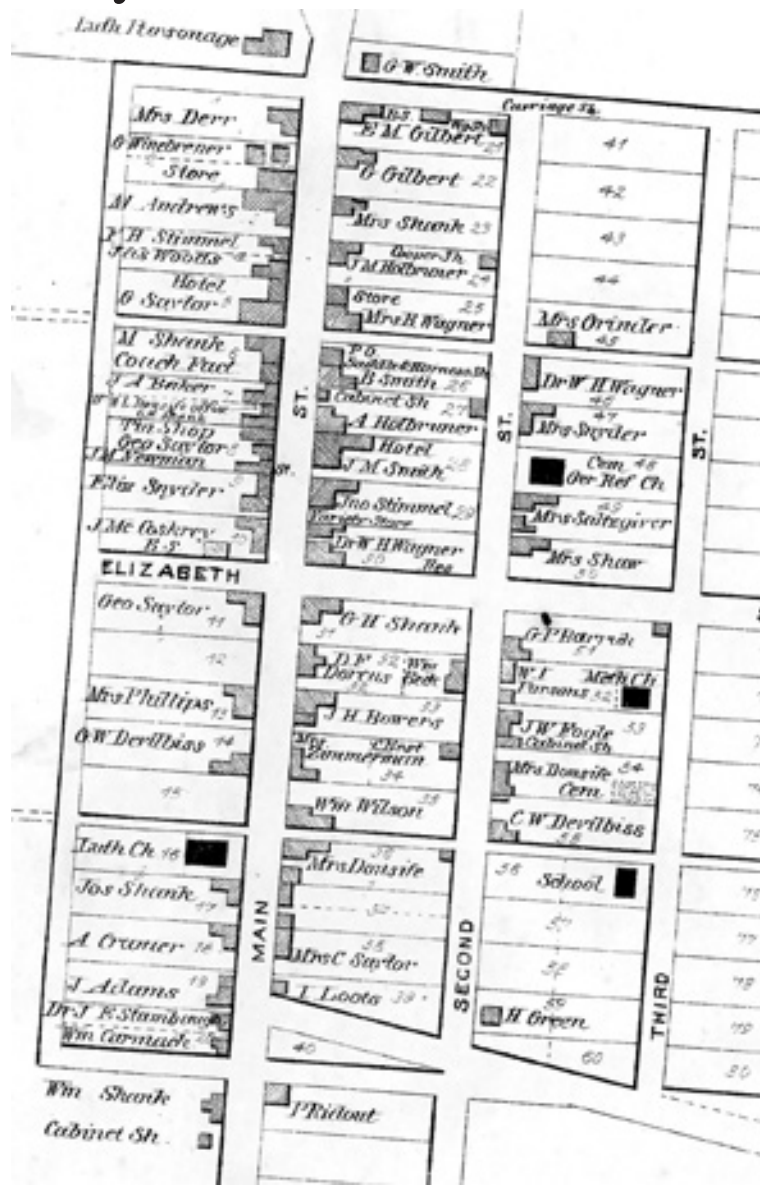
In politics, John uses his right of franchise to support the candidates of the Republican Party. In religion, he holds membership in Saint Paul's Lutheran Church at Utica. Mrs. Wachter is the most esteemed lady and is also a Lutheran in religious belief.

George Shryock

George Shryock is a retired farmer of the Creagerstown District, son of Harry and Catherine Shryock, both deceased, was born on the farm, which he now owns in Creagerstown, January 19, 1836.

George Shryock's ancestors were Germans. His grandparents, Cristiana and Valentine Shryock were among the earlier settlers of Frederick County. George's father, the late Henry Shryock, was a prominent farmer of the Creagerstown District, and received his education in the public schools of the District. In his early manhood, he owned a managed a fulling mill, now known as the "Myers Mill", situated on Hunting Creek, in the Creagerstown District.

Harry Shryock was one of the first manufacturers of woolens in Frederick County, and carried on a large business for many years. He afterwards pur-



We know this photo has nothing to do with the article, but we still wanted to run a history photo! This map lists the homeowners in Woodsboro in 1873.



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HISTORY

chased 142 acres of arable land, which he farm successfully until he retired in 1878. His son assumed the management, but Mr. Shryock remained on the homestead until the time of his death. He was highly steamed as a citizen and a scribes, his financial success to industry and business ability.

Henry was married to Catherine Geisburt. They had seven children, six of whom reach maturity. Mr. Shryock and his wife, where members of the evangelical Lutheran Church in Utica, and were active workers in the church. They are buried in the cemetery in Utica.

George Shryock received his education in the public schools of the Creagerstown, and devoted his life to the cultivation of the soil. He remained at home working for his father until his father retired, when he assumed management of the home farm and cultivated it successfully for 12 years. After his marriage, George rented the old Hoffman farm, where he remained for 11 years.

In the spring of 1886 he purchased from his father, the old homestead, a fine farm of 142 acres situated on the road leading from the Emmitsburg and the Frederick Road, about 11 miles north of Frederick. This land, which has been in the family for three generations, George cultivated and improved in every way until he has made it one of the best-cultivated places in the county. He built a comfortable and commodious frame, house of two stories, and supplied all the necessary outbuildings.

Before he retired from active farm life, George, built for himself, on part of the farm, a handsome residence with all the accompanying buildings, to which he removed to enjoy his well earned rest from toil. His financial success is reward of his hard work and close application to business. George was a stanch,

Republican, and is highly steamed in the county.

George was married to Mary Bell. He and his wife are buried in the cemetery of Utica.

William Renner

William Renner, agent for the Western Maryland Railroad at Rocky Ridge and a well-known citizen, was born at new Midway on April 6, 1874. He's the a son of late, George and Margaret Renner.

The Renner family came originally from Germany. The family can trace back to the year 1315, at which time there was one Francis Renner, a printer, who was in the King's service.

Early in the 18th century, William Renner, the immigrant, with others of the family, came to America. William was married to a Miss Hafer. They were the parents of three sons and two daughters.

Abraham Renner, son, of William Renner, the immigrant, was married to Elizabeth Overhultz. They were the parents of nine children.

Isaac Renner, youngest child of Abraham and Elizabeth, was but six years old when his father died. In 1835 he removed from the old home place in the vicinity of Hoff's Church, to Smithsburg where he resided for 10 years. He then bought a farm, located 2 miles north of Smithsburg, known as the Old Stoner Farm. Here he lived until the spring of 1853, when he made sale and traveled to Ohio with his family, making the trip by wagon.

There he prospered for four years. He made sale again and returned to Washington County, staying there for one year. In March 1858, Isaac settled in what is now New Midway, having previously purchased the old Stimmel Farm. Here he made his home until his death, which took place June 13th

1880. This old estate is still in a possession of the family.

For many years the house on the place was used as a tavern; it was erected in 1717. Washington stopped there on his way to Virginia, and Francis Scott Key made it his boarding place in the summer. Mr. Renner was married to Sophia Wolf, by whom he had five children.

George Isaac Renner, son of Isaac and Sophie Renner was born January 30, 1850. He died June 14, 1905, and is laid to rest in the old Dunkart graveyard at Rocky Ridge. He was given a common school education and remained with his parents until he was 22 years old. He then married and started out for himself as a day labor. He was engaged for four years. Then rented what was known as the old Renner homestead in Woodsboro, and farm successfully there. In 1880, he fell heir to the main part of the old home, where he lived until April 1907. He retired from active labor in 1896.

George was interested in the merchandising business for a number of years. He was the first merchant to engage in business at New Midway. In 1884 he erected a fine store, building there and soon acquired a large and extensive trade. He had the misfortune, however, to be burned out, after which he went into retirement. In all his business ventures, George made money, he possessing many natural abilities along those lines. He was a stockholder in the Woodsboro and Double Creek Turnpike Company and was one of the largest shareholders in the Citizens Savings Bank of Thurmont. He was also the owner of some valuable real estate in Baltimore.

George always sided with the Republican Party in politics. He was identified with the German Baptist Church at Rocky Ridge. George was married to Margaret Derr by

whom he had two children, one of whom reached maturity.

William Renner, son of George and Margaret, acquired his learning in the public schools. He made his home with his parents until he reached the age of 33. When he was 24 years old, he began to learn telegraphy with James Biggs, at Rocky Ridge. At this time, he also had charge of his father's farm. This he continued until he mastered telegraphy, when he accepted a position with the Western Maryland Railroad at Thurmont as night operator. There he remained for five years.

During this time he still attended to the management of his father's farm. He was then made relief agent over the system, and during the summer was stationed at Pen Mar. While there, through his studious attention to business, he adverted what would have been a very serious wreck, and for this, he was appointed on October 6, 1906, agent at Rocky Ridge. This position he has since credibly filled. He is well thought of by his employers, and is highly esteemed in the community in which he lives.

William is one of the substantial citizens of this locality. At his father's death, he became the possessor of the home place, which he greatly improved and added a large variety of stock.

William is one of the leading Republicans of the Creagerstown District, and takes an active part in local politics. He is a member of the Baptist Church of Rocky Ridge.

William is married to Minnie Long. She holds membership in the Reform Church, and is the mother of one child.

Johas Ramsburg

Johan Ramsburg, one of the most progressive and successful agriculturalists of the Lewistown District, was born in January 25, 1849. He is a son of David and Kathryn Ramsburg.

David Ramsburg was born May 13, 1823 and was the son of John Ramsburg. He received a common school

education. He chose farming as his life work. He bought a farm of 100 acres of land in Creagerstown, now on the possession of Mrs. Danner. Here he lived here for several years, when ill fortune compelled him to dispose of this track.

He followed different occupations up to the time of his death. In politics, he voted for the candidates of the Democratic Party. He was connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church. David was married to Catherine; they were parents of five children, four of whom reach maturity.

Johan Ramsburg, son of David and Catherine, was a recipient of a public school education. When he was 28 years old, he began to farm on his own account, having previously helped on the home place. He began life by cultivating the farm, which he now owns, but then was in the possession of John Derr. He remained there for three years, and then removed to the farm at Henry Bowler, his father-in-law. He remained there for a few years, and then returned to the Derr farm. He continued to make his home there, and 1895 purchased this place.

This farm contains 108 acres of land, and lies about 10 miles north of Frederick on the Emmitsburg Turnpike. This track he improved by building a new house and outbuildings. This is one of the finest farms in Lewistown District. Johas also bought a small farm in 1902 about a half a mile west of his former purchase. He afterwards disposed of this place to his son, Charles.

Johas is a self-made man and has risen to his present, comfortable circumstances, through hard work and temperament habits. Johas is an adherent of the Republican Party. He has served as one of the trustees of the public school at Center in Mechanicstown District. He is a member of the United Church in Thurmont. Johas Ramsburg is married to Amanda Boller, they have four children.

continued next month



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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

September 5

Sundays And Holidays Bring Accidents

The papers of this week were usually full of automobile accidents; many of them of serious character. The excess in accidents was due largely to the crowded conditions of the highways, on Sunday and Labor Day. The fact has been amply demonstrated for several years, that Sundays and holidays are always greatly more dangerous for travel than ordinary weekdays, even though much of the heavy workday traffic is absent.

This also demonstrates the fact that those who drive cars on Sundays are largely of the inexperience class. Also, that many cars on the road invite racing and chance. During the week, even with heavy traffic, most drivers are accustomed to the work as part of their business, and are more careful.

The lesson to be drawn from these results, are that those who can use the road on other days, then Sunday, should do so, for safety sake, and that more than unusual care should be taken even by careful drivers on Sundays and holidays.

Ladiesburg Residents Killed In Auto Accident

An automobile accident occurred Sunday morning in which Mrs. Samuel Calbaugh, of Ladiesburg, was so severely injured that she died from a fractured skull and internal injuries at the Gettysburg hospital, Sunday evening, and her husband died on Monday. James Crum, a brother of Mrs. Calbaugh, and his wife were severely hurt, but will recover.

The accident was caused by a car going in the same direction, sideswiping the Calbaugh car and overturning it. The driver of the car that hit them continued on at a high rate of speed without stopping to give aid, and has not yet been found.

The roadway at the time was filled with Sunday traffic, but nobody seemed to have secured the car license plate number or its make. The victims of the accident were on their way to New Oxford to visit friends.

The accident was due to the second car, passing the car from the rear, on a curve, and meeting a third car coming, causing the driver of the second car to swerve in order to avoid a collision, and

so doing caught the Calbaugh car.

Mrs. Calbaugh, 35 years old was the daughter of Agnes Bloom, of near Key-mar. Both victims, as well as Mrs. Krum, are known to many in the district.

Another version of the accident is given by two persons from Waynesboro, who are reported to have said that the Calbaugh car had been weaving in and out of traffic for a considerable distance West of the place where the accident occurred, and that no car struck the Calbaugh car, but that it was wrecked by getting off the macadam into soft ground, and that the machine toppled over trying to get back on the roadway.

School Quiz

The following cat and rat problem was given to high school pupils, this week, as an easy twister. "If 300 cats kill 300 rats and 300 minutes, how many cats will be required to kill 100 rats in 100 minutes." What is your answer?

Mountain View Hospital

On May 24, Miss Anna Duphone, an aged resident of Thurmont, was brought to Mountain View Hospital for treatment by her niece, Miss Lucy Adelsberger. Miss Duphone died June 14, being confined to her bed during the entire time that she was at the hospital.

Miss Adelsberger paid \$10 per week for the care & treatment of her aunt and paid her numerous visits, being at her bedside at the time of her death. She's so appreciated the kind treatment given her aunt, that she donated to the institution of fine lot of clothing, the property of Miss Duphone, valued here at between \$69 and \$75, to be distributed amongst the women inmates at the hospital.

Only those who are in close touch with the affairs of the hospital know how much a gift of this kind is appreciated by those inmates, who are fed by the County and clothes only in the most simple of garments. These men and women are only human and a new garment, even if it has been the property of someone else, gladdens their hearts, and makes them happy for months.

September 12

Big Fair Next Week

The crowd that will attend the Carroll County Fair, next week, in Taneytown,

will notice a number of improvements, both on the grounds and in the attractions. The buildings have been attractively freshened up with paint, and the fences and stables white washed. The park at the rear of the grounds has been cleaned out, and several avenues made, giving additional room on that side of the ground. The stables have also been added to, giving more needed space.

By another year it is hope that a new exhibition building can be erected, as the present one is entirely too small and crowded for the many exhibits expected.

On the outside, there will be several new riding devices, and other new attraction; while the display of machinery will be considerably larger. There will be more racing, including the addition of the pony mule races. A new convenience on the ground this year will be an oil and gasoline station for the accommodation of motor vehicles.

Every effort possible has been made in advance for the entertainment, protection, and general benefit of the public, as all of the managers are very desirous of making the Carroll County Fair as good in every way as any fair in the state, and every day, during the four days. All objectionable features, that can be recognized in advance, have been denied space, and it has been especially an object of the managers to improve the night attractions.

The grounds will open each day at seven in the morning, and close at 11:30 at night. No persons will be permitted on the grounds at night, except by special permission. The grounds will be policed by officers authorized to make arrest, and the management will exercise all possible care over both persons, animals, and property.

Children's Day will be a big day. All the school youngsters of the County are encouraged to attend and have a good time. There will be no admission charge for school children on that day.

The outlook for a big attendance will be assured with fair weather. Be sure to take a day or two off and take in the event, on the finest ground in the state.

The Telephone Company's Case

A charge has been made by some of those interested in lower telephone rates, instead of higher ones, that the press has been subsidize, indirectly, as much as it can be, by the C&P Telephone Co.. Presumably, the statement is based on the large amount of advertising, C&P Telephone Co. has been placing during the past year, in many of the papers of the state, and the inference being, that said papers are thereby influence not to oppose the increased rates demanded.

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So far as we know to the contrary, the service of the C&P Telephone Co. has been excellent; its statements concerning expenses and reasons, for advanced rates, seem fair; and we have personal knowledge of the vast expenses to which the company has been placed in, in order to restore flood and storm damage.

This paper is no advocate of increasing the cost of public utilities of any kind, to any user, without just cause, and has no knowledge that the increase asked are not just. If it had such knowledge, it would oppose the effort to increase the rates, irrespective of any business relationship with the company.

Narrow Escape From Electrocution

A miraculous escape from instant death by electrocution occurred a few days ago when Charles Easterday was hanging up a new transformer on an electric light line, near Union Bridge. His powerful physique, it is believed, saved his life.

The pole on which he was on also carried a telephone line. In an effort to hook the transformer on the cross arms his head came in contact with a high tension wire, carrying 2,300 volts, while one knee was in close proximity to the telephone wire. Immediately after touching the high-tension wire, he became unconscious and swung

away from the wire, hanging by his belt, straps and climbing spurs.

Two young men who were assisting in the work, with presence of mine, climbed the pole, cut the wire, and fasten the rope, which was being used to drawing up the transformer, around the unconscious body, and after cutting the belt, lowered him to the ground, and carried him in the shade, where attempts at resuscitation were made, as respiration had not ceased at any time.

A physician was summoned and he gradually regained consciousness. Since then the only apparent effect are the burn near his ear, and a deep gash burned in his leg between the knee and his ankles.

Weather And Crops

Last week was markedly, cool, with the mean daily temperature 6° below normal. Sunshine was abundant. The warm wave of the proceeding week terminated with showers on the second, showers also occurred on the fifth and the ninth.

The cool weather of the week retarded crop growth somewhat, and was rather unfavorable for the maturing of early corn, tomatoes, and truck crops. The showers of the week benefited late corn, late potatoes, pastures, and late truck crops. Fall plowing continues. Picking of apples, late peaches and pears continue.

Conditions are still unfavorable in many parts of Frederick County, so somewhat improved by showers. Early corn is maturing. Slowly, late corn is earring, well, and is in somewhat better condition than the early corn. Harvesting of sugar corn continues. Pastures and grasses are still in poor condition.

The cool weather, this week, especially at night, has been much against the maturing of late corn. Light frost was reported at several places. Farmers are much interested in the continuation of warm weather, for a few weeks more.

Woodsboro Post Office To Get Additional Clerk

On account of increased in receipts at the Woodsboro post office, William Cutshall, Postmaster, announced it has become necessary to have an additional clerk at the office.

Besides Mr. Cutshall the Post Office consist at present of an assistant, postmaster, George Cutshall, and two clerks. A civil service examination will



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morning, when he shouldered his gun, and informed his parents that he was going hunting in the adjacent mountains. His body was found late Monday afternoon, in a clump of bushes near what is known as 'Blue Blazes'. The boy was found through the use of dogs, which were put on the scent of the missing youngster. He was found by a party of searchers, led by his uncle.

Opinions are divided over the matter in which the boy met his death. Some seem to think that he met with foul play, and others are here to the theory that the young Wilhide, stumbled, and upon falling, the gun went off, the shot piercing his breast above his heart. The boy's body was found 4 miles west of Thurmont.

Shotgun Wedding Held Tuesday Morning

Saint Rita's Church in Blue Ridge Summit, was the scene of a pretty shotgun wedding Tuesday morning, when Miss Lucy Stella Spangler, daughter, of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Spangler of Fountandale, became the wife of Joseph Bowling, formally of Emmitsburg, but now located in Blue Ridge Summit jail.

Attendance were the girl's parents, accompanied by her father's trustee shotgun, 'Bertha', which was pointed squarely at the back of a visibly shaking Joseph. Immediately after the service, Lucy returned to her parent's house while Joseph was 'escorted' back to his cell where he will take up residency while they await the birth of their baby.

Complaints Of Bad Roads

Reports of bad conditions on State roads in the County and of the remarkably bad conditions of the dirt roads in the northern section of this County are frequently heard. It is commonly stated that the State road is disintegrating largely because of the lack of concrete shoulders or culverts, and that the broken down edges of the roads are extending into the roadbed itself in a number of places.

The dirt roads are said to have been left practically all of the year with no work on them, and that they are now full of deep ruts in many places, and are in a generally bad condition. If they are anything like as bad as we have heard, they surely need attention before the opening of winter.

Few Big Bank Notes In Use

Bank notes of \$5,000 and \$10,000 in size flourish only in fiction. They rarely figure in real life outside of bank transitions.

Occasionally a man likes to flash a note of dazzling dimension. A cashier of a Philadelphia hotel was handed a \$5,000 bill, observed "Girard" in the Philadelphia inquiry. The young man in the brass cage have been trained by the Boldt system, was quite matter-of-fact. He took the \$5,000 note as if it were an hourly habit, and passed back the change, amounting to \$4,985.

You can tell that we rarely use \$5,000 and \$10,000 bills by the small number of them which wear out. The Federal Reserve Bank destroys each year just about \$1 billion of its own worn out notes, but in eight years it has canceled only 50 of the \$5,000 and 150 of the \$10,000 denominations. It would seem from this that the \$10,000 bills are three times as common as the \$5,000 bills.

Correction

Through an error in the records of the State Highway Department, the name of Armor Weikert, living along the Woodsboro Road, appeared on the list of automobile drivers whose licenses have been revoked because they were convicted of operating motor vehicles while under the influence of intoxicating liquors.

Armor stated he still has his license and that it is another Weikert whose name was revoked. He said that he is yet to be caught while driving drunk because he does his drinking near his house and always checks to make sure there is no policeman on the road when he makes the short drive to his house.

Roadwork Pushed

Forces of the State highway Commission responsible for laying a quarter-mile macadam roadway on the Woodsboro Pike from the southern limits of Woodsboro towards Walkersville, have finished placing stone on half of the distance. Work

on the remaining portion has been delayed due to the lack of stone.

This is a part of the seven-mile road from Ladiesburg through Woodsboro to 1 mile north of the latter town. The other six miles are being constructed under the direction of the County Commissioners. Once completed, work will then begin on a pike between Ladiesburg to Creagerstown and from there to Thurmont.

The laying of a concrete roadway between Graceham and Rocky Ridge is also being pushed and is expected to be completed by October first.

Club Women Meet At Walkersville

The Federation of Rural Women's Clubs of Frederick County was entertained by the Women's Club of Walkersville on Friday, in the Sunday school room of the United Brethren Church. 300 women were present, and every club was represented.

The program of entertainment was as follows: opening remarks by Miss Helen Schaefer, President, of the Walkersville Club, singing of America the beautiful; short address by the President of the Federation; a three part farcical play, given by the Walkersville club, those taking part: Miss Mary Nicodemus, Ellen, Rosanna, Nelly, Nicodemus, Cora Barrack, Nina Cramer, Irene Watcher, Raymond Morbray, Annabel, Grantham, Frank Nicodemus, Charles Crawford, Edgar Fraser, Fred Myers, Clay, Fulton, Roger Kling, Preston Hahn, TR Saylor, and Charles Brighter.

After a few remarks by Miss Elizabeth Thompson, Home Demonstrator for Frederick County, refreshments were served. Mrs. Maud Waters, played the organ and was to have given a short organ recital, had not the rain interfered with the Club's plans to have the meeting out of doors, and in the Methodist Sunday school building where there is a fine organ.

To read other articles related to 100 Years Ago this Month, visit the History section of Walkersville.net.

be held at the Post Office, October 4, and the new clerk will be selected from those qualifying in this evaluation.

The Woodsboro office was raised to a rank of first class this year. It is claim that Woodsboro is the only town in the United States with a population of 500 to 600 that has a post office with receipts sufficient to be rated in the first class category.

This is attributed to the fact that there are several manufacturing industries with offices in Woodsboro, including the Rosebud Perfume Company; the Glade Valley Canning Company; S. W. Barracks and Sons Lime Company; and, the Fountain Rock Lime Company.

ing, but if there were 7,000 present on Wednesday, there must have been more than 10,000 on Thursday. Anyway, it was a big day, and everything passed off well.

The number of automobiles gathered within the grounds was easily the greatest assembled ever seen in the County, if not in the state — there were acres of them, and the parking experts handle their big job with great skill, only 12 collisions occurred, all a result of the women trying to park their own cars.

September 26

Thurmont Boy Found Dead in Woods

Robert Wilhide, 14-year-old son, a Mr. and Mrs. William Wilhide, of Thurmont, who was found dead in the woods, near Thurmont with a bullet wound in his breast. A coroner's inquest rendered a verdict of accidental death.

Young Wilhide had been missing from his home since last Saturday

September 19

Big County Fair

The week at the Taneytown fairgrounds open with the usual activity, beginning with Saturday, witnessing the gathering together of the mini exhibits, the erection of tents and booths, the outside attractions, &c. The demand for stable room for horses were so great that an addition to the building was hastily made, and even temporary tents were required. In all, there are approximately 100 horses on the ground.

Wednesday was a day of overcast skies, but not sufficient to interfere with the attendance, which was estimated at 7,000. Every bit of available covered space was taken, and without going into detail, or attempting to describe the various departments, it is sufficient to say that the Fair, as a whole, was fully up everyone's expectations. The main added attraction was the parade on the track, of horses, mules, cattle, sheep, ponies, &c.. The outdoor exhibits were appreciably larger than last year.

Thursday was too hot, and dusty for comfort, but the crowds came, and yet there were no crowded, uncomfortable, whirlpool of humanity anywhere, so spacious are the grounds. On the south side, in the park, half as many more people could have been accommodated. We are not good at guess-



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Sunday, September 29 - 7 a.m. - Noon

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Adults: \$13
 Children 5-10: \$7
 Children under 5: Free
 Carry-Out: \$14

LIBRARY NEWS

Summer is winding to an end; school supplies have been picked out and backpacks filled. Crisp air is making a comeback now that it's September. Reading is all the rage, and not just for students! Look at your "must read" list, pick a few titles and check them out from the library. The librarians are happy to help you obtain titles from outside Frederick County or point you towards a program that might pique your interest. Read on to learn what is happening at the Walkersville Branch Library this month.

Please note that all Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed September 1 and 2 for Labor Day.

Are you an aspiring writer? Maybe you already put pen to paper but balked at the process of becoming published. Author Jean Burgess, Ph.D., will share some insider knowledge on Saturday, September 21 at 1. She will encourage hands-on exercises during the program as participants explore a variety of topics including: the writer's purpose; defining the difference between a writing hobby vs professional writing; self-publishing vs pursuing an agent vs using a small

press; and how personal choice comes into play.

What does it mean to homestead? Come hear Samantha Hildebrand from Rocky Glade Farm discuss living simply, homesteading, and health on September 8 at 1 at the Walkersville Library.

A sensory program for adults with intellectual disabilities takes place at 10am every Wednesday at the Walkersville Branch Library. Dance with friends on September 4, make a pinecone bird feeder on September 11, work on some new moves with Chair One Fitness on September 18, and close out the month singing to your favorite karaoke songs on September 25.

Feeling overwhelmed by navigating the maze of senior living options? Stop by the Walkersville Library for Senior Café to learn more on September 12 at 10. Country Meadows will present need-to-know, simplified information about lifestyle options open to seniors, as well as care levels available to those who can no longer live with total independence.

The Literacy Council of Frederick County welcomes adults who want to

practice their English to a conversation class at the Walkersville Branch Library, on Mondays starting September 16 at 6:30. Students will practice their speaking and listening skills with conversations guided by an instructor from the Literacy Council. Please note, registration is required and can be accessed via the FCPL.org calendar or by calling the Walkersville Branch Library.

Begin your week with a free yoga class on Monday, September 9 and 23 at 6. Led by instructors from Sol Yoga, this is a great way to wind down and practice self-care on a Monday evening. This class is wonderful for everyone, even first timers! Join us for a Stretch and De-stress Class on September 26 at 10. Wear clothing that is comfortable to move in and bring a yoga mat if you have one; chairs and extra mats are provided. Looking for something that will make you sweat? We have that too! Freedom BANG Fitness happens every Saturday at 10 at the Walkersville Branch Library.

September is back-to-school month for many families; if you're looking for fun, educational programs for your elementary kids, "Take a Closer Look" at Walkersville Branch Library on the following Fridays at 1pm: 9/6, 9/13, 9/20. This three-part series will dive into the science behind things we often take for granted: electricity, weather, and microscopes. Once a month, kids will have the chance to learn more about a topic and earn a Library Explorers Badge! In September, the topic is Pets! Learn what it takes to care for different animals and meet experts in the field, plus their pets. This program will take place on September 10 at 6pm and is designed for elementary aged children.

The Walkersville Branch Library is a great place to hang with friends after school, and on Tuesdays at 3:30pm, there are activities just for teens! Express your unique style and take home a personalized, functional piece of art on September 3. Make mini creations on September 10 and put your puzzle-solving skills to the



The "Science Guys" educate while they entertain.

test on September 17. Crack ciphers and decode secret messages to uncover hidden clues. Discover the thrill of becoming a master codebreaker in this exciting, brain-teasing adventure!

Start the school year in style by making a personalized pencil pouch! Show off your creative side using duct tape and other materials to construct this useful take-home project. This program is designed for tweens ages 10-13 and takes place September 4 from 4:00-4:45pm. Maybe your kid is more into technology than art—if so, they'll have a chance to master the art of flying as they navigate exciting indoor challenges and discover the thrill of controlling a drone on September 16 at 6pm.

Is your middle or high schooler looking for ways to volunteer or be part of the community? Send them to the Walkersville Branch Library on September 24 at 3:30 to learn about the Teen Library Council. This monthly meeting is for teens interested in being part of the community and having an impact

on activities at the Walkersville Library. Attendees will not only receive volunteer hours, but also develop marketable leadership skills, credentials for future job and college applications and have a fun time with peers.

If you have little ones who are not yet in school, join us at the library for Fri-Yay on Fridays at 11am. Full of hands-on and engaging activities, there's plenty for everyone to do at their own pace! Experience the wonder of Gardens Galore on September 6, jump into Animal Action on September 13, discover your Inner Artist on September 20, and bring in the new season with Fall Fun on September 27.

Our schedule for storytimes is as follows: Monday - Infants at 10; Baby Steps Skill Building at 10:30; and just plane old baby babies at 11; Tuesday - toddlers at 11; Wednesday: - family at 6; and Thursday - preschool at 11.

Bilingual Storytime at the Walkersville Branch Library will be on Wednesday, September 4 and 18 at 6. This dynamic and engaging storytime is fun for the whole family and will feature songs, rhymes and more in English and other world languages.

Stop in for a special storytime on September 12 at 11. Our friends from Department of Emergency Preparedness will join us for songs and stories to teach our preschoolers and their grownups how to be prepared for anything!

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SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Public Schools

Karen Yoho
Frederick County Board of Education

Frederick County Public Schools has the earliest start date in Maryland, but many other jurisdictions to the north and south began weeks earlier. On August 21st, FCPS staff welcomed nearly 48,000 students back. Dr. Dyson, visiting members of the State Board of Education, County officials, Cabinet members, and Board members toured schools along with the press to see how the year was starting. The excitement was definitely greatest at the elementary level, but all of the schools visited were running smoothly. We even got to experience a class change at the high school level, where Dr. Dyson was able to interact with students as they traveled to their next class. Dr. Dyson contacted the Board members later in the afternoon to let us know all students had arrived home safely. While we certainly expect learning to take place, safety is one of our top goals.

On August 5, our newly hired teachers were welcomed into the system. While the number was smaller this year due to the increase in class size the Board

regrettably had to institute in order to arrive at a balanced budget, half of those in the auditorium were experienced teachers that had come to FCPS from other systems. A large group are special education teachers that we are so happy decided to join our system.

Many in the public are aware that the Department of Justice has a ruling against FCPS for past practices of seclusion and restraint in several of our specialized programs. At every meeting, the Board hears an update of how the system is progressing on meeting the needs of the students and families who were involved in the ruling. Additionally, FCPS personnel have worked diligently to make improvements for our most vulnerable students. The Board has guarded funding for programs to meet the needs of these students, even when the budget has been tight. We are pleased with the focus from FCPS staff to working productively with the DOJ to benefit our students.

The Board and Superintendent are looking at approaching the operating budget season a bit differently this year. The budget process is always interesting because it can very much be a

cart-before-the-horse situation. The Superintendent will create her budget throughout the fall. It will then be presented to the Board in January. However, we won't know exactly what funding to expect from the Governor until mid-January, often the day that the Board holds an all-day budget workshop to hear from each department. And we won't know exactly what to expect from the County until April 15, when the County Executive releases her budget. Our goal is to communicate the specifics of what we know earlier to the public so the community can be more a part of the process as we go through it.

Right now, the funding from the state is not promising for the next few years. The Governor and the Legislature have a great deal of work to do to straighten things out. Frederick is by far the fastest growing county in Maryland. This impacts our schools, roads, housing prices, etc. We encourage the citizens to follow us through the entire 2024-25 budget journey and not just find out at the end what the outcomes are going to be. The Board members advocate at every possible turn with the elected officials that provide our funding. More voices to this cause are always welcome.

Additionally, we have overcrowded and aging schools that need to be addressed. On August 1, the Frederick County School Construction Master Plan Workgroup met for the first time. The workgroup was established due to the passage of HB1016, which hopes to explore all avenues of funding for school construction in the county. The workgroup must have a report submitted to various entities and elected officials by no later than December 31.

FCPS Among Top Performers in State

FCPS students outperformed the state average by 11 to 16 points in English/Language Arts, 4 to 15 points in Math, and 7 to 8 points in Science at different grade levels, according to the 2024 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program results for English/Language Arts, Math, and Science.

The results, released by the Maryland State Department of Education August 27, showed that FCPS consistently ranked in the top quartile among Maryland school districts.

"We are pleased that we continue to see our students improve in most grades in math and ELA while nationally the general trend has been a slow or nonexistent recovery since the pandemic," said Dr. Frank Vetter, Director of Assessment, Data Reporting, & Strategic Improvement.

"We are incredibly proud of our students' achievements, which reflect their hard work and the dedication of our educa-

tors." FCPS Superintendent, Dr. Cheryl Dyson, said. "Outperforming the state average across multiple subjects is a testament to the strength of our educational programs and the commitment to excellence in FCPS. As we continue to address achievement gaps and strive for equity, we remain focused on using both local and state assessments to guide our efforts and ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed."

"Accountability in FCPS is critical to ensure successful outcomes for our students," said Dr. Jamie Aliveto, Chief of Schools and Accountability. "While we value the information provided by our state assessments, we also monitor other local, valid and reliable, assessment measures. Further, we value the additional insights from our teachers. This collective knowledge helps us ensure our students are moving in a positive direction on their learning journey."

Those wishing to follow the progress of the workgroup can access Board Docs. A meeting occurred on August 29, but at the time of this writing, no future dates are yet known. The public is welcome to attend the meetings, which are being held in the FCPS Boardroom beginning at 6 pm. While the meetings will not be live-streamed, they are being recorded and can be viewed through a link in Board Docs. For more information, please con-

tact us at Board@fcps.org. Before we know it, it will be time for the Great Frederick Fair. Many students will be visiting as their elementary classes take field trips to learn about farm to table/school, raising animals, or other ties to our major agricultural roots here in Frederick County. We hope many of you will be able to visit. FCPS appreciates the partnership we have with the Great Frederick Fair Board.



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Since 1967, the annual celebrations of International Literacy Day have taken place on September 8 to remind policymakers, practitioners, and the public of the critical importance of literacy for creating a more literate, just, peaceful, and sustainable society.. In honor of this event, we asked our writers to reflect on the role of literacy in our world, and how is it meaningful to our everyday lives and professions.

Sophomore

What's in reading?

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

Reading as a form of entertainment has been made almost irrelevant given the technological advancements of social media. The fact cannot be disputed that people are more attracted to visual actions that can be watched rather than visual actions through words where you are forced to imagine. Due to this fact, I fear that the joy of reading will eventually be lost in time.

That said, why is reading important? Beyond the means of old-fashioned entertainment, reading is essential for basic communication. We have emails, texting, media, and yes, books. As technology furthers in development, our young learners across the nation continue to struggle. Something has to be done about this.

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), two-thirds of US children cannot read proficiently, and 40% are nonreaders. One of the first things we teach our children is the alphabet so they can learn how to read and write. Why do we do this?

Is it because everyone does it? Is it because it's part of the curriculum? Or is it because society is shaped for those who are literate, and to be successful you must know how to read and write? Let's ponder this.

Most people begin introducing their children to the alphabet between the ages of 2 and 3. Preschool helps in solidifying their recognition of the letters so that by kindergarten (around ages 5 or 6) children can almost completely identify every letter of the alphabet. However, ... why do we do this? Most toddler toys revolve around learning. Whether it be colors, numbers, shapes, and yes, letters, a decent chunk of toddler toys are centered around expanding their horizons. I find it interesting that this concept fades the older a child gets. By the time a child is 5 or 6, toys for that audience are less targeted to teach them and more prone to entertain. For instance, Hot Wheels, LEGOs, dolls, and Nerf guns. Is this to say that strengthening the concept of reading as a child grows older becomes obsolete? What does that say about us as a society? Should we not be striving to ensure that our future generations are properly equipped with everything they need to succeed? If that is true, reading and writing

must continue to be strengthened as children age.

We must ask, what is considered "essential" in today's society to be successful? Is it money? Is it fame? Is it security? One thing that all of these have in common is the basic need of being literate. You cannot be rich if you are unable to communicate by writing. You cannot be famous without being able to read and interact with social media. Lastly, you cannot be safe if you have no way of knowing what is all around you.

I remember my parents being very persistent in my education, and they still are today. I especially remember my mom drilling me with flashcards and helping me pronounce words properly. I hated every second of it, but I remember being one of the top readers in my class because of it. As a kid, that confidence really pushed me to try my best in everything because I didn't want to disappoint them. I loved being able to come home and make my parents proud, and that still stands today.

Reflecting on everything I've done to help myself succeed thus far, I cannot think of one thing that didn't require me to be literate. From my first job to my college application and then to writing this article, reading and writing have

contributed so much to my overall happiness because I am slowly achieving my dream.

Literacy provides so much more than just a "step ahead" in our modern world. In a society created for the educated, being literate is essential to even have a chance at success. What that "success" is can be determined in countless ways. Through reading and writing, we get our news; we communicate with others; we research; we learn; we navigate; and so so SO much more.

For all of these reasons and more, being able to read and write is crucial. Nevertheless, reading and writing have always had a special place in my heart. Hence why I'm writing to you from a newspaper. From a young age, I grew very attached to books. I remember ordering a book while on vacation and reading the entire thing in one afternoon. It's not something I am particularly proud of, as that book scarred me for life - thank you, John Green. But that said, reading has always consoled me when I needed it. Reading has always helped me to grow and recognize things that I would not have otherwise recognized. Reading has given me second-hand embarrassment that, thank God, I will never have to experience having learned from others. Most impor-

tantly, reading has taught me very important life lessons without having to personally face the consequences that they bring.

I could sit here and write a novel informing you all on why reading is important. However, that isn't what I'm doing here today. What I am doing today is informing you all on why reading is *essential*. The number of children who are unable to read and write is frightening. The success of our future generations starts with us. Without our support, the future generations lie in the hands of technology. While helpful at times, I am not convinced technology is advanced enough to be teaching children something so critical. By supporting our children, we are ultimately supporting their classmates, their teachers, and all their futures. While not everything we do will have a lasting impact, teaching a child to read and write will have an impact that can only better their lives. Even if they don't know it. September 8th, International Literacy Day, should be celebrated as a day we recognize our greatest strength and share that strength with others.

To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

Junior

Let's talk literacy

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

The definition of the term literacy is as follows: "the ability to read and write." It is a concept that, for many, seems to be second nature, however; that is not the case for everyone and most times we seem to forget just how important literacy really is to our daily lives. Considering that literacy isn't something that many of us are hyper-fixated on, I'm sure there are some of us that were unaware of International Literacy Day, which takes place on September 8th each year. When I was told about our topic for this month's article, I was even surprised because this was a day I hadn't known about before, but I'm glad to know about it now!

After doing some research I found

out that International Literacy Day is an international observance day which was declared by the group UNESCO in October 1966 as a way to raise awareness and concern for problems in regard to literacy that may exist either within the local communities or more widespread around the globe; and it was first celebrated on September 8th, 1967. The day provides an opportunity to recognize the power in which literacy holds, especially in our everyday lives.

As someone who grew up with reading and writing as my favorite subjects in school, literacy is something I find to be critically important. When I was younger, I was taught to write letters to my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members who lived in different states. Sending and receiving letters was a huge part of my childhood, it became one of my absolute favorite things to do and frankly, I believe that it was the reason in which I grew to love writing as

much as I do. This was the period of my life that I learned how much literacy carries beyond just words on a page; it carries emotion, memories, history, communication, peace and so much more. Think of how we communicated from far distances before cell phones and the internet; it was mostly by writing letters.

Our history has been taught to us through the power of literacy as well. Without the written documents from the past, we would not have much to go on in deciphering the happenings of those days. A huge add-on to that as well though is the concept of handwriting. In today's society, our newer generations have such a difficult time reading and writing cursive lettering because it isn't taught much anymore. Personally, I grew up writing and reading in cursive constantly because that was how my family writes (aside from my dad and his dad). When I write, it is usually a mix between cursive and print. My little brother on the other hand, can't read or write cursive because they stopped teaching it a year after I learned, and he is only two years younger than I am. It makes understanding works of the past incredibly difficult because almost all of them are written in cursive—just look at the Declaration of Independence!

Literacy is a cornerstone of personal and societal development as it affects almost every aspect of life itself. This includes concepts such as forming communities, education, the economy, communication, employment, health (both

mental and physical), access to information, and so much more! Communication is such a crucial part of a functioning society and literacy helps to make it as effective as possible. It allows for people to clearly and effectively express themselves, while also having the ability to understand others as they express themselves—whether that be through writing or words spoken aloud. All of these aspects kind of go hand-in-hand with one another though; communication is a part of the foundation of forming a community and functional society, which offers employment opportunities, healthcare, education, access to information, etc. Having access to information allows one to make informed decisions when necessary, and those who are literate can use that skill to access and interpret information presented to them or researched through books, newspapers, and the internet to make said decisions. This can all be applied to the aspects listed above as well, especially in the categories of health and education: areas that you want to have all of the information you need prior to making decisions.

In regard to education, I find literacy to be a crucial teaching point for people of all ages. It's funny, my older sister and I went to dinner a few nights ago so that we could catch up and hangout without the looming presence of the reality of our lives (i.e. children, work, and school), and one of the things we discussed was public school education. My sister had shown me a video from Instagram that

depicted why someone refused to enroll her child in kindergarten as a 5-year-old. One of the key points of that video claimed that people have their whole lives to learn how to read, so why start teaching the basics at such a young age? I can see the point there: yes, we have all the time in the world to learn to read and write but, at the same point, the society we live in today makes it crucial for us to understand how to read and write for the sake of proper communication. Personally, I find it to be important to learn literacy at any age as long as you take the time to learn it because that is a skill that seems to be a must in our society.

The overall takeaway from this is the following: literacy is so incredibly important and powerful! It is a skill that shapes the way that we function both as a society and individually. By means of communication and understanding, to employment and our health, literacy holds the power to make these aspects of life both easier to preform and understand. Frankly, without literacy I'm not exactly sure what our society would look like; would it still function as it does now? Or would we be struggling to live peacefully with those around us? I know one thing is certain, without literacy you most definitely wouldn't be reading this edition of the News Journal right now!

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY IN OUR WORLD

Senior

Literacy to me

Dolores Hans
MSMU Class of 2025

Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential” (Kofi Annan).

Think back to your childhood. What is the first book you ever read independently? Who was your kindergarten teacher? What was your first word? Think about your children if you’ve been blessed with them. How many times did you sing them the alphabet, or repeatedly over-enunciate “ma-ma” or “da-da”? Think about your parents. Did they write you notes or tell you bedtime stories?

Literacy is critical to the development of children. Sometimes we don’t even recognize the ways in which we are witnessing or implementing literacy skills every single day. I have learned a lot about childhood development, psychology, literacy skills and resources, and educating the human brain, and I would like to share some

of the things I’ve learned.

Someone once asked me what my earliest memory of learning literacy was. Yes, that person was my elementary education professor, but it was still a good question. It got me thinking: a vision of my beautiful mother crouched on the floor with her child laid out in front of her giggling and cooing as she sings cute little songs, points to letters and says their sounds, or reads a book like “Moo, Baa, La La La” or “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom”. She is a nurturer, the epitome of a devoted mother, and an educator. Before I even entered a classroom, I had a teacher. And knowing my mother, I had a teacher before I even entered the world. Did you know literacy begins in the womb? She probably sang to me and told me stories before she got to meet me. All because she knew how important literacy is. My mother is also an early childhood teacher.

Studies show that talking to your unborn child, playing music for them or reading them books increases their literacy skills as emergent readers.

Literacy is so much more than reading a novel or writing a paper. Its importance cannot be neglected. It

is also fascinating! It can be broken down into thousands of different parts and each one is dependent on the next. How many times have you, as an adult, seen a word you’ve never seen before and sound out the letters or chunk the word into smaller parts in order to figure out what the word is or how to pronounce it, or you were filing at work and can’t remember if the letter G is before H or if Q comes after S, so you sing the alphabet? These are all important foundational skills in literacy development called decoding, phonemic awareness, and alphabetic principle. A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound (i.e. the sound the letter A makes).

At this point in my education at The Mount, I have begun my last semester student teaching. Every day I go to an elementary school in the area and work with my mentor to help special education students. In a world where we could see children fall behind because their brains operate differently than their peers, or because they miss out on learning to have their needs met, it is an honor to meet so many men and women who devote their professional lives to knowing, loving, and teaching children who

require as much as a person can give. Compassion, fortitude, gentility, wisdom. This is what it takes to be a special education teacher. This is also what it takes to change the world. It’s no secret that I believe children are the greatest thing this world has to offer. They are a gift. They provide us with joy and innocence, and in return we should provide them with the tools they need to grow their tiny, adorable minds so they can reach their full potential. And their success begins with literacy.

Literacy is the foundation that all other skills are based off of. I have gone back and forth for a long time about if I really want to be a teacher, and if I do what my options are. But at the end of the day, I think about my student’s smiles and about how my own education has shaped me, and it keeps me going back to them every morning.

Even at its most basic form, a novel, literacy is still so exciting. I remember being young and watching *The Princess Bride* over and over again. My brothers hated it (at least that’s what they said). But I loved the story. And when the grandpa in the movie describes the book to his

grandson, it stuck with me. He said the story had a little bit of everything, “Fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love...”. Quite the adventure. It is what made me want to read what is now my favorite book. *The Count of Monte Cristo*. It has a little bit of everything, just like *The Princess Bride*, only it is a little less fantastical and a little more historical. It takes place in France after Napoleon’s exile. A kind young man who has it all is betrayed by a jealous friend, as well as someone who abuses their power to save their own reputation, and suffers in jail for years until he escapes, becomes rich, and seeks his revenge. The story is full of plot twists, reveals, drama, romance.. oh and there’s fencing too. This book is my annual spring to autumn read. I love getting to enjoy the outdoors and just explore a time in history that I was not around for, in a place I’ve never been, living out the plot of a story.

Literacy is good for kids, good for adults, and good for humanity.

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

Graduate

My journey through literacy

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

The age-old debate: math or reading?

Which subject is more useful? Which provides the most enrichment, inspires the most passion? Although I’m an English teacher, I can be convinced that mathematics plays a more vital role in our society. Through the identification of relationships, pattern comprehension, and problem-solving skills, math impacts pretty much each mere detail in our everyday lives. From the moment you wake up to your alarm clock (time management) to filling your tank with gas (conversion) to cooking dinner (measurements), it can be pretty much concluded that life is a series of calculations—a stream of numbers being factored and multiplied and derived.

But while this is a convincing argument, and one that certainly makes sense, it still does not explain the compassion, the persuasiveness, the wisdom of the human mind. How ideas grow from abstract concepts to concrete proofs, and how logic can be explained, and how views are exchanged. In fact, this entire debate would be nonexistent without the words, the literacy, with which to argue.

Reading is one of my favorite things in the world—exploring a new bookstore, or browsing the library, or even roaming around Target just to look at the book prices. I find joy in words, in sentences, in reading beautiful prose. If there’s one thing that you’ve learned about me over these years, it’s that there’s nothing else I’d rather do. I believe every-

one deserves a strong, foundational literacy education. If mathematics is the brain of our society, then literacy is the heart pumping blood, keeping us alive, keeping us human.

International Literacy Day celebrates how literacy “opens the door to the enjoyment of other human rights, greater freedoms, and global citizenship” (UNESCO). Although recognized on September 8th, literacy is a gift that should be celebrated every single day. It is a gift to know how to read. It is a gift to attend school, to receive an education, to grow into an opinionated individual with the capacity to understand, differentiate, compare, and think critically.

Growing up, I’ve discovered how much I love literacy, beginning in high school creative writing class. I can paint you the room: a wall of windows overlooking the bus drop-off, with trees that flourished in the spring and summer; a morning sunrise so gold that it bathed our desks and papers in a honey glow; poetry books lining shelves, with creased and frayed spines; blurred sounds of laughter and typing and ballpoint pens hitting paper; student chapbooks displayed in the back, revealing years and years of creative talent. To me, creative writing class was four years of freedom. I could write whatever I wanted, workshop with my peers, present my poems and fiction. I was my absolute happiest sitting with my best friends, a composition book, and a Sharpie pen, editing the literary magazine or sketching a poem.

In creative writing I learned how to manipulate words: how to show and not tell, how to structure sentences, how to say more with less. It is an art, to not only grasp literacy and but also bend it, make it fit your ideas. When someone reads my work and says that they cried or laughed or smiled, I am complete; my writing

evoked emotion, and I have communicated exactly how I felt.

In college, between writing for the News-Journal and editing *Lighted Corners*, I student taught language arts to some amazing eighth-graders. From breaking down a sentence and placing punctuation to writing full-length paragraphs and essays, I saw first-hand how literacy is implemented and developed. How understanding and explaining connect to form a complete thought. How texts like “*The Outsiders*” instill skills of analysis while revealing a beautiful, emotional narrative. Literacy is crucial for cognitive growth. Without pillars of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, students would never attain their lifelong goals, including college, the work force, the military, and more.

But literacy does not stop in the classroom. Take our world today: a society swarmed with politics, a nation divided on core values and beliefs. We have seen leaders that express their values aggressively, using hatred and bigotry to convince others of their views; likewise, we have seen leaders with class, approaching political topics with confidence, peace, and charisma. As our nation draws near the presidential election this November, we recognize more and more that a leader is defined by their literacy, and that a vote is discerned through a candidate’s competence in speaking and writing and listening. How Americans want to be spoken to matters. And sometimes, how a belief is conveyed holds more weight than the belief itself.

This is why literacy matters. This is why starting from birth, even before birth, you must read to your children. Why you need floor-to-ceiling bookshelves in your house. Why schools should allow students to read and celebrate all books, and why teachers should be provided unlimited literacy resources. This is why

we debate, why we interview, why we speak in any shape or form, and this is why we vote. Literacy is the cornerstone of our society, the heart of our world, and each well-spoken word is a heartbeat bringing us closer to understanding, to truth, to peace.

Could mathematics do all that? As my last Four Years at the Mount article concludes, I find it timely how International Literacy Day is the final prompt. Literacy has brought me so many gifts, and the Emmitsburg and Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journals are the most meaningful, priceless gifts ever. By writing for this community, I feel like I have gotten to know

so many of you: small business owners and retired firemen, public servants and authors, musicians and more, making up this beautiful part of northern Frederick County. Thank you for the greatest gift of all, for reading my writing, for giving my words your time. I am excited to continue writing for the news-journals with my new teaching column, but I will miss being and writing as a Mount St. Mary’s student.

I will treasure my last four years at the Mount forever.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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ARTS

Way Off Broadway's presents premiere of Anastasia

Justin Kiska

As The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre continues its 30th Anniversary Season, yet another area premiere production will take the stage at the Frederick venue when Anastasia opens on September 13th.

This dazzling show transports its audience from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s, as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing con man and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help her find home, love, and family.

The myth of the young Russian princess escaping the terrible fate of her family has captured the interest

of the world since the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. For generations the question of whether or not Anastasia was alive persisted with several women coming forward, claiming to be the heir to the Romanov dynasty.

As is often the case with such captivating stories, countless books and movies have been produced over the years based on the historic mystery. In 1997, 20th Century Fox released the first animated musical feature film in which a young girl named Anya discovers that she is in fact Princess Anastasia and sets out to reunite with her grandmother, the dowager empress, in Paris. The new stage adaptation combines elements from the animated movie and Fox's 1956 film. The production ran on Broadway for two years, following its opening in the spring of 2017.

While the movie received generally positive reviews from critics,

audiences fell in love with it, with its popularity only growing in the years since it was first released.

It wasn't until almost twenty years later that the movie was adapted into a full stage musical, even though the film had received two Academy Award nominations for its music. Hartford Stage in Hartford, Connecticut premiered the new musical during the summer of 2016, combining aspects of the 1956 Fox film and the animated movie.

Way Off Broadway's production will be led by Emily Flack, making her WOB debut, in the title role, alongside Randy Stull as Dmitry, Dominic Massimino as Vlad, Aidan Russell as Gleb, Jessica Billones as Countess Lily, and Nora Zanger as the Dowager Empress.

Anastasia will run from September 13th through November



Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia

2nd with performances every Friday and Saturday evening, and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of the month. Ticket may be purchased by contacting

the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

To learn more about the show, or any of Way Off Broadway's productions or events, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Weinberg Center's 2024-2025 season

The Weinberg Center for the Arts and New Spire Arts are excited to unveil their 2024-2025 season, featuring a diverse lineup of live music, comedy, dance, film and more. The Weinberg kicks off its season on September 7th with The Oak Ridge Boys and New Spire Arts launches its season with Tablao Flamenco on September 15.

This season the Weinberg Center Live Series performances include:

- The Oak Ridge Boys - American Made Farewell Tour
- The Concert: A Tribute to ABBA
- Frederick Reads - Charan Ranganath, Ph.D.
- The Wizard Broadway's Rock of Ages Band
- Vertical Horizon
- Classic Albums Live - Pink Floyd - Wish You Were Here
- A Walk In Faith Starring Mezzo Soprano Tracie Luck
- Trae Crowder

- Chicago Rewired – The Premiere Chicago Tribute Band
- Wishbone Ash - The Wish List Tour featuring Argus Live!
- U.S. Air Force Concert Band
- Lorrie Morgan
- A Motown Christmas
- World Ballet Company – Nutcracker
- Eric Byrd Trio performs A Charlie Brown Christmas
- The Price is Right
- Gangstagrass
- 1964 The Tribute
- "There Arises Light (in the Darkness)" by Barron Ryan Trio
- Scythian
- Classic Albums Live - Led Zeppelin IV
- The Hot Sardines
- An Evening with Kathy Mattea
- Gospel Plus Festival featuring Harlem Gospel Travelers and Joseph Parrish
- Solas 30th Anniversary Tour

- Teelin Irish Dance: Celtic Journey
- U.S. Army Concert Band
- The Doo Wop Project
- Ambrosia
- Asleep at the Wheel
- Neil Berg's The 70's: Long Live Rock n' Roll
- The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra
- World Ballet Company - The Great Gatsby
- Ty Herndon •
- The Frederick Symphony Orchestra - The Bright Lights of Broadway

The Frederick Speaker Series, now in its 12th year features ocean explorer Dr. Robert Ballard, civil rights icon Ruby Bridges, Serial podcast host Sarah Koenig, and bestselling author Celeste Ng.

The 2024-25 Family Series offers engaging and educational performances for all ages, including Sugar Skull! – A Día de Muertos Musical Adventure!, Ellis Island: Gateway to a Dream, The Vanishing Elephant, Charlotte's Web - A Theaterworks USA production, and annual holiday favorites The Nutcracker and A Christmas Carol.

Honoring its roots as the former Tivoli movie palace, the Weinberg Center will continue to present its Silent Film Series, sponsored by the G. Frank Thomas Foun-

ation and featuring live accompaniment on its mighty Wurlitzer organ. The series begins Sunday, October 30 with the 1922 classic Haxan. The Wonder Book Classic Film Series, sponsored by Wonder Book, starts on Thursday, September 12 with the 1974 classic, The Great Gatsby. New this season at New Spire Arts is the Brewer's Alley Film Series, pairing your favorite movies with their local brews, starting with 2003's Mean Girls on Wednesday, October 23.

Now in its third year with the Weinberg Center, New Spire Arts offers an intimate black box theater experience. The 2024-25 season includes:

- Tablao Flamenco
- Wadada Leo Smith: A Tribute to Lester Bowie
- SVETLANA: Night at the Movies
- Choose Your Own Election with KAL!
- Gypsy
- Ladies of Laughter Funny & Fabulous Tour
- Joan & Joni
- Indecent
- Irish Christmas in America
- Bah Humbug
- It's the 5 O'clock Somewhere Tribute to Jimmy Buffet
- Porter Carroll Jr.: The Evolution of Cabaret
- Matt Watroba & Robert

- Jones: Common Chords
- Rock-A-Billy the Night Away
- Harry Chapin Band
- Pascuala Ilabaca
- Anthony Nunziata with Jeff Franzel
- Heather Aubrey Lloyd
- The Nighthawks
- The Wonder Bread Years
- Luca Stricagnoli
- Harold Lo••pez-Nussa feat. Gre••goire Maret

The Weinberg Center will continue to showcase emerging artists at New Spire Arts in its pay-what-you-want Tivoli Discovery Series featuring Gyasi, Admiral Radio, Mama Fuma and Twisted Pine.

Jazz will thrive at New Spire Arts this season with the DMV Jazz Series hosted by Eric Byrd, featuring performances by the Todd Marcus Quartet, Paul Carr Quartet with special guest Sharon Clark, The Warren Wolf/Allyn Johnson Experience, Dominique Bianco Quartet, and the Eric Byrd Trio.

Tickets and memberships can be purchased online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the Box Office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 W. Patrick Street, Frederick

The Weinberg Center for the Arts is one of the region's premier performing arts presenters, offering film, music, dance, theater, and family-focused programming. Located in the historic Tivoli movie theater in downtown Frederick, MD, the Weinberg Center strives to ensure that the arts remain accessible and affordable to local and regional audiences alike. In 2022 The City of Frederick entered into a 3-year agreement with the Ausherman Family Foundation to take over operations of New Spire Arts Stages. The Weinberg Center is the current administrator of the venue. Weinberg Center and New Spire events are made possible with major support from the City of Frederick, the Maryland State Arts Council, Plamondon Hospitality Partners, MHAA and other corporate and individual donors.

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The month with many names

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

It is September. Time to go back to school, time for pumpkin spice and apple cinnamon everything, time for the Great Frederick Fair. My kids have recently become interested in entering different classes for the fair, after watching our cousins at their own county fair. I think they thought you had to have an actual farm to enter, or livestock - we have neither. But seeing flower entries, baked goods, and art. So, I want to list a few ways that you, kids or a whole group could try a few recipes to enter at the fair. These are easy to adjust and make your own.

Unicorn Fudge

This is a no bake (stovetop only) rainbow colored fudge, using white chocolate and condensed milk. If you don't use salted butter, add a pinch of salt to the recipe to balance out this super sweet fudge.

Ingredients

- 3½ cups white chocolate chips
- 14 ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 3 tbs salted butter
- Pink food coloring
- Purple food coloring
- Blue food coloring
- ½ cup marshmallows bits
- 1 tbs rainbow sprinkles

Directions: Line an 8x8 inch baking pan with parchment paper and set aside, don't use foil, it will stick. Set three separate medium bowls with three separate stirring spoons on the countertop. Place the white chocolate chips, sweetened condensed milk, and salted butter into a large saucepan. Heat on medium, stirring often, until the chocolate is completely melted and the mixture is glossy, about 4 minutes. Do not overcook the mixture.

As soon as the chocolate chips are melted you should be good to go. The mixture should be thick. Remove from the heat and pour ⅓ of the fudge mixture into each of the three separate bowls. Quickly stir in the desired amount of pink food coloring to one bowl, purple

coloring into the second, and blue food coloring to the third. Immediately use a ¼ cup measuring cup to scoop the fudge into the baking pan, alternating between colors. Create swirls throughout the fudge with a knife.

Be careful not to mix the colors too much, otherwise the contrast of the colors won't be as noticeable. Quickly sprinkle with marshmallow bits and rainbow sprinkles. You may have to press them gently into the fudge depending on how much it has cooled down. Refrigerate for 2-3 hours or until the fudge sets completely. Once set, remove fudge from the pan using the parchment paper, cut into squares, and serve. You can store your fudge in an airtight container for up to 5 days.

Quick (Refrigerator) Dill Pickles

There is an entire section for adult and youth food preservation and pickles are its own class. There is evidence of pickling with vinegar in Mesopotamia as early as 2400 BCE. You'll need two 1-quart wide-mouth jars with lids.

Ingredients

- 3 cups water
- ¾ cup white vinegar
- 3 tbs granulated sugar
- 2 tbs kosher salt
- 6 small cucumbers
- 8 sprigs fresh dill
- 4 cloves garlic peeled and sliced thin
- 2 tbs pickling spice

Directions: In a medium saucepan, combine the water, vinegar, granulated sugar, and 2 tbs of salt and bring to a boil over medium to medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to low and simmer for 15 minutes. Set aside to cool. Wash the cucumbers and cut each into 4 spears for a total of 24 spears. If the cucumbers are too tall to stand up in the jars without sticking out the top, trim off one end of each so they're the right size for the jars. Fill each jar with cucumbers. Push the fresh dill sprigs down into the jars between the cucumbers. Add the sliced garlic and pickling spices to the jars. Pour the warm brine evenly into

the jars and seal each jar with a lid. Refrigerate for 24 hours before serving. Keep refrigerated for up to one month (discard leftovers after 1 month).

Slow Cooker Pork Tenderloin

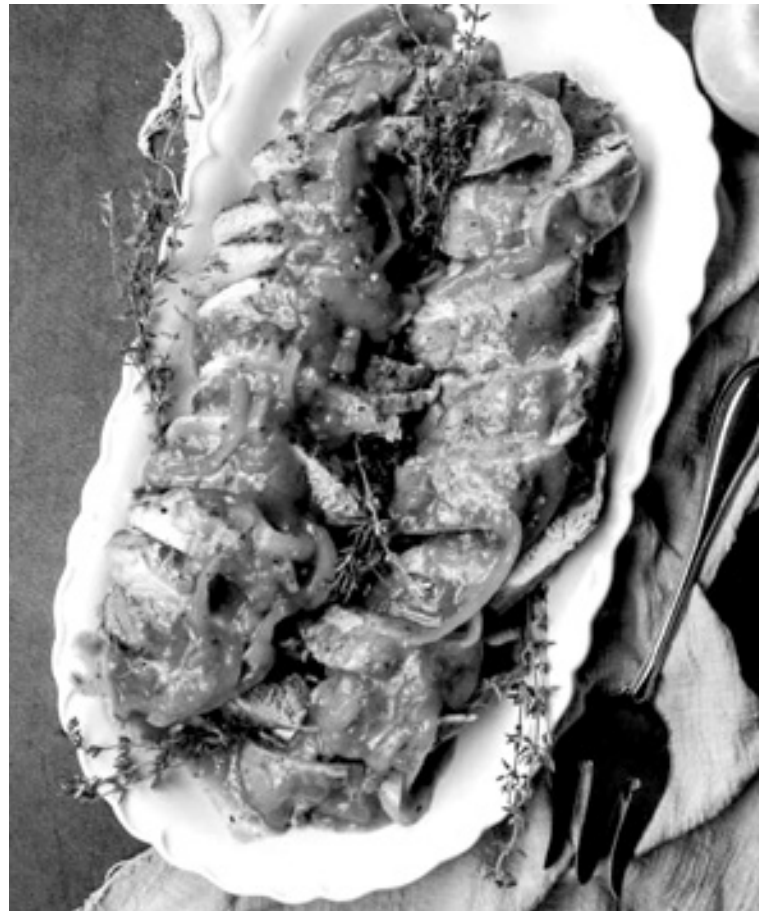
I like to think of being a friend to future me. And I know I will want to do is make dinner after working on fair projects all day. So be a best friend to future you and just after lunch, put this pork tenderloin with apples in the slow cooker and you will have something ready and seasonal to serve.

Ingredients

- 2 pork tenderloins (2-3 pounds)
- 2 tsp kosher salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp ground mustard
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 2 tbs olive oil
- 1 medium sweet yellow onion cut into thin slices
- 1 large granny smith apple cut into thin slices
- 1 tbs minced garlic
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 4 tbs unsalted butter
- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- 1 tsp dijon mustard
- 3 tbs maple syrup

Directions: Pat the pork tenderloins dry with a paper towel and then season them all over with the salt, pepper, dried thyme, ground mustard, garlic powder and onion powder. Heat a large skillet with the olive oil over medium heat until the oil starts to shimmer in the pan. Sear the pork tenderloins in the hot skillet for 3-5 minutes on each side until nicely browned and then remove from the heat. Place the seared pork tenderloins in a slow cooker and top with the onions, apples, garlic and chicken broth. Cover and cook on high for 2 hours or low for 4 hours, until the pork is fork tender.

Remove the tenderloin from the slow cooker and place on a cutting board to rest while the gravy is made. Heat a skillet on medium



Slow cooked pork tenderloin with apples is a great seasonal treat!

heat, melt the butter in the hot skillet and then whisk in the flour, cooking for 1 minute, while whisking continuously. Slowly whisk in all of the juices, along with the apples and onions from the slow cooker. Next, whisk in the dijon mustard and maple syrup. Continue to

cook, while whisking, for 2-3 minutes until the gravy is thickened. Slice the pork tenderloin into one-inch medallions and serve with the pan gravy, and steamed broccoli.

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

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of September

Professor Wayne Wooten

For September, the new moon occurs on September 2nd. It lies just south of Venus in the dusk on September 5th. It is first quarter on September 11th. The waxing gibbous moon lies just west of Saturn in the SE twilight on September. This full moon, the Harvest Moon, on September 17th finds the moon moving through the earth's outer penumbral shadow, with maximum slight fading at 10:44 p.m.. The autumnal equinox begins Fall this year on September 22nd at 8:44 a.m..

Mercury lies close to the old moon on September 1st in the dawn, and reaches greatest western elongation, only 18 degrees from Sun, on September 5th, and is lost in sun's glare by mid month. Venus returned to the evening sky in August, and will dominate the western twilight through the end of 2024. It is a bright, round disk now, almost fully lit on the far side of the sun.

Mars is in Taurus in the dawn sky, moving into Gemini by month's end. Jupiter is near Mars in Taurus, but farther away, moves much slower than Mars. But it is also much brighter, and will be coming back into the evening skies by November. But Saturn is at its best this month, reaching opposition on September 7th. But it is nearing its equinox in 2025, so its famed rings are almost closed.

To the northwest, we find the familiar Big Dipper getting lower each evening. Most know how to use the two pointers at the lower part of the bowl to find Polaris, our Pole Star, sitting about



Photo of the Pillars of Creation taken by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope. The pillars look like arches and spires rising out of a desert landscape, but are filled with semi-transparent gas and dust, and ever changing. This is a region where young stars are forming.

30 degrees high all night in the northern sky for the Gulf Coast.

From the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring, and still well up in the western twilight. Just above Bootes, still almost overhead at twilight, is tiny Corona Borealis. We continue to wait for its "Blaze Star", T C Br, to erupt as a dwarf nova, which most astrophysicists predict would happen by this month. It last occurred in 1946, and became as bright as Polaris for several days, but has frustrated us so far. It will erupt just east of the eastern most star in the crown, epsilon Coronal Borealis, and should be making new everywhere when it blows at last. It seems to build up enough hydrogen to blown off the shell around the white dwarf every 80 years or so, but the white dwarf and its red giant companion are not destroyed

and start repeating the mass transfer when things settle down after the blaze.

From Arcturus, we can spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo. Note that Spica is now low in the SW, and by September's end, will be lost in the Sun's glare due to our annual revolution of the Sun making it appear to move one degree per day eastward. To the Greeks, Spica and Virgo were associated with Persephone, the daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. The beautiful young daughter falls for the gruff, dark god of the underworld, Pluto. He elopes with her, much to the disapproval of mother Ceres, and they marry in his underworld kingdom of Hades...a honeymoon in hell...really, he does love her as well, and the marriage itself works well. But it is the reaction of Ceres that creates alarm.

Very despondent over the loss of her young daughter to a fate as bad as death, Ceres abandons the crops, which wither. Soon famine sets in, and humanity appeals to Jupiter to save us all. Calling all together, Jupiter hears that Ceres wants the marriage annulled, Persephone loves them both, and Pluto wants his mother-in-law to stop meddling. Solomon style, Jupiter

decides to split her up, not literally, but in terms of time. In the compromise, when you can see Spica rising in the east in March, it means to plant your peas. For the next six months, she visits upstairs with as very happy mama, and the crops will prosper. But now, as Spica heads west (to the kingdom of death, in most ancient legends) for six months of conjugal bliss with Pluto, it is time to get your corn in the crib. This simple story, told in some form for as long as Noah's flood, was one of the ways our ancestors 7,000 years ago knew the solar calendar and when to plant and harvest.

To the south, Antares marks the heart of Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Romans) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Near the tail of the Scorpion are two fine open clusters, faintly visible to the naked eye, and spectacular in binoculars. The clusters lie to the upper left of the bright double star that marks the stinger in the Scorpion's tail. The brighter, M-7, is also known as Ptolemy's Cluster, since he included it in his star catalog about 200 AD. M-6 will appear below it in the same wide binocular field.

East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye. The center of the Milky Way lies about 25,000 light years beyond, but is hidden by gas and dust.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the NE sky. Binoculars reveal the small star just to the NE of Vega, epsilon Lyrae, as a nice double - hence its nickname, "The Double Double". Between the two bottom stars; the Ring Nebula, "M-57", is a ring of

gas and dust expelled by a dying red giant star while its core collapsed to a white dwarf. A similar fate is expected for our own sun in perhaps five billion more years. The tiny white dwarf, like the one in the T Corona Borealis nova system, has shrunk down to the size of Earth, by crushing its electron shells, so while the atomic nuclei are still intact, they are not normal atoms with chemical reactions.

To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. It was just NW of it that I discovered the brightest nova of my lifetime, Nova Cygni, on August 27, 1975. Here a shell of hydrogen around a white dwarf exploded suddenly, becoming a record (for a nova, at least) 20 million times brighter in a matter of hours. It went from not visible in any telescope to the sixth brightest star in the summer sky in less than a day, and I was looking at the right place and time to catch it still on the rise. But the total amount of expelled gases was much less than in the Ring Nebula, and it faded below naked eye visibility in only two weeks. Typically several nova outbursts are found every year in our Galaxy, and they do often recur, for neither star in the close binary system are destroyed, and the mass transfer can resume soon.

At the other end of the "northern Cross" that makes up the body of Cygnus is Albireo, the finest and most colorful double star in the sky. To the south of Cygnus is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear September evenings. South of Aquila is M-16, the Eagle Nebula. In its center is the famed "Pillars of Creation."

To the east, the Square of Pegasus rises. The long axis of the square points to the SE to Saturn in Aquarius. Jupiter will join the evening planet parade in November in Taurus. The fall constellations are returning to the eastern sky earlier each evening now.

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Farmers' Almanac

"Although September 11th was horrible, it didn't threaten the survival of the human race, like nuclear weapons do."

—Stephen Hawking (1942-2018)

Weather Watch: Hot, then turning cooler with occasional showers and thunderstorms (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); cooler and less humid (6, 7, 8, 9, 10) turning seasonably warm and humid (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); showers (west) but heavy rain and wind from tropical storm (east, then turning chilly (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); turning milder with isolated showers; gusty winds near the eastern shore (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); rain and slightly cooler (26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

Severe Weather Watch: The Town and Country Almanack sees some impact of a tropical storm (17, 18, 19) and high winds from a hurricane (23, 24, 25).

Full Moon: September's Full Moon is most famously known as the Harvest Moon. It is the Full Moon that falls closest to the Autumnal Equinox. During this time, the moon

would rise very soon after the sun would set on several successive days, giving the farmer a few extra hours of 'light' and a little more time to finish up their daily chores. This year, the Autumnal Equinox will occur on Sunday, September 22nd and signals the beginning of Autumn. The Full Moon closest to that date will occur on Tuesday, September 17th and is therefore, the Harvest Moon of 2024.

Special Notes: We must never forget that on September 11th, 2001, America was attacked like never before and that it has never been the same since. Today, we honor those who perished then on that day and we must never forget the brave first-responders, many who also perished, trying to minimize the loss of life.

Holidays: Labor Day falls on the first Monday of the month, which falls on September 2nd. Citizenship Day is observed on Tuesday, September 17th.

The Garden: Make a long-range plan to gradually convert your cur-

rent landscape to the one you desire. Don't forget to consider what your flower garden might need. Plant spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips 6 to 8 weeks before the first frost, which will occur. Be sure to place pots where they receive plenty of light. Bring summer vacationing houseplants back indoors while the windows are still open. Inspect every plant very closely for any hitchhiking pests!

The Farm: Best days for planting root crops (20, 21); weeding and stirring the soil (1, 2, 3, 4, 27, 28); planting above-ground crops (7, 8, 9); harvesting all crops (18, 19); best days for setting hens and incubators (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10); transplanting (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17); the harvesting and storing of grains (1, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"The man who will not admit he's been wrong, loves himself more than the truth."

Frederick Health invests in compassionate surgical care

Joshua Faust
Frederick Health

With a team of nearly 300 dedicated experts and 20 surgical care sites, Frederick Health is here to help this community thrive. These investments in surgical care make it possible for patients and their families to get back to enjoying Sunday drives, the great outdoors, or time with loved ones. And those investments are bringing award-winning, state-of-the-art surgical care to residents in northern Frederick County.

The decision to have surgery can produce strong emotions; nervousness before surgery is common, and studies indicate that approximately 70% of patients experience anxiety associated with their procedures. However, it's not just the patient who experiences these emotions; their family members often feel the weight of it as well. That's why ensuring the patient and the family feel supported and heard throughout the process is important to a successful surgery.

Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in the county, sets the surgical standard with skilled providers, innovative procedures, and seamless care. At Frederick Health, surgical care is backed by a support team that provides unwavering dedication to guiding patients and their families during their healthcare journey. Last year alone, the healthcare system performed over 8,500 surgical procedures. At the core of these procedures - and a crucial part of recovery - is the personal attention, support, and communication each patient receives from the surgical team.

"No matter how many patients we may have, we are going to take care of each of them with dignity and respect," said Patti Buckmaster, Director of Medical Surgical and Behavioral Health Services at Frederick Health.

The community can find comfort in knowing that Frederick Health helps patients get back to doing what they love. Buckmaster and the surgical team, who trust Frederick Health

with their own healthcare, bring that positive mindset to their work. The surgical team at Frederick Health comprises hundreds of experts dedicated to health and recovery. Regardless of whether the surgery is routine or complex, the team provides consistent and quality patient care.

"Our team has tens of thousands of hours of training in a wide range of care approaches," stated Buckmaster. "The experts at Frederick Health are always learning the newest and most innovative approaches to surgical care."

Innovation, expansion, and advancement is at the forefront of the healthcare system's strategic planning.

"On top of that, in the last few years, we've added several new specialty surgeries, hired world-class surgeons, expert surgical care professionals like Registered Nurses and Medical Assistants, and expanded our facilities to ensure that you are getting the best care possible," Buckmaster stated.

Buckmaster also says her team takes pride in their work.

"We live here in this community; we are your friends and neighbors. That connection is important to us; we bring our best clinical care to support our patients and their needs. We genuinely care about getting you better, and we have your back,"

Buckmaster, who has decades of experience as a nursing and clinical leader, said that seeing patients recover and live their best lives is what it's all about.

"When we see our patients in the community thriving, that's satisfying and motivates us to bring the best care possible every day," she added.

One of Frederick Health's unique strengths is its deep, local ties; the healthcare system has been a pillar of the Frederick community for over 120 years. With over a century of experience, Frederick Health understands the importance of family involvement and communication during the process, recognizing that their support is integral to recovery.

"Family-patient coordination is so

important. We know the patient is being taken care of, but we also want to care for the family. We adapt to each

family's needs to keep them updated, informed, and reassured," said Buckmaster.

Learn more about how surgical care can get you back by visiting www.wegotyouback.org.



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COMMUNITY NOTES

68th annual Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show

The 68th annual Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show will be held on Sept. 6, 7 & 8 at Catoctin High School. The show opens to

the public on Friday evening at 5:30 with free admission and free parking courtesy of Thurmont Scout Troop 270.

Opening Ceremonies Program begins at 6:30 with the 46th annual Community Organizations Flag Ceremony.

The annual Baked Goods Auction will begin at approximately 7:30. Bidder registration and bidder card pickup will be on the stage prior to the auction with payment by cash and/or checks. At 8 all Grand Champion and Reserve Champion cakes, pies, breads and misc. baked products will be sold, along with the Youth and Junior Department's champion and reserve champion cake and misc. baked product.

On Saturday, Sept. 7, the show is open from 9 in the morning to 10 at night. Morning activities include a Market Goat, Beef, Sheep and Swine Fitting & Showing/Show beginning at 9 in the Ag Center. The Pet Show's registration starts at 10 in the front of the school, with a K-9 dog demonstration starting at 10:30. The Frederick County Public Library's Rover Van will be near the school's flagpole area from 10 to 5, so visitors can check out the selection of books.

On both Saturday & Sunday from 10 to 3, a petting zoo with farm ani-

mals, sow and litter of piglets, goat snuggling, pony rides and face painting will be available.

Elvis Tribute Artist Taylor Brown will perform two different free shows in the school auditorium on Saturday night, the first, from 6:30 to 7:30 for 50's & 60's music and the second from 8 to 9 for 70's music.

The Catoctin FFA Alumni & Supporters Beef, Sheep & Swine and Market Goat sale will be held in the Ag Center at 7 on Saturday.

Sunday morning activities begin at

continued to the next page

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COMMUNITY NOTES



The Glade Valley Lions Club met at the Woodsboro Park to celebrate the completion of the 2023-2024 Lion Year. Pictured above is past President Jim Corley and the club's officers for 2024-2025: Secretary Brooks Widder, 1st Vice President Cathy Widder, President Jennifer Smith, 2nd Vice President Dave Beall, and Directors Laura Beall, Marty Potash, Dave Schrodell and John Crum.



The Club also recognized the 2024 Scholarship Winners from Walkersville High School: Evan Yeeles, Leon Crum, Krisha Patel, Ariana Pulido, Brandon Taylor and Walker Young (pictured below are Evan Yeeles, Leon Crum and Krisha Patel (absent Ariana Pulido, Brandon Taylor and Walker Young).

continued from previous page

9 with the Dairy Goat Show, followed by the Dairy Cattle Show, starting at approximately 9:30, and the Decorated Animal Contest at 11. Starting at noon, the Barnyard Olympics

will be held in the front of the school for children ages 5-13. Under the Ag Center's big tent, the Log Sawing Contest starts at 1 with the categories of women's team, men's team, women & men's team and children's team.

The 5.5 Men band will perform two free 1-hour show in the auditorium from 12:15 to 1:15 and 1:45 to 2:45. The 43rd annual Robert Kaas horseshoe pitching contest will be held on the softball field at 1.

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