

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

MAY 2025

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## Mount St. Mary's inaugurates 27th President

On April 11, Mount St. Mary's University officially welcomed Gerard "Jerry" J. Joyce, PhD, into the Mount community with a series of inauguration events. The rainy weather did little to dull the spirit of the community as they welcomed Joyce with open arms and hearts as the Mount's 27th President.

Prior to his presidency at the Mount, Joyce served as the first non-clergy interim president in the history of DeSales University, his alma mater. Culminating as the executive vice president at DeSales, Joyce's more than 30-year career at the university which he worked for more than 30 years. Within his time at DeSales, Joyce oversaw enrollment management and was instrumental in strategic planning and developing programs. With Joyce in charge, DeSales saw an extreme increase in enrollment, as well as advancement in academic portfolio given the revenue-generating academic programs.

Joyce holds a doctorate in education administration and policy studies from The Catholic University of America. He has also earned a master's degree in education

from Kutztown University and his bachelor's degree in finance from DeSales University. Joyce has also previously served as chair of the Allentown Diocese Board of Education for eight years.

Joyce began his term as president in July 2024. He has created a close-knit relationship with the entirety of the Mount community very easily and strives to continue to show that he is "Mount proud"! Within his first few months at the Mount, he approved the implementation of two new majors for students: graphic design and finance. He also worked to increase the university's focus on mission-driven programming. Now nearing the end of his first year as president, the Mount has seen numerous advancements in sports, academics, and the community, including the opening of the expansion of the university's science building and the Blue Peak Center for Applied Behavior Analysis.

The Presidential Inauguration itself took place on April 12 but was preceded by an array of events. To begin the celebration of inauguration week, the Mount community put on "Jerry Fest," a celebration of President Joyce led by the student



Gerard "Jerry" Joyce was officially sworn in as the Mount's 27th President on April 12th.

life office. This event took place on Wednesday, April 9 and invited students to celebrate the inauguration through an afternoon of fun with food trucks, games, music, and inflatables to honor the president. Even the heavy winds couldn't keep away students and staff members.

In a social media post following the week of festivities, Joyce shared his sentiments and his encouragement from his wife Erin, "At Saturday's inauguration ceremony, I asked everyone to celebrate my steadfast partner through every triumph and challenge, my wife Erin. Erin was diagnosed with a brain

tumor at the beginning of my presidency in July. Despite her adversity, her courage, resilience and unwavering support have been a daily source of strength for me." He continued, "She inspires me to lead with purpose."

As Joyce's first year draws to a close, the university community continues to rally behind his leadership, looking ahead with hope and momentum for what's to come. With his vision and leadership already making an impact, the Mount community looks forward with confidence and excitement to what lies ahead under his guidance.

## Fairfield School Board ponders 4.2% tax increase

The cost of Fairfield Area School District's salaries and benefits could warrant a 4.2% tax increase if other savings are not found. During a presentation to the board in April, Business Manager Scott Wilt said he will continue to look for cost reductions in other areas to avoid such a jump.

Wilt said the board is legally allowed to increase taxes 4.8% under the Act 1 Resolution. The Act 1 index represents the maximum tax increase a school district can levy without Pennsylvania Department of Education or voter approval. The motion does not necessarily mean the board will increase taxes.

A 1% increase will yield \$108,000 worth of additional revenue. Wilt said last year a 1% increase equated to \$100,000 worth of revenue but Fairfield's tax assessment has increased.

Personnel is one of the district's largest cost factors and those numbers are mandated by union contracts. Next year, teachers salaries will increase \$249,000, support and administration staff will increase \$249,000, insurance will increase \$57,400, and taces and retirement contributions will increase \$73,400.

Last year, the district raised taxes 3.36%. Fairfield's current 11.9958 millage rate, Wilt said, is the second lowest in school district millage rate in the county. Gettysburg is the lowest at 11.3974 but Wilt noted that area of Adams County has more commercial development which brings in more property tax.

According to a chart Wilt presented at the meeting, Fairfield Area School District taxes have increased 20.31% since 2017 with annual increases ranging from 0% to 3.63%.

Administrators are also exploring capital projects totalling \$539,000 at the following estimated costs: high school auditorium stage curtain, \$35,000; elementary gym floor, \$130,000; maintenance building roof, \$35,000; utility vehicle, \$15,000; stadium scoreboard, \$78,000; stadium lights, \$158,000; and a library refresh, \$539,000.

Wilt said the stage curtain is necessary due to the current one being a fire hazard. The elementary gym floor, he said, was proposed last year but denied.

As part of the 2024-25 budgeting process, the district planned to spend \$232,000 total on the sec-



For the second year in a row, the FASD will be raising school taxes on local property owners.

ond phase of a high school gym renovation (\$104,000), elementary school playground (\$74,000), maintenance shop roof (\$16,000), greenhouse upgrades (\$32,000), and a middle school gym floor (\$6,000).

Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Joseph Herman, who was hired in September, said the department has already gone over budget while only accomplishing two planned projects. The high school gym renovation cost \$136,000 and the elementary

school playground cost \$118,511.

"I am not sure if these were very bad guesses at what these would cost or what the plan was," he said.

Herman said the district's previous approach of deferring maintenance only leads to the district spending more money in the future.

Wilt's presentation was the first of many budget presentations that will occur in the coming months. School districts must pass their 2025-26 spending plans by June 30. The process requires two votes and a public hearing.

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Sheriff's Office contract renewed

Every year, municipalities review and approve an annual budget that outlines how the local government will both raise and spend money over the next fiscal year. For Emmitsburg, one big component of the budget is the contract with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, which provides the Town with its police force. While many neighboring towns have their own police station and staff, Emmitsburg, like Woodsboro, contracts its police coverage out to the Frederick County Sheriff's Office.

For Fiscal Year 26, the sum of the contract has increased by 8.89% to a total of \$383,933. This increase is due to the expected 3% pay increase for uniformed law enforcement for two full-time deputies, fringe benefit costs and uniform cleaning allowance increases.

Town Manager Cathy Willets commented that in FY-23, the Town spent \$233,000 on police protection, which then increased by a total of \$150,000 in three years. Last year's budget alone saw an 18% increase in cost. Mayor Frank Davis explained, "I think the reason it was so high last year was because it was a contract year and it was a negotiation with the unions, and they got caught up to where they felt they needed to be in salaries," he said.

With such a drastic uptick in cost, Commissioner Cliff Sweeney pointed out that when the Town first started using the Sheriff's Office, they had three full-time officers. "When we first started getting police protection, we got three for the price we have now," he said. "We could almost get four for when we first started."

According to Davis, a study was done in 2024 to see whether

it would be more economical for the Town to establish its own force or continue to contract out. "It's the best deal in Town believe it or not," he said. "With the cost of a building, salaries, equipment, insurance and vehicles, using the Frederick County Sheriff's Office costs less." Davis also mentioned previously contacting Thurmont to see if their police department was interested in an alliance with Emmitsburg. With the amount of money Emmitsburg spends annually, Thurmont could benefit financially and Emmitsburg would gain a 24-hour police service from a much closer distance.

The Council approved the contract with the Sheriff's Office to continue the Town's police protection for \$383,933. Davis did say he would be contacting Thurmont's police department again to see if a deal could be struck.

## Council argues over water rates

After months of slow progress on the decision to change the Town's water rates in the upcoming Fiscal year, the Mayor and Town Council agreed to research lowering the rate from 36% to something more manageable for residents, although that exact number hasn't been determined as of yet.

The original plan, which was approved in 2023, called for a 36% increase in rates every year for the next five years and an annual increase of 3% thereafter. Last year marked the first of the additional hikes and it frustrated and angered residents. In December, Commissioner Jim Hoover requested the Council to consider not raising the rates another 36% in July and to continue to annually review the rate increases thereafter. The Council has been deliberating the request since.

The drastic increase in rates is in response to the Town's water fund's

inability to afford its day-to-day operational costs, carry out necessary improvements, or fix failures in treatment & distribution systems. This discrepancy and the lack of any rate increases for almost 20 years have depleted the cash reserves that allow the Town to apply for grants from the USDA. The Town must have enough cash to cover operating expenses for 90 days to qualify for these grants. These grants are awarded to communities seeking help in funding water system improvements – applications for which have gotten much more competitive over the past three years.

The other issue is that the Town has limited development expected in the future so the water rate itself will be the primary supplier of funds for day-to-day operational costs of the water plant as well as improvements and repairs.

With the Town's budget currently in

review, Town Manager Cathy Willets explained that if the Town were to have a 0% increase in the next fiscal year then the Town should see roughly \$840,000 in income from utility charges for the Water Fund. The Town's proposed expenses are \$849,000, so the Town would begin the next Fiscal year \$9,000 "in the hole". If the Town continues with the 36% raises, then they should expect \$1.1 million in revenue resulting in an excess of \$434,000 in the black. Willets was adamant that these numbers only cover the day-to-day operations and not any repairs such as line replacements or funding for other projects or provide for an emergency fund.

Mayor Frank Davis pushed for the Town to continue the 36% increase to get the Water Fund back on track. "There's no other way to correct it. We have no developments that are ready

# Emmitsburg

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to break ground," he said. Davis also pointed out that a budget cannot, by law, be passed with the Water Fund in the red. "We have to have a balanced budget." He also pushed for working towards an emergency fund in case of waterline failures, especially on West Main Street and in Oldtown Emmitsburg, claiming the Town is "playing Russian roulette" with some of the Town's older infrastructure.

For Commissioner Amy Pollitt, her concern was what another increase would do to the residents. "My question is at what point do we continue to put this on the backs of our residents," she asked. "Where is the break point?" Commissioner Kevin Hagan pointed out that 50% of Emmitsburg's population is at or below the

ALICE line, meaning half the population makes just above the Federal Poverty Level but is still unable to afford most basics of living. Another rate increase of 36% would severely impact half of the Town's residents' financial situations.

Hagan asked what the minimum increase would be to break even and suggested raising the rates to cover the operating budget plus 10%. This suggestion appealed to the Council and after a hot discussion on what that break point would be, the Council asked Town staff to research what a 10%, 15% and 20% raise in water rates would look like in terms of revenue for the Water Fund budget to be presented at the May fifth meeting.

## Newly revamped farmers market opens in May

Last fall, Town Operations Specialist Brandy Malocha presented plans for revamping the Town's farmers market, the "Emmitsburg Fun, Farm and Family Day", to the Town Council. Since then, Malocha has been hard at work making important changes to the market in preparation for a fast-approaching summer season.

In previous years, the Market suffered from issues such as a lack of vendors, low attendance and competition with larger towns. The market used to be held on Fridays; however, it competed heavily with the Fort Ritchie Market. Organizers considered changing to a Saturday market but that would then compete with Thurmont and Gettysburg. Malocha also suggested having the Market later in the day to allow visitors to shop at one market in the morning (such as Thurmont or Gettysburg) and then come to Emmitsburg later in the day. With

this suggestion in mind, the Market will be open from 1 to 4, with food trucks opening at noon on May 17, July 19, August 23 and September 20.

The name change from the more traditional "Farmers Market" to "Emmitsburg Fun, Farm and Family Day" was done to encompass all of the activities Malocha hopes to implement on market days. With games, activities, vendors and traditional market items, market day is more than a farmers' market, it's an event to bring the community together for merry-making and community support.

Some of the ideas for attractions at the Market include craft vendors, food trucks, kids' activities, and traditional farm-fresh produce. Discussions on having a beer garden, music and even old-fashioned games like egg toss, sack races and cornhole have also occurred. Kids can also look forward to free giveaways just for them!

One of Malocha's suggestions last fall was to implement a "main attraction" every month to hopefully bring in visitors and make the Market extra exciting. These include a dunk tank (with plans to dunk the Mayor), a moon bounce, a Touch-A-Truck event and K9 demonstrations with the police department.

The Market will also be moving to Emmitsburg's Community Park to accommodate all the new activities. Saturday youth events shouldn't interfere with the Market's success either, in fact, the park being full of youth events should hopefully draw people from the other activities to the Market.

For May's market there are plans for a bounce house, face painting, a DJ, a beer tent, sack races, prizes, giveaways and "Wags For Hope" Therapy Dogs. July's market will feature a dunk tank, face painting, DJ, beer tent, an egg toss game, kids crafts and

more yet to be confirmed. The August market still has events to

be planned, but so far will have square dancing, face painting and a beer tent. September is still in the planning stages.

### Emmitsburg Seeks Community Input on 2025 Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Emmitsburg is inviting community members to weigh in on its draft 2025 Comprehensive Plan, a guiding document that outlines future goals for land use, housing, transportation, the environment, and more.

A 60-day public review period has already begun, giving community members the opportunity to read the proposed plan and provide feedback. All comments must be submitted to the Town Planner, Najila Ahsan, at (nahsan@emmitsburgmd.gov) by June 8.

In addition, the Emmitsburg Planning Commission will host a public hearing on June 30 to discuss the plan before making a formal recommendation for adoption. The hearing is open to all and offers a chance for community members to speak directly with local officials about the town's long-term vision.

Officials encourage everyone to take part in shaping the future of Emmitsburg. The draft plan is available on the Town's website.



# Carroll Valley rental ordinance draws concerns

Citizens' concerns led the Carroll Valley Borough Council to change the cost of its long-term rental application fee.

During their meeting in April, the council unanimously voted to reduce the cost of the long-term rental permit from \$250 to \$50. The reduction came at the request of many who expressed concerns over the new fee, including Charles Dalton of Mountainview Realty.

"Sometimes it does pay to come in here and talk to people," Hazlett said.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett said citizens have expressed concerns over other areas of the ordinance passed in 2024, and council and borough staff will discuss them in more depth.

Dalton said many of his clients are upset with the new ordinance, and one has asked him to sell his property.

"It seems to be too much of an overkill, what is being requested for the rental permit," he said.

Hazlett said staff are not requiring owners to go to show a deed if they can prove ownership through online county deeds. He said they will look at other sections of the ordinance but affirmed he is unwilling to budge on the need for trash collection.

"We are trying to make sure the folks in our community who are living in long-term rentals aren't being abused by a derelict landlord," he said.

The ordinance dictates that long-term rentals must be clean and fit for human occupancy. Owners of rental properties who live more than 50 miles away must also designate a property manager whose name is on file at the borough office. Owners must install smoke detectors in bedrooms and common halls. The borough must inspect each rental unit when a tenant changes, the ordinance states.

**Mayor Encourage Outreach**

Mayor Ron Harris, who has held his office for about 20 years, encouraged citizens to call or email him with questions or concerns. Harris' comments came after months of attacks from Councilman John Schubring. The councilman once again called for Harris' resignation for what he believes is a botched investigation into an alleged incident involving a police officer tailgating a citizen in April 2024.

Schubring was supported by citizen Rick Nelson, who claimed Carroll Valley police harassed, threatened, and retaliated against his family.

"You should know me by now, I have been around," Harris said. "If you need something, call me. Sometimes I can connect you to the right people within the borough."

# Holding tank costs skyrocket in Carroll Valley

The cost of people's bathroom habits were the highlight of April's Carroll Valley Borough Council Meeting.

About 90-100 Carroll Valley properties have holding tanks, which collect anything that goes down a drain or toilet. Residents must have their holding tank pumped every two weeks at a cost of about \$55 to \$75 per pump. The borough's requirement for biweekly collection is based on a recommendation from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Jale and Charles Dalton, owners of Mountainview Realty, wrote a letter to council asking they reduce the requirement to once per month since only two people use their office about 40 hours a week. Hazlett said their usage numbers show once a month would not be enough; however, he will monitor the numbers to see if an adjustment can be made in the future.

Hazlett said tanks cannot be pumped less than once a month, regardless of usage, because the longer human waste sits in a tank, the more expensive it is for the borough to treat it.

The Daltons first requested the change in January and sent a second request in March after their bill jumped 240%. The increase was due to the borough being forced to change haulers when the previous hauler retired. Hazlett said he expects the costs to continue to climb and reminded the public and council that the borough does not have any control over a contractor's fee.

Hazlett said the borough is trying to alleviate the financial burden by no longer requiring holding tank users to pay for a minimum of 1,000 gallons of waste. However, Hazlett said, the savings is minimal since the majority of the bill is a flat service fee.

"The people in Carroll Valley who are utilizing holding tanks need to realize that it is in their best interest to get off those holding tanks," Hazlett said.

Hazlett said some properties, such as the Daltons', can connect to the public sewer. He acknowledged the upfront costs would be significant but added they would realize long-term savings.

"Homes on holding tanks do not have the same value as homes on sewage system," he said.

Not all properties using holding tanks can connect to the public system, but can install septic tanks on their property. Those tanks treat sewage on-site and are only required to be pumped every three years.

Hazlett said staff will continue to explore options but believes removing holding tanks is the best solution.

# Liberty helicopter, police sergeant, at center of suit

One month after Liberty Township supervisors graciously accepted a donated helicopter for its police department, the same chopper is at the center of a federal lawsuit targeting one of its police sergeants.

In a complaint filed in the United States Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the Bizzell Corporation claims Tripwire South LLC and Ryan Morris defrauded Bizzell Corporation out of \$3.9 million. The suit alleges Bizzell Corporation paid Tripwire and Morris \$3.9 million for explosives and accelerant powders that he failed to deliver.

Morris is a sergeant in the Liberty Township Police Department. The suit claims he used Bizzell's money to "purchase multiple helicopters, real estate, numerous Rolexes, and otherwise enjoy a lavish, unearned lifestyle, during and after declaring personal bankruptcy.

"This guy's a fraud," Morris told the *Gettysburg Times*. "This whole thing is all about a personal attack on me."

The suit also mentions Morris' employees Michael Dickerson and Kenny Hassinger but does not accuse either of wrongdoing. Morris, Dickerson, and Hassinger, are also elected members of the Gettysburg Area School District Board of Education. Hassinger and Dickerson are president and vice president, respectively. Hassinger is also a senior patrolman with the Liberty Township Police Department, according to its website.

The suit notes Dickerson bragged to the media at a recent public relations event—where Tripwire gave local municipal and County officials free rides in the helicopter—that the MD500D helicopter is akin to a "Ferrari." It also states Morris has appeared in numerous news articles on the subject and indicated that he "expects" Liberty Township to help him seek federal grants to cover associated costs of the helicopters.

During a Liberty Township Board of Supervisors meeting in March, Morris said he met with Senator John Fetterman to discuss such grant possibilities. Liberty supervisors lauded Morris' donation as a prime example of a public/private partnership.

Liberty Police Chief Terry DeWitt said the helicopter would primarily be used for search and rescue operations. During a recent incident at WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital, Pennsylvania State Police took about two hours to respond with its helicopter, DeWitt said.

The helicopter is one of several recent donations Tripwire has made to the Liberty Township Police Department. In February, DeWitt reported the business donated two mobile video recorder system with license plate readers. Last year, DeWitt said Tripwire donated rifles.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Draft Ordinance for ADUs taking shape

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) are quickly becoming a hot topic for municipalities across the Nation. Thurmont's Planning and Zoning Commission has had multiple meetings the last few months about the future of ADUs in Town, and each time the Commission makes slow progress towards a final ordinance.

Last month, Chair Meredith Wivell told the Commission that the Town currently has the second highest poverty level in Frederick County at 47%, with Emmittsburg topping the charts at 55%. This is the primary reason for the Commission to discuss the potential of affordable ADUs in Town. However, with all the discussion affordability brings, the description of affordable housing is still elusive for most.

Wivell informed the Commission that Frederick County began a year-long assessment in September of 2024 into the County's need for affordable housing. She shared some current statistics from the study regarding the 65+ demographic and what they could afford. "For a senior with social security benefits, they projected a household income of \$23,712," she said. "The Household Affordability Threshold [which is 30% of income] would be \$593 a month. Zero rentals were in this price range and one for sale at the time they did this survey."

Currently, Thurmont's Code allows ADUs as conversions (similar to renovating your garage into an apartment) and does not allow stand-alone dwellings. The Com-

mission reviewed a draft ordinance, written by Town Planner Kelly Duty, based on ordinances from other local municipalities that would allow stand-alone ADUs adherent to specific guidelines.

One thing the Commission couldn't decide on was whether to increase the setback from its current five feet to something greater. While five feet could put an ADU very close to a neighboring dwelling, ten feet may make an ADU impossible to fit in the available space. Wivell pointed out "Theres a lot of difference between somebody putting a shed five feet off your property versus someone moving and living five feet off your property."

Duty agreed to provide the Commission with an aerial view of the

Commission members homes as examples to see how a larger setback would affect whether an ADU could be placed on the property.

The Commission discussed whether to restrict ADUs to specific zones in Town as well. "The lot size, the 10% of the lot, the setbacks, that kind of stuff is going to restrict it," said Member Christopher Stouter. "Restricting the zone isn't really required." Duty added the requirement of the property being a detached single-family dwelling to the list.

Commissioner Liaison Martin Burns was at the meeting and one of the suggestions he made to the Commission was to designate certain Code to apply to new construction vs existing structures, as some

existing structures would technically be against the new Code.

Some aspects of the Ordinance that were finalized include a max of 800 square feet (can be split between two floors), no basements are allowed, a max height, design and aesthetics matching primary residence, only one ADU per lot, ADUs may not be in a front yard, owner occupancy is required in at least one of the dwellings, provide at minimum space for one vehicle specifically for the ADU, Frederick County building codes must be met and HOA rules will take precedence amongst other requirements determined by the Commission.

Duty will be making amendments to the draft, based on the decisions made by the Commission, for review with the Town's Attorney and then continuing discussion at a future meeting.

## Ecology Services awarded trash collection contract

The Council approved a new contract for collection of solid waste and bulk trash, accepting Ecology Services Refuse and Recycling's total bid of \$331,898 for a two-year contract to begin May 1. The motion to approve the bid passed 5-0.

Ecology Services, located in Columbia, Md., will charge the Town \$163,900 for the first year of services and \$167,998 in the second year, with an option for renewal. The contract includes

all necessary labor, materials and equipment and the performance of all work for two years. The scope of work includes weekly trash collection for all residences and four bulk trash pickups each year.

This contract is a decrease from 2024, when the services cost \$177,269. The proposed decrease is due to a decrease in fuel costs. "They said they could have just passed that on to us, but they felt like they should give us that reduc-

tion," Town Manager Jim Humerick said. Mayor John Kinnaird said this action was "very commendable" on Ecology Services' part.

The Town also received a bid from J&J Trash Services for \$362,866.56 total, the first year costing \$178,752 and the second \$184,114.56. Humerick recommended Ecology Services because they presented a lower bid and had already provided three years of satisfactory service to the Town. "We

still have some minor issues that we deal with from time-to-time," he said before explaining to the Council that most issues are due to the high turnover in the waste industry. He explained that the Town receives a new team, often after the previous team began to understand Thurmont's needs.

Kinnaird confirmed with Humerick that residents can use the same customer service telephone line for Ecology Services as in years past if

they should have any issues with their trash collection.

"The trash business doesn't seem to be as robust as it was a many years ago, but there's still plenty of trash to be picked up," Kinnaird said.

Ecology Services also provides recycling collection for Frederick County, including Thurmont. However, recycling services are not included in this contract because it's a county-paid service, not paid for by the Town of Thurmont.

## Council reviews water fund budget

CFO Linda Joyce and Director of Public Works/Water Superintendent Harold Lawson presented the preliminary budget for the water fund and wastewater fund, respectively, at the April 8 Town meeting. The Town Council will approve all budgets for FY-26 after all department budgets are presented.

Lawson presented the water fund capital and Capital Improvement Plan, totaling \$236,000 for the next fiscal year. Lawson and his department would like to replenish their inventory of water meters and to purchase a smaller Bob Cat excavator for more intricate projects. The Water Depart-

ment would like to use capital funds for the North Center Street Water Main Project, as well as lead service line inventory. For the latter, the Department would like to continue working with Arro to assist with documenting of lead lines in Thurmont, notifying residents and applying for grants. "The difficult thing is we have to determine what every service line is within a certain date range," Lawson said. "Any one built before 1972 we need to identify the pipe material, and if it's galvanized, it's going to have to be replaced."

Lawson is also asking for replacement parts for two wells that are reaching the end of their life expectancy, in addition to some funding to replace aging fire hydrants, including the labor to replace them. When Commissioner Marty Burns asked about

doing the work in-house, Lawson said, "We would save on the labor costs, but one of the hydrants we have picked out is in a very difficult spot. You need a company that's got some guys to do the flagging and the concrete work and everything. It's just a matter of time to do it."

Joyce introduced the Water Fund budget, with an expected revenue of \$1,204,874 and expected expenses of \$912,585. With this preliminary budget, the Town expects a surplus of \$292,290 from the water fund alone.

The Town expects \$55,000 in earned interest, a \$15,000 decrease from last year's expected budget due to a reduction in ARPA funds. Commissioner Marty Burns clarified with Joyce that the interest revenue would decrease even more the following year as the ARPA funds are spent. Joyce explained that all ARPA

funds must be spent by December 31, 2026, which will be mid-fiscal year ending in 2027.

Joyce budgeted for 15 new units' connection fees after budgeting for 20 last year where the Town only received six. "I don't see us getting another 14 between now and the end of the [fiscal] year," she said. The preliminary budget includes a decrease in metered water revenue because of Joyce's research into data from previous years. "What we're seeing across the board, in the wastewater and the water, is a reduced usage," she said. The Town is expected to come in under budget for metered water revenue in the current fiscal year, according to Joyce.

Expenses include salaries with a 3% increase for cost of living and other costs associated with Town employment. This section also accounts for Town systems, meetings, maintenance, vehicle expenses, etc. There was a decrease in lab testing costs, which Lawson explained is due to where the department is in their schedule for testing. "Every year it varies; different year, different tests," he said.

Joyce budgeted \$38,000 in IT expenses in part to allocate for the Town's new virtual information security officer. The Town will also need to buy new computers that are compatible with Windows 11 to replace those that are operating on Windows 10, which is budgeted for \$20,000. However, the IT expenses are spread across all four funds, according to Joyce.

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# TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Taneytown set to elect three new commissioners

Four candidates have been approved for the May 5th City elections: Rachael Miller (who coincidentally is Mayor Christopher Miller’s wife), Harry Meade, Nick Kalinock and Lillian Hardie.

Miller, Meade and Kalinock are running on the common platform “MMK” (also known as a slate) because they all have similar priorities which include transparency and a focus on the needs of existing residents. Hardie is the founder of Brian Safe Haven, a local nonprofit advocacy & food pantry organization.

In preparation for the election, the Board of Elections met in March to

discuss an issue that occurred at the last election and possible solutions. City Attorney Jay Gullo explained that the number one complaint during the last election concerned electioneering and where it was allowed. Electioneering is the action of political candidates and supporters handing out flyers and waving signs to encourage voters to vote for their candidate. It is not allowed within 100 feet of the actual polling place, which in this case is the police station.

Taneytown measures the 100-foot radius from the front door of the police station, meaning that no electioneering may occur from the other side of Baltimore Street, and along the

sides to the back of the station. The latter is where the complaints originated from. Last election, there was confusion about whether voters could park in the front lot so most parked in the back and walked up the sidewalk to the main entrance.

Electioneers were camped out for the day up to the back of the building causing frustration for some voters on their way into the building. “I’ve been here over three years, and I remember feeling somewhat uncomfortable voting in the only Town election I did because of this very thing,” said supervisor Janine Hill. “We didn’t know where to

park, we ran around the back and then we had to walk by all the candidates on the way in. We just wanted to go in and vote.”

Coming from a different mentality, Elections Chairman Alex Kelly felt that election days could be akin to a barbeque or a tailgate party. “Election days are always supposed to be full of energy and fun,” he said. He wasn’t bothered in the slightest by walking through a sea of campaigners he said.

The supervisors were left with a choice: add an additional 25-foot buffer from the back of the building or improve on the signage to encourage voters to park in the front lot

instead. Mayor Christopher Miller pushed for the latter option claiming that adding footage to the buffer would “make it more restrictive for candidates to interact with the public.” He pointed out that for some voters their first interaction with a candidate is at the polling place.

After discussing the pros and cons of both options, it was decided that clarifying the signage for the front lot and leaving electioneers with space in the back to work would alleviate the prior complaints. If voters wish to interact with candidates and their supporters, they can park in the back lot.

Election day will be May 5th at the Taneytown police station, with polls open from 7 to 7.

## Planning Commission ponders “small town feel”

After the successful community survey in December, the Planning Commission discussed their definition of “small town feel” in February. The Commission was tasked with determining each member’s opinion; said members include Comprehensive Plan Planner Craig Kologie, Senior Planner of Arro Consulting and Assistant Project Designer Emily Yatron. The Commission has been working on the Comprehensive Plan, a 10-year document that discusses future goals and aspirations of the City, since last year.

Members of the Commission all agreed that a friendly atmosphere with an active community was key for promoting the “small town feel”. “To me a small town is about atmo-

sphere, like a vibe more than anything else,” said City Council Liaison Chris Tillman. Member Dan Myers agreed, adding that the vibe comes from people living in Taneytown for a long period of time and being active in community activities. “There’s a lot of different things that you can do that will make you feel a part of the Town,” he said.

The Carroll Vista subdivision, a large development at the edge of the City, is a good example of a community that keeps to themselves because they have most of the amenities they need. “They have a lot of activities out there on their own, but I think if we had more activities downtown here, I think they would come in,” said Myers. Kologie

pointed out that Taneytown has a lot of great activities but the City would benefit from finding ways to get a better turnout for the activities. One of his suggestions was that the City have a dedicated newspaper or newsletter to encourage community engagement.

One thing the Commission agreed on was the lack of events, like concerts and street festivals, that could bring people into the downtown area. One common conflict created by these events is the need to shut down main streets, which is not an option since there is no easy way to reroute traffic. Tillman also pointed out that the City doesn’t have the open space available in the downtown area to hold events. The City’s parks, which do hold the major-

ity of events, are not conveniently placed to the downtown area either. “To be able to have that kind of festival or something like that in our downtown, will have to wait until we make a bypass,” said Tillman.

The problem is the future of a bypass depends on discussions with the Mountain Brook subdivision developer. One of the main reasons City staff has approved the 454-home development so far is because the Developer has agreed to fund the bypass project which is still in the design phase.

Another focal point for this version of the Plan is the connectivity and walkability of the City’s different developments. With so many developments

constructed in the last 20 years across so much land, developments are not as accessible to each other as they used to be. The Commission showed a desire to bring back that physical connection as much as is logistically possible.

Other key points discussed included public transportation options, growth management, identifying and protecting groundwater resources, general environmental protection, stronger community investments, housing and community design standards and historic architectural preservation. Kologie and Yatron will take the discussion points from this workshop and morph them with background information into more concentrated concepts for the March workshop.

## City to allow speed cameras in school zones

After hearing complaints from concerned citizens about speeding in the City’s school zones, the Council began the process of determining the best way to prevent excessive speed. The Council discussed installing speed cameras, which automatically generate and deliver tickets to violators, in order to prevent speeding. Doing so allows the City to have extra enforcement capabilities without having to hire additional personnel. The City does already utilize a decoy police car to deter speeding.

There are two areas that were “tested” last October to see if a speed camera would be useful: Trevanion Road, which is close to Taneytown Elementary School and Northwest Middle School, and the Baumgardner and East Baltimore Street intersection on the opposite side of the schools. After testing it was determined that the Baumgardner and East Baltimore Street intersection did not see enough speed violations to make a speed camera a worthwhile endeavor at that location. Trevanion, however, saw “277 cars going 12 mph over the posted limit,” according to Mayor Christopher Miller, a supporter of the project.

Earlier this year, Mike Phelan, the Director of Strategic Accounts for Altumint, a provider of AI-enabled traffic technology, presented the Council with an overview of what they can do for speeding enforcement in Taneytown. Located a little

more than an hour away, the Company utilizes speed cameras and red-light technology to catch speed violators and distribute tickets.

There are two ways to mount the speed cameras: on a pole or with a trailer system. The Council debated the pros and cons of both options, deciding that a pole-mounted camera would best suit the location. Altumint would be responsible for the equipment during its service. By choosing a local company, any repairs or replacements can be easily performed. According to Phelan, most speed cameras are in service Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, including holidays. However, this schedule can be altered to whatever the Council deems appropriate.

Phelan assured the Council that the services provided by Altumint are 100% violator funded with no upfront cost to install. “You will never have to pay out of pocket,” he said. He also said that any permits required by the State Highway Administration would be the responsibility of Altumint. State law limits the max speed threshold to 12mph, meaning if the speed limit is 25 mph, a vehicle must be going 37 mph in order to be ticketed. The State also sets the ticket violation at \$40.

Along with physical cameras detecting speed, Altumint uses a program that can be accessed by the Chief of Police and other City offi-

cials, allowing them to run reports, reject or approve violations and receive payments. The cameras take pictures and a short video of the violation. The Chief of Police will then need to log into the Altumint Program and either approve or deny the violation. If approved, the information is forwarded to the MVA, where the registered owner of the vehicle’s information is obtained and a ticket is sent. The owner can either pay the ticket or go to court. If nothing is done, a delinquent notice is then sent.

Mayor Pro Tem James McCarron has a long history of opposition to the use of speed cameras to aid in controlling speeding. At previous meetings, he argued that the numbers received in preliminary inspections of the chosen locations were not high enough to warrant using speed cameras. Miller countered by reminding the Council, “that section of Trevanion isn’t fully side-walked and kids walk up and down that road.”

According to Phelan, from the contract signing to the final installation of the equipment it should take about five months. However, before Altumint can do anything for the City, the Council must pass legislation allowing red-light speed camera technology to be used in a school zone.


Prior to the vote in April, McCarron asked the Council to reconsider

the Project, “I’ve been vocal about my opposition to this Ordinance,” he said. “The previous Council has examined this issue thoroughly and it was primarily a money-making proposition rather than a safety proposition, and it would be a burden to the citizens of Taneytown if we enact this.”

Although Councilman Christopher Tillman understood McCarron’s position, he disagreed. He reminded the Council that kids

walk along Trevanion where more than 10% of the traffic on that road is going more than 12 mph over the speed limit. “Ordinarily I would be opposed on libertarian grounds to this,” he said. “But in this particular case, I’m not sure that we really have any other option.” The Ordinance was approved with a vote of 3 to 2, McCarron and Councilwoman Judith Fuller against the Ordinance.

With the Ordinance in place, the next step is to write and approve a contract with a chosen vendor.



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# FROM THE DESK OF...

## US Congresswoman April Delaney

Every day, Maryland's firefighters and first responders put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe. They deserve our unwavering support—and yet, on March 7 the Administration made a troubling decision: it abruptly canceled all classes at the National Fire Academy (NFA) and the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, leaving our first responders with fewer resources and critical training opportunities.

Tens of thousands of career and volunteer firefighters from departments across the country benefit from these courses annually. The EMI provides training for thousands of federal, state, and local emergency response officials each year, implementing the National

Response Framework and National Incident Management System. The Academy and Institute gather leading experts and first responders to train with stress-tested technology, share best practices, develop innovative emergency response methods, and enhance public safety. Programs at the NETC include disaster preparedness, emergency operations, fire prevention, arson and explosion investigation, wildfire response, firefighter health and safety, and leadership development, providing a comprehensive and practical education that directly translates to improved public safety.

In fact, more than 90% of supervisors report that their firefighters are better prepared to respond to emergencies

after receiving training at the Academy. These programs don't just offer theoretical knowledge—they provide real-world skills that are tested in high-stress situations, ensuring that when disaster strikes, our first responders can act quickly and effectively.

Without the services of the NFA and EMI, local departments will lose access to key tools and knowledge necessary to effectively respond to emergencies of all kinds and efficiently manage their agencies. Course offerings at the NFA and EMI are unique, supplementing, rather than duplicating, state-led certification and professional development programs.

Local fire departments, especially those in rural areas with limited funding, often lack the resources to pro-

vide specialized education for their first responders. Through the NFA and EMI, local agencies can send firefighters and other first responders to Emmitsburg for accessible, affordable courses. Additionally, courses are offered across the country at state fire training academies to reach first responders who cannot make the trip. By offering training that States cannot or do not offer to their firefighters, the NETC stands alone as the national hub of innovative, lifesaving emergency response methods.

In response to the cancellation, I led a bipartisan, bicameral letter with 65 of my Congressional colleagues calling on FEMA to reverse its decision and reinstate these trainings immediately. We strongly believe that these programs are vital to our national preparedness and that their cancellation not only puts our first responders at risk but also

endangers the communities they serve.

Lastly, I want to take this moment to express how much I value all of our firefighters, first responders and police officers. These incredible American public servants work tirelessly in emergency situations, often under dangerous conditions, to keep us safe. I will always have their back, and I will continue to fight for the resources and training they need to perform their jobs effectively.

I will continue to stand up for those who stand in harm's way every day and make sure they have the training and resources they need to continue protecting us all.

My office is here to help. If you need help with any federal agency, such as Social Security, USDA, Veterans Affairs, or USPS, please call my office at 301-926-0300 or visit [mcclaindelaney.house.gov](http://mcclaindelaney.house.gov).

## County Council President Brad Young

County Executive Fitzwater submitted her budget to the County Council on April 15. The Council must adopt the proposed budget by May 31st, or the County Executive's proposed budget becomes law. Under the County Charter, the Council may not add to the budget or move funding between agencies, the Council can only cut budget line items. The Council held a public hearing for the Board of Education and Frederick County Government Budgets on April 22nd.

This year's budget is especially challenging due to both federal and state budgetary actions. The State of Maryland faced a \$3 billion structural deficit at the start of the 2025 General Assembly Session in January. Through tax increases and budget cuts the Assembly adopted a mandated balanced state budget when they adjourned on Mon-

day, April 7th. However, their actions resulted in significant unanticipated shifts of expenses to local governments totaling around \$8 million dollars in new expenses to Frederick County.

On the Federal side of our budgeting challenges, Frederick County is home to more than 12,000 federal employees, and with so many being fired from the federal government, Maryland's and Frederick County's economies will take a hit. The federal government had also cancelled millions of dollars' worth of grants expected by the counties. The actual impact of these cuts is yet to be seen.

On April 23rd and 24th, the council held budget workshops to hear department presentations and review any budget appeals (new additions to the budget). These public meetings were televised on FCG-TV and can be viewed at any time. I encourage every

Frederick County taxpayer to pay close attention to the entire budget process and make sure you voice any concerns or recommendations to the Council.

On Tuesday, May 6 the Council will be discussing a bill I cosponsored with Renee Knapp, Bill 25-05, to Update Design Requirements for Critical Digital Infrastructure Facilities and update Specific Use Regulations for Critical Digital Infrastructure Facilities and Critical Digital Infrastructure Electric Substations. There will be a discussion of amendments and if amendments are adopted, this amended bill will then return the following week for a public hearing to receive public comments.

On April 15th the Council discussed the recommendations made by the Compensation Review Committee. The County Charter mandates the Council appoint a Commission every four

years to review the salaries of the County Executive and the County Council. The Commission recommend raising the CE's salary from \$137,000 to \$163,000 and the Council's salary from \$35,000 to \$42,000 per year. After discussion, a motion was made to raise the CE's salary to \$143,500 for the years 2027-28 and \$150,000 for the years 2029-2030. It passed 5-2 with me and District 5 Council Member Mason Carter opposed. After additional discussion, a motion was made to raise the Council's salary to \$36,500 for the years 2027-28 and \$38,000 for the years 2029-2030. It passed 4-3 with me, District 5 Council Member Mason Carter, and District 2 Member Steve McKay opposed. I felt given the state of the budget and the economy that it was not the right time to give ourselves raises.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every

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

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 pm at Winchester Hall, located at 12 East Church Street in downtown Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we public welcome participation.

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](mailto:BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov), or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

## Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

This month I want to dedicate my article to the Daughters of Charity.

This year is the 50th Anniversary celebration of the canonization of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. The next several months is full of unique events and exhibits at the National Shrine located at 333 South Seton Avenue. On September 14th, the actual day that marks the Anniversary, the public is invited to join in mass and other special activities. This beautiful facility is a must-see for those who have never taken the opportunity to visit. Their website, [setonshrine.org](http://setonshrine.org), offers a full schedule of events.

Where would Emmitsburg be

without the Daughters of Charity? Recently I had the privilege of spending the afternoon chatting with the sisters about the past, the present and the future of both the town and their organization. At one point on our visit the sisters shared with me the many locations around the world they served, the many different vocations they exhibited and how they have touched millions of lives. The one thing they all had in common was Emmitsburg. Telling their stories made reality sink in and brought me to that question, where would we be without the Daughters of Charity?

Some of you have either been lifelong residents of Emmitsburg or lived here for an extended period and know their history, but some of our newer residents to Emmitsburg and the surrounding communities might be unaware of their positive impact. I can never capture everything, but I want to share what I can personally remember during my lifetime.

As a youngster I can remember in the mid 1960's seeing a massive building built on South Seton Avenue. We would watch the big construction equipment moving around the site as the building kept getting bigger and bigger. We had never seen anything like this in our small town and as kids did not know what to make of

it. On the other hand, the community sure did. Local restaurants were full of constructions workers, there was a buzz amongst grown up of job opportunities and how the town would grow. When construction was finished all those things came to fruition. The building was the largest building in Frederick County and carried that distinction until the construction of the Toy R' Us warehouse in Frederick. Well guess what, Toy R' Us is out of business but our Daughters are still here. Thousands of residents have found jobs over the years and the sisters became town residents.

For many years, the Daughters operated St Joseph College, now home of the National Emergency Training Center. In 1973 the college closed and sat empty

with nothing more than a security guard patrolling the area. Several years later a new buzz started around town, the possibility of the federal government buying the property and opening the National Fire Academy. Again, the hopes of more jobs, increased business revenue and the town growing were on the horizon. Emmitsburg was in competition was several other sites around the country, but the deal in Emmitsburg seemed to fit the bill and the price was right. Again, the Daughters scored a win for Emmitsburg.

There are so many things we have taken for granted, like Mother Seton School, Seton Center, Saint Catharines Nursing Home, and Saint Joseph High School, now the site of DePaul Village Apartments. Even now as their order is shrinking in size they are still looking out for Emmitsburg. While not needing all of their massive building, their business decisions still have Emmitsburg at heart. They have added much needed senior housing to one wing and have contracted with Mount Saint Mary's University and Seminary to expand their curriculum.

I could go on and on because I have found this is the easiest column that I have ever written. But I think you can see the picture, the Daughter of Charity has been a main player in making Emmitsburg what it is today. I ask again, where would we be without the Daughters of Charity.

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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

One of my most important tasks as County Executive is to prepare a balanced budget that delivers results, provides essential services, keeps the core functions of government on track, and reflects our community's priorities. The FY-26 budget I proposed puts students first with record investments in public education and protects core services that you rely on. It achieves all of these goals without raising taxes.

We developed this year's budget in a moment of profound uncertainty. Last November, state budget analysts warned of the largest budget gap in 20 years. While essential investments in school construction and U.S. 15 safety improvements were protected, the state shifted millions of dollars of costs to Frederick County. Federal funding freezes and layoffs added to our challenges.

We made hard decisions and cut our spending to protect investments in education. We did the most we could with what we have, without making commitments we may not be able to keep.

**Prioritizing Education**  
Education is the single best investment we can make as a community. The proposed budget includes an investment of over \$508 million to public education, marking a \$118 million – or 30% – increase over three short years.

This investment includes funding for those who are essential to the health and safety of our children, including school nurses, physical and occupational therapists, resource officers, and crossing guards.

We are significantly increasing our investment in school construction because every child deserves to learn in a safe and modern environment. The budget includes \$175 million for school construction this year. This represents an \$80 million – or 86% – increase over last year.

This includes funding for the construction of Elementary School 41 to relieve overcrowding at Oakdale Elementary School and surrounding schools. Additionally, we are investing in pre-design work to replace Brunswick High School, accelerating renovations at Twin Ridge and Hillcrest Elementary Schools, and keeping the new Mid-

dletown Elementary and Middle Schools on schedule.

**Strategic Adjustments**  
Our commitment to our schools is approximately half of our operating and capital budgets. In anticipation of absorbing state budget cuts, and as part of our ongoing transition to outcome-based budgeting, we went line-by-line through the non-education side of the budget and scrutinized every dollar.

We identified millions of dollars of cuts to our base budget to realign our funding with our priorities. We also challenged our divisions to scrutinize and prioritize their funding requests, which allowed us to reduce budget appeals by \$10 million. Even with these cuts, we will make progress on strategic priorities identified by our community-led Transition Team.

**Investments in Core Services**  
County public service jobs should provide fair and livable wages. This is a matter of equity for employees and competitiveness as we work to keep pace with our peers. Through this budget, we will establish a new

base pay of \$21 per hour. We will also provide a 2% across-the-board salary increase for all employees. These adjustments will take effect on January 1, 2026.

In Frederick County, we are transforming the model of care by helping our most vulnerable elderly residents age in place. The proposed budget includes funding for expanded services at the Middletown 50+ Community Center and planning for new senior centers in other parts of the County.

Housing affordability is a real challenge across Maryland and especially in Frederick County. The budget includes funding to oversee real estate transactions and affordable housing development, primarily on County-owned land. We are currently accepting proposals for affordable housing solutions near the Prospect Center.

Maintaining public safety is critical to maintaining our quality of life. The budget includes funding for the Sheriff's Office to lease dedicated training space for in-house classes and for the State's Attorney's Office to address growing caseloads.

**Looking Ahead**  
This budget sets aside reserve

funds, meets long-term pension obligations, and makes tactical investments to protect our AAA bond rating. It ensures our strong financial health and provides the programs and services our residents need to be healthy and safe.

I believe we are each called to do the most we can, where we are, with what we have – and our FY-26 budget does just that. In the most challenging fiscal environment in more than two decades, we remain steadfast in our commitment to public education and essential services – doing the absolute most we can under these circumstances.

I am pleased the proposed budget reflects community input and invests in our people. With this strategic and responsible approach, we can ensure Frederick County remains the best place to live in Maryland – a vibrant and unique community where everyone can live, work, and thrive while feeling a strong sense of place and belonging.

*The County Council has until May 31 to adopt the proposed budget and FY-26 begins on July 1. To view the proposed FY-26 budget, visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Budget](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Budget).*

## County Councilwoman Renee Knapp

This month the Frederick County Council will vote on Bill 25-05, which would update design requirements for Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) facilities and Electric Substations. I introduced this bill in March, and it is co-sponsored by Council President Young. This bill expands on Bill 22-05, which was passed unanimously by the previous Council. Bill 22-05 added CDI as a new permitted use in General Industrial and Light Industrial zones, but not in other areas. This action wisely limited areas for data center development. Frederick County is continuing to lead the way regionally with regulations designed to address the community concerns of the impact of data centers, while making sure the limited number of data centers in the County can operate successfully. This industry will contribute to economic benefits like increasing our commercial real estate tax base, relieving some pressure from residential property taxes.

I've heard from many residents who are concerned that Bill 25-05 will somehow enable data center sprawl, and that it relaxes current regulations regarding sound and vibration. I would like to clear up any misconceptions or misunderstandings about this bill. First, this bill limits and does not expand the areas permitted for data centers. It adds Treasured Landscape Management Areas, Rural Legacy Areas, and Priority Preservation as areas where data centers cannot be located. It requires that a CDI facility must be located within 2 miles of a high-voltage electrical transmission line and within

an existing Community Growth Area. This bill adds new restrictions for data center development, which is a request that County residents have made loud and clear. This was a recommendation from the County Executive's Data Centers Workgroup.

The second concern that I'm hearing a lot about is sound, and that this bill relaxes current regulations. This is not the case. Bill 25-05 requires clarification that all components of data centers, including air handlers, generators, and other mechanical devices are subject to noise level requirements. It requires sound and vibration reporting with the site plan application, and reporting includes sound studies for

adjoining data centers to measure the cumulative noise impact. After occupancy is established, CDI facilities would be required to provide periodic reporting to the County to maintain compliance. This was also a recommendation from the Data Centers Workgroup.

To address air pollution levels that could have negative impacts on the communities around data centers, this bill requires all generators to meet or exceed Tier 4 equivalent emission standards. This is a higher standard compared to some of our neighboring jurisdictions, but one that is important and achievable for the well-being of residents, and it helps us to do our part to reduce

harmful carbon emissions. Additionally, to reduce the impact to the community, generator testing would be confined to certain times of the day.

To preserve the views of Frederick County that we love and to reduce visual impacts to neighboring areas, this bill would add new design requirements such as a viewshed analysis with the site development plan application, demonstrating that impacts to surrounding properties and historic sites have been minimized. To mitigate impacts from data centers on area wildlife, lighting elements with amber or yellow tints would be required, as well as the use of timers and motion detectors.

Frederick County has learned some important lessons from our neighboring jurisdictions, and we will continue to work to find the right balance of protecting our residents and the environment from data center impacts with our need to expand economic development and diversification. Technology has evolved since Bill 22-05 was passed in 2022, and even since the report from the Data Centers Workgroup was submitted to County Executive Fitzwater in early 2024. We will need to periodically reevaluate our CDI regulations. The new requirements in Bill 25-05 are the next step in this process. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out for more discussion. I can be reached at [rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov).

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WETZEL CPA, PC  
*Certified Public Accountant*



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*Happy Mother's Day to all!*





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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is May 2025. Talk about April showers. In our neighborhood, the period up to the end of April, Carroll Valley has seen more rain than in 2024. The community is invited to the 4th Annual Fairfield Area School District Art Exhibition hosted by the Carroll Valley Borough from May 2nd to May 27th. Approximately 200 pieces of artwork will be displayed in the borough's conference room and halls. On Friday, May 2nd, a reception will be held to meet these young artists from 4 to 6. Come down to the Borough Office.

Mother's Day on Sunday, May 11th – a day we set aside to remember those “mom moments” that made us who we are today. Memorial Day is the last Monday in May, which is May 26th. It is the nation's foremost annual day to mourn and honor its deceased servicemen and women. The Adams County Chiefs of Police Association will host the Adams County Fallen Officers Memorial Service on May 30th at 10 at the Adams County 911 Center at 230 Greenamyer Lane, Gettysburg. A roll of the seven fallen officers of Adams County and the 2024 fallen officers of Pennsylvania will be read at the service.

May is known as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month”. May brings dog ticks and black-legged ticks, also known as deer ticks. These black-legged ticks' bite spreads the bacteria that infect people and our lovable dogs and cats with Lyme disease. We live in a beautiful valley. However, we need to avoid tick-infested areas. For example, when walking through the woods, stay on cleared, well-traveled trails and avoid tall grass and brushy areas. Wear protective clothing – wear light-colored clothing, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and shoes that cover your entire foot. Tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants. Shower within two hours of potential tick exposure to wash away before they bite. In short, keep yourself and your family safe while you are enjoying our beautiful valley.

The REAL ID Act was passed in Congress in 2005. Starting May 7th, you will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or another acceptable form of identification (like a passport or military ID) to board domestic flights and enter certain federal facilities, including those requiring federally acceptable ID at the door.

It was enacted to prevent terrorists from successfully producing fraudulent identification. REAL IDs are available now and will continue to be available to Pennsylvanians after the May 7th enforcement deadline. The REAL ID documentation requirements are (1) Proof of Identity – you need one document proving your identity and lawful status. A birth certificate with a raised seal, issued by a government agency or a valid, unexpired U.S. passport or a passport card; (2) Proof of Social Security Number – you need one document showing your Social Security number. This could be your Social Security card, a W-2 form, or a pay stub; (3) Proof of Pennsylvania Residency – you need two documents showing your Pennsylvania address, such as a PA driver's license, vehicle registration, auto insurance card, or a utility bill.

The Carroll Valley Easter Egg Hunt was a very successful event. There were approximately 450 children who heard the Police Siren, and within 5 minutes, the 5,000 eggs were picked up. Thanks to Gayle Marthers, Amanda Bell, and Sarah Ginn for stuffing those 5,000

eggs. Thanks to the Fairfield Varsity Knights Baseball team for spreading those 5,000 eggs. The team members were Vaughn Lewis, Gavin Cramer, Trent Sewell, Riley Brown, Chase Clapsadl, Jayden Bell, Jacob Brent, Brayden Herb, Layton Wilhide, and Aden Frank. Helena Rodgers, Lisa McLeod Simmons, and her daughters, Sarah and Emma, were additional helpers. Thank you, Parks and Recreation Committee, and Jim and Jeni Jarrell. Thank you to Laura Mathews for the donation of two quilts. And, finally, a Special thank you to the Egg Hunt event sponsor, Jennifer Warden from State Farm Insurance. Thanks to the Carroll Valley Maintenance crew for preparing the manicured lawn on which the 5,000 eggs were laid.

As reported by Robin Dicken, Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) had a very successful clothing giveaway in April. There were terrific donations, and we had about 45 shoppers. Twenty-five volunteers help with this event. NHN has some upcoming events that may be of interest to you. On June 11th, there will be an Ice Cream Social and Bluegrass music for senior citizens at the Carroll Valley Borough inside the Cortner Pavilion community room.

On June 18th, there will be a “Walk and Talk” at Hamiltonban Township for a chance to make new friends for the summer. If you have any questions, call Robin at 717-253-7507. Are you looking to help the lives of Adams County Children?

You can help by purchasing Kiwanis Blueberries. To order, call 717-337-2434, \$36 for a 10 lb. box fresh from the farm. Pick-up is June 30th from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Gettysburg Rec Park, Long Lane, Gettysburg. Thank you, Kiwanis Club of Gettysburg/Adams.

The Carroll Valley Borough meetings are Planning Commission (Monday – May 5th), Borough Council (Tuesday – May 13th), Municipal Primary Election (Tuesday – May 20th), Nature Trail Committee (May 21st), Memorial Day (May 26th), Public Sewer (Tuesday – May 27th) and Parks/Recreation Committee (Wednesday – May 28th). As the weather warms up, more residents will be walking on our trails – please be careful when driving, especially in the evening. To the residents, when walking at night, you should wear reflective clothing to be seen by drivers. If I can help, contact me at 301-606-2021 or email MayorRonHarris@comcast.net.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

April showers bring May flowers! It seems like Mother Nature has also given us our fair share of wind storms this past month. The Road Department has been trying to stay on top of preventing trees coming down on the roadways. We are looking at each road and identifying the dead trees that are in the 33-foot right-away of the township road and removing them. When trees come down on the roadway, we can clean them up, but when they come down on a vehicle with an occupant in them that can be an

extremely dangerous and deadly scenario. Please work with the township road crew as we identify trees that we determine need to be taken down along your property line. When possible, notification of the tree cutting on your property will be given and the tree will be cut up and left on your property. If you have identified dead trees along your property that are within the right-away, please contact the township office.

Orchard Road is a priority this year to repair. I plan to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that we put a 2.5-

inch overlay on Orchard Road, smooth the intersection out at State Route 16 and Orchard Road on the south bound side, stabilize the shoulder, widen the road by two feet, and then pave the road to Triact Road. Once the cost analysis is complete, we can move forward with the bidding process to get it on the schedule before the October 15 deadline for laying blacktop pavement on the roads.

Road maintenance will continue with inspections on cross-over pipes, cleaning out ditches that have been backfilled over the winter months, stabilizing drainage areas that have been identified, and completing shoulder work on multiple roads where the shoulders have eroded. Mowing season will begin in May. Please be patient and make sure the operator has acknowl-


edged that you are behind them, and the roadway is clear before passing the mower. Last year on Gladhill Road, someone did not give courtesy to the operator, ran him off the road, causing him to hit a tree damaging the mower significantly, and putting the mower out of service for almost two months. Material things can be replaced, human life cannot. Please be mindful of the safety of our road crew, and remember they are working to make our township safe to travel through for all residents.

We are reviewing our zoning ordinances for accessory buildings and making suggestions for changes to some of the current ordinances to be less restrictive. There has been an increased interest in our township for short-term rentals such as Airbnb and VRBO. We are looking at

addressing those areas in our ordinances. Be aware that you also need to check with the county about the implications of having a business on your property, especially if you are in the clean and green program. There are different regulations governing clean and green, agricultural versus residential and conservation. Seek guidance on laws and regulations under the zoning ordinance. If you are planning on building or making any changes to your property, please reach out to the township for guidance regarding permitting requirements. Some projects are eligible for waivers. We are trying to avoid residence from obtaining any zoning violation from the township or county. We are here to help and guide, please utilize us as a resource.

As warmer weather approaches, Chief DeWitt would like to remind everyone to watch for cyclists and motorcyclists. Share The Road. Do not deposit any debris onto the roadways, including grass clippings. This creates a hazardous environment for motorcycles. Aggressive Driving Enforcement Campaigns will run through the summer. Speeding and following too closely are a couple of the largest violated Aggressive Driving actions. Move over Laws need to be adhered to. You must go into the opposing lane (completely if safe to do so, if not then you must be twenty miles per hour below the posted speed when passing the emergency scene.

Recently we were made aware of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program for Fairfield residents, and we asked to be a part of this program. Neighbors Helping Neighbors provide red medical folders to organize all of your important healthcare documents. Emergency responders will look for this folder when responding to a medical emergency. The folder is magnetic and can be placed on your refrigerator. These folders are a great idea for anyone who has chronic medical needs and for the elderly. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact the Liberty Township Office. These folders are free for Liberty Township residents.



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

It has been almost three years since the Adams County Board of Commissioners, Adams County Planning Department, Destination Gettysburg and the Adams County Economic Alliance collaborated to highlight Adams County’s attributes to the Pennsylvania Ag Discovery Center (PADC) search committee. The process concluded with Adams County being selected from a pool of several surrounding counties. A feasibility study was done, an executive director was selected, and the search for a suitable location along the Route 15 corridor commenced. Unfortunately, the search for a suitable location got bogged down for a variety of reasons.

I finally have good PA AG Discovery Center news to report! I was pleased to attend the March 20th Mt. Joy Township meeting, with PADC Executive Director Tom O’Connor, to announce that a location for the center has been identified in open fields to the south of the Gettysburg Outlets. A contract between the parties has been executed. The area had previously been identified as Phase 2 of the Outlet Project and has the necessary infrastructure to support the project. Beside the stand-alone appeal, the PADC should bring fresh energy to that area of Mt. Joy Township.

Given the potential benefit to both Adams County’s Agricultural & Tourism communities, at the Commissioners April 2 public meeting, the Board approved providing \$190,000 of dedicated pillow tax funds to support the scoping and land development of this site. The main goals of the PADC are to highlight Pennsylvania’s broad range of Agriculture, make the public aware of the many careers in agriculture, and to educate youth to the importance and scope of the industry. I have said many times that this is a big deal for Mt. Joy Township, Adams County and Pennsylvania!

As of 2023, over 7 million Vietnam Veterans live in the United States and abroad. Adams County is home to approximately 2600 Vietnam Veterans. It wasn’t until 2017 that The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act designated March 29TH as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Unlike other conflicts such as WWI, WWII, Korea, and the Gulf War, soldiers returning home from Vietnam, were sometimes greeted with anger or hostility and received a lack of recognition. On March 29 it was my pleasure to attend the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Program at the Gettysburg VFW. Among other recognition, Vietnam Veterans in attendance were presented Vietnam War Pins by retired Colonel Doug Mastriano. A selection of patriotic music was thoroughly

enjoyed by the attendees. The program concluded outside with a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.

We are proud to report that Adams County received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. As taken from the release: “It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff in meeting the highest principles of government budgeting. Budget documents must be rated proficient in all 4 categories, and in the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award.” Creating a superior budget is a Team Effort with many processes. A shout out to Department Directors, Department of Office and Budget, Treasurer, Controller and County Administration for their efforts to make and keep Adams County a fiscally superior County!

At the Destination Gettysburg Annual Meeting, Gettysburg artist Wendy Allen received the Jim Getty Award for her service, support and facilitation of the tourism industry in Adams County. Besides her art, Wendy is best known for her conception and administration of 100 Night Of Taps program, that takes place in the Soldiers National Cemetery each evening between Memorial and Labor Day. Buglers come from across the country to volunteer to have the honor of playing Taps in the National Cemetery. The playing of Taps in the cemetery is proceeded by a National Park Service Interpretative Program. According to GNMP Chief of Interpretation Chris Gwinn, 100 Night of Taps has been rated as the favorite program by visitors for the past 7 years. Wendy best described the experience

simply as “Good for the Soul.” There is no doubt it is a moving experience! Having received the award in 2023, I can attest that it is both a proud moment and humbling to receive this award.

Several new additions to Adams County local tourism industry were introduced at the meeting. Renovation and expansion of the Barn Resort, along with the acquisition of All Star Resort by the same owners promises to energize the Greenmount corridor. The site acquisition of property for the Pennsylvania AG Discovery Center is a hot off the press exciting new development. The renovation and revitalization of the historic train station on North Washington Street will bring excursion trains back to Adams County. Regular and theme runs will go 10 miles to Aspers, and charter runs can go 25-miles to Mt. Holly Springs. Five original Barnum & Bailey Circus cars from the 1950’s are being restored for service. Trains are expected to begin running late this summer.

It’s not just about the battle anymore! It is quite evident that tourism opportunities in Adams County are stimulating, varied and expanding continuously, enhanced by forward thinking businesses and collaboration with the folks at Destination Gettysburg!

Being just 1 of 67 counties in Pennsylvania, and recently receiving the Terry Barham Claims Experience Award for the lowest Workman’s Comp experience in the State, is quite an achievement that has multiple benefits. As the saying goes, “It takes a village”, or in this case folks from several departments within the County and a good claims staff at CCAP to manage the County’s Workers’ Comp claims. But in acknowl-

edging this award, we would be remiss if we did not recognize the time and effort that Human Resources puts into following up and managing each and every work injury experienced by County employees. They balance the best interests of the injured employee with the County’s need to return injured workers to productivity. Human Resources has a material impact on helping the County achieve the experience mod of 0.617 that resulted – illustrating once again that Adams County is not just #1 because our name starts

with an A! This is good news for County taxpayers!

Congratulation to Butler Township. I was pleased to attend their groundbreaking ceremony April 18 for their new complex just outside Biglerville. It was a 7-year process, but the project will soon come to fruition aided by state grants facilitated by Senator Doug Mastriano and Sate Representative Torren Ecker.

No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

# MAY EVENTS

## 2: BINGO & 15: BINGO

Thursday night Bingo ONLY. When players purchase their cards, we will give you a free three pack of hard cards and random two hard card games we pick. Winner get the bingo and chance to pick an envelope for a Extra chance to win additional money.

**Doors open @ 5:30 p.m.**  
Early Bird starts at 6:50 p.m.

### 9: Meat Raffle

\$15 per person. Ticket includes FREE meal.  
Doors open for meat raffle at 4:30 p.m.

### 18: Car Cruise

June 14: Outdoor Event *Tickets on sale now!*

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#### Stand-By Credit Line

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#### Long Term Care Protection

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#### Emergency Back-Up

Set up a credit line to use only as needed.

#### Tenure Payments

Tax-free lifetime income stream, thereby reducing the need to make withdrawals from tax portfolios. Consult a tax specialist.

#### HECM For Purchase

Use the HECM to purchase a new home ("right-size"), and invest the difference for retirement.

#### Divorce Settlement

Use the HECM to buy out a spouse's portion of the home without selling or withdrawing funds from portfolio.



# COMMENTARY

## Words from Winterbilt

### Change

Shannon Bohrer

Polling tells us we do not like change, yet change is constant. The changes we experience start early and continue for most of our lives. Many changes seem inconsequential, while others challenge us.

During our early years, we experience many changes that influence our development, often called our formative years. We meet new people attending school, youth clubs, and community events. The early experiences with family, neighbors, and friends do not seem like change, but more like education, socialization, and just growing up. They have the added benefit of introducing values and morals. Our early years become our foundation with experiences and define how we think, how we judge, and who we are. Thus, our early years are a foundation for how we see ourselves.

As we grow, our experiences allow us to learn and question things and events, some of which surprise us. We work and have careers, we develop relationships, most of us marry, and look to the future. We acquire things, books, tools, vehicles, and homes. While our early years revolve around our biological family, we create new families, with

in-laws and new friends. Our family and friends grow along with our responsibilities. All these experiences influence us and define how we see our world. And, if we like the world around us, change can be threatening. Of course, if our world is not pleasant or undesirable, we welcome change, at least we think we do.

Multiple events that challenged my generation occurred in the late 1960s. If you were around then, you witnessed protests to end the Vietnam War. Protesting is enshrined in the First Amendment; however, committing crimes while protesting is not a right. The protesting divided many and attached labels to the protesters, many of which still exist today. The protests influenced a generation, changing and sometimes challenging what they believed. Before the protests, our government seemed favorable, and since then, the favorable image has declined.

As we mature and develop, we encounter people, places, and events that often question what we know and believe to be normal. We meet other people who think differently, and we witness actions that do not seem logical from our perspective. Of course, anything that seems different from our early education and socialization could seem unexpected and strange. The other that is strange - is different. As society became more integrated

and diverse, we encountered a different world, or another view might be that our world changed. Many believed we were growing and developing, which was thought to be taking positive steps. Others felt we were moving in the wrong direction and resisted the changes.

As our surroundings changed, society became more divisive, experiencing more changes. The slow changes gradually divided many into camps: those that embraced the changes and those that rejected them. Of course, there are segments in the middle that see both sides. Today, we seem to be at the pinnacle of our differences. While we understand that change is inevitable, some things only seem real when one experiences them. It is like reading history, believing that what occurred in the past is in the past, and is not a predictor of the future. Yet, for many, the changes we are experiencing are not going forward but returning to previous times in history. And for many, the times we are returning to were not pleasant. We also seem to be moving at a fast pace.

When one encounters people and events that are unexpectedly unpleasant, it can challenge one's perspective of the world. Logic, which was thought to be universal in today's world, is often difficult to find, along with common sense. Change can seem unpleasant when our beliefs are challenged. Early, when we experience these changes, we might think

the changes are temporary and will eventually disappear. However, as time progresses, the changes that do not fit the models of our world are questioned. We ask ourselves, has our world always been like this? Did we have blinders on, or did the world change? When your firmly held beliefs are questioned, your thought process often works overtime. How did we get here, or have we always been here? Our self-image is who we think we are and how we view the world. For many, that self-image has been challenged.

As an older person, the world I lived in and knew for many years has evolved and challenged my thoughts. A younger person may observe the degree of change that I have witnessed with a different meaning. The longer one lives in what is considered to be a reasonable, stable, and logical environment, the harder it becomes to understand, to accept or not, and sometimes to believe the changes even occurred. One's mind goes back and forth, wondering how to make sense of what seems illogical. Were we always heading in this direction? When one believes in logic and common sense, and one's surroundings seem illogical and nonsensical, one starts questioning what one believes. Just as significant are your concerns about the future. Are the changes the first step in an unpleasant direction? We hear people say they want to return to normal. Could this be the new normal?

You cannot tell someone how to think or what to believe, especially if what they are told does not fit with their beliefs. We are humans, and humans have limits. To believe something that does not fit your beliefs, you must challenge what you already know, or think you know. That challenge can be difficult.

The single most important freedom one possesses is their thoughts, and our thoughts reflect our views of our world. When confronted with ideas or events that conflict with what one believes, it can be viewed as an affront to one's individual and personal freedom. Indeed, one's thoughts can be influenced by the words and actions of others, provided the words and actions are acceptable to one's beliefs. But what happens when they seem unacceptable?

Trust in our government is related to our unease about our future, and as mentioned earlier, that trust has been in decline for many years. The government is central to our lives and ensures our freedom. We all know that life is unfair, and many believe that in a democracy, it is the government's job to ensure fairness. History tells us that ensuring equity and fairness has not always occurred, but it was believed we were moving in the right direction. Has that changed?

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

## The Bulwark

### The American age is over

Jonathan Last

Fittingly, it was the Canadian prime minister, Mark Carney, who declared the official time of death:

"The global economy is fundamentally different today than it was yesterday. The system of global trade anchored on the United States, that Canada has relied on since the end of the Second World War—a system that, while not perfect, has helped to deliver prosperity for our country for decades—is over.

"Our old relationship of steadily deepening integration with the United States is over.

"The eighty-year period when the United States embraced the mantle of global economic leadership—when it forged alliances rooted in trust and mutual respect, and championed the free and open exchange of good and services—is over.

"While this is a tragedy, it is also the new reality."

And just like that, the age of American empire, the great Pax Americana, ended.

We cannot overstate what has just happened. It took just 71 days for Donald Trump to wreck the American economy, mortally wound NATO, and destroy the American-led world order. He did this with the enthusiastic support of the entire Republican party and conservative movement. He did it

with the support of a plurality of American voters.

He did not hide his intentions. He campaigned on them. He made them the central thrust of his election. He told Americans that he would betray our allies and give up our leadership position in the world.

Understand this: There is no going back.

If, tomorrow, Donald Trump revoked his entire regime of tariffs, it would not matter. It might temporarily delay some economic pain, but the rest of the world now understands that it must move forward without America.

If, tomorrow, Donald Trump abandoned his quest to annex Greenland and committed himself to the defense of Ukraine and the perpetuation of NATO, it would not matter. The free world now understands that its long-term security plans must be made with the understanding that America is a potential adversary, not an ally.

This realization may be painful for Americans. But we should know that the rest of the world understands us more clearly than we understand ourselves.

Vladimir Putin bet his life that American voters would be weak and decadent enough to return Donald Trump to the presidency. He was right.

Europeans are moving ahead with their own security plans because they realize, as a French minister put it, "We cannot leave the security of Europe in the hands of vot-

ers in Wisconsin every four years." He was right.

The Canadian prime minister declared the age of American leadership over. He was right. Instead of arguing with this reality, or denying it, we should face it.

It's bad enough being a failing empire. Let's not also be a delusional failing empire. Let's at least have some dignity about our situation. The world will move on without us.

Economically this means that international trade will reorganize without the United States as the central hub. Relationships will be forged without concern as to our preferences. The dollar may well be displaced as the world's reserve currency. American innovation will depart for other shores as the best and brightest choose to make their lives in countries where the rule of law is solid, secret police do not disappear people from the streets, and the government does not discourage research and make economic war on universities.

All of this will mean slower growth at home and declining economic mobility. The pie will shrink and people will become more desperate to hold on to their slices.

If you want a small preview, look at what has happened to the British economy since Brexit.

The drag we experience will be much greater, because we had much further to fall.

In the security space, Europe will organize apart from us. The Europeans will create a separate nuclear umbrella and will likely include Canada, Japan, and Australia in

their alliance. The "free world" as we have understood it for the entirety of our lifetimes will no longer include America.

As a result, America will either drift, or find itself becoming more closely allied with the world's authoritarians. We may become closer with Putin's Russia or Xi's China. We may find that we need them—Russia as a counterweight to democratic Europe and China as a source of cheap manufacturing to relieve some of the price pressure on American consumers.

The end of the American era doesn't mean everything will become chaos overnight. We aren't going to wake up tomorrow to the sound of the blaring war rig horn from Mad Max. We are still a rich country, with momentum carrying us forward. But in ways that will soon be perceptible and eventually be undeniable, things will get worse. And facts about America and the world that we have taken for granted since the end of the Second World War will no longer hold true.

On the day that Trump's tariffs collapsed America's position in the world, Secretary of State Marco Rubio went to Brussels to demand that NATO allies increase defense spending to 5 percent of their budgets.

But here is how utterly stupid and unserious our government is:

Europe is going to rearm. And they are going to do so by building up their internal defense industries so that they do not have to rely on America, which is in the process of threatening military action against a NATO member.

And the American response to

this has been to cry foul.

U.S. officials have told European allies they want them to keep buying American-made arms, amid recent moves by the European Union to limit U.S. manufacturers' participation in weapons tenders, five sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The messages delivered by Washington in recent weeks come as the EU takes steps to boost Europe's weapons industry, while potentially limiting purchases of certain types of U.S. arms.

Our government thinks it can simultaneously: 1) demand that Europe re-arm; 2) threaten our European allies with territorial annexation; and, 3) demand that Europe buy American weapons.

We have a deeply stupid government—from our economically illiterate president to our craven and foolish secretary of state, from the freelancing billionaire dilettante who is gutting American soft power to the vaccine-denying health secretary who is firing as much talent as he can. From the senior economics advisor who thinks comic books are good investments, to the senators who voted to confirm this cabinet of hacks, to the representatives who stumble over themselves justifying each new inane MAGA pronouncement.

But also, we have the government we deserve.

The American age is over. And it ended because the American people were no longer worthy of it.

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



# The Liberal Patriot

## The sociology of party decline

John Halpin

There are three primary ways people study the American electorate. The first, and most well-known, is demographic analysis. Arising mainly out of survey research, which provides comparative data trends going back many decades, demographic analysis examines voter behavior based on who people are—their gender, their race, their ethnicity, their age, their household income, their religion, their education level, etc. Demographic analysis tells us things like college-educated voters and women are increasingly voting Democratic while non-college voters and men are moving Republican.

The second approach is attitudinal analysis. This also emerges primarily from survey research but typically includes examination of views on a range of matters beyond politics. Attitudinal research looks at Americans based on their characteristics and what they believe—their views on the economy, the government, cultural and moral values, and a host of individual issues from immigration and crime to social programs and government spending to national security and foreign affairs. Related to this line of inquiry is psychographic analysis which looks at how lifestyle and shopping choices, interests, hobbies, media consumption, and personality traits might shape how people vote or behave in politics. This attitudinal work tells us things like those who were strongly concerned about the cost of

living, illegal immigration, and crime in 2024 voted heavily for Trump while those mainly concerned about democracy, abortion, and climate change voted for Harris. It also serves as the basis for numerous political stereotypes that crop up every election cycle (often annoyingly) such as “Subaru-driving liberals” and “truck-driving conservatives”; “Whole Foods” and “Cracker Barrel” counties; or “Fox News” and “MSNBC” voters.

The third main approach to studying politics is geographic analysis. This usually involves examinations of voting patterns and trends based on where people live—their region, their state, their city or town, their Census tract, their specific neighborhood. This type of work produces common political concepts such as “blue states” and “red states,” “purple” suburbs and exurban areas, and “place-based” patterns in voting and politics based on the relative wealth, inequality, natural resources, and economic growth potential in different areas. Geographic analysis provides us with familiar patterns such as the partisan divide between urban and rural voters or emerging trends such as Republican strength in the Sun Belt states and Democratic strength on the coasts. It also yields insights into notable new trends such as Trump making inroads in some big cities and traditionally “blue” geographic areas and Democratic-leaning states losing electoral power due to population loss to Republican-leaning states.

A fourth, and unfortunately more overlooked, approach to politics is occupational analysis. This research examines political patterns based on

what people do for a living—the types of jobs people have, what fields they work in, their specific positions within industries, blue collar/white collar distinctions, and manual labor versus knowledge economy work. Occupational status is a demographic trait but it’s distinct and cross-cutting in many ways in that people of different individual characteristics such as race and gender can work in the same jobs or fields. Similarly, work often overlaps with other demographic and geographic categories—think of some jobs being traditionally gender-based (such as teaching and child care for women or law enforcement and construction for men) or geographically concentrated (such as the oil and gas industry in Texas and Wyoming or the technology sector in California and Massachusetts).

Occupational analysis is interesting mainly because it provides unique information about the political socialization and identity formation of voters based on how their employment structures their worldview and positions. What we do, how we work, who we work with, and how our work relates to other jobs in different fields all shape individual perspectives about issues including the national economy; wages, salaries, and benefits; private and public sector power; government investments; social programs; labor unions; regulation; trade; budget deficits; roads and public transportation; and business development. Work life, as much as other family and personal backgrounds, also shapes people’s views through social and professional networks that inculcate particular norms, interests, and values that often line up with partisan politics.

Occupational analysis is highly

relevant to Democrats trying to understand their current electoral predicament—specifically, why the traditional working-class party of FDR continues to hemorrhage these voters all across the country.

If you think about sociological base of the Democratic Party today—the combination of demographic, geographic, and occupational backgrounds of the institutional leaders, donors, base voters, and activists that make up the party—it’s stocked mainly with college-educated people from big cities and coastal states who work in non-profit organizations, universities, “knowledge economy” jobs, the media and entertainment, public sector unions, some parts of big tech, and in traditional professions such as the law.

The Republican Party is mostly a mirror image of Democrats —much more working-class demographically, geographically, and occupationally.

The two party’s sociological differences match up pretty well with voting patterns. For example, 2024 analysis from the Economic Innovation Group/Echelon Insights shows Harris voters in the workforce were more female, college-educated, urban, and white collar while Trump voters were more male, non-college educated, small town/rural, and blue collar in background.

You can see the problem for Democrats. Their party clearly is not run mainly by or for people without four-year degrees, who live outside major urban centers, and who are employed in more traditional working-class jobs, the military, or small business professions. Since working-class voters (defined as non-college) still comprise the bulk of the U.S. electorate—58

percent of 2024 voters were non-college educated compared to 42 percent with a four-year degree or higher—and even greater numbers in critical swing states and Senate races, Democrats will be at a perpetual disadvantage in future national elections if they do not drastically alter the sociological base of the party.

Compounding their difficulties, the party’s sociological structure determines many of the attitudinal and issue concerns that occupy the minds of Democratic elected officials, their staff members, and their campaigns. Increasingly, these preoccupations include many progressive cultural values and out-of-the mainstream views about race, gender, immigration, crime, climate change, and government spending that are anathema to working-class voters, as documented extensively in TLP over the years.

If Democrats want to reach more working-class voters in upcoming elections they need to be clear-eyed about the sociological challenge facing the party. Democrats can’t fix a working-class problem by employing more college-educated lawyers and knowledge-class professionals to do “worker-focused” message testing and media outreach. Same with “populist” bashing of corporations and the rich carried out mainly by disgruntled liberal arts grads and urban socialists. It’s transparently inauthentic and won’t work.

If Democrats really want to reach more working-class voters they first need to be present where these voters live, and then recruit more candidates and leaders from these communities and work backgrounds. It’s that simple.

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

# Good Day Neighbor

## They take what we build

Dorothea Mordan

Inoculation against disease came into public use in the American colonies in 1721. African slaves introduced “Variolation” into America. The technique was used to inoculate against smallpox. A small amount of dried smallpox scabs was inserted under the skin. In Massachusetts, Cotton Mather learned about the practice from his slave, Onesimus. Mather is credited with introducing the technique during a smallpox epidemic in Boston in 1721. Colonists in America continued to test this inoculation process, but many were skeptical. One resistant colonial citizen was Benjamin Franklin. When his son Francis “Franky” Franklin was eligible to get inoculated, Franklin and his wife, Deborah, resisted. Franky was four years old when he died from smallpox, devastating the Franklins. Ben Franklin took up the cause of understanding as much as he could about inoculation against disease. This is the way he treated all the subjects in his life. He found out as much as he could, he studied, he tested, and then he spoke

widely about his experience. He became an advocate for inoculation against disease.

From Ben Franklin’s autobiography:

“In 1736 I lost one of my sons, a fine boy of four years old, by the smallpox taken in the common way. I long regretted bitterly and still regret that I had not given it to him by inoculation. This I mention for the sake of the parents who omit that operation, on the supposition that they should never forgive themselves if a child died under it; my example showing that the regret may be the same either way, and that, therefore, the safer should be chosen.”

Many people living in the 18th century resisted vaccinations of any sort as they were becoming more widely used. Resistance to vaccines had an audience up to and through the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919.

In the three hundred or so years of Western Medicine experience with vaccines, death from serious disease was more common than it needed to be as public opinion turned toward understanding herd immunity through vaccinating the majority of the population.

Take measles as an example. The peer-reviewed medical jour-

nal published by the American Medical Association (JAMA) has a table on their website citing annual averages for measles cases before and after vaccines were administered to the public. For the years 1953 to 1962 the average per year was 530,217 cases. The peak in 1958 was 763,094 cases. The death rate average for those years was 440 people dying of measles. The most recent post vaccine data reported in this table is for 2006 when there were 55 cases in one year and zero deaths reported in 2004.

As inoculations became available for smallpox and other diseases, it took time for the general public to become comfortable with them. Will the use of a small amount of disease cause it to spread through the population? Could it cause other conditions? Today that refers most often to Autism.

How vaccines work: they give a person a small dose of the disease as dead cells which triggers their body’s immune system to make immunoglobulins to fight the real disease. If that were to cause any other condition, such as Autism, then measles itself would have caused Autism for centuries. Autism is related to neurology—our brain function. There is nothing in a vaccine that interacts with our neurology.

Our parents, grandparents, Onesimus the enslaved African who shared knowledge, and all those who came before, built this health system for us and our kids. We built a network of expertise and patriotism that has given us many healthcare innovations.

The Trump administration is freezing funding and disappearing data from federal websites.

They are taking what we built for our kids.

Special needs politics. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. says the cause of Autism will be found by September 2025, and that autistic people do not lead meaningful lives. Does he want to help them or disappear them? As a grandparent of a autistic person, I am confident that all parents ask the question “What will they do when I am gone.” The next question is “What the hell is Robert F. Kennedy Jr. talking about?”. Autistic people, and anyone who fits the role of “different” are inconveniences to be monitored, managed, and ultimately disappeared.

The Administrations’s Education Department collaborators are defunding and dismantling support for public education. This includes support and advice for Special Education. There are parents everywhere with special-needs kids who have IEPs or some other way of describing support. We

have a federal government that is good for organizing this information for our entire country—if we can keep it.

Infrastructure is being dismantled at every level, including language. It’s all about disappearing anyone and anything that are inconvenient. This administration is more concerned with taking our words from us. Words out of favor—inclusion, woman, equity—traded for other words—fear, deals.

The point to shutting down government offices is not to save money. It’s to remove the pieces of infrastructure so that the services we once had will be privatized. The people in power in this administration are showing their goal is to be able to tell people exactly when they can get help, or if they can get help at all.

The pieces of government are what We the People built for our towns, counties, states, to give anyone in the country a better quality of life. These pieces make it possible to follow through on our Founding Principle of the Right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

They are taking what we built for our kids.

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



# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## The spirit in which it is given

Pastor Jay Petrella  
Graceham Moravian Church

A few weeks ago, I was rereading a non-canonical text from the early church period called The Shepherd of Hermas. It's named that because an angel, appearing in the form of a shepherd, visits a man named Hermas and delivers teachings and commands from God meant for him. This book seems to have been fairly popular somewhere around the late first century and into the fourth century. There's even record of some early church leaders and theologians advocating for its inclusion in the Bible, though it ultimately didn't make the cut—for reasons I don't need to get into here. But just because it doesn't rise to the level of sacred scripture doesn't mean it lacks insight or depth. Sometimes non-canonical works

can give us a window into how early Christians understood their faith, the nature of God, and what it meant to live a faithful life. Sometimes, their perspective on things still rings true today and is therefore worthy of our reflection in these our modern times. Case in point. There is a section of text that talks about how God has placed within us a spirit of truth. The writer argues this spirit of truth is on loan to us from God. Because it is on loan we need to treat it as respectfully as one might treat anyone else's property. Even more so because this is God's property. Therefore, the angelic shepherd teaches that we (Hermas) need to go to great lengths to not pollute that spirit of truth with lies and other falsehoods. We must keep it as pure as when it was first given to us. Otherwise, when we enter the throne room

of Heaven at the end of our lives and return to God that spirit of truth that was on loan to us, we'll be handing over a broken, abused spirit of truth, now polluted by our lies and misuse of it. The text of course urges Hermas to avoid that scenario entirely. Because we possess the spirit of truth we ought to commit ourselves to speaking the truth in small things, and great, out of respect for God and the truth entrusted to us. The text then builds on this theme of Divine loans and the proper stewardship of all God has given to us. The Shepherd argues all we possess in fact has been given to us by God. And God has given us all that we possess not for the purposes of enriching ourselves personally but as a means to do God's work here on earth. If that sounds familiar it means you were paying attention last month as Paul talked about how Jesus was God but did not consider it a means to enrich himself. Instead Jesus took the form of a servant and used his godliness to teach, heal, help, feed and save all of us. As Jesus' disciples we are called to live by the same standard. So God gives us a spirit of truth so that we can know the truth and speak the truth. But if we use that spirit of truth to work against the truth, or just outright disregard the truth, that is a corruption of God's original gift to us. The same idea applies to all God has given to us. Let's say you have a car for instance. One can extrapolate from the Shepherd of Hermas, that God has given you a car along with the means to pay for it and operate it. Not for the purpose of your own enjoyment



because you're such a great person. It is on loan from God as a tool to be used to be a blessing to others. Perhaps to help see to it someone can get to work who doesn't have a reliable means of transportation. Or to help them get to the doctor's office, or the grocery store, or the bank. It's kind of like being given a company car. It's not technically yours. You are loaned a company car to enable you to do company work more quickly and efficiently. But if you take the the company car on cross country road trips with your family, to the drag strip on weekends, and affix a tow hitch to haul your junk and yard waste to the dump on your days off, you're probably not going to have the company car for very long, or a job for that matter. According to the Shepherd of Hermas, if God has given you money, that money is not intended to be hoarded like a dragon on a pile of gold. The money is merely a tool entrusted to you, God's faithful servant, to be used for the building of God's

kingdom, sharing the gospel and helping the poor. If we take seriously what the Bible says about being ambassadors for Christ, about the greatest commandments being to love God and love others, about humanity bearing the image of a gracious, loving, kind, forgiving, and selfless God—then we can reasonably argue that our possessions, wealth, experiences, and circumstances have been loaned to us for the express purpose of loving God and each other. For those who follow the church calendar, we are now beyond the season of Lent. Still, it's always good to reflect throughout the year on our choices. Lent may be over, but the call to examine ourselves never really ends. The questions remain: What have we done with the time God has given us? What have we done with the wealth God has entrusted to us? What have we done with the opportunities—both welcomed and unwanted—that have come our way? What have we done with the trials and temptations that have tested us? Do we live in harmony with creation as Adam and Eve initially did back in the Garden, or do we loot and pillage creation for all it's worth for our own personal gain and comfort? Have we been faithful stewards of these and other divine loans? So again, the Shepherd of Hermas is not a text from our scriptures. In part I think that's because it has an air of gnosticism about it. But it is nevertheless a text that many of our forebears in the faith nearly two thousand years ago would have read. And like them, we even in our modern age might benefit from reflecting upon this particular lesson. All we have is given to us from God. So the question is, what will we do with the wealth, power, and the time that is given to us? Will we use it to enrich ourselves and disregard/harm others or will we use God's blessings for God's purposes? To welcome, to heal, to forgive and love? To learn more about Graceham Moravian Church visit them online at [www.gracehammoravian.org](http://www.gracehammoravian.org) or better yet, join them for Sunday service.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

The last of the Alchemists



On the 6th of May 1782, a remarkable series of experiments was commenced, in his private laboratory at Guildford, by James Price, a distinguished amateur chemist, and Fellow of the Royal Society. Mr. Price, during the preceding year, imagined he had succeeded in compounding a powder, capable, under certain circumstances, of converting mercury and other inferior metals into gold and silver. He hesitated before making public this extraordinary discovery; but having communicated it to a few friends, and the matter becoming a subject of doubtful discussion among chemists, he determined to put it beyond cavil, by conducting a series of experiments in presence of a select assemblage of men of rank, science, and public character.

The experiments, seven in number, commenced, as already observed, on the 6th of May, and ended on the twenty-fifth of the same month. They were witnessed by peers, baronets, clergymen, lawyers, and chemists, and in

all of them gold and silver, in greater or less quantities, were apparently produced from mercury: to use the language of the alchemists, mercury was transmuted into gold and silver. Some of the gold thus produced was presented to the reigning monarch, George III, who received it with gracious condescension. The University of Oxford, where Price had been a fellow-commoner of Oriel College, bestowed on him the degree of M.D.; and his work, containing an account of the experiments, ran through two editions in the course of a few months.

The more sanguine and less scientific of the community saw in this work the approach of an era of prosperity for England such as the world had never previously witnessed. Who could doubt it? Had not the king honoured, and Oxford rewarded, the fortunate discoverer? Some, on the other hand, asserted that Price was merely a clever juggler; while others attempted to show in what manner he had deceived himself. On some points, however, there could be no differ-

ence of opinion. Unlike many professors of alchemy, Price was not a needy, nameless adventurer, but a man of wealth, family, and corresponding position in society. As a scientific man, he had already distinguished himself in chemistry, the study of which he pursued from a pure love of science; and in private life his amiability of character had insured many worthy and influential friends.

In the fierce paper conflict that ensued on the publication of the experiments, the Royal Society felt bound to interfere; and, accordingly, called upon Price, as a fellow of the society, to prove, to the satisfaction of his brother fellows, the truth of his alleged transmutations, by repeating his experiments in their presence. From this point Price seems to have lost confidence, and decided symptoms of equivocation and evasion appear in his conduct. He declined to repeat his experiments, on the grounds that the process of preparing the powder of projection was difficult, tedious, and injurious to health. Moreover, that the result of the experiments, though most valuable as a scientific fact, was not of the profitable character he at first believed and the public still supposed; the cost of making gold in this manner being equal to, in some instances more than, the value of the gold obtained; so much so, indeed, that, by one experiment, it cost about seventeen pounds sterling to make only one ounce of gold, which, in itself, was not of the value of four pounds.

These excuses were taken for what they were worth; Sir Joseph Banks, the president of the society, reminding Price that not only his own honour, but the honour of the first scientific body in the world, was implicated in the affair. Price

replied that the experiments had already been conducted in the presence of honourable and competent witnesses, and no advantage whatever could be gained by repeating them.

Further, he adduced his case as an example of the evil treatment that has ever been the reward of great discoverers; and concluded by asserting that his wealth, position in society, and reputation as a scientific chemist, ought, in unenvious and unprejudiced minds, to free him from the slightest suspicion of deceit. To Price's friends this line of conduct was painfully distressing. Yielding at last to their urgent entreaties, he consented to make some more powder of projection, and satisfy the Royal Society. For this purpose, as he stated, he left London, in January 1783, for his laboratory at Guildford, faithfully promising to return in a month, and confound, as well as convince, all his opponents.

Arriving at Guildford, Price shut himself up in his laboratory, where he made it his first employment to distil a quantity of laurel-water, the quickest and deadliest poison then known. He next wrote his will, commencing thus—'Believing that I am on the point of departing from this world.' After these ominous preliminaries, he commenced the preparation of his promised powder of projection.

One, two, three—six months passed, but nothing being heard of Price, even his most attached friends reluctantly confessed he had deceived them, when, to

the surprise of every one, he reappeared in London, and formally invited as many members of the Royal Society as could make it convenient to attend, to meet him in his laboratory at Guildford on the 3rd of August. Although, scarcely a year previous, the first men in England were contending for the honour of witnessing the great chemist's marvellous experiments, such was the change in public estimation caused by his equivocal conduct, that, on the appointed day, three members only of the Royal Society arrived at the laboratory, in acceptance of his invitation. Price received them with cordiality, though he seemed to feel acutely the want of confidence implied by their being so few.

Stepping to one side for a moment, he hastily swallowed the contents of a flask of laurel-water. The visitors seeing a sudden change in his appearance, though then ignorant of the cause, called for medical assistance; but in a few moments the unfortunate man was dead. Many and various were the speculations hazarded on this strange affair. It is most probable that Price had in the first instance deceived himself, and then, by a natural sequence, attempted either wilfully or in ignorance to deceive others, and, subsequently discovering his error, had not the moral courage to confess openly and boldly that he had been mistaken.

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

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ECOLOGY

Beyond spiders: other silk insects

Anne Gageby  
Director of Environmental Education  
Strawberry Hill Foundation

Spider silk is one of the most miraculous substances in the world. It has high tensile strength and extensibility which means it can withstand an immense amount of strain before breaking. Pound for pound, spider silk is stronger than steel. It can withstand temperature extremes down to -40 degrees Fahrenheit all the way up to 428 degrees Fahrenheit. Even more fascinating are its uses. Spider silk is used in mating rituals and can be used to transmit pheromones. It can be spun into an air-tight diving bell and, depending on the spider, can be used as a food source. It's an incredibly unique substance in nature. Or is it?

Actually, no. The ability to produce silk isn't uncommon. The ability to make silk occurs in most insect orders. The larvae of many insects that go through complete metamorphosis often make silk. This includes bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, and many more. And it doesn't stop there. Some animals have adapted the same ability.

Spider mites, for example, produce webs used for transportation between plants. Their silk is especially fascinating in that it's known as the thinnest natural silk fiber produced by silk spinning arthropods. That's a blessing for them as spider mites can avoid detection until it's too late and they've colonized an area, but a major problem for gar-

deners for the very same reason. And spider mites aren't the only creature in a garden spinning webs. Even the often-pesky symphylans, sometimes called garden centipedes, use their silk to build nests and for defense.

Honeybee larvae use silk to reinforce the wax cells in which they grow. Bumblebee larvae spin cocoons within their wax hives and they save the cocoons for later pollen and honey storage. Similarly, oriental hornet eggs begin to secrete silk when they hatch. They weave this silk into caps at the open end of their comb which protects them from the outside. Their pupae continue to spin silk and eventually form a layer within the comb. This silk layer is quite remarkable because it protects the pupae from predators and acts as a thermoregulator. Oriental hornet silk stores electrical charge during the day and releases the heat at night as temperatures fall. This keeps the pupae comfortable with a well-regulated temperature as it develops.

One of our most popular programs at Strawberry Hill is Aquatic Communities. In this program we teach kids of all ages about aquatic macroinvertebrates such as water skippers, water pennies, and gilled snails. We also dive into the world of aquatic insects since many of the insects kids interact with spend their early lives in water. Damselflies, dragonflies, mayflies, etc. all begin as aquatic insects. But the one that piques kids' interest is the caddisfly.

Caddisflies use silk to make a wide array of aquatic structures from stationary walls to mobile cases. The



Caddisflies use silk to make a wide array of aquatic structures from stationary walls to mobile cases.

suborder Annulipalpia builds underwater structures between rocks and debris using their silk. These structures become retreats which afford them protection from predators while also providing a medium for collecting food. And they help channel oxygenated water over caddisfly gills thereby boosting the insects' ability to absorb the critical gas. This is an incredibly significant adaptation for species adapted to living in lower oxygen environments.

Some species use their silk for other critically important uses. The larvae of the suborder Integripalpia build tiny portable cases that can be found clinging to the undersides of rocks. These cases give the larvae a protective shell that performs double duty as both camouflage and a physical barrier against predators. The cases are constructed of woven silk topped with tiny rock fragments, shells, leaf litter, and anything else the caddisfly can find. Their cases look like teeny tiny, decorated cones that are mobile.

One child commented recently that they reminded her of Tamatoa, the crab from Disney's Moana. That was a fair assessment, in my opinion. Caddisflies aren't gathering gemstones or collection ancient artifacts

for the pageantry, but they are definitely building something beautiful. Interestingly, caddisfly casing jewelry is apparently a thing. Jewelry makers sometimes raise caddisflies and provide crushed gemstones and jewels for the caddisflies to use as building materials. When the caddisflies grow and move on, their glittering cases are abandoned and repurposed into earrings, necklaces, and so on.

All of the drama and sparkle aside, none of this would be possible without that fundamental building block, silk. Caddisfly silk is particularly unique in the world of arthropods due to its ability to remain sticky underwater. Caddisflies are related to Lepidoptera, the order that includes butterflies and moths and yet both of those insects produce dry silk. Silk is produced by a few other aquatic insects, but most silk-producers are terrestrial, so their silk does best outside of water. But not caddisflies' silk. Theirs are designed to be sticky while entirely submerged. This has led some researchers to study caddisfly silk for its potential biomedical applications.

This can be confusing, however, because the word 'silk' is broadly applied to a variety of substances with vastly different chemical makeup.

For example, fan mussels use a byssus, a bundle of filaments with silk-like threads to attach themselves to rocks under the sea. The byssus isn't made of the same material as spider silk though it has similar properties. Carp use fibroin, a protein found in silkworm silk, to attach their egg clutches to rocks. Spider silk contains spidroin proteins, not fibroin. So, while they have similar properties and are used in similar ways, all silks are not the same.

No matter the uses or properties of silk the practicality of it is rather remarkable. Being able to produce the main component for housing material as well as food collection and storage would be amazing. Even better when that material can then be consumed as a source of nutrition after being used. It's a wonderful adaptation that demonstrates nature's creativity. And it's not limited to spiders. Next time you're outside and you find a caddisfly, a bumblebee, or even a garden centipede, take a second to appreciate the hard work they've already put in to make it this far. And give thanks to that miraculous material, silk.

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



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IN THE COUNTRY

Flying high - America's eagle

Tim Iverson  
Naturalist

Our nations bird, the Bald Eagle, sometimes called the American Eagle, has a storied past. They're the comeback kid. They were as abundant as the stars in the night sky at one time. In the mid 20th century they faced near extinction, but through effective management techniques, habitat restoration, and protection have rebounded back to a healthy and stable population with ever increasing numbers. They can be seen locally in the wild and up close and personal at local zoos and aviaries. Historically people have been part of the problem, but today are an integral part of the solution.

Bald Eagles are known for their distinctive white heads, white tails, golden yellow beaks, and dark blackish brown bodies. Before reaching maturity their bodies, including heads and tails, are predominantly a mottled brown with white streaky speckles. Around four to five years of age they will develop their characteristic feathering. Life span for a wild bald eagle can be as long as 20 years old, but in captivity have been known to live up to 40 and older!

Bald Eagles are only found in North America, which is why they're often called The American Eagle. Typically, they are found in wooded areas near bodies of water. Eagles are known to migrate too. Eagles that reside within the central part of the United States and Canada occasionally move to a seacoast during colder winter months. Usually their nests are located adjacent rivers, lakes, bays, reservoirs, and marshes because eagles prefer to eat fish. Like other birds of prey, Eagles have strong feet with talons they use to capture prey. Their hooked beak works like a fork and knife, and they use it to tear apart their meal into smaller bite sized pieces. Their vision is excellent and with their frontal facing eyes have great binocular and peripheral vision, which makes them pretty fearsome predators.

When you're the king of the skies you take what you want. Eagles notoriously rob other raptors of kills, and either eat the find themselves or return to their nest to feed their young. Benjamin Franklin was displeased when the eagle was elected to become our symbol. He commented, "For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labor of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish...the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him... Besides he is a rank Coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the District. He is therefore by no means a proper Emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our Country."

Eagles aren't totally devoid of morals. Once they reach maturity and select a mate, they will remain together for life. Courtship displays involve some serious high flying acrobatics. They will loop, swoop, and cartwheel around with each other. They'll ascend to blistering heights, lock talons, and free fall through the air separating just before hitting the ground. They will produce one to three eggs in a given year, generally laying them towards the end of February. Eggs will hatch sometime between mid-April to early May. The eaglets will begin to fly in July, and leave the nest between August and September.

Their lives haven't always been easy ones. Population numbers dramatically declined in the mid 20th century, from a combination of factors. One leading cause was the widespread use of the pesticide DDT. DDT didn't necessarily harm healthy adult birds, but rather their ability to reproduce or produce healthy offspring. DDT occasionally made eagles sterile, but usually affected

calcium production creating weak egg shells that failed to protect the eaglets within. It is estimated that in the 18th century populations were between 25,000 - 75,000 pairs, then approximately 10,000 paris in the 1950's, and endangered levels of just 412 by the early 1960's.

Through effective management techniques, habitat restoration, and the banning of DDT eagle populations have rebounded significantly. According the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service populations are estimated at 10,000 pairs in the 48 contiguous states, as of 2006. In 2007, they were removed from the federal endangered species list, and in 2010 Maryland followed suit and removed them from the separate Maryland Endangered and Threatened list. In 1977 there were only 44 nesting pairs within Maryland. As of 2004 there were at least 390 pairs, and today there is at least one nesting pair in every county.

Some eagles still face challenges. Cunningham Falls State Park recently acquired a non-releasable eagle that will make its official public debut in May. A call was referred to the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service in southern Maryland about a bald eagle seen on the ground. The bird was picked up by one of their technicians and taken to a highly reputable vet, Dr. Gold of Chadwell Animal Hospital. This eagle was found to have a broken right wing, is partially blind due to a laceration on its eye, and brain damage. This male eagle was also underweight and malnourished, as it had likely been scavenging on the ground for some time. Due to these factors it can never survive on its own in the wild again.

The Scales & Tales program offered by the Maryland Park Service will give him the best possible quality of life and use him to share conservation messages to help people protect wildlife and wildlands. His atypical gentle spirit and calm demeanor makes him a great program bird, and will continue to inspire Marylanders to make a lasting impression. Aviary visitation hours will reopen in May, and are 8am to sunset. It is recommended to call the visitor center at 301-271-3676 prior to visiting to ensure the



Bald Eagles were listed as endangered in 43 of the lower 48 states from 1967 until 1995. They were listed as threatened in all lower 48 states from 1995 until 2007. While their numbers have recovered, they are still protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

aviary will be open. Symbolic animal adoptions are also available. Funds generated through this program go directly to the care, rehabilitation, and enrichment program for the Scales & Tales animals.

Bald Eagles, locally and nationally, have faced a tumultuous past. They have come back leaps and bounds from their precarious situation of the 1960's. Raptors and other birds of prey are often attracted to road sides due to increased litter which attracts prey species scavenging for a meal. Motorist are encouraged to hang onto trash, including biodegradable things like apple cores and banana peels, until they can prop-

erly dispose of them to help reduce and prevent future injuries to hawks, eagles, owls, and all wildlife. While the Maryland Park Service offers this incredible program to Marylanders they prefer to let wildlife be wild, and don't have the capacity or ability to care for all animals that suffer this fate. You can be of most help to these birds and other wildlife by taking trash with you, animal adoptions and donations, or donating your time by volunteering at an aviary or park near you.

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



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SCIENCE MATTERS

The story of John Snow and the pump handle

Boyce Rensberger

In August and September of 1854, the Soho neighborhood of London was experiencing a horrible outbreak of cholera. It's a debilitating, diarrheal disease that can kill within days if left untreated.

Cholera, rarely seen in the developed world these days, has ravaged cities for thousands of years. Epidemics were often blamed on bad air, called miasma, that anyone might inhale. In the mid-1800s, cholera killed tens of thousands of Britons every year. In the United States, cholera killed thousands each year during the same decades.

In 1854 London a local doctor named John Snow (no relation to the character in "Game of Thrones") was skeptical of the prevailing miasma explanation. He thought it could be bad water instead.

Snow had grown up poor in York and witnessed a local river contaminated by sewage carrying human waste. As a teenager he was apprenticed to a "surgeon-apothecary" for six years. Snow resolved to become a doctor and graduated from the University of London in 1844. He quickly gained a reputation as an excellent physician specializing in anesthesia for the surgery that was becoming more commonplace. He was appointed personal anesthetist to Queen Victoria, giving her chloroform during the births of her last two children.

But during that late summer in 1854, Snow turned his attention to the growing cholera outbreak in London. In one week of September, it killed some 600 people in a fairly small part of the city. Something about the deaths caught Snow's attention. Many of

them were concentrated in one part of Soho.

Snow got the idea of plotting their locations on a map. Then he noticed that near the center of the victims' homes was the Broad Street water pump where most people got their water. This, of course, was in the days before ordinary homes had running water.

On a hunch, Snow had the pump handle removed, forcing people to go farther, to other waterworks. Within days, cholera deaths dropped almost to zero. Buttressing Snow's blame of dirty water was his observation that some nearby neighbors were untouched by cholera. They were workers at a brewery and a poor-house, both of which had their own wells and did not use the public water supply.

John Snow had discovered a natural experiment that included an experimental group (those using the Broad Street pump) and a control group (those using their own wells). Snow didn't discover what it was in the water, but his observations and his reasoning made a strong case for cholera being caused by a contaminant in drinking water.

Soon after Snow's discovery physicians and political leaders began to think that other diseases might be caused by something in the environment that afflicts whole groups of people. And they thought those diseases might be alleviated by studying not just individual victims but the conditions that surround them. The study of such matters came to be called public health,

Benjamin Disraeli, who would later become prime minister, along with other members of Parliament, created the Thames Authority. That river was the

source of most of London's water, some pumps pulling water from within the city and others tapping farther upstream where the water was likely to be cleaner. Parliament passed legislation forcing the overhaul of the city's water and sewage systems. Soon after that, there were no significant cholera outbreaks.

Two years after the pump handle incident, Britons established what is now called the Royal Society for Public Health.

The episode of John Snow and the pump handle is widely regarded as the genesis of a new field of science called epidemiology—literally the science that studies epidemics. I would guess that every trained epidemiologist in the world knows the story. (I'll tell you why I think that in a minute.) Snow also established the basic methodology used by modern public health workers to investigate infectious disease outbreaks. His work helped confirm the validity of Germ Theory, which was still controversial in his day.

Today there are several statues and monuments around Britain dedicated to John Snow. A memorial pump with no handle stands near the site of the original.

Less celebrated in the annals of public health is another Englishman, Edwin Chadwick. A lawyer and head of the Poor Law Commission, his studies of how the poor lived—linking short life expectancies to squalid environmental conditions—launched what came to be called the "sanitary movement."

In the United States that movement eventually led the federal government to create what would eventually be called the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, known as the CDC. The



The official logo of the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service, invoking the concept of shoe-leather detective service.

agency's first mission in 1946 was to keep malaria from spreading across the country. Yes, we used to have malaria here, mainly in the deep south. That's why the CDC was stationed in Atlanta. If you don't worry about catching malaria when you go to Florida or New Orleans, you can thank the CDC.

Over the ensuing decades it has become the most celebrated institution of public health in the U.S. and, arguably, worldwide. CDC is our leading public health protector against measles, E. coli, polio, smallpox, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, SARS, Zika, pandemic influenza, and COVID-19 among many other diseases—including cholera, which still strikes in some parts of the world.

For nearly 80 years the CDC's "disease detectives"—epidemiologists, infectious disease specialists, and other experts—have been patrolling the country to catch disease outbreaks before they spread too far. And they have been scouring the world to spot and control outbreaks before they can reach our shores.

Not only have CDC employees been doing these things, but they have also been training others—70 to 80 each year, selected from more than 400 applicants—

in the best methods for doing these things. State health departments send people for training. Other countries send their top health workers. They spend one month at the headquarters in Atlanta and the next 23 months interning with trained disease detectives around the country or in their home country.

Graduates join CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service, part of a global network of EIS Officers who work collaboratively to keep their respective publics safe and healthy.

So, it is more than saddening to see an ignorant president allow a deluded secretary of health and human services to tear down the CDC. Some 1,300 CDC employees have been fired in recent weeks, including all 50 of the newest class of EIS Officers in their first year of internship plus some in their second years. More than saddening.

Boyce Rensberger retired to Frederick County after some 40 years as a science writer and editor, primarily at The Washington Post and The New York Times. He welcomes feedback at boycerensberger@gmail.com.

To read other articles by Boyce Rensberger, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Well hell

Jack Deatherage

I'm pondering the laughing gods. The date is April 22, Earth Day. A day of no significance to me other than being the day I wanted to have the Cedar Avenue Community Garden ready for the town. What the rest of humanity does today doesn't even register on my "who gives a rat's..." meter. As I have the previous two Earth Day I wandered over to Harbaugh Valley for some cabbage, broccoli, spinach and pansy transplants. Those years the town and librarians had events planned and I was in the garden ready with trowels, seedlings and seeds for the kidlets to plant.

This year neither the town nor library planned events due to the Easter break and people being elsewhere. I'm alone in the garden when I plant the flowers and veggies. Of course, the gods are laughing as I scramble madly about trying to meet another garden deadline- the week of May 12th's ribbon cutting ceremony. A ceremony I'm even less interested in than I am Earth Day. Though I will be on hand to plant seeds in the minds of those elected and anointed who can make the garden I envision a reality.

We have three weeks to tear apart and rearrange the library section of the garden. During that time we'll also use a rear-tine rototiller, last item on our "wants" list to be purchased with the Sustainable Maryland's garden grant money, to till three large in-ground beds between the original garden and the latest raised beds edition. If the soil proves to be unworkable with the new tiller, we'll use the 50 years old one to spot till that area and cover the untilled spaces with thick layers of straw.

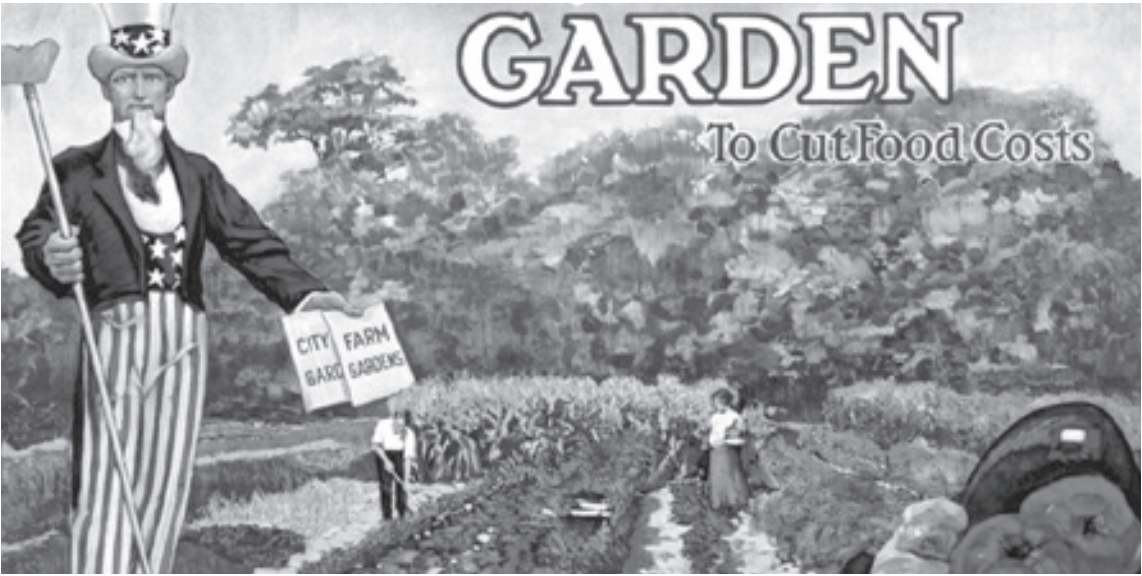
Given I'm not a gardener and I'm stupid enough to think I can adapt and overcome any problems that turn up- that space will be planted this season! First Sister's little pumpkin patch was planted last year in fabric growbags set on a thick layer of straw covering undisturbed sod. I ate my fill of roasted, 'Small Pie' pumpkin and seeds from those few bags the pumpkins grew in!

One of the large beds will be planted with- "The 'Nanticoke' winter squash is just plain incredible. It must be grown, seen, and tasted, to be believed. It is an unimproved landrace from the Nanticoke (or Kuskarawaok) people, one of the southernmost peoples in the Algonquin language family, who historically lived in southern Delaware and on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake in Maryland. Today, Nanticoke people live primarily in Delaware and southern New Jersey (where they have merged with the local Lenni Lenape to form the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Nation). Intriguingly, this squash is a *Cucurbita maxima*, which means it originated in Argentina. Most scientists and scholars believe all maxima squash reached North America in the 1500s or later, so the genesis of the Nanticoke squash in the mid-Atlantic region is likely relatively recent. Nevertheless, this landrace holds staggering diversity within its genome. Fruits appear in a range of colors, including blue, pink, grey, orange, coral, white, green, gold, and red (though blue, pink, and grey seem to be most common). Some fruits have a distinctive "turban" quality to them. Some have a profuse amount of warts. Some are small and round, others large and flat, and still others pointed. Some have stripes, some have dots, and some have asymmetrical splotches of color. Flavors and textures vary too, but thankfully most of them are quite delicious." -Experimental Farm Network

We've 10 new cattle panels and plenty of T-posts to train a wide variety of vegetables and flowering vines on. The second large in-ground bed will be dedicated to melons- watermelons, cantaloupe and smaller melons that can be trellised.

The third bed I haven't made up my mind about. I'm thinking tomatoes and pole beans. I've also got some seed of a Sudanese (I think) sorghum and some variety of a dry land rice I might plant in there.

If we can manage to layer leaves and straw on the in-ground beds each autumn we'll eventually have deep enough planting material to skip using growbags, which would make



that part of the garden "sustainable".

All the metal raised beds and stock tanks have been claimed or assigned to gardeners for the season- ten individuals, two groups and myself (I claimed the beds least likely to perform well this first year). Of the in-ground beds in the original garden section- one gardener is planting sweet corn, another watermelons and the DW and First Sister planted taters in the third. I'm planning to sow bush beans 'tween the tater rows as the weather warms.

The "show piece" of the garden was supposed to be the flowerbed that paralleled the Cedar Avenue sidewalk. While I've gotten a few positive comments about that bed each summer I'm a long way from being pleased with what we've done there! As with the library section of the garden we're going to tear up that flowerbed and remake it. Fortunately the metal beds are easy to lift, leaving the soil and whatever perennials are in it behind.

Idiots 1 and 2 have decided surrounding the left behind soil and

plantings with straw bales will hold the soil in place. I've doubts as to how nice this will look. However, the entire garden is a continuous work in progress.

When I straighten my back, moaning with the ache of it- hips, knees and ankles chiming in to remind me gardening will only get harder and more hurtful now that I've fewer years ahead of me than behind- I eye the rest of the town's lot. What can I do with that? A few grape vines? A coupla hardy kiwi vines? Fruiting bushes- blueberries, currants, gooseberries? Perhaps a "pick your own" garden? Several plots used to supply fresh produce to the food bank? Sheesh. I'm indeed Idiot 1. Idiot 2 is like "Well hell! Let's do it!"

A mother of two wee ones approached me in the library and asked if I could plant roses in the community garden. "I loves roses."

As I scan the length of the lot along South Seton Avenue I ponder roses. How many of the tens of thousands of cultivars could I place along that

line? Roses, the ones I admire, aren't cheap. Where would the money for them come from? Who would care for them? It's not as if I know a thing about roses. Meh. It's not as if I know anything about gardening! I'm just helping to get one started. Someone else will one day make a garden of it.

People keep telling me when I leave the garden for the final time that will be the end of it. No one else will step up to continue building it or even maintain it. I ignore them of course. I've seen the kidlets the librarians bring into the garden. Sure, most of them see the garden as another bauble to play with- an interesting moment away from the daily routines. However, I've also seen those coupla kids come into the garden with that look, that determination to make some part of the garden theirs.

Those are the future I'm building a garden for.

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Master Gardeners...

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

..who are they and what do they do.

As a Master Gardener Coordinator, there are things I believe in my heart about the Master Gardener program. Master Gardeners are fantastic to work with, are incredibly knowledgeable, have a love of gardening, and just enjoy hanging with like-minded people, and love to learn. But this is my perspective.

The perspective from a volunteer's standpoint may be a bit different. So I asked. And this is what I found out.

When I asked a few Master Gardeners what drew them to this volunteer program, overwhelmingly the common answer was to learn more about gardening and expand their knowledge. In addition, one answer was to fill a void as an empty nester, yet another wanted to meet people that also had a love of gardening. Yet another mentioned that they were drawn to it because of their lack of knowledge for outside plants, as they were strong in the growing of indoor plants. Some mentioned their surprise on the breadth of knowledge imparted during the training classes.

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer program that focuses on education. As a part of Penn State, the goal of the Master Gardener is to teach folks about good gardening practices that support environmental stewardship. In reaching that goal, an extensive training takes place every fall. This year the training begins October 1 and runs through March 18. Classes are Wednesday evenings from 6 – 8:30. Class topics like Botany, Plant Pathology, Herbaceous Plants and so many more give a Master Gardener a good foundation for learning research-based gardening information.

As a Master Gardener volunteer, one becomes involved with Penn State Extension through this program. In addition to the required educational hours, 50 hours of volunteer time must be completed to earn the certification to be a Master Gardener. Twenty hours volunteering, with an additional 10 hours of continuing education will give the Master Gardener the continued title after the first year completion.

If a person has an interest in gardening and wants a good base knowledge of plants, as well as opportunities to learn research-based information throughout their volunteer career, this just may be the program to be

involved. A Master Gardener meets folks that are like minded when it comes to gardening, they are always learning from each other, and this program gives them opportunities to teach folks in the community the best gardening practices.

This year, 22 new Master Gardeners in Adams and Franklin counties graduated from the educational program. Next, they will be spending quite a bit of time volunteering through projects, presentations, and gardening.

Some projects these volunteers are involved with include the demonstration gardens. In both Adams and Franklin counties, Master Gardeners manage themed garden beds. Such themes like herb gardens, cutting gardens, vegetable gardens, native plant gardens and pollinator gardens can be found in both counties at the extension office sites. These gardens represent up-to-date best gardening practices. Brochures are available at the gardens for information on the plants and systems that Master Gardeners may be using and often, programs are offered throughout the growing season in the gardens.

Additional projects and activities the Master Gardeners get involved in include teaching workshops and seminars. Especially through the winter months, Master Gardeners teach class series, which can include advanced gardening practices like seed starting, soil ecology, and ecological gardening. Other class series and workshops include managing houseplants, vegetable gardening, and ecological landscape design.

Summer brings programs like Botanical Illustrations, and Home Gardening Essentials. Botanical Illustrations is a three-day series on Monday evenings in July that walk you through botany and the art of illustration.

You will develop the same plant identification skills used by botanists, landscapers, and gardeners! In session one,



Adams County Master Gardeners' newest class, from left to right: Paul Labuzzetta, Salma Monani, Walter Grudzinski, Polly Grudzinski, Emily Kaiser, Clint Hartwig. Missing: Grant Meckley, Emily Knowles-Kellet, Susan Shannon.

workshop participants will observe and identify plant variations in stems, leaves, and flowers on a scavenger hunt in the Master Gardener demonstration gardens. Class participants will then select a live plant from the demo gardens to illustrate. We will explore the common elements of a botanical illustration to create a sketch and an ink drawing. During Session two, participants will add color and an optional pollinator to the ink illustrations, using watercolor, gouache or colored pencil. During Session 3, we will troubleshoot composition and layout concerns during a framing workshop. Session 3 will conclude with a gallery walk of participant artworks and refreshments in the demonstration gardens, weather permitting.

All supplies will be provided. Participants will take home their own plant identification and botanical illustration kit, as well as a completed framed, botanical illustration that they created.

Home Garden Essentials is an on-site program at two gardens. This year, these gardens are in the Hanover/Littlestown area. When participants arrive at the gardens, they will be greeted by a Master Gardener that will talk about what they will see at that garden followed by a tour that demonstrates these goals.

These gardens will demonstrate wet and dry meadows, bee hives, vegeta-

ble and herb gardens, riparian buffers, and native plants. You will learn about ecological gardening while seeing the beauty of permaculture concepts. These garden visits will happen on Saturday, July 26. Participants will meet at the first location at 9:30 and can expect the garden visits to be finished by 12:30.

Additionally, Master Gardeners continue programs through the fall months. We start off our fall with A Taste of the Garden on Wednesday evenings in September. In these classes, our Food, Families and Nutrition Educator will be partnering with the Master Gardeners. We will be teaching about how to grow food, and our nutrition educator will be teaching us how to prepare it, with a little preservation information as well.

Then on Mondays in late September and early October, we will be teaching about pressing flowers for preservation. A walk in the demonstration gardens will show you how to grow plants specifically for this purpose.

The Adams County Farmers Market begins in May, and Master Gardeners will be there to help you with any of your gardening questions. Throughout the summer, you just may see a Master Gardener or two (or three!) at the Market ready to help you work through a gardening issue.

As you can see, there are so many things you can get involved with as a Master Gardener. Learning, teaching, gardening, are all things that a Master Gardener does. If you are interested in learning more about the Master Gardener Training program, or any of the programs the Master Gardeners offer, give Penn State Extension, Adams County a call and we can guide you to the best class or program for you!

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



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**May 3 (10 to noon):** "Pollinators Love Herbs" Find out how herbs support our endangered pollinators, whether by hosting the caterpillar stage of butterflies or supplying pollen & nectar. Think Parsley, Dill, and Butterflies! Plant and decorate your own mini-garden. Materials are provided but bring your gardening gloves. Pre-registration is required; limited to 24 adults.

**May 17 (10 to noon):** "Integrated Pest Management (IPM)" Manage pests with ecosystem-based methods to minimize

the use of pesticides. Learn how to identify, prevent, and manage plant problems using biological control, habitat changes, and cultural habits.

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

*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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# Small Town Gardener

## The spring hangover is real, beat it with layered planting

**Marianne Willburn**

In looking through hundreds of articles written over the last fifteen years – and particularly for those written at this time of year – I realize that I not only have a soft spot for May, but a blind spot.

To read these articles, usually penned in April for the glorious lusty month to come, you'd think nothing ever goes wrong. And perhaps for those who begin to garden in May with the aid of a smoking credit card, an SUV, and a minion or two, it doesn't. But for those who started the party as early as February, the super-sized hangover is real.

Look around you. The daffodils that were glorious are now suffering what a friend calls "a big, dumb, dramatic, B-Grade, Silent movie death." The early apricots have dropped their delicate, highly anticipated flowers and their true nature as non-descript trees of awkward stature is on display (in that too-prominent place that was so fabulous four weeks before). Even the ubiquitous forsythia has gone from herald of spring to "that-massive-needs-pruning-but-I'll-do-it-next-year" blob at the top of the drive.

Where did the color go? Where did the time go? Why do I have a headache? The strength of spring is equaled only in its spectacular demise.

Are you ready for Part II?

The three aspects of a hangover (I am told) are thus: exhaustion, headache/annoyance, and protestations of better behavior in future; and applied to the garden, the analogy holds.

Exhaustion – It's normal to experience a spring letdown. The run up to spring is quite literally that. From seed starting to pricking out, to cleaning up, pruning, digging, dividing, and planting again, it feels like all your time, spare or otherwise, is spent on a treadmill set just above a comfortable pace.

Headache/Annoyed – When you've looked forward to the growing season for so long, it's especially annoying to realize that all the negative elements are back just as surely as the flowers. The return of the bunnies, the black flies in your eyeballs, the pruning fail, the perennials that didn't come back, etc. . .

And so we come to the point of this article – the promises to do better. And we can.

### Doing better, layer by layer

The goal of course, is to have something exciting going on at all times, whilst shoving the things that just went on under the sofa. That's called succession planting and there's a great deal more to it than putting in your pansies, replacing them with petunias and finishing up the edge-of-seat excitement with a display of chrysanthemums in September.

### Start by getting nosy with your neighbors

Not everyone gardens, but the chances are that a long walk around your neighborhood will allow you to see one or two good options for mid-spring color and texture. Forget about your Insta or TikTok feed unless it is exceptionally local. You're trying to figure out what can fill the gaps in your garden (and hide that daffodil foliage), by observing gardens that have just gone through the peculiarities of your winter and your spring.

### Succession planting

Succession planting is all about layers and it is very different from the majority mainstream American gardening model – i.e. this plant here, that plant there, mulch heavily, repeat boringly.

Instead, try to create a symphony using the following layers:

- Anchor plants – these are your [hopefully interesting] permanent shrubs, small trees and grasses.
- Perennials – the plants that come back year after year (at least most of them), and tend to have 2-3 weeks of bloom. New breeding has pushed that time line in many perennials, but there is usually a strong initial flush, followed by the plant phoning in a flower or two to keep you guessing until September.
- Bulbs – there is more to bulb season than April daffodils. Look carefully at your options for early, mid, and late spring, and then head on over to catalogs for the summer blooming bulbs that are planted in spring.
- Temperennials – these are the plants hardy in some climates but not in yours. Not everyone has the patience to overwinter the tender, half-hardy annuals and tropicals that live in garages and greenhouses and come out to play again in the summer; but they add a huge amount to the late summer garden.
- Climbers – particularly for those with smaller gardens, the plants that go up, or like to scramble through, are a layer that should not be overlooked.
- Seeded Annuals – either you or your local nursery seed these indirectly or directly into the soil, though you'll find you need to do most of the work if you don't wish to bankrupt yourself. They will normally bloom at maturity until the last frost takes them. These are plants like larkspur, poppies, cornflower, lunaria, zinnia, cosmos and fennel.
- Volunteer seedlings – their children from previous seasons showing up in your soil, already sown, pricked out, and planted, and asking only one thing of the gardener – to be edited with a thumb and forefinger.

### Succession, for success

For more information on the dance that is succession planting, join Leslie Harris and me on the April 24th The Spring Hangover Episode of The Garden Mixer Podcast, available wherever you get your podcasts. We discuss some of the pitfalls of succession planting, and explain why gardeners that think in terms of layers recover quickly and are ready for the next party that May inevitably will bring.

*Marianne writes from Lovettsville, VA. Join her and co-host Leslie Harris as they stir up horticulture on their new podcast The Garden Mixer – found everywhere you get your podcasts.*



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PETS

Bubba

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

The realization hits her on a random Tuesday night while she’s binge watching Modern Family. There wasn’t anything really novel about the day. She went to work, came home, got dinner and fed Bubba, her rescued Maltese mix. It was all part of her normal routine – or as normal as it’s been since she adopted Bubba from the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter. He’d been with her for about three months and in the beginning it was kind of touch and go. The shelter wasn’t sure what Bubba’s story was because he was brought in as a stray found running around the area. It still makes her heart hurt to think about her little guy fending for himself outside. She couldn’t imagine how he found anything to eat, let alone stayed warm. Bubba took a while to trust her. He was so shy and seemed scared of every-

thing. If the refrigerator door shut too hard, he would jump. When she first considered adoption, she was looking for a pup to cuddle and snuggle with – she even bought a super fluffy blanket on Amazon to share with her new four-legged friend. The first few weeks with Bubba didn’t have any snuggling, let alone did he use the blanket with her. In fact, it sometimes took all she had just to get him to eat something. There were more than a few days in those early weeks that she had serious doubts that she’d made the right decision. Two weeks later, she wasn’t so sure. But by that random Tuesday, something shifts. She’s laughing at the antics of the Pritchett family and cooing at Phil’s “Phil’sosophy” book for Haley and she’s all wrapped up in the blanket. During one of her funny, soft noises, she’s surprised to find Bubba had walked up to the couch and is watching her from the floor. She takes a sip of her after-dinner tea and makes a split second decision. Without changing the inflection in her voice and maintaining a quiet tone, she asks,

“Do you want to come up? You can come up,” and pats the blanket. Bubba actually blinks at her from the floor and looks like he’s trying to make a decision. She chuckles a little. She can’t help it. He’s just so adorable. He backs away an inch or two, only to step up to the couch again. She whispers, “You really are fine, sweetheart. You can sit with me if you want.” Bubba actually huffs a little and makes the jump to land in her lap on top of the blanket. He curls up immediately, seeming to really enjoy the fluffy material. They stay in that position for four more episodes of Modern Family and by the time she figures she should turn in, she glances down at Bubba and finds him completely asleep, breathing deeply, utterly at peace. The TV’s forgotten and her breath catches in her throat as she realizes he’s what she’s been waiting for. Her whole life, she’s always felt there was something out there, something on the horizon, something on the way to her life. The fact that this little dog trusts her enough to care for him, to sit with her while she watches her favorite show, to follow her around the house, it all hits her at the same time and her eyes water a bit. Despite the rough start to their relationship, she knows they will be together for as long as they have and she will enjoy every minute of her life with him. She doesn’t push the start button for the next episode, but she also doesn’t go to bed. She sits on the couch for a little while with Bubba, stroking his white fur and feeling that instinctive sensation that pet owners experience of faith and security and connection.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Public Relations Coordinator for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at [cvas-comm@cvas-pets.org](mailto:cvas-comm@cvas-pets.org). The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org). CVAS also operates a thrift store in Chambersburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the store. The Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).



Nimble is a 2-year-old black-and-white girl who came into the shelter as a stray. She is a playful girl who loves attention. Could you show Nimble what a forever home is all about?



Ophelia is a 9-year-old girl that was surrendered to the shelter when her owner was moving and could not take her with them. Ophelia does like to play in her water dish! Ophelia has had senior bloodwork done and everything came back normal.



Ted E Bear is a sweet little 4-month-old guy who just loves to play. Look at that face! Doesn't he look like a lot of fun? He was raised in foster care and is ready to find his loving forever home. Could that be at your house?



Phoebe is a 4-year-old Finnish Lapphund and Chow Chow mix. She was surrendered to the shelter when she was not a good fit for her family. She does not do well with children or their unpredictability, leading to her having been rehomed multiple times after being placed in homes with children. Phoebe is aloof with new people and may need several visits to establish a relationship with her adopters prior to going to her new home. Can you give this sweet girl a second chance?

For more information about Nimble, Ophelia, Ted E Bear, or Phoebe, call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, visit them online at [www.cvaspets.org](http://www.cvaspets.org), or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter!

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Stephani Rickerd & Aslan

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



PETS

Save a life, foster a homeless pet

Shawn Snyder  
Frederick County Animal Shleter

Some animals handle the stress of shelter life better than others. Loveable goofball Giblet falls into the other category. Since daily shelter life was incredibly stressful for him, we knew the 1.5-year-old Pit Mix would struggle greatly during our building renovation. Thankfully, a volunteer couple welcomed him into their home and Giblet is thriving there.

Giblet's foster mom describes him as a total couch potato with occasional zoomies. He loves snuggling with his humans and being lavished with belly rubs. The young pit mix is super dog friendly and enjoys playing and cuddling with his foster sister Lela. While there aren't any cats in this home, Giblet has been curious about felines, but never aggressive in previous foster situations.

Like most dogs, Giblet loves toys. He's happy to chew on ben-bones, but his favorite is tearing up all those stuffies. When it comes to treats, spray cheese reigns supreme. Sunny spots inside and outside are great places for naps as are comfy dog beds.

Giblet's had zero accidents with consistent potty breaks and he is crate trained. Plus, he's great in the car and in the bath and doesn't mind nail trims. He knows basics such as sit and trade. He takes treats gently and when it comes to the leash, he walks nicely with minimal pulling.

Giblet is a special needs pup though with some issues with his hind legs so he may need extra veterinary care especially as he ages. While surgery is an option, our team recognizes that the recovery process may do more harm than good in terms of Giblet's quality of life.

So, we've instead decided to go with a less is more treatment approach. Giblet takes medication to keep him comfortable and when he plays too hard, he takes a couple of rest days.

Thanks to our foster care program, Giblet gets to live a stress-free life while he waits for his forever family and we also get to learn valuable information about him that will better help us find that family. While Giblet may be the canine resident most in need of this program, there are many more who would benefit from a break from shelter life especially with our renovation project underway. If you're interested in becoming a life-saving member of our foster care program, email our Animal Care Supervisor at [bodin@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:bodin@frederickcountymd.gov) to learn about becoming a long-term or weekend foster.



Raven is a big boy. He currently weighs twenty plus pounds and is dieting to reach a more ideal weight of sixteen pounds. Raven lives in one of the shelter's free roam cat rooms and greets each visitor who enters. He was adopted from the shelter in December 2021 but returned when a new baby developed allergies. Raven is very friendly and shared his previous home with another cat.



At ninety-plus pounds, Maisie is currently one of the largest dogs available for adoption. She arrived at the shelter through no fault of her own, but rather her family was moving and could not take her along. She shared her previous home with children, and according to her owner, she enjoys the company of other dogs. Maisie can be shy when meeting new people, but giving her treats wins her over quickly.



Skylar is a familiar face around the shelter. The one-year-old, Shepherd mix has been with us for over one hundred ninety days. So, what's holding her back from getting adopted? When first meeting a new person, Skylar alert barks and she prefers to be an only dog. If you are interested in Skylar, we encourage you to visit her a few times, so she can show you the friendly, affectionate, playful dog she really is.



Darrell is a five-year-old, domestic short hair cat. He was picked up by an Animal Control Officer on March 10th and found in the vicinity of Opossumtown Pike and Christophers Crossing. Darrel is friendly and outgoing; however, he does have his limits. He will do best with older children or cat savvy younger children. Also, he seems to dislike dogs, so he would be most comfortable in canine free home.



Lana is a friendly, young dog. She is approximately 7 months old and loves to go for walks or play outside. Unfortunately, her owner passed away and she had to be brought o the shelter. Lana weighs thirty-six pounds and walks nicely on a leash. She is non-reactive to the other dogs at the shelter and would likely do well with a canine companion.

For more information about Maisie, Skylar, Raven, Darrell, or Lana call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac) or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter!

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Meet Jim Humerick, Thurmont Town Manager

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

There is no town quite like Thurmont. Nicknamed “Gateway to the Mountains” for its rural, small-town setting against Catoctin Mountain, Thurmont offers hikes to Cunningham Falls, rolling vineyards and orchards, a gorgeous library, and many spots to eat and drink. Thurmont is located centrally between Frederick and Gettysburg, boasting natural beauty and a tight-knit community.

However, when it comes to a town as remarkable as Thurmont, how are such facilities and resources maintained? In other words, who exactly runs what? We often think of Mayors who make policies and assess legislation that affect our community, but in our very own Thurmont and other local municipalities, the Town Manager is just as crucial in the operation of resources and town affairs. Think day-to-day functioning of the town, the management of departments, activities, events, and the evaluation of town performance; a Town Manager is experienced in public administration and strives to meet community needs to make Thurmont a beautiful, prized area.

Meet Thurmont’s very own Town Manager, Jim Humerick. Holding the official title of Chief Administrative Officer, Humerick has been employed with Thurmont since 2014. Prior to this, Humerick spent almost 35 years in the parks and recreation profession, retiring from the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission as the Regional Operations Manager of the Northern Division of Parks. Humerick’s experience in parks and recreation mirror his responsibilities as Town Manager. “The similarities from those critical responsibilities working for the park and planning commission to my current responsibilities provided me with the experience and knowledge to perform my current role effectively,” he says. Humerick has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Madison University along with an Associate’s Degree in Park Management from Frederick Community College, while completing several management courses from various universities.

What does the Town Manager of Thurmont do in a day? “I wish I knew from one day to the next!” answers Humerick. “There is really no such thing as an average day in a position like mine.” Humerick

is tasked with managing and overseeing all day-to-day operations of Thurmont apart from the police department. “I am very fortunate to have five high-achieving, professional department heads who report directly to me, and each of these individuals have dedicated departmental staff who, in turn, report directly to them,” says Humerick, explaining how his primary goal is to essentially meet the needs and expectations of residents and customers. Humerick also serves as Zoning Administrator of the town, working closely with the Town Planner, the Town Attorney, and the Planning & Zoning Commission. Additionally, throughout his busy day, one can find Humerick attending meetings, writing grants to fund projects, handling citizen requests, and working closely with Town Staff.

Humerick has coordinated and executed countless projects to better Thurmont, and he has plenty more in mind. To address the infrastructure of Thurmont, Humerick and his team have been working to prevent groundwater from getting into the sanitary sewer system. He responds that the Town has replaced outdated watermains and lines, as well as sewer mains and laterals



Jim Humerick

on North Church Street. “This \$4 million project was long overdue, and I’m really pleased we’re able to get this work done,” Humerick says. He also notes the critical improvements being made at the Moser Road electrical substation and expresses his thanks and gratitude to the community and staff for making these changes possible. Thurmont is only one of five municipalities in the state of Maryland who provides electric distribution services to its residents. “This is sometimes a

challenging endeavor”, Humerick stated, “but our service and response times far exceed industry standards which translates into safe and efficient operations. This makes the challenges worth it”.

“We’re constantly working towards repairing and paving roads throughout Thurmont,” he says. “We plan to do paving work this summer and fall to several of our streets.” The Town is also planning to replace the deteriorating sewer and stormwater infrastructure and then re-pave

# It's Preakness Hat Night!

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Thurmont's Administrative Staff consists of Office Manager Rebecca Sharer-Long, Administrative Assistants Robin Clem, Jerry Free, Sarah Yeater, and Park Program Coordinator September Jones. Town Planner and Zoning Assistant Ross Lillard have offices in the Town Office as well. The Board of Commissioners, composed of Mayor John Kinaird and Commissioners Wayne Hooper, Bill Blakeslee, Martin Burns, and Bob Lookingbill, meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. to address legislative and executive policy of the town.

When looking towards the future, Humerick is optimistic. Thurmont, a town providing great resources, services, and opportunities for citizens, can be even more improved through department growth and operational efficiencies. Humerick especially targets infrastructure as what needs work. “We continue to adapt the way we operate so we can be more responsive and operate more efficiently,” he says. Humerick notes how staff from the Streets and Parks Department are becoming more attentive to athletic fields and how the Water Department is working with career firefighters to conduct

fire hydrant inspections. “These are just two examples of the many ways we continue to expand our services,” Humerrick explains.

To the citizens of Thurmont, Humerick expresses his thanks to the citizens of the town for their unwavering support and love for the community. "I think we have a top-notch team of dedicated and professional staff in place, and we are here to serve our citizens." Humerick's willingness to respond to any town need exhibits his drive, character, and love for Thurmont.

Jim Humerick resides in Thurmont with his wife, Lisa. Their

son Brandon and his wife Danielle, who are expecting their first child, live nearby in Frederick. Humerick enjoys spending time with his family, especially at their second home in Ocean Pines. "I appreciate most just being able to spend quality time with my family and friends," he says, adding "and I can't wait for the arrival of our grandchild!"

*To learn more about Thurmont's Government, visit the town website at [Thurmont.com](http://Thurmont.com), where you can explore local services, community attractions, employment opportunities, and more.*

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HEALTH

Planning for end-of-life care

Joshua Faust  
Frederick Heath

Why Hospice, Palliative Care, and Advanced Directives are vital.

When faced with a serious or terminal illness, many individuals and their families can be overwhelmed by difficult decisions regarding the type of care they should receive. In such moments, the role of hospice and palliative care becomes crucial, offering both comfort and dignity to patients and their families. Frederick Health Hospice, a leader in end-of-life care, provides expert services that help patients navigate these difficult decisions.

While both hospice and palliative care aim to improve the quality of life for those facing serious illness, the two are distinct in their

approach and timing. Palliative care can be offered at any stage of an illness, regardless of whether the patient is receiving curative treatment. It focuses on providing relief from symptoms, pain, and stress, ensuring that patients feel as comfortable as possible.

On the other hand, hospice care is specifically for patients who have roughly six months or less to live. It shifts the focus entirely from curative treatments to comfort and emotional support. This includes not only physical care, but also emotional and psychological support for both the patient and their family.

“We believe that all patients deserve to live their final days with comfort, dignity, and the highest quality of life possible,” said Dawn Bolton, Community Service Liaison with Frederick Health Hos-

pice. “That’s where our specialized team comes in. We provide comprehensive care plans that include medical, emotional, and environmental support.”

Bolton emphasizes that the choice to move into hospice care is often one that families delay due to misconceptions or fears.

“There’s a lot of confusion about when to transition into hospice care,” she says. “Many people think it’s only for the last days of life, but hospice is meant to help individuals live those final months with comfort and respect. We offer symptom management, pain relief, and personal care so that people can spend their remaining time with loved ones without the burden of constant medical treatments.”

While the prospect of planning for end-of-life care is never easy, it

is one of the most important decisions families can make.

“By planning ahead, families can make informed choices without being forced into making decisions during an already stressful and emotional time,” Bolton explains. “Our team works with patients and families to create a care plan that aligns with those wishes.”

Planning ahead also helps alleviate the emotional toll on family members. In the absence of clear directives, loved ones may find themselves at odds with what the patient would have wanted. This can make an already difficult situation even more challenging. One of the most important tools in ensuring that an individual’s wishes are clearly communicated and followed is the creation of an Advanced Directive.

An Advanced Directive is a legal document that outlines a

patient’s preferences for medical treatment if they become unable to communicate their decisions. This can include instructions for end-of-life care, decisions about life support, Do Not Resuscitate (DNRs), and organ donation preferences. It serves as a guide for healthcare providers, family members, and loved ones when difficult decisions arise.

Bolton explains, “Advanced Directives are one of the most important components of hospice and palliative care. It removes the burden of decision-making from loved ones during an already emotional time and ensures that the patient’s wishes are respected.”

These documents may also address the type of life-sustaining treatments a patient may or may not want, such as mechanical ventilation, feeding tubes, or CPR. Different states have different requirements for Advanced Directives, but in Maryland, patients need to complete a written form, sign it in front of two witnesses or a notary public, and then share copies with your healthcare insurance company or agent, family, and their primary care provider.

“Many people assume that their family will know what they would want, but in reality, those conversations rarely happen in advance,” Bolton says. “An Advanced Directive helps ensure that when it comes time to make these decisions, everyone is on the same page and the patient’s desires are met.”

Despite the clear benefits of planning for end-of-life care, many individuals and families avoid these conversations due to discomfort or fear. The word “hospice” is often associated with the final moments of life, leading some to delay seeking help until it is too late.

Bolton and Frederick Health Hospice are working to change that perception. As the needs of the local community continue to evolve, Frederick Health Hospice is committed to expanding its services and reaching more individuals.

“Hospice care isn’t about giving up; it’s about living fully in the time that remains,” she says. “When families understand what the care we offer, they realize it’s about comfort, respect, and making the most of the time they have left.”

Whether it’s addressing immediate symptoms through palliative care, providing end-of-life support through hospice, or planning for these crucial decisions, Frederick Health Hospice is offering not just healthcare, but peace of mind during one of the most challenging times in life.

As Bolton pointed out, “The best time to have these conversations is now, before it’s needed.”


You can learn more about Frederick Health Hospice or Advanced Directives by calling 240-566-3030 or visiting [frederickhealth.org/advanceddirectives](http://frederickhealth.org/advanceddirectives).

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## The mission of Heartly House

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

Heartly House, located in central Frederick, is a non-profit organization that provides free, comprehensive services and support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of abuse. Fueled by a mission to “end domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and child abuse,” Heartly House prioritizes safety, shelter, and resources to victims in Frederick County.

For 46 years, Heartly House has been committed to providing these services. The Organization began in 1979 when a local group of women urged the community for emergency housing for female victims of domestic violence. Since then, Heartly House has seen growth in not only its services, but also the genders served, victimizations served, and staff numbers. Today, it is the only organization in Frederick County that provides these services free of charge, making it possible for anyone to get help.

Caroline Dato, Community Engagement and Prevention Lead, explains that Heartly House’s understanding of violence has developed over the years. “What has typically been referred to as gender-based violence is changing... We also know that in all the victimizations we serve, there is a purposeful power dynamic between the abuser and abused and at the root of the issue is this power dynamic.

That is why we refer to the victimizations we serve as power-based violence because we want to focus on changing that power dynamic,” she says. “Here at Heartly House, we see all kinds of abuse occurring such as emotional, financial, sexual, cultural, and religious abuse. By expanding our definition, we can also better understand that power dynamic better.” Understanding the differences in abuse allows Heartly House to not only tailor their services, but also empathize as best they can with survivors of certain situations.

Extensive, important, and wonderfully free, the services provided by Heartly House seem truly limitless. The Organization provides a 24/7 hotline for victims to access immediate help. “What I love about our hotline is that when you call, you will always speak to a person, never a robot or machine,” says Dato. “We also have amazing, highly trained staff who answer our hotline calls.” When answering the calls, Heartly House staff are sure to listen, talk, and never judge.

As part of the organization’s understanding of the power

dynamics of power-based violence, staff members ensure that callers are safe while empowering them to make the best decisions for themselves. The hotline can also be a community resource. “If you are working with someone who you suspect is an abuse survivor, I highly encourage you to call our hotline during work hours,” Dato explains. “Sometimes even well-meaning people harm abuse survivors because they aren’t as educated on the topic—and that is okay.” The hotline is 301-662-8800 and is the best way for someone to connect with Heartly House services.

Heartly House also provides individual and group counseling from phenomenal, licensed therapists. Different groups are offered, including groups for male sexual abuse survivors, Spanish-speaking survivors, a parent group for survivors of trafficking, and an LGBTQIA+ group. Heartly House also has specific child counselors who work with child abuse survivors. The therapists use trauma-informed practices to support survivors at any stage.

Heartly House also offers community-based services, legal services, hospital accompaniment, and short-term emergency housing. All services are free-of-charge.

In addition to this direct support, Heartly House emphasizes community engagement to encourage involvement and awareness. Dato oversees the adult community engagement and prevention programming with Heartly House, facilitating training, prevention strategies, and trauma-informed training. She also oversees the Survivor Speakers Bureau—a platform allowing, and empowering, survivors to share their stories and find hope in others.

“We have partnered with the local colleges and libraries to host survivor panels where they share their stories with the community and how to best support them,” she says. “We also have gone to various organizations to connect service workers with survivors such as substance use rehabilitation centers, the Frederick County Department of Human Services, and the OBGYN unit of Walter Reed.”

Heartly House conducts a Take Back the Night event every April, where survivor speakers share their stories and attendees can participate in a walk for awareness around Hood College’s campus. Also in this department, Heartly House’s Youth Prevention Services make an appearance at Frederick County Public Schools to discuss healthy relationships and resources to prevent abuse before it occurs.



Heartly House staff at Walk a Mile 2024, Heartly House's annual awareness event about power-based violence.

So how can you—and the community—be involved?

“You can volunteer at our annual awareness events like Take Back the Night or Walk a Mile by emailing [engage@heartlyhouse.org](mailto:engage@heartlyhouse.org),” says Dato. Community members can also start a gift card drive for stores like Target or Walmart to cover basic needs for survivors. Donation items can be dropped off at the 7th Street Common Market.

One final—and significant—way to support Heartly House is to support the survivors in your lives. “When someone shares they are a survivor, believe them,” urges Dato. “Be a safe person for them to talk to. This includes

being careful of how you respond to other survivors in our culture.” Dato explains how our perspective of celebrities coming out as survivors is an example of this. “Start by believing and caring for others, and people will feel more comfortable leaning on you for support.”

To learn more about Heartly House, including services offered and how to help, visit their website at [heartlyhouse.org](http://heartlyhouse.org). The Heartly House 24-Hour hotline is 301-662-8800, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline is 800-799-7233.

“As a survivor of intimate partner violence myself, I know how difficult it can be to leave an abu-

sive situation. Being stuck in that cycle of abuse seems endless,” says Dato. “What keeps me going is working with the Survivor Speakers. Every single one of them are absolutely amazing. They are the strongest people I know, who have been doubted, called liars, and have been shamed. Despite this, they keep going and keep sharing their stories in the hopes to end abuse for others.”

Through these services, and through the generous, empowering workers like Caroline Dato, Heartly House strives to achieve its mission every day. “It takes the entire community to end violence,” says Dato, and this starts with you.a

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HISTORY

The Contralto

Rev. Charles Maloy, C. M.  
St. Joseph's Parish, Emmitsburg  
Published in 1912

Chapter 12

Four o'clock that afternoon found the tourists seated on the terrace at the side of an old church (old St. Mary's Church) which had watched over the destinies of the mountaineers for more than a century, a long time in this newest of civilizations. Built well up the mountain it told of the psychology ruling the first spiritual shepherds in these parts, the days when religion demanded sacrifices from its votaries and reared its temples as near as possible to Heaven. Love of ease had effected the dwellers in the territory to the extent of erecting a newer church (St. Anthony's) more near to the high road, and this one remained a mere place of pilgrimage from devotion or curiosity.

The climb had been laborious, especially for Miss Seabold, who

insisted, however, that the party go on despite their solicitous protests in her behalf. Her fighting spirit was a revelation to the Professor, who mentally noted it as an important asset in her struggle for health.

Mrs. Forman performed her duties of chaperon-age almost too zealously. She was not a native of Emmitsburg, having come thither some years before when her husband elected to supply its inhabitants' demand for store teeth. She was a dainty little matron somewhere in the thirties, possessing a girlish contour and disposition, a fair mental development, and an admixture of the harmless gossip sufficient to make her company not disagreeable. None considered her of enough importance to criticize, though for that matter even Emmitsburg would have had difficulty in finding anything to carp at in her very uneventful life. She lived in the reflected glory of the dentist, never expressing an opinion that was not immediately backed up by the authority of "Hus," her pet name for the part-

ner of her joys and sorrows.

On the walk up the mountain, she monopolized the Professor's company, shoos the two younger women ahead as though they were children in pinafores. The one topic of her discourse was the failures of her husband in the various side ventures he had undertaken to increase his financial rating. When each point was exhausted she interjected an entr' act rather disconcerting to her companion, as it consisted for the most part of personal allusions or veiled criticisms of the other ladies. He found it hard to deal with observations like the following:

"Do you know, Professor, you have the most beautiful hands I ever saw? But, of course, you do; you have been told it a thousand times I am sure. However, I should think you would be more careful.

I have noticed you playing ball with the boys, and it worried me lest you injure one of your fingers."

Such insouciance rendered him speechless, for Mrs. Forman's assurances to the contrary, he had never before heard any remarks on the beauty of his hands. He also found difficulty in responding to this one.

"Don't you think Vinny and Marion, two dears? I do hope they get good husbands, especially Vinny. Marion is the kind who can take care of herself, but Vinny shall wilt if she be not kept in perpetual sunshine. Which do you prefer?"

His resources were taxed to find methods of keeping up a pretence at conversation, but luckily the chaperon was not insistent on replies to her questions. With the several stops necessitated by the fear of wearying Vinny and the gathering of branches of the autumn leaves which blazed around them, they reached the terrace, inspected the church, and seated themselves on the grass, a little bored with the persistence of Mrs. Forman's solicitude for their present and future welfare. Almost in sheer desperation, the Professor broke in:

"Did you ever hear the story of Zeph Heyer's hill-climbing leg?"

"Zeph is one of our local celebrities," said Vinny. "What do you know of Zeph?" asked Marion, "did you ever meet him?"

"Zeph's history, or at least the part of it which concerns his famous nether limb," answered the Professor, lying



The old St. Mary's Church on the hill overlooking the Mount. The church was destroyed by fire on July 4, 1913. Folklore say it burned when a paper lantern carried aloft by a candle was released by party goers and crashed on the church's wooden roof and set the building ablaze.

full length on the ground, his hat over his eyes, "was related in my hearing in Gresser's tonsorial parlor on the occasion of a recent visit."

"Do tell us," purred the chaperon, adding in a quite audible aside, "I do so love to hear him talk."

"Zeph had just treated himself to a haircut and shave, the executioner being Mr. Fred Brown, Gresser's able assistant. I had succeeded him in the chair when the serious chronicle was narrated by Mr. Brown." With a perfect reproduction of Brown's intonation he proceeded. "Zeph was shot in the laig at Gettysburg and the doctors said the laig must be cut off. Zeph's father wouldn't hear to this and went to the hospital and forched him home. Doc Stauffer sot the laig, and do you know, he sot that laig for goin' up hill? One Sunday me and Zeph took a walk up Jack's mountain, and do you know Zeph was ahaid most of the time goin' up and he had to wait for me. But comin' down it was the other way to, I had to wait for Zeph. That there laig was sot for goin' up hill but it wouldn't work comin' down."

The narrative was greeted with hearty laughter by the younger women and a decorous giggle from Mrs. Forman. Harry continued: "I suggested that Zeph have the other laig broken and sot for going down hill, then he would be a marvel of locomotion, but Mr. Brown failed to see any humor in his own relation of facts, nor in my addendum."

"If we are going to continue our climbing, I had better have my laig sot for going up hill," said Vinny.

"You are almost as perfect a mimic as 'Hus,' Professor; you have heard him?"

"Oh Piffle!" exclaimed Marion, and without warning she gathered her

skirts about her ankles and rolled to the bottom of the terrace. The chaperon screamed, Vinny caught her breath and when Harry sat up he beheld Marion sitting at the bottom laughing and inviting them to follow. To cover the situation he likewise rolled down and lay smiling at her feet. As they arose she said, "I had to do something or die of ennui."

From the top of the knoll came an hysterical request for the time. Looking at his watch he told the matron it was a quarter before five. This knowledge was greeted by an outburst from the little lady. What would they do? It was impossible to get back before dinner (dinner was Mrs. Forman's name for the evening meal, though for Emmitsburg in general it was tea or supper), and "Hus" would be worried. Her anxiety was not shared by the others who looked with amused faces to the Professor to extricate them from the quandary if such existed.

"There's a nice, quiet hotel at Fairfield about two miles from here; we could get something there," he suggested tentatively.

"Yes, but Hus will be so disturbed."

"I shall call him up as soon as we reach a phone and give him assurance of our safety."

"Yes I know but—"

"Come on, Anita," said Marion, "we cannot get home before eight o'clock; we may as well make the best of it."

"I shall faint of hunger on the road if we attempt to walk back now," declared Vinny, with more mischief in her eyes than he deemed her capable of.

Without listening to further protest, Vinny moved along the top of the terrace followed by the reluctant matron, while Marion and the Professor walked at the foot.

"Don't you think we selected a delightful chaperon?" she asked.

"Her hero-worship of Hus is really beautiful,"

He answered apologetically. "It might be offered at a higher shrine."

Instead of taking the road which led part way down the mountain before joining that running to Fairfield, the party, at the man's suggestion, struck off through the woods for a short cut. The glance of amusement that flashed between the girls was remarked by him though he failed to comprehend its significance.

The sun was setting in a blaze of glory, as seen through the gap, which any artist reproducing would earn for himself a high place in the most advanced school of impressionism. The chill air caused the ladies to draw their light wraps about them. The birds chirped sleepily, the evening

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HISTORY



The old Toll House at the intersection of South Seton Ave and Old Emmitsburg Road, right next to the intersection of Rt 15.

breeze fanned the drying leaves of the oaks and chestnuts producing that weird rustle which serves as the requiem of dying summer. The spirit of fun, having deserted them, failed to return under the efforts of the Professor and Marion, who walked in front holding back overhanging boughs until the two in the rear could grasp them. The spell of descending twilight made conversation fitful, an occasional warning addressed by one to the others' The matron wore such a lugubrious countenance that Harry was thrown into deep contrition at his want of tact.

Coming out of a clump of blackberry bushes they found themselves on the steep bank of the creek with no ford in sight. The two younger women burst into laughter, the matron indulged a suppressed scream, while the Professor was momentarily puzzled, then asked: "How far is the Fairfield Road?"

"Entirely too far to walk," answered Vinny still smiling. "What are we going to do now?" came from Mrs. Forman. "Take off our shoes and wade," from Marion, laconically. "Oh you're dreadful, Marion." The Professor had already removed one shoe and was busily unlacing the other. In less than a minute he let himself down the bank, his trousers rolled above his knees, and waded down stream while Marion warned him to look out for holes, the ripples in her voice denying anxiety. Finding a place where the bank descended with a gentle slope he called his companions to join him. When they had done so, holding out his arms, the two girls pushed the chaperon forward, and amidst protests her ninety odd pounds of humanity were safely deposited on the opposite shore. Vinny was next and not such a light burden, for

after her ferryage Harry was puffing audibly. When Miss Dyson's turn came she objected: "You cannot carry my one hundred and forty, I shall wade." "Come," he panted. "It will be easier to carry me on your back." "Come," with a shade of pleading, and she settled herself in his arms her hands clasped tightly around his neck. Once or twice he swayed but could not believe it was the girl's weight which staggered him; their eyes meeting in mid-stream, his heart stood still, and it was with a sigh of relief that he let her slip from his grasp on the opposite bank. Recrossing he started up the other side before the ladies had fully recovered and were still smoothing out their rumpled skirts. "Where are you going?" shouted Marion. "For my shoes and stockings." "Here they are," holding them up, "I tied them to my belt." While he was returning, Mrs. Forman pleaded that the escapade should never be told, the girls assuring her they would have it written up in the Chronicle. The adventure restored their spirits and again conversation flowed lightly. The chaperon clung to his arm giving it a nervous squeeze every time a twig crackled in the lowering dusk. The young women in the rear kept up a witty fire of remarks for a time, then whispered softly and the Professor became suspicious of more missteps. They were excogitating a scheme of female revenge, and at length Vinny said: "Anita, tell Professor about your escapade with the stuttering visitor." "Hush, Vinny, not for the world." "Tell it or I shall." "You're mean, but I suppose I must tell it. It was an awful faux pas,

Mary Kate Price



Mary Kate Price, 94 formerly of Emmitsburg, passed away on Saturday, April 5. Mary Kate was born in Rogersville, TN on March 14, 1931, daughter of the late Andrew Jackson & Ella C. (Mayo) Larmer. She was predeceased by her husband, Ray Lee Price, who died December 16, 2005. Mary Kate was a licensed Associate Real Estate Broker in Baltimore City and County for over 20 years and enjoyed purchasing and restoring properties for rental investments. Mary Kate was a

very spiritual person and was a member of Tom's Creek Methodist Church in Emmitsburg for over 25 years before relocating to live with her daughter. She volunteered for 15 years helping run the Emmitsburg Food Bank. Her hobbies included crocheting, sewing, quilting and tending to her annual garden. Mary Kate is survived by three children, Barbara Comegys (Earl) of Essex, MD, Daniel Price (Linda) of Dundalk, MD and Timothy Price (Rose) of Fairfield, three grandsons, Ryan, Kevin and Mason Price and a sister, Shirley Lefler of Gettysburg. She was predeceased by a granddaughter, Lacey Elza and six siblings. Funeral Services were held at April 11 at the Monahan Funeral Home in Fairfield. Interment was in the Fairfield Union Cemetery. Online tributes and condolences can be made at monahanfuneral-home.com.

Professor. Hus brought a stranger to call, who stuttered spasmodically. Hus is a dreadful mimic and is constantly doing just crazy things. The gentleman was talking some time before a spasm of stuttering overtook him, and when it did, I burst out laughing and shouted, 'O Hus! you cannot stutter as well as he can.' When I found my mistake I thought I would die of shame." By this time they had come out on the highway and saw the House (Bella Vista) a hundred yards further up the hill. They were welcomed by the proprietor and his wife, and much to the surprise of the women of the party, the small son and daughter planted long kisses straight on the Professor's mouth. Extricating himself from

the embraces of the little girl he went in search of a phone, followed by Mrs. Forman. In their absence, the younger women each gathered a child to her arms and began a catechism. In answer to questions, the children boasted of their long acquaintance with the object of inquisition, the boy claiming with even greater emphasis intimate friendship with the Admiral and Buster, while the girl confided to Vinny that she was the Professor's curly-headed sweetheart. The boy was already signed as a prospective player on the baseball team and questions as to whether they kissed him every time they met were treated as ridiculously superfluous.

Chapter 13 next month

Eisenhower National Historic Site Commemorates 80th Anniversary of VE Day

On May 8-10, Eisenhower National Historic Site will offer special ranger-guided tours of WWII burial sites in Gettysburg National Cemetery to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day and the end of WWII in Europe. Each program will begin at 5:30 pm at the Taneytown Rd. entrance to the cemetery. Eighty years ago, Victory in Europe (VE) Day—May 8, 1945—marked the end of the war in Europe. After years of fighting in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Western Europe, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Allied forces under his command had finally achieved victory over Nazi Germany. That victory came at an immense cost, one seen in burial grounds around the world, including Gettysburg National Cemetery. These walking tours will visit gravesites of soldiers, sailors, and airmen who died in the European Theater and were brought back to Gettysburg for final burial after the war. From North Africa to Italy, to the skies above

Europe, and the final campaigns from France to Germany, each evening's program will tell a crucial chapter of the story of how Victory in Europe was won eighty years ago. May 8—Chapter 1: North Africa to D-Day--From Operation Torch in 1942 to the preparation for D-Day in 1944, follow the War in Europe through the stories of those who fought and died from 1942 to early 1944. May 9—Chapter 2: The Air War in Europe--From air bases in England to the skies above Germany, hear the stories of those who engaged in aerial combat 80 years ago during WWII. May 10—Chapter 3: D-Day to VE Day--From the beaches of Normandy to the final surrender of Germany, visit the graves of those who fought and died in the final months of the war in Europe. Each program is free of charge and will last for approximately one-hour. More information can be found at [www.nps.gov/eise](http://www.nps.gov/eise).



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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## May 1

### The Lincoln Gettysburg Car

The W. M. R. R., the owner of the car in which President Lincoln rode to Gettysburg, has announced its willingness to donate the car to the Pennsylvania Lincoln Association, and to transport the car to Gettysburg, free of charge. It is in this car in which President Lincoln is believed to have jotted down the sentences of his speech.

The services of the W. M. will also be available for restoring the car to its original condition as nearly as the data at hand will permit. The plan is to preserve it as well as place it on exhibition. A number of firms have offered their services for refit-ting the car.

Samuel Rea, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, has suggested that the car be shown in towns and cities throughout the State, and has offered to transport the coach without cost over the Pennsylvania lines for that purpose.

Because of the peculiar historical significance attached to the old car, the Lincoln Highway Association plans to exhibit it at the Sesqui-Centennial in Philadelphia next year, after which it will be housed in permanent quarters on the battlefield here, not far from the spot where Lincoln gave his immortal address.

### Pennsylvania Motor Laws

The revised motor laws of Pennsylvania have been signed by Governor Pinchot. The bill provides, among many changes, that cities may establish traffic boulevards or through traffic highways, at which all motorists must stop before turning into or crossing. It also provides that all police officers must be in uniform and show their badges before attempting to stop any motor vehicle on any highway.

Sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, county detectives, constables, police officers of any municipality, State police and highway patrolmen in uniform or who show their badges may inspect motor vehicles in any public garage or repair shop for the purpose of locating stolen vehicles.

The law establishes a new standard for judging legal headlights for cars. It presumes that headlights project a dangerous and dazzling light if the top of any main beam of light projected twenty-five feet ahead on an approximate level,

strikes any object at a height greater than the distance of the centers of the head-lights from the highway.

Illegal headlight sales are prohibited, and lights must be equipped with bulbs of twenty-one candle-power. The act also makes provision for the use of parking lights along all highways, but cities and boroughs may by ordinance establish zones in which cars may park without lights.

Mechanical devices may be used for precautionary signals when signaling is required, either by device or hand, when turning, slowing down, stopping or reversing. Parking along State highways is permissible if at least two wheels of the car are off the improved portion of the roadway. No parking is allowed on sharp curves or turns where there is not an unobstructed view for 500 feet

### Harney Road To Be Oiled

We are informed that the state road from the Md. line will be given two coats of oil this summer—one sometime in May or June, the other in August. Considerable work is being done to get it in perfect shape. Wakeup Carroll County, and see that the half mile from Harney to the line is made just as good. Our officials boast about Maryland's good roads; but never say a word about the bad pieces of road that should be improved to complete a system.

### Burn Old Lead Batteries

Growing out of the hauling away of old tin cans, broken crockery, and refuse generally, by the town authorities, this week, we have good authority for the statement that old dry lead batteries are worth more than coal, for burning in furnaces, and besides, act as a fine chimney cleaner.

## May 8

### Young Couple Weds

Lloyd Kaufman, 23, of Rocky Ridge and Mimi Barber, 19, of Walkersville, were married in an old-fashioned shotgun wedding at the Reformed Parsonage on Wednesday. The father of the bride, Walter Barber said he had hope to get his daughter married earlier, but it took him more time then he initially thought to find the culprit who made is daughter "in a family way".

"I finally found the useless bum hiding out in a barn in Johnsville and had to hog time him up for three days until the Pastor could return."

A thoroughly disheveled Lloyd was unable to put a ring on his bride's finger as his hands were still tied behind his back, and his new wife's father stood behind him with his trusty shotgun.

The couple has no honeymoon planned; instead Barber said his no-good son-in-law "best get to work to earn some money before the baby comes." If he doesn't my shotgun's best friend, a horsewhip, is just chomping at the bit to be put to use on that no good free loader's back."

### Emmitsburg Notes

Allen O'Donoghue, has purchased Isaac Annan's farm, and will take possession next month. Mr. Annan will move in an apartment, above Annan's store.

The fountain, on the square has been painted, new signs placed directing drivers to each street and flowers planted, which makes a very fine appearance.

James Martin, who was hit by an automobile, some time ago, died from the injuries, at his home, on Wednesday afternoon, at the age of 82 years. Mr. Martin was very active for his advanced age, until the time he was injured.

Samuel Kugler, age 81, died at his home in town Tuesday after noon after a few days of illness. Mr. Kugler was born in Adams County just across the state line from Emmitsburg and farmed his whole life on his family farm.

### Taneytown School Situation

Taneytown will not feel comfortable over its school situation until plans are agreed upon, and the contract for the buildings given, early enough this year to guarantee a completed building in time for the opening of school in the Fall. The patrons here are not interested in "who", or which board, "has its way," and are opposed to quibbling over minor details. If the authorities cannot agree, then let the matter be arbitrated, and settled. Taneytown must have a new school building, and now is the time to be getting busy.

As we understand the present situation concerning the proposed high school building, it is something like

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this. The School Board has plans for a building estimated to cost approximately \$55,000, on which the Board is again asking for bids.

The County Commissioners had plans prepared for a building, estimated to cost approximately \$45,000, which plans the School Board declines to examine or consider, but the Commissioners appear unwilling to consider a building at a much higher cost. There is, therefore, no agreement in sight between the two Boards.

In the meanwhile, valuable time is passing. Plans and location should be agreed on, now, and the contract given for construction work. If matters stay "hung up" for very much longer, there will not be time left to erect a building in time for occupancy this Fall, and the proposition may be made to "wait another year" but, there must not be "another year" about it.

The present housing of the school is unspeakably unsatisfactory, and bad as it has been for a make-shift this year, the same arrangements may not be available for another year, and if the present rooms can not be had, there are no others.

Taneytown patrons want an adequate and satisfactory building and necessity compels them to want it this year. They are not greatly interested in the differences between the two Boards, nor in conflicts over author-

ity in the matter. The prevailing sentiment is that the two Boards must "get together" on a compromise agreement, and bring about a happy conclusion of the whole matter without any further delay. Just as soon as it can be made clear as to which Board is unreasonable, and decided on having its "own way, or none," Taneytown people will know more about how they stand.

### An Improved Road Wanted

A meeting of interested citizens was held at Bollinger's School House, in the Emmitsburg District, in the interest of securing the construction of a hard road from the Edgar Miller farm along the Emmitsburg Road northeast to the Monocacy Bridge at Sentz's Mill. A committee of five was appointed to confer with the County Commissioners, to fix a specified time to view the proposed road and take proper action in the matter.

## May 15

### Woman Burned At Brooder, Dies.

Bethel May Mlelke, about 25 years old, wife of Edward Mlelke, of near Loy's Station, was fatally burned shortly after 10 o'clock, Thursday morning, and died at the Frederick City hospital, about six hours



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later. Practically all of her clothing was consumed by the flames and her body, from her feet to her neck, was burned to a crisp.

The woman, who was alone with her three-year-old daughter, went from the house into a small building in the yard to look after a chicken brooder. While in the building her dress caught fire from an oil lamp used to heat the brooder. She ran screaming to the yard almost a living torch. A man working in a field some distance away, heard her scream and ran to her assistance. By the time he arrived, her clothing had nearly all burned away, and with the exception of her face her entire body was terribly scorched.

She was carried into the house and Dr. Irving of Thurmont summoned. In the meantime, her husband and father, who were at work on a nearby farm about a mile away, were notified. After an examination, Dr. Irving had her rushed to the hospital. She was conscious when she arrived at the hospital, and remained conscious until she died.

There was no witness to the unfortunate accident. It is thought that after igniting, her clothing burned rapidly. After running from the building, it is evident that the flames gained headway and she probably endeavored to shield her face with her hands. Her hands and arms as well as her entire body was a mass of burns.

**Civil War Veteran Robbed**

Last Thursday just about noon, two well dressed men met with John Mentzer's, of Emmitsburg, who is about 80 years old, and claimed to be United States officials. Mr. Mentzer is a Civil War Veteran receiving a pension which they said they were going to increase and asked to see his papers. He has been disabled for some time, but managed to get in the next room and unlocked the drawer where he kept this papers and money; one of the men followed him. After looking at the papers they both left and Mr. Mentzer discovered his pocketbook was taken from the drawer which contained more than \$400. Several of the neighbors saw them leave the

house but did not suspect the robbery. They were strangers and must have gotten information from some one that knew.

**Decoration Day**

Decoration Day will be properly observed, May 30, in Taneytown, the local Camp of the P. O. S. of A., as usual, having charge of the program, assisted by children of the various churches and other organizations. Details will be given next week.

Harney Decoration services will be help on Monday evening. Sunday Schools, Churches, Public Schools and all patriotic people are invited to join in the parade.

Flowers for Decoration Day promise to be scarce. All who have them are urged to send them along with children, or others, to use for decoration purposes. American Legion poppies will be sold again this year. These poppies are made by the wounded soldiers and the amount received goes for their relief.

**May 22**

**Hit By Falling Tree, Dies**

Harry Woolard, 47, of Thurmont was the victim of an unusual accident on Friday morning, when a dead tree fell upon him as he was stripping pulpwood from another tree, near Catoctin Furnace. No reason could be given for the falling of the tree, as no one was near the tree at the time. Woolard died from a fractured skull, it was said.

The victim of the unfortunate accident was working in the wooded section near Catoctin Furnace on Friday morning, along with several other men. The tree which fell upon Woolard, was said to have been dead and rotting at its base.

The fellow workman stated that no one struck or cut the tree that fell. The victim was peeling a tree about 20 feet from the base of the tree that fell, when the log crashed down upon him. He wasn't able to jump to safety. Soon after the accident, he was taken into the office of Dr. Birely of Thurmont, where he was given aid and brought to

the city hospital where he died six hours later

**Scouts Enthused Over Contest**

The contest was arranged on the points system as follows; 100 points for each troop, having a perfect attendance and a proportionate number of points for each scout at each meeting in case the attendance is not perfect; 20 points for all boys of each troop owning their own uniforms and wearing them; five points for each test passed by individual scout: five points for each gout on each height: 10 points, for each scout brought into the movement, and five points for the bringing back of old scouts who had fallen out.

The winning troop will be given a free trip to one of the following three places; Washington, Gettysburg, or Harpers Ferry. The Mark, the boys have said, indicates that they are anxious to have their troop win for during the past five weeks the contest there has been 44 test passed, 249 boys on hikes, and the average weekly attendance, which before the contest was about 77%, has risen to 100%.

The scouts are working hard, and it is difficult to tell which troop will have the highest number of points at the end of the contest, which has been set for May 22.

Many of the boys who at the beginning of the contest or but second-class scouts, have completed the first class requirement and are now working for their Eagle Scout rank, by passing merit badges.

**Bridgeport Forest & Stream Club**

The Bridgeport Forest & Stream Club, that has purchased a permanent site along the Monocacy, near Bridgeport, has contracted for the construction of a dam that will raise the water about two feet, and provide a body of water suitable for boating and bathing. A clubhouse is also being erected.

**May 29**

**Decoration Day**

Let everybody help to make Decoration Day a permanent institution. It is not a question of whether one cares to parade, or wear a uniform, or follow a brass band around. Such efforts may be personally objectionable to us, and not considered worth the effort; but one ought to do certain things, even at a sacrifice, when the object aimed at is a worthy one, and for the perpetuation of some great patriotic principle.

So, let us all, who are able, take part in this year's demonstration; give it our sanction by our personal participation, and help to keep alive the gratitude our country feels for its defenders in time of great need. Let it not be so much a holiday or a day for financial gain, or for mere amusements, instead make it a day in which we do homage to those who either fell while serving under the flag, or who have since honorably finished their course.

Surely, it is little for us to do, to follow the children with flowers to the cemeteries, and to spend a little time hearing brief addresses in honor of our country's dead. It requires only an hour or two of our time, but it represents much more than that

in sentiment—a sentiment that is worthwhile keeping alive, though the objects of it sleep.

**Hits Falling Telephone Pole**

Carroll Reindollar, of Fairfield, met with an unusual accident, one day last week. He was running his auto on the Emmitsburg Pike, and just as he was about to pass a telephone pole on which a lineman was at work, the pole and man fell across the road immediately in front of his car, causing him to run into it with considerable force. Mr. Reindollar was hurt considerably about the head and body, and his car was damaged. The line-man was not much injured, his fall being broken by the wires.

**Song Recital In Emmitsburg**

A large appreciative audience greeted, Mrs. Francine Lawson, soprano, of Washington, in a song recital on Tuesday evening at Saint Euphemia's Hall. The recital was under the auspices of the Women's Club of Emmitsburg, and was a success. The president of the club, Mrs. Harry Boyle, introduced Mrs. Johnson. Mrs. Lewis Higby, treasurer of the club, was the accompanist of the evening. Mrs. Lawson has a beautiful voice of systematic quality, and wide range over which she has perfect command. To this, she united great interpretive and technical skills. She has a pleasant and magnificent, personality and charming stage presence.

**Probe Death Of Robert Wilhide**

An investigation into the death last September of Robert Wilhide, 14 of Thurmont ended on Tuesday night with a release from jail of Gabe McAfee, of near Thurmont. McAfee was taken into custody on Sunday by a Baltimore detective at the combination of an investigation, which had been conducted quietly by the State's Attorney since last September 22, when the boy's lifeless body was found in the mountains, 3 or 4 miles from Thurmont.

Many conflicting statements said to have been made by McAfee led to his apprehension by the authorities. Convinced that the evidence in his possession was not sufficient to warn

holding the man longer, the State's Attorney ordered McAfee released on Tuesday night. McAfee is said to be a shell shock victim of the world war, having served overseas with the American Expeditionary Force. He was a member of the 81st division.

Young Wilhide left his home on September 20, carrying a shotgun, supposedly to hunt squirrels in the mountains. He has said to have told some friends that McAfee had invited him up to hunt. When he failed to return to his home that night his parents began to search for him.

On September 22, the body was found in the mountains with a gunshot wound directly under the heart. The gun lay on a tree stump 72 feet from the body. When searchers approach the spot where the body was discovered, it was said that McAfee would tell them, he had searched that locality, and the body was not there. Before being asked about the affair, he told people he did not shoot the boy and his alleged to have made statements in Thurmont to the effect that they "would have to prove it on him". These statements, gather with many other conflicting statements McAfee is alleged to have made, led to his arrest following the investigation.

A Coroner's inquest rendered a verdict of accidental death when the boy's death was investigated. Shortly after the family of the boy and the State's Attorney began a quiet investigation. It came to a point the State's Attorney asked the Baltimore City to lend a detective to work on the case. The sleuth arrived here on Thursday and completed his work on Tuesday night. 14 people were quizzed by the authorities during investigation.

In deciding to release McAfee, the State's Attorney said that while evidence did not warrant holding McAfee any longer, he wanted to impress upon the public that, even though an offense may have been committed months ago, and was apparently forgotten by the public, the authorities were constantly working to solve it.

*To read past editions of 100 Years Ago This Month, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.*



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# TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## Darryl Hale: A life of service that shaped Taneytown's history

David Buie

Darryl Glenn Hale, a lifelong public servant and proud son of Taneytown, passed away suddenly on April 1, at 58. While his loss is deeply felt, Hale's legacy lives on in the community he cherished and helped shape through decades of service in both military and civic life.

Originally from Hanover, Pennsylvania, Darryl later settled in Taneytown, where he was shaped by his parents' strong emphasis on integrity, responsibility, and service. These core values guided his path from military service to key leadership positions in local government, where he impacted Taneytown's civic growth and development.

Hale's journey of public service began in the United States Marine Corps, where he rose to the rank of corporal and served with distinction during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. His commendations, including the Southwest Asia Service Medal with two stars, a Navy Unit Citation aboard the USS *Portland*, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon, are a testament to the courage, discipline, and leadership he brought to his service. These traits would later define his role in municipal governance, shaping his approach to local decision-making.

Upon returning home, Hale spent over 25 years in the HVAC industry, honing a practical skill-set and work ethic that laid the groundwork for a second career in public service. In the late 2010s, he was elected to the Taneytown City Council, serving a four-year term during which he also held the role of Mayor Pro Tem. In this capacity, Hale became a familiar and trusted voice in

local decision-making, championing responsible development, infrastructure improvements, and community-building initiatives.

Colleagues remember Hale as a pragmatic leader and a good listener. He was often seen at community events, not just as a public figure, but as a neighbor, friend, and advocate for those whose voices needed amplifying. One of his most notable qualities was his accessibility—residents knew they could speak with him about anything from zoning questions to veterans' affairs, and he would always give his full attention, demonstrating his commitment to addressing community concerns.

After a brief hiatus, Hale returned to public service as a city council member but soon stepped up to fill a critical need as Director of Planning, Zoning, and Code Enforcement for the City of Taneytown. He recognized that his impact could be more visible and far-reaching in this role than as a council member. As Zoning Director, Hale collaborated closely with the Taneytown Planning Commission to develop the city's Comprehensive Plan—a long-term strategy for sustainable growth that carefully preserved the town's small-community charm. His commitment to this vision instilled confidence in residents about Taneytown's future.

Whether reviewing development proposals or responding to resident concerns about neighborhood aesthetics, Hale's leadership was marked by fairness, professionalism, and foresight. His work streamlined the permitting process for homeowners and businesses, strengthened property maintenance enforcement, and ensured that new construction adhered to local values and codes. Hale became a steward of Taneytown's built environment, ensuring the city's physical evolution matched its residents' hopes for

a thriving, livable community.

Despite his many public roles, those who knew Darryl best will remember him as a devoted husband, father, and friend. He shared 29 loving years with his wife, Kimberly, and together, they raised two children, Morgan and Mason, who were his most tremendous pride. Whether coaching from the sidelines or cheering from the crowd, Hale never missed a moment to support their pursuits.

His personal life was also grounded in community. He was a proud member of Monocacy Lodge A.F. & A.M. #203 and Taneytown's American Legion Post #120. Friends knew him as quick-witted, warm-hearted, and always ready with a joke or an encouraging word. He loved the outdoors—especially fishing and kayaking—and found companionship in Remy, the family's loyal chocolate Labrador Retriever. His love for the outdoors and his dog made him feel relatable and down-to-earth to many.

A passionate Washington football fan, Hale's loyalty to the team was unwavering, reflecting his broader loyalty to the people and places he loved.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 3 at 11 at the Fireman's Activity Building on the fairgrounds in Taneytown, followed by fellowship at American Legion Post #120. In a final act of generosity, all flowers from the service will be donated to the local Senior Center. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Taneytown Police Department or the Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company—organizations that reflect Hale's commitment to public safety and community well-being.

Darryl's life is a powerful reminder of the difference one can make. Whether wearing the uniform of a



A "Celebration of Darryl's Life" will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at 11, at the Fireman's Activity Building on the fairgrounds in Taneytown, followed by a fellowship at the American Legion Post.

Marine, the badge of a city official, or the smile of a neighbor, Hale embodied service in all its forms. His legacy is written not just in official records and city plans but in the daily life of Taneytown—in the safe streets, thoughtful development, and civic pride he helped inspire.

In a town known as "A Small Town with a Big Heart," Darryl Hale's heart helped define it. He will be dearly missed, always remembered, and forever honored.

To read past articles on Taneytown History, visit the History section of Taneytown.net.



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Month of wellness

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

We have made it to May! Blue skies, longer days, sunsets pleading to go on into the night. Grass, bright and green, and the sweet chirping of birds. The delightful, everchanging scenery I witness on my commute to work: soft, delicate pink skies, and the smell of lingering rain, and windows down, letting the seven-in-the-morning warmth in. May is a beautiful month. A wonderful month.

But it is also a very busy month. May means spring fever, endless tasks in preparation for summer, and not a single day off except for Memorial Day. There is a restlessness both inside and outside the classroom—a longing to be outside and enjoy the newfound weather, the sunlit days. It is a month often overlooked, often spent anticipating the next season. Do we ever take a moment to stop and smell the flowers—literally—and take in the month of May? Do we ever pause to clear our minds, to practice wellness?

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The understanding and practice of mental health is extremely important in being a teacher, a student, and any individual striving to live in this world and reach his or her goals. I don't think there is a more fitting month than May to celebrate and bring awareness to this significant topic.

According to Mental Health America, "Mental Health America founded Mental Health Month in 1949 and has led the effort every May to promote mental wellness nationwide" ([mhanational.org/mental-health-month/](http://mhanational.org/mental-health-month/)). These next 31 days prioritize the education, background, and understanding of mental and behavioral health issues. How do we reduce the stigma? What resources exist for those struggling? And what steps can we take to

better our own mental health? As a teacher, I take my mental health very seriously. It is important to take care of myself so that I can be fully present and educate my students. Below are some steps I take to value my mental health as a teacher that truly improve my days inside and outside the classroom.

**Taking Walks**  
One of my favorite text messages to receive is from my friends on a warm, beautiful morning: "Should we go for a walk after work?" I love working out, and I love going to the gym, but there is something so special about walks outside, being fully immersed in nature.

In college, I would often walk the Mount St. Mary's trail near the ARCC in between classes, early in the morning, or right before dinner. I loved weaving through the forest, passing the wide, open field, and watching the horses across the road. Even writing about this right now makes me miss the views! I'd either play some Taylor Swift, call my sister, chat with some friends, or just listen to nature fill my intentional silence. That last part—that's the hardest. It's difficult to set yourself up for one, two, or even three miles without some sort of background noise, something to focus on. This invites thoughts way too easily, and for the stressed and anxious person, this is not always wanted. However, setting time for yourself to walk in nature is one of the top activities to support your mental health.

As the weather grows warmer, I tend to end my days walking with my friends. While it's not the gorgeous Mount St. Mary's walking trail, our path at the local park boasts some great views, including the sunset over a hill and a loop through the forest. I find that I wake up with a relaxed body, a clearer mind, and a positive outlook for the day. Walking—especially out-

side—is a wonderful outlet with several benefits for your mental health.

**Journaling**  
This is one of my favorite things to do! Journaling boasts several benefits, from externalizing thoughts and managing stress to pushing creativity and gaining new insights. At the end of a long week, journaling helps me highlight the positives, reflect upon the negatives, and overall release my emotions into a safe space before I turn the page.

My tips for journaling include ensuring that you have plenty of time and enough space for yourself. Sometimes I push myself to write for fifteen minutes before I go to bed, but this often doesn't work, and it doesn't serve my mental health. I prefer taking a long Saturday morning to write. However, this might work differently for you! If you'd rather begin journaling in smaller doses, maybe at your desk or in bed, that's completely fine. If you'd like to take an entire afternoon in a café and fill pages upon pages in a journal, that's great too! Journaling has numerous benefits for your mental health, and spring is the perfect time to get outside and bask in the sunlight with some pen and paper.

**Yoga**  
This is something new I've tried. While I took a couple classes in college, I've finally found a groove in my schedule to be able to do yoga in the evenings with my friends. We take classes at our local gym, and the types of classes range from restorative yoga (lying down in different poses for five minutes at a



time) to more active, dynamic yoga (focusing on your core and strength while moving through poses). Each type of yoga has left me feeling amazing, especially at the end of a long day. There is truly a mind-body connection that yoga cultivates within you. Stretching your body, listening to slow music, and being immersed in the low dim of a wide, open studio does wonders for your mind.

**Hobbies**  
Reading a good book, taking an art class, and hiking in nature are just few of the many hobbies you can pursue in favor of your mental health. As a college student-turned-teacher, my free time has significantly altered, leaving me with evenings, weekends, and

breaks. Therefore, I have to plan my schedule every week to ensure I have time for myself. While this does take some extra steps, it is truly important in maintaining your wellbeing. As the saying goes, you cannot pour from an empty cup!

To celebrate this month of wellness, try some of the above steps, and do some more research on how to prioritize your mental health. For more resources on mental health, visit the National Institute of Mental Health ([nimh.nih.gov](http://nimh.nih.gov)). Make the most of the beautiful spring season, and as a teacher, I can promise we will make it to summer!

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

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COOKING

Mother’s Day brunch

Sonya Verlaque  
FCC Culinary Program

So, here is the truth, I am a smother and I hate going out for Mother’s Day Brunch. I would rather stay home and make pancakes, instead of finding parking or making reservations, or paying a lot of money for what is often a mediocre brunch. So, since we have three little kids, sleeping in is not usually an option, I’d rather at least try these breakfast ideas and stay in my PJs anyway.

Blueberry Banana  
French Toast Bake

This can be made the day before and refrigerated overnight, then the topping can be placed in the morning right before baking. Have the kids tear up the bread for you, they will think it’s hilarious. Its best to use day old bread, just to keep it from getting soggy.

Ingredients

- For the French toast casserole
- 8 cups good quality sourdough bread cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 medium overripe bananas
- 5 large eggs

- 1 1/4 cups milk (or milk alternative)
- 2 tsps vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup maple syrup (optional)
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries

For the topping

- 4 tbss coconut oil or unsalted butter melted
- 3 tbss coconut sugar packed
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- Pinch of salt
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Preparation : Preheat the oven to 375°F. Place an oven rack in the centre position. Slice the bread into 1-inch slices and then cut then slices into 1-inch cubes. You can also tear the bread apart with your hands. Leave the crusts on. Lightly grease a 7x11 inch (if you want thicker slices) or 9x13 inch-baking dish (if you want thinner slices) with cooking spray. Add enough bread cubes to cover the bottom of the dish. Sprinkle half the blueberries on top. Repeat again, layering the bread chunks and blueberries. In a medium bowl or measuring cup, mash the bananas.

Whisk in the eggs, milk, vanilla, 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon, and salt; mix well. Pour the egg and milk mixture evenly over all the bread chunks. At this point, the casserole can be baked right away, or covered and refrigerated overnight. When you are ready to bake, mix in another small bowl, mix together the melted coconut oil or butter with the coconut sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and pinch of salt. Using a spoon, drizzle the mixture evenly over all the bread chunks and blueberries. Bake the casserole, uncovered, for 35 to 45 minutes. I baked mine for about 40 minutes. Leave the casserole in the oven longer if you want the chunks of bread on the top to be more brown and crispy. Let the casserole cool for about 10 minutes before serving. Serve with maple syrup, if desired.

Eggs Benedict Casserole

I love eggs Benedict, it might be the one “special” thing I order for breakfast if we are out. Mainly because I don’t really poach eggs very well? This casserole does need to be made the night before, so the English muffins soften some.

Ingredients

- 1 tbs. vegetable oil
- 8 oz. Canadian bacon slices, chopped
- 6 English muffins, split
- 1 bunch scallions, white and green parts separated
- 6 large eggs
- 2 cups whole milk
- 3/4 tsp black pepper
- 2 tsp kosher salt, divided
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 6 large egg yolks
- 2 tbs fresh lemon juice (from 1 lemon)
- 1 tbs Dijon mustard
- 1/4 tsp paprika, plus more for garnish

Preparation : Cook bacon and toast English muffins: Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high. Add bacon. Cook, stirring often, until lightly browned, about 4 minutes. Remove bacon



Blueberry Banana French Toast Bake

with a slotted spoon to a paper towel-lined plate, reserving drippings in skillet.

Return skillet to medium-high. Working in batches, add English muffin halves, cut sides down, to hot drippings in skillet. Cook until toasted, about 1 minute. Let muffin halves cool slightly. Chop English muffin halves into bite-size pieces. Place on bottom of a lightly greased (with cooking spray) 13- x 9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with cooked bacon. Finely chop white parts of scallions, and sprinkle over mixture in dish. (Wrap green parts of scallions in a damp paper towel; chill until ready to use.) Whisk together whole eggs, milk, pepper, and 1 teaspoon of the salt in a large bowl. Pour over mixture in baking dish. Cover with plastic wrap. Chill at least 8 hours or up to 16 hours. Preheat oven to 350°F. Let casserole stand at room temperature while oven preheats. Bake until top is browned and casserole is set, about 40 minutes. Melt butter in a small skillet over

medium-low. Keep butter hot over lowest heat (do not let it brown). Process egg yolks, lemon juice, mustard, paprika, and remaining 1 teaspoon salt in a blender on medium just to combine, about 5 seconds. With blender running on medium speed, slowly pour hot, melted butter through center opening in blender lid. Process until mixture is smooth and thick, about 1 minute. Drizzle about 1/2 cup hollandaise over warm casserole. Finely chop reserved green scallion parts, and sprinkle over top. Sprinkle with paprika; serve with remaining hollandaise.

Paloma

Similar to ranch water or a margarita, a Paloma is a classic taquila drink that is a beautiful pink color, perfect for mother’s day. Let’s be honest, mama deserves a cocktail.

Ingredients

- 3 oz. blanco tequila, such as Espolon or Casamigos (about 2 shots)
- 2 oz. grapefruit juice (about 1 1/2 shots)
- 1/2 oz. lime juice (about half a shot)
- Salt rim (preferably coarse sea salt)
- Sparkling water like too Chico
- twist of grapefruit or twist of lime
- Ice
- Grapefruit wedge or lime slice, for garnish

Preparation : Rim the glass with salt, if desired. (Using a grapefruit or lime wedge, rub juice around the rim and then dip rim into any salt you have on hand. Fill the glass with ice. Add tequila, grapefruit juice, and lime juice (you can also make this in a shaker and then pour). Top with sparkling water. Garnish with grapefruit or lime wedge and enjoy! If you want a sweeter drink, simple syrup can be added, or if you prefer not to rim your glass with salt, just add a small pinch to the drink with serving.

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MOMS' TIME OUT

I have a favorite?

Michele Angel

We all have favorites. Whether it's your favorite color, or favorite ice cream flavor, or favorite sweater, we all have favorites. I for one love chocolate anything, and I have a certain sweatshirt that is so raggedy and frumpy, my husband can't stand it. But do we have a favorite child?

This is the question my children have joked about for years. You can't watch a sitcom about families without an episode discussing who the favorite child might be. Now that my kids are older than have suddenly come to the realization that I might actually have a favorite. Apparently, the other night three of them had a little get together to discuss the fourth, who they believe is the favorite. Luckily for me the youngest, who was in the meeting, came to me and asked. She was in a talking mood and spilled all the details that were discussed.

I might not have handled it very well because I burst out laughing. Between you and I, I love all of my kids and really don't think I have a favorite. The funny thing was that the child they were convinced was my favorite is the one who has given me the most gray hairs. She is my first girl and third child, she has been a wild one since birth, and she had some tumultuous teen years. When I asked why they thought that she simply said because she gets the most attention and gets in the least amount of trouble.

I couldn't argue with the first part. The squeaky wheel always gets the most attention. I did point out that she really doesn't get any more attention than anyone else, because she is rarely home. I also mentioned that the attention she gets isn't always positive as she is the one who doesn't always think before she acts and needs correcting. It appears she gets

more attention is because when she is home, we are having to ask her if she did her chores or simply trying to get a couple minutes of facetime with her before she is off and running again. No moss will grow under this child. As for her not getting in as much trouble as they feel she should have, I had to remind her how her father and I worked with punishments and consequences.

Right or wrong, we have always tried to reprimand our children privately. What I mean is if one of the kids didn't do their chores, for example, we would ask them to come talk to us privately, not in front of everyone else. If the infraction was something multiple kids were guilty of then we might call them all out at once. We would also have family meetings regularly to discuss things that affected the whole family. The point is that the other kids might not know the punishment of one of their siblings, because they were not included in that conversation. The other thing I reminded her of is that some "crimes" have a punishment built in and therefore we don't always feel a need to add on with anything more than a talk about hard life lessons. When one of my kids blew through a chunk of their savings for stupid stuff and then needed that money later and didn't have it, they learned a difficult but valuable lesson.

Sometimes we just let our kids fail because they learn way more than us telling them not to do something and them thinking we are being overprotective or strict. Other times there is a life lesson, but we might tack a little extra on to reinforce the lesson. So, with the savings example, even though the child lost out on something because they had spent money frivolously, we then added that they had to take a portion of their upcoming checks to replenish the account.

So, they had not only missed out by not having the money but would be short on the cash they were expecting in the future because it was earmarked for their savings.

I then explained that I did not have favorite, and it was actually quite the opposite. The truth is that sometimes there is a child who is absolutely driving me nuts! So not a favorite, but a pain in the neck. I told her at their next meeting they should try to figure out who is giving me the most heartburn and gray hair. Maybe it isn't who is at the top but who is at the bottom? We laughed and I reminded her that I always love my kids, but sometimes I think, "When will this child give me a minute to breathe?" I also reminded her that it wasn't too long ago that her three siblings thought she was the favorite. She started giggling and admitted she had forgotten that. I also mentioned that each of her brothers were thought to be the favorite at different times in their lives. My last comment was that my favorite child was actually her father, my husband and that got an actual belly laugh out of her!

The fact is that on any given day a different child will cause so many emotions in me, including but not limited to, love, disappointment, joy, frustration, worry, pride, guilt, and amusement! These emotions can switch from one child to another quicker than a roulette ball can jump to the next number. Parenting is an emotional roller coaster at best and an emotional mine field at worst. Thank goodness, for me, the positive emotions outweigh the negative. Of course,



that doesn't include worry, because as a mom that is a non-stop ride with my monkeys and this circus!

The moral of this story is that no child is perfect, and they can all cause a few extra gray hairs. As a parent you love your children unconditionally but wouldn't mind a moment or two when you don't have to worry about them or reprimand them. As for favorites, I am not sure that is a thing. If it is it changes more than

Carol Burnett changed costumes. Which child is causing you the most grief is a better assessment of the "favorite" situation. Sometimes one child needs you more than the others, but apparently in my house that might be showing favoritism. I guess you can't win either way!

To read past editions of Moms' Time Out, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month we asked our writers to share a recipe and the memories and feelings they associate with it. Keep reading to see how food touches more than just your taste buds, and maybe find your new favorite recipe!*

## Freshman

The best way to break a fast

Cameron Madden  
MSMU Class of 2028

About two years ago, I personally got really into cooking; I was fascinated by just anything I could make in the kitchen. I think this came about due to being a picky eater in my childhood, but lucky for me I later on developed actual taste and have been open to enjoying a wider variety of foods. I had realized also that my diet was not the best, and heavily relied upon chicken, beef and other meats as the main source of reason to eat a meal. That is to say, diners would be the same constantly, and in turn, the real highlight of the meal was the meat associated with it.

I wanted to find a way to expand my palate completely, at least for a time, so that I may appreciate the different kinds of foods available and see what I could be influenced to make. It just so happens that as I was thinking about this, my good friend was participating in the Muslim tradition of Ramadan. To keep it short, Ramadan is a tradition of fast-

ing for about a month's time; you cannot drink or eat anything until the sun sets. So, of course, for my friend it was a time where he would vent about how hard not being able to drink or eat anything really was, and in my efforts to be a kind and supportive friend, I knew that I could not let this be; I couldn't just let my friend go on about how much he was suffering and feel alone during the process! I realized that there was my own sort of Christian version of Ramadan: lent. While I am not Catholic, I still find lent to be a great and interesting practice! The timing was off though, and when I determined that I wanted to do a 40 day fast, lent was halfway through. That being said, I chose to wait until after Easter. I soon realized just how much different my diet would become, especially because I chose to swear off meat for the 40 days and only eat one meal a day.

It was honestly an incredibly hard experience. I've never had anything remotely close to this kind of dedication, and my choice for a lack of meat really threw off the meals that I could have had. It didn't help that throughout this process, I got a suspiciously increasing amount of food advertisements consisting of a new burger at an estab-

lishment, or wings and the like. Even outside of certain establishment meal advertisements, I kept getting videos of personal and homemade recipes, all consisting of good-looking food, which sounds like a great option, yet, of course, they're all made with meat.

I found however, a sort of motivation to finish this fast by finding something that I dreamt of making the first day I could eat normally again: a recipe for Alfredo Garlic Bread Chicken. Instead of letting it become a temptation, I found a way to turn it into motivation!

According to the video recipe, the meal had to be prepared by cutting up some chicken breasts, and seasoning them with varying amounts of salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika and garlic and herb seasonings, mixed with oil of course. You cook them on a cast iron skillet with oil for five minutes on each side.

For the Alfredo sauce, it is made using butter, whipping cream, and the same seasonings listed before except without paprika. Once mixed, it should be left in a pot to simmer while throwing in sprinkles of parmesan cheese periodically.

Next, take a couple of large baguettes and split them down the middle to spread garlic butter on top of them. You

then add a bit of the Alfredo sauce on it and a layer of cheese including: mozzarella, smoked gouda, and cheddar, followed by the chicken slices. Throw more alfredo sauce on top, some more cheese, and a pinch of parsley on top. Cook this in the oven at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes. What you are left with is a fresh slice of garlic bread coated in cheeses and chicken, with alfredo sauce not only already a part of the dish, but with the extra that is left, can be dipped into the sauce further, but I suppose that is the preference of the eater!

We served this meal with a side of brussel sprouts as well, which is something me and my father enjoy despite the negative stigmas surrounding brussel sprouts! In all my life, I have not enjoyed a meal as much as that. Sure, I have been to fancy restaurants and had some of the most professionally prepared food I might ever taste, but I think the allure of cooking something (near) completely on my own, while also having done so with such a motivation to make it, made the whole experience much better than anything else I've ever had. Perhaps it was also the faces of my family who ate with me and enjoyed it just as much as I did.

I have not cooked the same meal

again, and I honestly don't know of a time when I will. The ability to cook things is slightly limited due to my dorm life, and once I am home for summer, I will presume my time not being able to cook would lead to a lull as to wanting to cook something. I hope that eventually I will find the will to cook something unique, and hopefully it will have some kind of significance, just as the chicken alfredo bread had when I made it some time ago. Perhaps something using a different form of protein; maybe I can make a whole platter or preparation of tacos for people to eat. Now that sounds like a fun endeavor!

If I were to cook the chicken alfredo bread again, which trust me I want to, I would want to a wider variety of different cheeses to see how that flavor impacts it. I would also probably add another garlic bread on top of the food, to make it a sandwich, and then I could possibly fit it with either lettuce and tomatoes, or something more unique, like asparagus! Food is technically an art, and one I can't wait to try my hand at again!

To read other articles by Cameron Madden, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

## Sophomore

"The sauce"

Gracie Smith  
Class of 2027

I was born into a very Italian family. As mentioned in a previous article of mine, my great grandfather was first born on American soil, but the rest of the family came straight from Italy. That said, food is the center of everything. Birthday? Food. Funeral? Food. Illness? Food. Graduation? Food. Wedding? Food. At any event with family, the food is the center of attention.

All that said, my family holds a few recipes that are very close to my heart. The most valued being my great-grandmother, Virginia's, sauce recipe. I remember cherishing this recipe for as long as I can remember, and that isn't an exaggeration.

My obsession with the sauce began when I was in grade school. For a few of my birthdays, I requested that my mom make spaghetti with "me-mom's" sauce. I always enjoyed an old-fashioned family dinner where I got to dress up and eat with my family. The sauce was always the first thing to be complimented of course, because my mother is the one who makes it the best.

In addition to my birthday, I remember a few Halloween holidays where my mom would get up early and make the sauce while my brother, Jack, and I were at school. We would come home and change into our costumes for trick or treating before eating the hardest meal known to man. Nevertheless, we were always careful not to get sauce on our Halloween costumes, and we always enjoyed the leftovers for the days to follow.

Growing up, the sauce became more and more of a family icon. That is, everyone cherished it and longed for the taste of me-mom's cooking. For instance, when my family of four would travel to Florida to visit my Aunt Mary and Uncle Ted, we'd always dedicate a day to make "the sauce," as it quickly became referred to. I remember my Aunt Mary being blown away when she tasted her mother's sauce for the first time in years. I could see the memories flooding back to her, her eyes lost in nostalgia. It was then that I realized how much this recipe actually meant to my family.

When I was in high school, "the sauce" became more of a comfort food; it became our go-to meal whenever someone was ill, had an operation, or someone had passed. Despite being associated with such a negative event, "the sauce" always brought joy to anyone who got to eat it. Not only joy, but comfort through all the happy memories associated with it.

When I was a senior in high school, my mom woke up one day and decided to teach me how to make "the sauce". I was very excited but quickly became intimidated. As I began to make it, it dawned on me how many people counted on me to carry on "the sauce".

As I was stirring and counting my mother had said to me, "look at you, carrying on the tradition. Now I know that when I'm dead you'll know how to cook one thing." I chuckled very loosely at this, but as of recently, I realized how true her statement was.

The day that I'm writing this article to you, my father took a very heavy fall and ended up having to go to the hospital. After leaving in somewhat of a rush, my brother and I were left to tackle the home front.

I knew right away that my mother was distraught, and there was only so much I could do to help her at that time. Then, almost instantly, I knew exactly what to do. After calling my grandparents to come and stay with us for the day, I whipped out my mother's sauce pot and got to cooking. It felt as if I had made "the sauce" about 100 times; I knew exactly what to do. My grandmother, who knows the recipe like the back of her hand, just watched. Pretty immediately, the whole house began to smell like home.

I spent most of the day tending to "the sauce", stirring, counting, simmering, stirring again, boiling, removing from the heat, etc. This went on for 4 hours.

I heard the garage door open, and I knew that mom and dad were home. I took one last look at the house. While still a little cluttered, the blankets were washed and dried, the lawn was cut, and dinner was on the stove. I cleared the pathway for my dad and mom opened the door to come in. The immediate smile on her face upon her smelling "the sauce" told me everything I needed to know.

She embraced tightly with a smile, "You made me-mom's sauce." I nodded with a tearful smile back to her, happy I was able to comfort her and the rest of my family like she had been doing for the past 20 years. In a way, my heart was full with gratitude that my parents raised me as they did. They taught my brother and me the importance of family. No matter what, family will always be there for you. Countless times, I have witnessed my mother get up early to make "the sauce" and deliver it to family in need. Food, while the center of my family, was only so due to its ability to bring us

together. "The sauce", more specifically, fills us with happy memories of how amazing our family is, but also fills our tummies.

For the sake of tradition, and for the sake of my family, this recipe will remain close to our hearts and to our blood. That said, I will not share this recipe but rather encourage all families to think about a meal or a recipe that they cherish.

What does it mean to you? What does it mean to others? Why is it so important to you and to your family? Everyone is comforted by food, and every family has one recipe that means the world to them. What's yours?

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



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# RECIPES THAT BRING BACK MEMORIES

## Junior Raspberry turnovers

Devin Owen  
MSMU Class of 2026

Growing up I spent a great deal of my time in the kitchen, whether it be in my own, my grandparents’ or at a friend’s house. You could almost always find me whipping up some concoction. Now I’m certainly not the best cook you’ll ever come across, but I have always tried my best. Most days after school I would go to my grandparents’ houses. Both of my grandmothers loved to indulge my sweet tooth so we would spend a lot of time baking while my little brother played with toys. To this day I always try to set aside time to go bake with my Grandma Pat and my Gigi, it happens mostly around the holidays. The love for baking has been passed down through generations, the cooking gene not so much. Both my sister and I learned from our grandmothers and our mom, who would bake homemade cakes every year on our birthdays.

As I am writing this, the Easter holiday is approaching quickly, so all of the women in my family are deciding what to bake and share with those

closest to us. My sister is spending the days leading up to the holiday baking homemade Sourdough Cinnamon Rolls, both for our family and to sell to others—because they’re just that good. My mom and grandmother have yet to decide on what they’re making, but I’m sure I’ll end up helping with that.

There are so many recipes I have learned over the years, all of which I hold close to my heart, but none more than my homemade raspberry turnovers. I have always had a habit of finding pastry recipes on Pinterest and trying my hand at them, but this is one I consider a “gold mine” because I was simply experimenting with different ideas and concoctions from the past and ended up with my favorite treat to make.

There are so many memories I have associated with this recipe and, looking back, I cannot believe how far I’ve come. When I first made the turnovers, they turned out okay but not as great as I had hoped. They were way too sweet, and I didn’t know how to make icing at the time, so we used leftover icing from a Dominos order. Not very creative but it did the job. Fast forward to now and I’ve made this recipe so many times that I know it like the back of my hand! They are certainly much better now than they

were when I first made them, but there is still always room for improvement. My next goal is to make the puff pastry from scratch—a feat I have yet to accomplish. It is likely I will need to implement my sister’s skill set for making dough of all sorts; her talent is unmatched!

If you’ve read Four Years At The Mount before, you may remember my referencing of these treats in past articles. One of the most stagnant memories I have associated with this recipe is that of my Uncle Charlie. For those who haven’t read my articles before, April 18th marks two years since he passed after a 15-year-long battle with cancer. I remember the first time I brought raspberry turnovers to a family function; it was our Christmas Eve lunch/dinner and since I had just “perfected” the recipe, I wanted to share it with everyone. It’s important to note that my uncle’s sweet tooth was more intense than anyone else I knew—it was practically insatiable. He was the first to try one when we got to my grandma’s house, and he never stopped raving about them. It was then that a sort of tradition started; I would make raspberry turnovers for holidays and special gatherings when I could afford to. My uncle never stopped raving about them and his whole face lit up when

he would see I’ve brought them. I can remember him constantly asking, “Hey Dev, when are you gonna make those flaky fruit things again. They were real good.” Uncle Charlie pushed me to do a lot of things with my life; he wanted me to live life to the fullest extent and have no regrets. He always made sure that I felt confident and loved, and making the turnovers always reminds me of how much he loved both sweets and me.

I’ve made turnovers plenty more times since the first, and each time I remember why I love them so much! I just recently made them for my roommates to try for the first time and I’ve been told that I need to do it more often. It served us well because for one hour in the kitchen, I had breakfast for the next couple of days! My boyfriend and his friends are big fans too, and ask me to make them frequently. It all serves as a reminder that something so small can really impact others. I must say that I wouldn’t have as much love for baking without the wonderful women in my life, so to them I am eternally grateful. I hope the rest of the world can come to enjoy these treats as much as I enjoy making them!

In case you’d like to try your hand at it, here is my favorite recipe for raspberry turnovers!

Ingredients:  
2 sheets of Puff Pastry (makes 8 large pastries)  
1 pack of raspberries  
1 cup white sugar  
2 tablespoons water  
1 egg white  
Confectioner sugar  
Milk  
Vanilla extract  
Directions:  
Heat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.  
In a saucepan, on medium heat, mix together raspberries, sugar and water until a sort of jelly consistency is formed. Once formed, take off heat and let cool. While the raspberry puree is cooling (which makes it thicker as well), roll out your sheets of pastry and cut into four squares. Add the puree to the middle of each square and then fold into a triangle. Seal the edges with the tip of a fork or your fingers. Then, with the egg white, lightly coat the top of the pastry and add a sprinkle of sugar. Bake pastries for 20-24 minutes or until golden.  
For the icing I use no exact measurements. Take a small bowl and mix together confectioner sugar, milk and a splash of vanilla until a creamy consistency and desired sweetness is reached. Drizzle over pastries when cooled.

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

## Senior Grandma Lynn’s mac & cheese

Dolores Hans  
MSMU Class of 2025

For this recipe you’ll need a box of Cavatappi pasta, 2 cups of shredded Colby Jack cheese, 2 cups of shredded mild cheddar cheese, ½ cup of milk, squeezable butter, and a bunch of different seasonings including chili powder, garlic salt, and regular table salt.

First, boil a box of cavatappi pasta, and before you ask, yes it has to be cavatappi, it holds the cheese the best. Make sure you generously salt your pasta water. After your pasta is boiled, drain the water but leave ¼ cup of the pasta water. In the pot with the pasta and remaining pasta water, add ½ cup of milk, 1 cup shredded colby jack cheese, and 1 cup shredded mild cheddar cheese. Then, add a little chili powder and garlic salt. Mix to combine. In a baking dish, layer some of the pasta, then some of the leftover shredded cheese, followed by a drizzle of squeezable butter. Repeat the pattern of pasta and cheese, but this time put a layer of panko breadcrumbs and then the butter. Make sure whatever milk is left in the pot gets dumped into the dish. Cover with tin foil and bake in the oven at 350 degrees for an hour. In the last 20 minutes remove the tin foil to add a nice crisp on top.

This mac & cheese recipe is inspired by my Grandma Lynn, who has been making it for as long as I can remember. Every Easter and Christmas when we would go to visit her there would always be her famous mac & cheese. Each year my Grandma Lynn and Grandpa George would take each of my siblings and I (separately) to their house for a special weekend filled with

stuff we want to do and foods we want to eat. Every year I request this dish. Her recipe is a little different than the one I’ve given you; this one is adapted a little to be more of my own.

Some of my favorite memories of going on these special weekend trips were seeing the live action Beauty and the Beast in theaters, doing many crafts and puzzles, and going to this one restaurant in her area which I can no longer remember the name of, but every time we go there my grandma always asks them for a side bowl full of pickles because she knows just how much I love them.

The last time I went to their house for a special weekend was the summer going into my first year of college. This time though, my brother and I decided to combine our weekends. Our grandparents gave us a list of potential “things to do,” which included horseback riding, the movies, the zoo, an arcade, and housework that they would pay us for. The housework ended up being my favorite part. We spent time in the garden and painted the basement and all the while we were all singing along to “Arthur’s Theme” by Christopher Cross. We would play board games and eat ice cream at night. Most of the games we played were card games, including Monopoly Deal, which is like monopoly but in card form. With each one of us being both highly competitive yet also supportive of other people winning, the games were twice as much fun. At one point we started talking in really poor British accents and making up words! It doesn’t get better than that.

My Grandma Lynn and Grandpa George have a special place in my life. They are incredibly generous and supportive people, and are always interested in what’s going on in your life, what makes you happy, and especially the other people in your life. When

they met my boyfriend the first time, they had invited us for a trip to Longwood Gardens, a place that is very special to us. They loved getting to know him and showing him around, and ever since then they have planned trips to see us or for us to see them. Together we have all gone to Longwood Gardens a few times, as well as the Renaissance Fair, and, my favorite, the Thurmont Color Fest.

My grandparents aren’t Catholic, but they have always respected and admired my faith and how it fuels my life. They love to hear about the work I do for others, and it creates another sort of connection as they also devote themselves to charity. Most people would not bring up a topic if they knew it was not something they shared, but they have never hesitated to hear about where my spiritual life has taken me.

They are now retired and make it a priority to go on road trips and visit so many beautiful places. Last summer they went all over America and still made it to both of my brothers’ weddings, even though for the second one they had Covid so had to leave right after the ceremony. But, no matter what, they were there to support them, just as they always are. I remember their wedding, not many details but I remember loving my dress and I remember the pool. My Grandma Lynn reminds me a lot of myself, and, ironically, my boyfriend reminds me of my Grandpa George in his own goofy way. I can see their marriage being a lot like mine will be, especially when Grandma Lynn is crabby and Grandpa George still teases her and makes jokes.

This mac and cheese is a staple in my house and will be in my future home. My grandkids will come over and they’ll want “Grandma Lynn’s mac and cheese”. What I love most about this recipe is that it’s more than just macaroni smothered in cheese sauce; it’s

lighter and more satisfying because the milk and butter make it creamy while the cheese melts perfectly to make the dish cohesive, but it’s not a basic cheese sauce. The absolute best part though, is the breadcrumbs on top; golden brown and a little crispy, a good texture

and flavor added to the otherwise soft meal.

I hope you enjoy making and eating this meal as much as my family does.

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

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LIBRARY

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

The Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will hold its fifth annual Mother's Day Plant Sale on the Plaza on Saturday, May 10 from 8 to 2. "The sale, which is a fundraiser for the library, features a large assortment of annuals, perennials, native plants, hanging baskets, vegetable plants, herbs, patio planters and houseplants. These make perfect gifts for Mother's Day," said library board member, Paul Pinkerton. In advance of the sale, plant donations of all kinds are wanted. Pots provided, if needed.

For more information about the plant sale or to arrange drop off for plant donations, email to: brsmtnboard@gmail.com or leave message with Mary Ann Stanley 717-940-6711.

Mondays – Children's Story Time from 4 to 5. Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 to minute sessions in

an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesdays – Coffee Club from 3 to 4, mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Thursdays – Teen's Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30 to 6, just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturdays - Join us at 10:30 for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

Blue Ridge Summit Book Club – May 19 from 5 to 6. This month, we are reading Maus Volume One by Art Spiegelman! This is a graphic novel selection for the year. Copies will be available at the library and all are welcome to join us!

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club meets at 5:30 on May 20. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The

group is currently working on this year's gorgeous raffle quilt.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit [www.fcslpa.org](http://www.fcslpa.org) or call 717-792-2240.

Frederick County Libraries

The final month of spring is upon us at Emmitsburg Branch Library, and library staff have planned a multitude of programs for the whole family to enjoy!

Are you interested in building your collection of plants? Then join us for a plant swap on Saturday, May 10! Bring plants of your own and leave with new ones! Featured plants include flowers, vegetables, and more!

The Friends of the Emmitsburg Branch Library have the perfect Mother's Day gift! Join them on Saturday, May 17 from 1 to 4 for their Paint Par-Tea with local artist Rebecca Pearl! Tickets cost \$50, and the proceeds directly support the library. Only 15 tickets are available for this event, and they can be purchased with cash or check at the Emmitsburg Branch Library. For more information, please call 301-600-6329.

In observance of Memorial Day, all Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed on Sunday, May 25 and Monday, May 26.

For Children: Is your child interested in gardening? Then attend Junior Gardeners! This is a spring/summer program where we'll create, learn, and explore simple nature concepts in our library garden! This program is geared toward children ages birth-12. Children and families can also enjoy family and pajama storytimes, Read to a Therapy Dog with WAGS for Hope, and the Cupcake Liner Poppies program to honor Memorial Day.

For Tweens & Teens: Tuesday Teen Time is back once again for May! Join us in painting clay pots, creating pipe cleaner flowers, making your own

container garden, and crafting light up mason jars. Beyond Tuesday programming, a representative from the Maryland Writers Association will be returning for their monthly workshop.

For Adults: Mind Care for Seniors & Caregivers returns in May with a guest speaker from Meals on Wheels! Additional programming for adults includes Yoga in the Library, Container Gardening, and Everyday Foods and Herbs for Heart Health.

For any questions, please call Emmitsburg Branch Library at 301-600-6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301-600-7212. For more information, visit FCPL.org.

Emmitsburg Branch Library

- Mondays, Family Storytime at 10:30.
- Mondays, Little Adventurers at 11.
- Wednesdays, Junior Gardeners at 10:30.
- Thursdays, Pajama Storytime at 6.
- May 1- Yoga in the Library from 1:30 to 2:30.
- May 6- Tween/Teen Art Studio- Paint a Clay Pot (Ages 9-18) from 6 to 7.
- May 8- Read to a Therapy Dog with WAGS for Hope from 6 to 7.
- May 10- Leave a Plant, Take a Plant- Plant Swap from 11 to 4.
- May 13- Tween Craft Hour (Ages 9-13) from 6 to 7.
- May 15- Maryland Writers Association- Teen Writer's Club, from 5:30 to 7.
- May 20- Container Gardening from 5 to 6.
- May 21- Mind Care for Seniors & Caregivers: Topic- Meals on Wheels from 11 to noon.
- May 24- Cupcake Liner Poppies from 2 to 3.
- May 27- Teen Art Studio- Lighted Mason Jars (Ages 9-18) from 6 to 7.
- May 31- Everyday Foods and Herbs for Heart Health from 10:30 to noon.

Thurmont Regional Library

- Mondays, Baby Storytime at 10:30.
- Tuesdays, Preschool Storytime at 10:30.
- Tuesdays, Get Ready for Kindergarten at 11:15.
- Tuesdays, Night Owls at 6:30.
- Wednesdays, Toddler Storytime at 10:30.
- Thursdays, Musical Storytime at 10:30.
- Thursdays, Elementary Explorers at 2.
- Saturdays, Family Storytime at 11.
- May 1- Teen and Tween Open Chess Play (Ages 9-18) from 5:30 to 6:30.
- May 3- Friends of the Thurmont Regional Library Book Sale from 10 to 5.
- May 3- First Saturday STEM Lab Drop-In from 2 to 2:45.
- May 4- The Ladies of History Present: Female Spies of World War II from 3:30 to 4:30.
- May 5- Teen Video Game Hour! (Ages 13-18) from 5:30 to 6:30.
- May 8- Tween Gaming Hour: Switch Edition (Ages 9-13) from 5:30 to 6:30.
- May 12- Teen Decorate a Tote Bag (Ages 13-18) from 5:30 to 6:30.
- May 14- A Conversation on International Affairs with Shaun Donnelly from 7 to 8.
- May 15- Onsite: Digital Learning at the Thurmont Regional Library from 10 to noon.
- May 15- Tween Decorate a Tote Bag (Ages 9-13) from 5:30 to 6:30.
- May 19- Teen Pressed Flower Frame (Ages 13-18) from 5:30 to 6:30.
- May 22- Tween Pressed Flower Frame (Ages 9-13) from 5:30 to 6:30.
- May 28- Stop the Bleed Training from 6 to 7.
- May 29- Teen Library Council (TLC) (Ages 11-18) from 7 to 8.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Public Schools

Janie Monier  
Frederick County School Board

As Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) prepares for the 2025-2026 academic year, our district faces significant challenges alongside opportunities that will shape the educational experience for its students.

FCPS is currently grappling with a \$21,682,491 million budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year. This financial strain is exacerbated by the loss of federal grants, including USDA grants, which have historically supported food service programs that provide fresh, locally sourced meals to students. In our county, schools partner with local farms and nonprofits such as Farm to School Frederick to provide fresh and local ingredients to our students, such as apples from Catocin Mountain Orchard.

While FCPS has secured \$10 million in additional funding over the Maintenance of Effort, this amount is insufficient to meet the comprehensive needs of the district, including continued enrollment growth, inflation and cost of living, staff compensation, and program support mandated under the Blueprint for Maryland. What is left to analyze after taking care of restricted and mandated funding items are the following proposed areas and programs for budget adjustments:

- 1:1 technology (3rd to 12th grade): \$3.2 million
- Arts & Music Programs: \$32.3 million
- Athletics: \$5.0 million

- World Languages: \$9.1 million
- Co-curricular Activities: \$2.6 million
- Excess Transportation Expense: \$18.7 million
- Career & Technology Center: \$6.6 million
- Excess Special Education Expenses: \$71.9 million
- Safety & Security: \$2.3 million

Public education in Maryland has been chronically underfunded. A 2016 study in Maryland concluded that public schools were being underfunded by \$2.9 billion annually statewide. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future introduced a funding formula meant to determine state allocation of education funds by ranking the wealth and poverty of a county's population against other counties in Maryland with the number of students enrolled in the school year by September 30th of the previous school year. This formula has not kept up with the nearly 1,000 new students coming into FCPS year after year since 2020. This has caused financial stress on all essential services of the county, including our public schools, which were already underfunded, understaffed, and dealing with an aging infrastructure.

With increasing enrollment numbers comes the need for increased staffing. This is against a backdrop of required funding for Blueprint mandates such as \$60,000 minimum salary for new, master's degree teachers to be reached in the next two years. Between mandated funding on a timeline being outpaced by rising

enrollment and chronic understaffing while working to renovate, replace, and build new schools to meet population demands, it is no surprise that our county finds ourselves having to make difficult budget decisions again. Despite this challenge, we do have new programs and curriculum to look forward to in the upcoming 2025-26 school year.

Curriculum Innovations

While the Board of Education tackles the budget, our educators and staff at FCPS are busy with rolling out new curriculum and pilot programs. One of the most exciting additions to FCPS's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs is the introduction of Agribusiness, a new pathway that reflects the vital role of agriculture in Frederick County. As home to one of the most vibrant farming communities in Maryland, the county recognizes the importance of equipping students with the skills needed to sustain family farms and support emerging agribusiness industries.

The Agribusiness program will prepare students for careers in agricultural management, marketing, and technology. Students will explore areas such as sustainable farming practices, agricultural economics, and food production systems. By connecting students to Frederick's agricultural heritage and providing them with modern, industry-relevant skills, this program will ensure the long-term viability of local farms and agribusiness enterprises.

The new PreK-12 Mathematics Pol-

icy introduced by MSDE aims to align math instruction with college readiness standards and will be implemented over the next 3 years across K-12. The policy includes a two-year Integrated Algebra Pathway, which folds major Geometry concepts into Algebra I and follows with Algebra II in the second year. The science behind the curriculum changes follows research in childhood development and neuroscience to understand how our youngest learners integrate new knowledge for long term memory. This means that parents will see more pictures and drawings used to explain new math concepts alongside the traditional numeracy and word problems. Math is a language of proportion and ration that is most easily learned through images to grasp the concepts foundational to higher math.

As an individual board member, I have submitted public comment to the Maryland State Department of Education advocating for a Data and Statistics Pathway alongside Algebraic Foundations to balance the deductive and inductive reasoning necessary for critical thinking and problem solving. As well as data science and statistics has become one of the most sought-after skill sets across a wide spectrum of careers.

Imagine two bulls yoked to plough the field. One has been well fed and is ready. The other undernourished and lame. Without nourishing both equally, they are unable to efficiently do the job to make the field ready for planting. This is essentially how we have treated these two essential math pathways in primary and secondary education. In a world that bombards people with information, data, and

ideas; it is essential to prepare our students to be ready to ask the questions that are not obvious, to question the information they read and hear, and discern the veracity of the data and information they will use to make important decisions for themselves and their family, at work, and as citizens.

Community Engagement

There are many tough decisions ahead to balance the budget while ensuring our students continue to receive an education that prepares them for independence as an adult. The Board will need input from our community as we discuss and decide how to close the budget deficit. Please consider submitting or presenting a public comment. Upcoming Board of Education meetings are scheduled for May 7 and May 21, with public comment beginning at 6. These meetings will be recorded and live-streamed, allowing for broader community participation. Upcoming meetings, agendas, and recordings of past meetings can be found on the FCPS website ([www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org)).

As Frederick County Public Schools navigates fiscal challenges, we remain committed to providing a robust education to meet the needs of our diverse county and to coordinating with our amazing community partners, from multi-generational farming communities to our visionary artists to our small businesses providing essential services, entertainment, and pushing the edges of innovation into the future. Our students are homegrown Frederick County Public School hearts, minds, and hands that we invest in every day to ensure the future success of our county, communities, and families.

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Thursday - May 29th: Tune Shifter

Friday - May 30th: Dixie HiWay Band

Saturday - May 31st: C.B. Pickers

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ARTS

WOB's mystery play on the Walkersville Southern Railroad

Justin Kiska

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre has become known for not only its Mainstage productions that include classic musicals, as well as regional and area premieres of Broadway's latest titles, but also for its wildly popular interactive murder mystery series. Launched in 2005, Marquee Mysteries has grown from producing mystery events solely at the theatre to include venues around the area. 2025 will mark the 15th year Marquee Mysteries has partnered with the Walkersville Southern Railroad to produce these live, interactive events.

Ever since Edgar Allan Poe wrote The Murders in the Rue Morgue, mysteries have been a part of our entertainment culture. From the cases of Sherlock Holmes and Miss Marple to those of Richard Castle and Gil Grissom, everyone loves a good who

dunnit? And deep down, everyone thinks they have what it takes to be the next great sleuth. Marquee Mysteries give audience members the chance to play detective and help solve the case.

Since the first Marquee Mystery was presented on the Walkersville Southern Railroad in 2011, the number of regularly scheduled mystery trains has more than doubled, with one or two (or sometimes more) mystery trains held each month from May through November. So popular are these mystery trains, tickets sell out months in advance, leaving a long waiting list by the time of the final train in November.

"When you think about it, isn't a train a great place to have an interactive mystery?" asks Justin M. Kiska, the 'mastermind' behind the series and its Executive Producer. "The idea just takes you back to Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express."

One of Way Off Broadway's owners, Kiska has now written over fifty different interactive mysteries that have been "solved" at Way Off Broadway, Nora Robert's Inn Boonsboro, the Carriage House Inn Restaurant, and on the Walkersville Southern Railroad, as well as a number of private corporate events over the years. Kiska is also the award-nominated author of the Parker City Mysteries book series from Level best Books.

To learn more about Way Off Broadway or any of its productions, visit [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com). To learn more about the interactive train mysteries this year, visit [www.wsrr.org](http://www.wsrr.org).

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, under the direction of the Kiska family since 2002, celebrated its 30th anniversary of bringing live theater to the stage during the 2024 Season. Since it first opened in 1995, the theatre has been a leader in the area's the-



atre community; proudly bringing both classic musicals, as well as regional and area premieres to the Frederick stage.

In addition to its regular Mainstage season, Way Off Broadway produces a number of special events throughout the year, including family theatre productions and an annual Breakfast with Santa (and Mrs. Claus). Through its outside producing brand, WOB LIVE! Entertainment, Way Off

Broadway also presents Marquee Mysteries - an interactive murder mystery series where the audience helps solve the case - not only at the theatre, but regularly on the Walkersville Southern Railroad and other venues through the area for private functions.

For more information on Way Off Broadway, visit them online at [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).

Frederick Flute Choir's Spring concert

The Frederick Flute Choir will present their Spring Concert at historic St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Creagerstown, on Sunday, May 4, at 3.

The program will feature classical favorites including selections from Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, a movement from J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3; Hymn-song of Phillip Bliss (It Is Well With

My Soul); the folk song Cindy; Scott Joplin's Cascades; an arrangement of the jazz standard Blue Bossa; and Dance of the Sagin' Cajun, an exciting and joyful original composition for flute choir.

The Choir plays with several members of the "flute family" including piccolo, standard C flute, and alto, bass, and contrabass flutes, and the audience will meet and hear

all the flutes individually. We are grateful to St. John's for hosting The Choir and we look forward to sharing the unique sound of a flute choir with the community.

The Frederick Flute Choir is a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide cultural enrichment for the Frederick community. We are the oldest flute choir in the mid-Atlantic region, founded in 1989 by Jennings Glenn with six teachers from Frederick County Schools. Four of the six founding members are still with

The Choir. We come from all walks of life and share a love of playing the flute and for making beautiful music together.

Our library includes close to 400 pieces including classical transcriptions, folk songs, patriotic songs, sacred music, popular standards, Broadway and movie show tunes, jazz, holiday music and original compositions for flute choir. We typically perform 5-7 programs in a season at churches, retirement communities, civic groups and flute choir fes-

tivals. Recent performances include the Columbia Flute Choir Festival, the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Frederick Church of the Brethren, BachtoberFest at Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the downtown Frederick Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship.

The Choir is directed by Vicki Crum, a retired Frederick County middle school and elementary band teacher, and assisted for low flutes and jazz by Donna Sevcovic, a retired middle school jazz band teacher and active jazz flute performer. Jennings Glenn continues to serve as conductor emeritus.

Gettysburg College's

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## On Stage for May

### 360 ALLSTARS

Fri., May 2 at 7:30

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Tickets: \$50/ \$40/ \$35/ \$15 (For 25 & under)

## On Stage for June

### Suzanne Vega

Sat., June 7

8 p.m.

Suzanne Vega will perform a career-spanning show including favorites such as Tom's Diner, Luka and many more, plus new material from her forthcoming album Flying with Angels.

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For Tickets Call: 717-337-8200

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### Emmitsburg Community Chorus Spring schedule

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus kicked off its 2025 spring season at the Emmitsburg Community Easter Sunrise Service on April 20. Three free public concerts will follow in May.

The concerts feature a combination of songs about peace, pop spirituals, a John Denver medley, and patriotic music. Selections include: America the Beautiful; Ave Maria; Born Free; Both Sides Now; Color My World; Deep Peace; Fill-A Me Up; Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor; John Denver: A Legacy of Song; Let There Be Peace on Earth; My Lord, What a Morning; Sing; The Rainbow Connection; Peace in the Valley; and Where Is the Peace.

#### Concert schedule:

- Saturday, May 3, at Lewistown United Methodist Church, 11032 Hessong Bridge Road;
- Saturday, May 10, at 3 at Apples United Church of Christ, 7908 Apples Church Road, Thurmont; and
- Sunday, May 18 at 7 at Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Road, Frederick.

The nonprofit Emmitsburg Community Chorus was founded in 1966. Concerts are made possible in part through a grant from the Frederick Arts Council. Freewill offerings will be accepted at the church concerts.

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MOUNT ARTS

“Makers Market”

Emelie Beckman  
MSMU Class of 2025

On a bright afternoon in April, creativity flowed through every corner of the Makers House as the community came together for a vibrant and bustling Makers Market. The workshop space that usually houses makers house workshops and several fine arts courses, which is situated behind the Archbishop Borders Hall, was for the afternoon transformed into a vibrantly buzzing street market. Amongst the masses were 18 unique vendors from all different ages and stages of life, who, no matter if they were students, faculty, friends, family or campus neighbors, were all connected to the Mount somehow. Keep reading to get to know them!

**Emma**  
Graduate student Emma Edwards is the head of both the Makers House and the founder of the Makers Market. I chatted with her for a bit next to her stand, where she sold bathroom-themed ceramic pieces. With their cream base color and blue melting ends, they reminded me of a streaming waterfall in a mountainous setting. She told me that she had wanted to do a market like this for quite some time. The Makers House put together a winter market earlier in the year, but saw little success as the cold of the season hindered people from showing up.  
Emma told me that she saw the market as an opportunity for any crafty person in the community to both show off their works, as well as to sell them. The profit made, she said, went to the artists themselves, but everyone was “highly encouraged to make a donation to the Makers House.”

**Kiara**  
A friend of Emma and now a Mount Alumni, Kiara always spoke about getting the market together during her time at the Mount. That’s why when she got the news from Emma that it was happening, she did not think twice before signing up as a vendor!

Since childhood, Kiara has always loved to crochet. She spoke of how her mother taught her as a kid, but that she had already had a great passion for crafts prior to that. Kiara reminisced on how prior to her infatuation with crochet, she had a phase of obsession with Rainbow Loops; tiny colorful elastics which get weaved into different bracelets, animals and much more. Besides her mother’s lessons, she also learned much through YouTube tutorials, which aligns with how many others seem to learn new skills since the invention of the internet.

Even though Kiara has a great passion for her crafts, she doesn’t plan on pursuing it professionally. A sociology major during her time at the University, she joined the Markers House for fun and was one of its original members.

**Dolores**  
A familiar name to our readers, turns out that during her time away from her work with the Emmitsburg News Journal Dolores has a true passion for photography! During the Makers Market, she was selling calendars, which can be custom-made with her different photos. Most of her photography captures natural scenes and landscapes. That said, an image that I particularly remembered was one of a proud and mighty eagle whose stare pierced through the eye of the beholder. Her calendars are available for purchase and can be delivered to the Mount’s Campus!

**Stephany**  
Another current student at the Mount, Stephany was selling beautifully hand-crafted rosaries. The intricate work of tying pitch-black and deep brown wooden pearls together to form the chain in which golden crosses hung, was truly inspiring. Naturally I was curious as to why a college student devotes time to making and selling rosaries, so I asked her. Her response was that her mother had a business and that once she was old enough, her mother taught her the craft of rosary making. Once she learned the

necessary skills and acquired the materials all the way from Italy, Stephany started her own small business!

**Brooke and Franchesca**  
Two close friends Brooke and Franchesca were selling their handmade bracelets. Situated outside the studio under a small white tent, they greeted me with all smiles and showed me the colorful bead lengths, which reminded me of peaceful, tropical vacations and time spent in salty ocean waves.

**Katarina**  
Next to Brooke and Franchesca, underneath the same small tent, stood Katarina. Unsure of what she was selling at first glance, I made my way closer and realized it was hand-crafted bars of soap! The concrete bars caught much attention due to their pastel colors and far travelling scent. The lavender and rose made me feel clean by simply standing in proximity to the stand, and it all made the market smell much like that of freshly washed cotton duvets.

With Katarina was her father. They told me how they have been making soap in their kitchen since Katarina was in elementary school. It all started as a form of father and daughter bonding. Katarina’s father explained to me the predicament he was placed in during his early years as a girl dad; he didn’t quite know how to bond with his daughters, since with boys it would have been much easier to just introduce them to his own hobbies. That’s when he decided to take up crafts together with Katarina, and soap making was something they stuck to even into college. He said he was happy over how it had brought them closer together.

**Philips Arts and Craft**  
Not at all an unfamiliar name around campus, Jay Philips is the head coach on the Mount’s Track and Field team, and he, throughout his time at Mount, has not been shy to introduce his family and the



The Mount Makers Market housed 18 unique and talented vendors!

campus community to each other. At the Market, the Philips Arts and Crafts stand housed the collective artworks of Coach Jay’s daughter and son, featuring Star Wars drawings, felt animals, sword sticks and painted shells. Their talents at such a young age were so great I couldn’t help but contribute by buying a scarlet felt gecko!

**Jahari**  
The Market seems to have had a strong track presence since one of Philips’s athletes was also participating as a vendor. Jahari, a sprinter on the track team, was displaying a wide collection of different perfume oils. Growing up in DC, Jahari told me that it was very important what perfume and cologne you wore. He then explained that once he decided to take up a side hustle during college, it seemed like the most natural choice for him. While he is very knowledgeable of the different scents and knows exactly which ones to recommend, he does not make the oils by himself, rather he distributes them. The scents ranged from a sweet creamy vanilla cake oil to a tropical one that reminded me of papaya, pineapples and tanning beds.

**Amanda**  
Displaying a wide variety of pieces, such as chalk-on-stone

drawings and jams, Amanda is neither a student nor faculty member from the Mount. Amanda is a local from the Emmitsburg area and lives just down the road from the university. She told me how her husband had a passion for making jams and she for creating art. With so much creation happening in their free time they had a lot of stuff lying around their house, which they tried to combat by selling their craft in their front yard, something that was noticed and appreciated by none other than Emma Edwards. Amanda told me that Emma decided, once she knew the market was a “for sure thing”, to invite Amanda as a vendor by dropping a note of appreciation by her house.


The Makers Market was not just an event, it was a moment of camaraderie and togetherness. Whether a student, professor, or neighbor, some amazing talents were shared during this beautiful spring afternoon and all served as a reminder of how close-knit the Mount and surrounding community are. Don’t miss the chance to join the next time!

To read other articles by Emelie Beckman, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Academics and athletic competitions

Richelle Zheng  
CHS Class of 2025

Catoctin High School may be known for its success in athletics, but the students excel in more than just that! From softball and track to engineering robots and participating in envirothon, Catoctin really has it all! Over the course of this spring season, Catoc-

**Softball**  
The Lady Cougars junior varsity softball team opened their season on March 24 with two games against Smithsburg. Starting with their first game, Ryleigh Hammond was an outstanding pitcher, striking out fourteen batters! Meanwhile, over at bat, Corine Jewell carried out four run-batted ins and a triple. Payden Fitzpatrick and Hammond both made three successful hits out of four. Sophia Perez, Katelyn Veronie, and Logynn Thomas all made two out of four hits. Contributions made by each of the girls allowed them to win their first game 13-0! Furthermore, the team continued to dominate as they won 19-1, with Kelsey Alban and Jewell taking turns pitching. At bat, Raquel Owens and Fitzpatrick both made triples. Veronie allowed two

run-batted ins and made three out of four bats. Sophomores Keelyn Swaney and Mallory Clark both hit two out of four bats. Kaydense Cox also went two for four.  
Over at Middletown High School, the varsity Lady Cougars were going head to head against the Middletown Knights. The crowd was gripping onto their seats as they watched the girls' thrilling season-opening game, with senior Taylor Smith executing 25 strikeouts! With her double-digit strikeouts, Smith allowed the team to win her first game since the 2023 State Championships! However, the girls struggled at bat as they were tied 0-0 going into their eighth inning, causing the international tie-breaker rule to come into play. Each inning then started with a player on second base, put into effect by the international tie-breaker rule. During this time, the tensions were high for the Knights with one runner on third base and one out. Therefore, the Knights decided to bunt at bat. Then, junior Kassidy Kreitz put an end to the inning by catching the ball and throwing it to third base, taking out both Knights. Now moving onto the ninth inning, Aubrie Courtney carried out a sacrificial bunt to allow her teammate to score a run. Additionally, senior Abagayle Shives made a run-batted in hit.



Unified track athletes getting ready for their meet.

Eventually, the Knights tied the game on an error, leading to a tenth inning. In the tenth inning, senior Madison Ott hit a bunt, allowing Charley Keilholtz to run home from third. Then, the girls scored a double thanks to Smith. Ohler then followed up with another double, putting the Cougars in a two-run lead. Even with their two-run lead, the Knights created a tie once again by making a two-run home run. Finally, in the eleventh inning, the girls were able to put an end to the game. There were Knights on both the first and third base.  
With pressures being high, Smith fielded a bunt and threw it to Keilholtz, who got the runner out and threw the ball to Courtney to get the girl on third out as well. Lastly, Smith struck out the last batter, ending the game with a hard-fought Cougar victory of 4-3. Highlights from the offensive side include Shives making three out of four hits and a run batted in. Smith made two doubles and Ohler made two hits, both of them also had a run batted in. Moreover, Courtney had a run batted in and a double, and Kreitz made a hit. Over on the field, Smith threw an entire game, only allowing two hits and one earned run as she made 25 strikeouts. Keilholtz also contributed by throwing out a runner.  
**Unified Track**  
The Catoctin unified track team competed against four schools on April 9. The schools at the meet were Linganore High School, Walkersville High School, Frederick High School, and Urbana High School. In the 100-meter run, Maria Perella had a strong start. She placed second in her event. Lucas Phelan also placed second in the

100-meter run. Additionally, in the 100-meter run, CJ Endlich placed second, and Falyn Zimmerman and senior Josh Ramos both placed third. James Grossnickle and John Greenwell both ran in the 200-meter event. Grossnickle finished in first place, and Greenwell tagged behind in second. Shay Johnson participated in the 400-meter run and placed first with incredible speed! Over on the field, Phelan, Jayden Myers, and Ramos represented Catoctin. Phelan and Myers set new personal records in the mini javelin and Ramos in the shot put event. Moreover, Catoctin also had two relay teams. The first team of Perella, Phelan, Zimmerman, and Ramos ran the 4x100-meter relay. For the 4x200-meter relay, the team consisting of Greenwell, Endlich, Grossnickle, and Johnson dominated with a great start.  
**Robotics**  
Catoctin's Bovine Interventions Robotics team has had a great season this year! The team qualified to compete at the first Robotics World Championships, where the Cougars are able to compete against teams worldwide! This competition was held in Houston, Texas, over spring break, starting from April 13. Team 686, consisting of Ben Harbaugh, DJ Brooks, and David Ofori, had the opportunity to travel many miles and hours to compete in the championship, representing Frederick County on a national level!  
When many people were off on vacation during spring break, these students, with exceptional skills and a passion for robotic engineering, dedicated their time to representing Frederick County as one of 789 teams

from all over the world in Texas! These students had three tough days of competition. The teams were divided into eight random divisions, with Team 686 being part of the Johnson division, which had 75 total teams. Team 686 formed alliances with numerous other teams from all over the United States, including Texas, Michigan, and Washington. These teams made their way to the finals. Unfortunately, the alliance of teams from Israel, Michigan, and California defeated them. Nonetheless, the team made a name for themselves on the international stage as they showed up and showed off their incredible talent for robotics to end their season!  
**Envirothon**  
Did you know Catoctin had an envirothon team? Well, their name is Whopper Ploppers!  
The Whopper Ploppers competed in the Frederick County Envirothon on April 22 at Cunningham Falls State Park. The team is represented by Tanner Shorb, Blake Smith, Caleb Krantz, Jared Turner, and Jackson Savage. They had an incredible showing, placing first, and are moving on to the Maryland State Envirothon, held in Garrett County in June!  
There is another envirothon team named the Burch Twigs! Members of the Burch Twigs include Annalise Abruzzese, Grady Abruzzese, Grace May, Faith May, and Alex Potter. Lastly, representing Catoctin is the team Evergreens with Jayden Myers, Jonathan Guldan, Preston Clark, Simon Burrier, and Valeria Lake!  
*To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.*





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MOUNT SPORTS

Women’s water polo embarks on conference playoffs

Steve Morano  
Class of 2024

On Friday, April 25, Mount St. Mary’s women’s water polo team will face off against Long Island University in a rematch of last year’s first round of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference playoffs. In last year’s edition, the Mountaineers defeated the nationally ranked Sharks by a score of 9-8 in a major conference playoff upset, the program’s biggest win ever. But to get to the conference tournament in Poughkeepsie, New York, the Mount had to run a gauntlet; a trial that tested the bounds of talent from Northeast powerhouses of the MAAC all the way to glimmering waters of the Pacific Ocean.

In their opening match of the season against Gannon, the Mountaineers jumped out to an early five goal lead while holding the Golden Knights scoreless through the first quarter. A closely fought 3-2 second quarter was played out and the Mount went into the halftime intermission up 8-2. The Mount scored another five goals in the third quarter followed by three more in the final period, to notch the first game of the season as a 16-7 victory for the Mountaineers. Rebecca Valentine, Leilani Horan, Maria Boix Pascual, and Anita Radaelli all scored hat tricks against Gannon. Radaelli also notched two assists, completed three steals, and drew three exclusions. Riley Thompson provided three assists and drew three exclusions. In the cage, Head Coach Justin Vink split keeper time between Olivia Fernie and Becca Enquist. Both Fernie and Enquist recorded seven total saves each for a team total of 14 saves in net.

Following their victory against the Golden Knights, the Mount and Mercyhurst played out to a 3-2 first quarter in their second match of the Invitational. But a 4-0 run by the Mount in the second half put the team up comfortably heading into halftime where they were up 7-2. A further five goals came in the third quarter to the Lakers’ one. Up big heading into the fourth quarter, the Mountaineers allowed four goals during the period while only scoring three. But the damage was done well before then as the Mount cruised to a 15-7 win in their second game of the year. Radaelli once again showed off her offensive prowess, scoring on four occasions while providing an assist and completing a steal. Beatrice Vieira scored a hat trick while completing one steal. Fernie and Enquist spilt time again in the cage, with Enquist recording seven saves and Fernie recording six.

The rest of the Mountaineer’s opening weekend saw the team record a 16-11 win against Iona and a 12-6 loss to Villanova. The next weekend at the VMI Invi-

tational in Lexington, Virginia, the team recorded a record of 3-1 with wins against the hosts, VMI, and against Gannon and Austin, while losing out to Bucknell by a score of 10-9. Three more wins followed at the Bucknell Invitational followed the next weekend in Lewisburg as the Mountaineers rounded out another 3-1 weekend with wins against Siena, La Salle, and Mercyhurst while losing to Saint Francis.

After their opening taste of water polo in the eastern region, the Mount traveled out west to play in the Claremont Convergence Tournament in California, where they faced off against Cal Lutheran as a warmup match for the rest of their competition, handily defeating the Regals 13-10. Against Cal State Fullerton on February 28, the first quarter ended in a close contest, with the Mountaineers tying the Titans 1-1 off of a goal by Valentine, notching her 200th career goal at the Mount. A goal from Beatrice Vieira was cancelled out by a Fullerton double to head into the halftime intermission down 3-2. The heat in the California breeze was put on in the third quarter as four goals from Valentine, Vieira, Maria Boix Pascual, and Anita Radaelli flew into the cage to put the Mount up narrowly 6-5 heading into the final quarter of the match. An even 3-3 contest was played out in the fourth, but goals from Valentine, Pascual, and Radaelli once again proved vital as the win was earned. Valentine, along with her program accolades, notched a hat trick against Fullerton along with five drawn exclusions. Along with three assists from Anna Kegel, doubles from Vieira, Pascual, and Radaelli rounded out the goal scoring.

Olivia Fernie notched 11 saves in goal against the Titans in their first game of the day.

After their win against the Titans, the Mountaineers were seen off by the likes of Pomona-Pitzer, No. 19, San Diego State, and No. 10, Loyola Marymount, to cap off their trip on the west coast. After returning to the Mid-Atlantic, the Mountaineers began conference play with wins against VMI and Villanova while losing out to La Salle to start their conference campaign with a 2-1 record. Their conference schedule continues as they split their matches March 22 with a 16-12 loss to Iona and a 15-11 win against Siena.

During their home weekend series on March 29, the Mountaineers got on the board first against Marist after Anita Radaelli sent a blistering shot past the goalkeeper for an early 1-0 lead. Anna Kegel scored halfway through the quarter off of a delivery from assist by Beatrice Vieira just before Marist got on the board. Marist scored four unanswered goals transitioning into the second quarter before Radaelli once again found the net to cut the deficit to a goal. Towards the end of the quarter, both Kegel and Robyn Currie found the back of the net to go into the halftime intermission down 7-5 to the Red Foxes. Currie and Radaelli once again repeated their scoring efforts from the first half at the start of the second, but a five-goal out pour from Marist in the third quarter stunted any ground gained by the Mountaineers in the third. Maria Boix Pascual and Beatrice Vieira got on board in the fourth quarter, rounding out the end of the Mount scoring efforts.

The matchup against Marist



Mount’s goalie Olivia Fernie is focused and ready to play!

began a sort of cold streak for the Mountaineers, dropping their next three to Iona, LIU, and Wagner before eking out a 13-12 win against Siena in order to clinch a spot in the MAAC Women’s Water Polo Playoffs. A final 12-8 loss to Marist on April 12 wrapped up a 4-7 MAAC campaign record, with an overall record of 15-13 in all competition.

The team’s path to a MAAC championship is tedious to say the least, coming up against the number two-seed in LIU to start the first round. If the team were to win, they would take on Marist in the semifinals, followed by a match up against either Villanova, Iona, or Wagner in the championship game. But the Mountaineers have shown what

they’re capable of in the past to LIU in the very same round. Even this year with upset wins against Villanova and Cal State Fullerton, the Mountaineers have shown their composure in big games. They have also shown their weakness in letting games get away from them like against San Diego State and again, unfortunately, in their 21-12 defeat against LIU on April 6. The real question is, can the Mountaineers turn up for one more big game this year and keep the momentum going into the late rounds of the tournament in a bid to win the conference? Time will tell.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## Signs and symptoms are teachers

Jefferson Breland

All medical systems, Eastern, Western, Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Homeopathy, and the various indigenous healing practices use the body's signs and symptoms to design how we are going to help you. What is interesting is what the different medical systems consider to be signs and symptoms and how they are used in treatment design.

Since most of us are familiar with Western allopathic medicine, I will mostly be writing about Chinese medicine since that is my thing.

It may be helpful to ask, "What is a sign? What is a symptom?"

In its most basic sense, a sign is an objectively observable indication of the state of a person.

This may be the result of a visual observation (like seeing someone walking with a limp or seeing a rash or other change of skin color), touch or palpation (listening to a pulse or pressing on different parts of the body), listening to the sound of a person's voice, listening to the chest and back with a stethoscope, measuring blood pressure, checking body temperature with a thermometer, doing a blood or other lab test, or imaging using machines such as x-rays, MRIs, CT scan, PET scan, ultrasound, and the like.

While not mutually exclusive, a symptom differs from a sign in that it is a patient's description of what they are feeling or experiencing. Symptoms are not always read-

ily observable to someone other than the patient.

Common examples of symptoms are dizziness, pain, a stuffy head, chills, a fever, fatigue, memory, sleep issues, bladder and bowel concerns, itchiness, not feeling like one's self, and so on.

Signs and symptoms vary in their level of expression from barely perceptible to holy moly! This is where the belief that signs and symptoms are our teachers comes in to play.

Since many signs are not readily observable without the right medical equipment lying around the house (stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers (blood pressure cuffs), MRI machines), it is very important learn our body's slightest symptoms.

I am not encouraging anyone to become a hypochondriac, just the opposite. I propose that we pay very close attention to our bodies symptoms without creating a story of illness or disease about them. Sometimes a runny nose is just a runny nose without there being a "problem."

I love the techniques and criteria Chinese medicine uses to look at signs and symptoms.

There are some similarities to Western medicine: physical examination, visual observation, and questioning/inquiry.

Where Chinese medicine differs is that we use these similar techniques to gather different information. When we listen to the pulses, look at a patient's tongue, palpate different

areas of the body, we do so to learn about the state of the person's energy body as well as their organ systems.

We also use smell the sound of a person's voice, and the emotions surrounding their reason for being in seeking treatment.

Our questions about bodily functions, personal preferences, and states of being offer us different information about the body's systems.

Sometimes the symptoms we inquire about don't seem pertinent or consequential. I may ask patients if they prefer or crave hot or cold beverages. I may ask if they notice the slightest draft of wind or cool air and the effect it has on them. I will ask about whether they get hunger pangs. I will ask patients about the time of day their symptoms increase or decrease. I may ask, "Is there something you love to do, that you are not doing?"

These may not seem like "medical" questions. To practitioners of Chinese medicine, these and similar "non-medical" questions provide information about the patient's relationship to their internal, emotional, and external environments.

Because Chinese medicine is based on interrelationship, we use the patient's answers to see where there may be an imbalance in their relationship to their body, mind, and spirit. To emphasize the interrelationship of these levels of being, I use the term, "bodymindspirit."

I did not invent the term. When we recognize an imbalance on any



**Rodeo Joe is a lovable, happy guy that really enjoys attention and snuggles. He is one of our long-term residents and has been with us since June 2024. He loves to go out to the play yard! Rodeo Joe can be shy with some men, but once he knows them, he does seem to accept them. He did well with our tester cat here at the shelter, but we do recommend supervision with cats until they are acclimated to each other. Rodeo Joe may be too much for small children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Could this sweet fellow be your new best four-legged friend?**

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

one of these levels, the other levels will also exhibit an imbalance.

The earlier we can notice the least of our symptoms, the less we have to do to feel better.

For example, my wife may notice she is a bit grumpy. She will notice she is tired as if a plug has been pulled out of her foot and her energy has drained. She may notice she is less tolerant of the way other people drive.

To her, these are symptoms that indicate a cold is coming on and she needs to take a hot, epsom salt bath, drink a glass of Alka-Seltzer Plus, and go to bed early.

When she does these things, she feels much better the next day. Does it work for everyone? I don't know. I do know it works for her and she rarely gets sick. More importantly, she moves through the world more peacefully, happily, and helpfully.

A foundation of Chinese medicine is the philosophy of Taoism (sometimes spelled Daoism). In perhaps overly simplistic terms, Taoism tells us when we live in harmony with nature, we will be healthier, happier, and live life more fully.

A fundamental belief of Taoism is: There are no accidents; Everything happens for a reason; Everything happens for good. It is our job to see the good.

This is not a scheme to be in "denial."

It is a map to persevere no matter what happens to us.

We can use this concept of "Everything happens for good" every day of our life. This is especially true when we experience signs and symptoms that can cause great concern.

You may ask, "How can symptoms be good when they can be uncomfortable, inconvenient, and sometimes terrifying?"

I declare they are good because signs and symptoms are the body's natural way of calling us to take care of ourselves. Symptoms offer us the opportunity to take action to help ourselves.

Like the "check engine" light in our car, symptoms point to subtle and sometimes profound ways that something in our bodies or in

our lives is out of balance and needs attention.

We can ignore the "check engine" light in our car, put tape over it so we can't see it. We can turn up the music in the car when the engine makes a funny noise so we can't hear it. As many of us know, if we ignore our cars' warning lights, rather than needing a simple oil change, we might need a new transmission or a new engine. Which would you rather pay for?

In general, if we know that these "lesser" symptoms are here to help us and take the opportunity to make small, sustainable changes in lifestyle, diet, our relationship to the world, we could avoid much unnecessary suffering.

These modifications don't mean that we have to give up foods we love or activities that help us enjoy life. Modifications help us learn what supports and what does not support us on the bodymindspirit levels.

Please consider making simple changes. If you ignore or suppress symptoms, you take the chance that the root cause of those symptoms will surface somewhere else in our body in a more severe form. You could think of it as a mortal game of "Whack-a-Mole."

Another way of looking at suppressing minor symptoms with pain relievers, antacids, and other over-the-counter medicines, is that when we take them, we are denying our body the opportunity to heal itself. Our ability to heal ourselves is one of the greatest gifts human beings have been given.

Please note I am not saying to ignore your symptoms. I hope that you understand that I am asking you to think of symptoms as teachers.

If certain symptoms persist, I recommend scheduling an appointment with your primary care physician or your local acupuncturist to gain some insight about how you can help yourself.

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Vacation and exercise go together!

Linda Stultz  
Certified Fitness Trainer

Many people feel they don't have to exercise while they are on vacation. After all, vacation means having fun, going places we enjoy and not working. That's true but it doesn't mean not working out. So many of my clients tell me how they wished they had done some of their exercise routine while they were gone on vacation. They realize how not keeping up with their exercise makes them feel when they start back after a week or two of not doing anything. They tell me how much they feel their leg muscles or their chest and arms are achy after the first day or two of getting back to their routine.

I usually tell them to take some exercise bands along with them. The bands are light and can be put in their suitcase. Just doing a few exercises, you don't have to do the whole time you usually spend in the gym. Keeping those muscles active will help maintain the strength you have built up and keep the muscles from getting as achy when you get back to your routine. While many people take the advice to get and take the exercise bands along on vacation, they don't always use them. They see them everyday in the suitcase and think, oh yeah, I should do something with them, it doesn't usually go past the thinking about it stage. I know it's hard to stick to exercise when you are off somewhere hav-

ing fun and seeing new places and trying new foods. You get busy and all of a sudden the day is over, you are tired and it's so easy to say, I'll do it tomorrow. Maybe keeping a little structure during vacation will make the transition to coming home, returning to work and getting back to our daily life a little easier. I know doing a little lifting and exercising will make getting back to your daily exercise routine a little easier.

Believe it or not, some people actually plan their vacation around getting some exercise. Many people like swimming, white water rafting, hiking, biking the trails, tennis or many other activities where they will get good, healthy exercise. If you are the outdoors enthusiast there are many vacation sites geared just for you. Do a little research and see what may be out there that spark your interest. Maybe you can find a spot that offers an activity that you have been thinking about trying or you may find a place that gives you a chance to explore things you ordinarily would not try or have time for in your everyday life. Who knows, that vacation adventure just may change your life in a wonderful way and get you into a healthier lifestyle.

If you are a person who prefers the indoors there are many activities that you can check out. Swimming indoor pools instead of the ocean or outdoor pools may be just the thing for you. Taking time to do

laps may get you into a routine at your local gym or challenging others to a friendly competition may be what you need to get started. There are many other indoor activities like spin biking, racket ball, yoga, dancing and others that may be something you can take the time to try while on vacation. Many times we don't have or take the time out from daily work and family life to do some of the fun things

we would like to. Finding the activities during vacation may just be the ticket to trying something new that you will incorporate into your daily life. All work and no play and fun time is not healthy and not fun. You may surprise yourself at how much better you feel physically, mentally and emotionally if you take a little time for yourself and have some fun time. It is also a great time to do things with your family and friends.

Don't get me wrong, I know

vacations are suppose to be a time to rest, refresh and take it easy but you don't have to just lay around to do that. Vacations are also a time to get away and try new things and have fun. Maybe just give a little thought to how you could keep up some of your exercise routine while taking in the sun on that next vacation. I think you may surprise yourself at how much you enjoy it.

Remember to, Keep Moving, even just a little, you'll be glad you did.



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of May

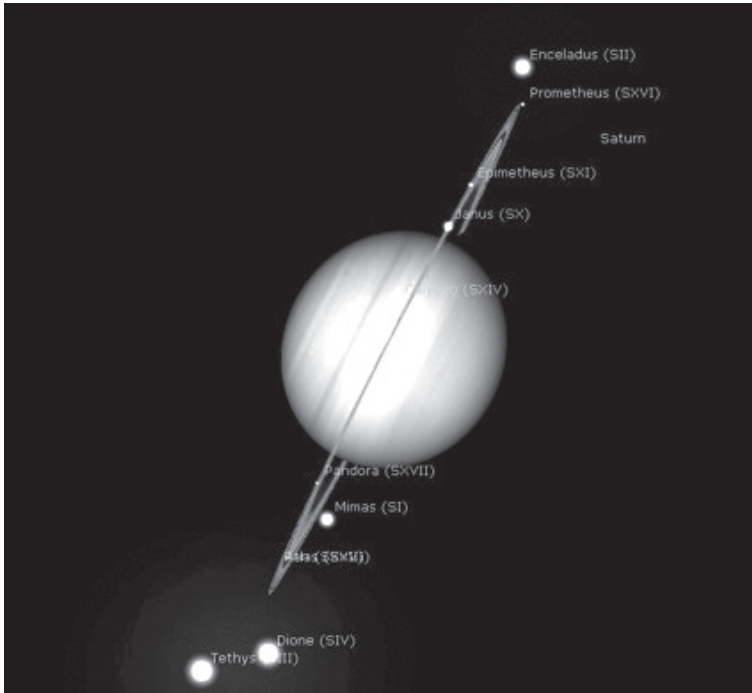
Professor Wayne Wooten

For May, the moon passes 2 degrees north of Mars in the western evening sky on May 3rd. It is first quarter moon on May 4th. Setting at midnight, it will not interfere with the peak of the eta Aquarid meteor shower the next morning. These bits of Comet Halley debris will give us a meteor about every five minutes, coming out of the SE sky. The comet itself is on the far edge of its 76 year orbit, and will not be coming back until 2061, but its many trips around the sun have distributed its dust all around its very oval orbit by now. This debris is outbound; the incoming dust arrives as the Orionid meteors in October.

The Full or Flower Moon is on May 12th. The Moon is Last Quarter, rising at midnight, on May 20th. On the 22nd, the waning crescent moon passes three degrees north of Saturn in the dawn. The following dawn it is four degrees north of brilliant Venus. It is new moon on May 26, but no eclipses until the next eclipse season in September. Low in the NW, the thin waxing crescent moon passes five degrees north of Jupiter on May 28th.

Mercury is low in the dawn as May begins, and passes into its glare by mid month. Venus, by contrast, dominates the dawn, pulling away from the Sun day by day, to reach its greatest western elongation of 46 degrees on May 31. Until then, it is a crescent, getting smaller but thicker daily, but on the edge of its orbit at month's end, it will appear exactly half lit from earth.

Mars is high overhead in Gemini



Saturn makes an interesting target for telescopic observers. At the month's start, we can see beneath the ring plane at the dark underside of the rings, but on May 6th, Saturn is at equinox, with its equator and rings facing the sun directly. The rings will very briefly cast only a thin shadow on the disk and will probably disappear for almost all telescopes on Earth.

as May begins, but gets lower each evening. Jupiter is already low in the NW as May begins, and by May's end, is also disappearing into the glare of the Sun.

But low in the dawn, Saturn makes an interest target for telescopic observers. At month's start, we can see beneath the ring plane at the dark underside of the rings, but on May 6th, Saturn is at equinox, with its equator and rings facing the sun directly. The rings will very briefly cast only a thin shadow on the disk, and will probably disappear for almost all telescopes on earth. After that, for the next seven

years, the rings open more as seen from earth, to be tilted 27 degrees open at its next solstice in 2032.

The winter constellations will soon be swallowed up in the Sun's glare, but Orion is still visible, with its famed Orion Nebula, M-42, seen below the three stars marking his famed belt. Dominating the southwest is the Dog Star, Sirius, brightest star of the night sky. When Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare in two months, this sets the period as "Dog Days".

The brightest star in the NW is Capella, distinctively yellow in color. It is a giant star, almost exactly the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with

Castor closer to Capella, and Pollux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west. If you look just east of the bottom of the two stars in the pointers of the Big Dipper, you find a pair of very different deep sky objects in the same field of view with my new See Star S 30.

The bright star is beta Ursa majors, the pointer farther away from Polaris. Below it is the Owl Nebula. With larger scopes, it appears to have two "eyes" around its white dwarf central star. This planetary nebula is the likely fate of our solar system in about six billion years. But at top left is the far more distant galaxy M 108. While they appear in the same binocular field as seen by us, the bluish nebula is only 2,600 light years away, and only created by the collapse of the red giant 8,000 years ago. The galaxy M 108, known as the "Surfboard", is 46 million light years away, and larger than our own Milky Way. It too is a barred spiral galaxy like ours.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. The "regal" star Regulus marks the heart of the celestial lion. Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an

invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the "northern crown", a shapely Coronet that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations that look like their name

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four-sided grouping. The arms of Virgo harbor the Virgo Super-cluster of Galaxies, with thousands of "island universes" in the Spring sky. We are looking away from the place of thickly populated Milky Way, now on the southern horizon, toward the depths of intergalactic space. Just SW of Spica is one of most famous, the Sombrero, M-104.

Farther south than most Americans, we get a fine view of the closest and brightest globular star clusters, Omega Centauri, on May evenings. From a dark sky site, you can spot it with your naked eyes about 12 degrees above the southern horizon when it is at its highest in the south, about 10 at the end of the month. Ideally, observe it at the beach, where the Gulf is your southern horizon. It is fine in binoculars, and resolves beautifully into about a million sun with larger scopes.

To the northeast Hercules rises, with his body looking like a butterfly. It contains one of the sky's showpieces, M-13, the globular cluster faintly visible with the naked eye. It is much more conveniently placed for observing all night, and is a real showpiece in any big scope.

Farmers' Almanac

"Motherhood: All love begins and ends there"  
—Robert Browning  
(1812—1889)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** rain and thunderstorms, then cooler and dry followed by more seasonable temperatures (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); very warm and dry, then heavy rain and turning cooler (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); very warm and dry at first, then rain and thunderstorms, followed by much cooler weather (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); seasonably warm with occasional rain, then dry and pleasant (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); dry and turning hot, then showers and cooler (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); dry and turning warmer, then periodic downpours followed by dry and cooler weather (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

**Extreme Weather Watch:** The Almanac sees heavy rains (1, 2, 10, 26, 27, 28, 29) and severe thunderstorms (14, 15, 16).

**Full Moon:** May's Full Moon occurs on Monday, May 12th. Its name depends upon who you're talking to. To many Native American tribes, it was called Flower Moon, due to the many flowers starting to blossom during this month while the Huron

tribes specifically chose to call it Budding Moon for the very same reasons! But if you asked a colonial farmer, he would say it was Mike Moon because of the noticeable increase in milk produced by his dairy cows in the month of May.

**Holidays:** Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Monday, May 5th. Mothers are honored on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11th. That "very special lady" needs to be treated like royalty today, so plan a nice dinner out, send her a sentimental card with a nice arrangement of flowers, or just give her a telephone call to say, "I love you"! Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 26th. On this day, we honor those who have died in defense of our freedoms. Their unyielding service and sacrifice protect our way of life every single day!

**The Garden:** Early flowering deciduous shrubs such as Forsythias, Weigela, and Spirea should be pruned back when they have finished blooming. Cut back a third of the oldest canes to ground level, then cut back one third of the remaining branches by one third of their height.

Work lime in the soil around your Hydrangeas to produce pink flowers or Aluminum Sulphate for

blue blooms. May is a good month to repair your lawn. Fill in the bare spots by slightly loosening surface of the soil and sow a good quality lawn seed over the area evenly. Tamp the seed in gently and water. Keep the patch moist by covering with light mulch of lawn clippings. Also, this is the time to eliminate lawn weeds by hand pulling, or the application of a "weed and feed" fertilizer... before they go to seed! Setting your mower for a higher cut during the spring months will help the grass to grow in fuller and help choke out the weeds

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (25, 26); weeding and stirring the soil (27, 28, 31); planting above-ground crops (1, 2, 29, 30); harvesting all crops (13, 14, 15); best days for setting hens and incubators (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); slaughtering and butchering meat (1, 2, 3, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); harvest and store grains (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25); Transplanting (1, 2, 3, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); weaning of small animals and livestock (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living:

"While the truth may be painful to bear today, the wise man will benefit from it tomorrow".



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COMPUTER Q&A

Scammers

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer

Unfortunately, scammers are finding new and clever ways to trick unsuspecting users into providing access to sensitive personal information. The most common methods continue to be via emails, phone calls, and sometimes text messages. It can sometimes be difficult to determine which ones to take seriously and which ones to ignore. At Jester's Computer Services we hear of just about every new scam that comes along. Read on to learn a few tips to help you spot a few common scams, how to protect yourself and what to do if you do find yourself involved with one.

Amazon has become a frequent target – scammers know how many people use the retail giant and their using it to their advantage. The most common Amazon scams typically involve an emailed purchase confirmation for an item that you clearly did not purchase which will also be addressed to a physical delivery address that is not yours. This is an example of phishing and emails like these, as well as similar emails from Amazon (and other businesses and online retailers) that warn you of “fraudulent activity” or other account concerns should be investigated but with caution.

If you receive a notice for a purchase that you don't recognize or if you are ever asked to click a link including verifying your account security, pause and be on alert for the following indicators of a scammer. First, check the email address that the email is from, not just the name itself. Be sure to check on the full @xyz.com address and pay extra CLOSE attention for subtle misspellings. An email from Amazon or any other big organization is not going to be coming from a public domain like Gmail or Yahoo, they should come from amazon.com for example.

Second, if the email contains an attachment, you can almost bet it's a scam, definitely don't open any attachments! Third you can check the “reply-to” email address and ensure that it matches the ‘From’ address. If all three check out you can still visit the website in question directly rather than via any links within the email. If the notification is legitimate, you should be able to locate the notice from within your account on their website.

The same concept applies if you were to receive a phone call from Amazon or any other individual who calls that wishes for you to provide personal information including but not limited to; your address, date of birth, social security number or a code obtained from a website or software in order to provide remote access to your device. Instead hang up the phone, do not provide the caller with any information or engage in conversation with them.

If you are concerned that the call is potentially legitimate the caller should understand if you tell them that you will call them back at a more convenient time. Do not call the number back that called you or any phone number that the caller may have provided. Instead, find a verified phone number to reach the company by using a billing statement, by using a qual-

ity search engine such as Google or, by finding the contact information on their website. Even if a caller comes up with a legitimate name and or phone number, they could be a scammer.

Comcast users have been a huge target for scammers as of late. Their latest trick once they gain access to your email account via a compromised password, is to forward all of your emails to a new email address with the same username but a different domain, usually outlook.com. For example, if your email address was abc@comcast.net the email address the scammer would create to forward your emails to would be abc@outlook.com. In addition to doing this, the scammers are creating a filter rule, which redirects any new emails to your correct email address into the inbox and is deleted. As a user you may notice that you stop receiving emails all together or you might notice that only your usual contacts aren't responding to your emails at all.

What the scammers are actually doing is emailing your contacts in an attempt to extort them for money. They don't do so in an obvious way. They might for example, request that the email recipient send a gift card to them as a favor since you're out of town and need to get a birthday gift for a family member. If you notice

this happening to you change your email password right away and notify your contacts NOT to respond to the email. If they have already, ask them to change their password and inform them that they too should notify their contacts.

To be clear none of the above indicate that any security breach to your device has occurred unless you have given someone access to your device, clicked on a link or if you opened a malicious attachment. Anyone can access your email account from anywhere if they have the email address and password, as is the case in the Comcast scam mentioned above. Comcast users should also note that any emails received from a comcast.net email account are NEVER correspondence from Comcast themselves. All emails from Comcast the company will come from a comcast.com email address.

*If you have been the victim of a scam, Jesters Computers can help; whether you require a cleanup of your device, advice or one-on-one support. Contact Jester's Computers located in Fairfield by calling 717-642-6611, emailing customerservice@jesterscomputers.com or by visiting us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com*



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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Public Invited to Provide Input on Housing Priorities in Frederick County

Members of the public are invited to provide input on housing priorities in Frederick County through an online survey. The survey will be open until May 16.

The 5-minute survey aims to collect feedback about housing challenges and opportunities across Frederick County. Community members can provide input on housing priorities, day-to-day challenges, and preferred housing types. Results of the survey will help guide housing initiatives, including how to best use new Community Development Block Grant funds – a key tool to improve housing, support local services, and strengthen communities.

To take the survey, visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/HousingStrategicPlan](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/HousingStrategicPlan). Paper copies of the survey are also available in senior centers, libraries, and at the Frederick County Division of Housing located at 401 Sagner Avenue in Frederick.

Through the online survey the Division of Housing aims to gather a variety of perspectives and lived experiences to create a plan that addresses the needs of the community. For more information about the strategic planning process, please contact Ben Helkowski at [bhelkowski@tpma-inc.com](mailto:bhelkowski@tpma-inc.com).

## Office of Agriculture Unveils Strategic Plan to Support Industry

Frederick County's rich agricultural heritage has been a cornerstone of the community for generations. To ensure this vital industry remains strong, the Office of Agriculture developed the strategic plan. The Plan for Building an Economy around the Agricultural Entrepreneur makes recommendations in five key areas: regulation, workforce development, infrastructure, the value chain, and marketing.

"Agriculture is an essential part of our economy, and this strategic plan gives us concrete steps to ensure farms and farmers can thrive in Frederick County for generations to come," County Executive Jessica Fitzwater said. "We all rely on farmers for the food we eat each day. With this plan, we are taking another step to show farmers that they can rely on this community to support their work."

The Agriculture Strategic Plan examines industry trends and offers best practices. More than 100 people from Frederick County's agricultural community gave input, expertise and insights to shape the report.

Taken together, the plan's 28 recommendations outline ways to:

Help farmers work together. Create ways for people to share ideas and help each other solve problems. For instance, a mentor program

would allow experienced farmers to teach people new to the business.

Preserve farmland. As the county grows, prime land is at risk of development. To protect fertile soil, preservation programs such as the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation should be enhanced.

Teach people about farming. Offer special classes and events to help schoolchildren and adults learn about where their food comes from.

Make farming easier. Provide the industry with the tools and workers they need. For example, the study recommends building a center where farmers can get help marketing their products and finding workers.

The Frederick County Office of Agriculture Strategic Plan can be found online here. Under the leadership of Director Katie Stevens, the Office's mission is to preserve Frederick County's farming heritage, assist farmers in their endeavors, and promote a thriving agricultural sector. Learn more at [www.HomegrownFrederick.com](http://www.HomegrownFrederick.com).

## Community Input Sought to Help Form a Climate and Energy Action Plan

People, businesses, and organizations are invited to provide input on climate change impacts and help set climate priorities for our community. Frederick County Govern-

ment and the City of Frederick are working together to create the first Community-Wide Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP). This plan seeks to address the challenges of the climate crisis in our region and includes an in-depth assessment of community needs.

"As the federal government reduces its climate efforts, it is more important than ever for local governments to take action and ensure our communities are prepared to meet environmental challenges. We appreciate the City of Frederick's partnership in this important work," said County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. "Together, we are determined to meet our goals and are excited to hear from the public as we advance environmental initiatives."

The CEAP will assess how climate change could affect Frederick's infrastructure, natural resources, community members, and health. It will also provide recommendations to address these impacts. Public engagement will complement scientific data supporting the plan.

"The CEAP is data driven, but also and more importantly it is people driven," says City of Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor. "It's a collaborative effort on all fronts, between the City, County, and our community."

A primary goal of the CEAP outreach is to understand the public's observations of problems

such as extreme heat, droughts, severe storms, flooded roads, poor air quality, high-energy costs, and other climate-related issues. The aim is to incorporate a wide range of diverse perspectives and ideas so that the CEAP meets the needs of the community.

A series of Climate Workshops will share information and gather public input to help develop the plan. Dates and details for these events can be viewed at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ClimateAction](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ClimateAction). Members of the public are also encouraged to participate in the process online by taking the Community Climate Survey and exploring the newly available Flood Mapping Tool on the County's website.

This project is built on existing local sustainability initiatives and is intended to accelerate progress and create new climate action priorities. In 2020, a joint City and County Climate Emergency Resolution was adopted to cut greenhouse gas emissions to half of 2010 levels by 2030 and reduce levels 100% by 2050. A volunteer Climate Emergency Mobilization Workgroup was formed to guide the efforts. This group invested more than 18,500 hours to produce the Climate Response and Resilience Report, which includes recommendations to help the County and City meet their climate and greenhouse gas reduction goals.



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