

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 17, NO. 6

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

JUNE 2025

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## Mount bids farewell to class of 2025

Saturday, May 10th marked a milestone in numerous college students' lives as they crossed the stage at the Knott Arena, shaking the hand of President Joyce and taking their first official steps as Mount Alumni. Amongst these graduates are two names the community should know well by now, our very own Dolores Hans and Emelie Beckman. We are sad to say goodbye to our fellow writers, but we cannot wait to see what the future has in store for them. But first, we must recognize them and all of their hard work since their start with us!

Dolores joined us at the News-Journal in her junior year, filling the position of our former Four Years At The Mount writer. She started her career at the Mount in August of 2021, working to earn her degree in Special Education and Elementary Education! For Dori, choosing a college was an easy experience as she was only interested in going to Mount. “The Mount is the only school I applied to actually, and

to be honest with you, I have no idea why I chose it. I've never once regretted it, and I've gotten so much out of it, but I don't know why I was so determined to go there. I guess it's just where God wanted me to go! The first time I was on campus was for a tour with my mom. It was rainy and unexciting, but my heart knew it was the place for me”, she said.

Dori spent her four years at the Mount involved in many campus activities and leadership roles, but what she is going to miss the most is the people she has met and the friends she has made. “I met the best friends I have ever had, ones that I will keep forever. Mentors and coworkers that inspire me and have become friends too.”

Also graduating is our Mount Fine Arts writer Emelie Beckman, who is getting her degree in only three years! Originally from Stockholm, Sweden, Emelie travelled to the Mount to pursue a degree in English and Communications as well as for athletics.

She notes how different life at



The Emmitsburg News-Journal bids a fond farewell to its arts writer Emelie and senior writer Dolores Hans. Both have been a joy to work with.

the Mount is from the bustling, busy city life of her hometown, yet that might just be what she loves the most. “I have grown to love the peaceful nature at our mountain, and I do believe it is amongst the things I will miss the most,” and continues, “My favorite thing about my time at Mount has most definitely been being a part of the track and field team. I always loved my sport, but the three years I spent with this team will forever stay with me as the best three years

of my career.”

Emelie will be moving on to Temple University to get her Master's degree in Journalism beginning in the fall. However, she is looking forward to being home from the summer.

On behalf of the News-Journal, thank you to our parting writers—we are sad to see you go but thrilled for the season of life you are entering into. We wish you both, and all the Mount graduates, the best of luck!

## In-person classes to resume at Fire Academy

Three months after word arrived via an e-mail that FEMA would be ceasing in-person classes at the Fire Academy and Emergency Management Institute, an e-mail from Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen and Representative April McClain Delaney announced that in-person classes at the two institutions would resume sometime in early June.

In an e-mail dated May 22, Hollen and Delaney said: “Classes at the National Fire Academy are resuming, following their pushback on the Trump Administration's decision to halt trainings that support first responders from across the United States.”

In March, Senator Van Hollen and Congresswoman McClain Delaney led a bipartisan, bicameral letter with over 60 of their colleagues, including Senator Angela Alsobrooks, demanding answers from the Administration on the decision to cancel trainings and pressing them to reinstate classes.

“The National Fire Academy, based in Emmitsburg, provides critical training to first responders across the Country – ensuring our firefighters have the tools they need to save lives. The Trump Administration's decision to abruptly cancel these classes made no sense – and what's more, it risked significant harm to our communities and

those who protect them. While the good work done by the men and women at the National Fire Academy never should have been halted, I'm glad to see the Administration has heeded our calls to lift this senseless ban,” said Senator Van Hollen, who recently received a commitment from Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to resume classes in response to his questioning at a Senate hearing.

“Despite receiving no response from the Trump Administration to our letter objecting to the senseless cancellation of training classes at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, I am happy to share that programming will be resuming immediately for dedicated fire fighters and first responders from around the Nation! The rash decision to close the Academy wasted valuable resources and undermined our communities' safety, resilience, and response efforts.”

FEMA has released no details on results of any internal reviews leading up to the original decision to cease classes, or the basis for, or the exact timing for resuming classes.

According to a knowledgeable FEMA staffer, the institutes were flagged by the Department of Government Efficiency “due to its exorbitant travel budget.” FEMA currently pays for all travel



FEMA has not released any details on results of any internal reviews leading up to the original decision to cease classes, or the basis for, or the exact timing for resuming classes.

expenses, as well as all room and board, for all students attending classes at the two schools. “Travel expenses easily exceed \$250,000 to \$350,000 a week,” said the staffer.

While the travel costs got the attention of budget cutters, the practice of paying student travel cost will continue after classes resume. “Nothing has changed that led to the initial shutdown so your guess as to why we were shut down

is as good as mine,” said the staffer.

The announcement of the planned resumption of classes was welcome news to many small businesses that had been hit hard for the closure, and with the end of the spring semester, they had been looking down the barrel of a long, slow summer.

Local residents employed at the schools said they have already been notified that they will be called back to work.

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

# Council argues over water rates

Temperatures were hot at the May Town Council meeting where Mayor Frank Davis and Commissioners argued over whether or not to continue with the 36% water rate increase implemented in 2023. This has been a point of contention for months for Commissioners and Town staff.

The original increase called for a 36% increase in water rates every year for the next five years and an annual increase of 3% thereafter. If the Town were to keep the 36% rate increase for another year, they would see \$1.1 million in revenue. Thus, resulting in a positive bank balance of \$434,000 that would cover day to day operations, but not any repairs, upgrades or emergency situations. Although having the positive balance is crucial to the Water Fund's survival, the question has been raised, "Does the Town need to do another 36% increase, or can it do less?"

Commissioner Jim Hoover has requested, at multiple meetings, that the Council not raise the rates another 36% in Fiscal Year 25/26 and instead annually review the rate. “I do not want to see a 36% increase again, that’s my position,” he said.

Mayor Davis requested the Council keep the 36% increase for another year, which would give the Town a surplus of funds to cover projects such as the West Main Street and Waynesboro Pike replacements. "I really hope you all take into consideration our \$20 million worth of projects that need to be completed and taken care of." He commented that if the Town continues to take funds out of the General Fund, eventually the property tax will need to be raised to fix that Fund.

However, Commissioner Amy Pollitt pointed out the high number of ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) residents in the Town that wouldn't be able to afford another year of 36% increases. "We do have 50% below the ALICE poverty level and we don't know their situations," she said. "We do have a senior population on a fixed income."

Commissioner Valerie Turnquist was also against keeping the 36% increase, “If the Town didn’t do their due diligence in ensuring the Water Fund was sustainable, you then cannot turn around and put that on the backs of the residents and the businesses to make up the difference in five years,” she said. “It’s not ethical, it’s not fair, and it’s not reasonable.” She agreed with Pollitt that the Council would need to review alternative and creative options.

One of these options is regarding personnel costs, “If our Water Funds are in the red, then how can we get away with raising personnel cost?” she asked. This comment highlighted the recent request made by Davis to give additional merit increases to two staff members, which is over the maximum allowable increase listed in the Town’s Code.

These increases, along with others, changed the water expenses from an estimated \$849,000 last month to \$952,408. Davis explained the more than \$100,000 increase was due to “being tasked with doing better business practices”. He said a letter from Turnquist, regarding interest and what fund it is stored in, encouraged the Town Staff to investigate their “best

practices” on how salaries and benefits are charged to the different Funds. Because of these concerns, the Town reviewed all of its practices as to which charges were placed on which accounts and made changes that impacted the Town’s expenses, thus the increase.

Another option the Council could take is to subsidize the Water Fund from other Enterprise Funds; however, it is not a recommended practice and is essentially what previous Councils did that led to the failure of the Water Fund. Resident Denny Ebaugh promoted using Funds from the Sewer Fund to support the Water Fund, "That money is our money, we raised it," he said.

Pollitt used Woodsboro as an example of yet another option the Council could take. "Woodsboro, for example, only charges the cost of physically running the water and sewer systems such as electricity, chemicals, plant materials, replacement parts and salaries of the plant staff to the Water Fund, and all other is charged to the General Fund." This encouraged the Council to question what other options they could have if they asked neighboring municipalities how they manage their Water Funds.

Commissioner Kevin Hagan's concern was over not having any reserve to cover sudden breaks or repairs. "We have to be aware of what we are we going to do if that happens," he said. "We haven't had a major catastrophe failure yet." He also commented on not running the Water Fund in the red, calling it "unethical".

Although Pollitt suggested a 5% increase instead of the 36%, it was

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noted that 5% wouldn't come close to being a "breakeven" percentage. The Council would need to implement a 10.17% increase to keep the Town just within the black in the yearly budget, however that would not cover depreciation, repairs and sudden breaks.

After a long and heated meeting, the Council was split between

a 5% increase (Pollitt and Turnquist), a 15% increase (Hagen), an 18% increase (Hoover and Sweetney) and the original 36% increase (Davis) and were unable to pick a number. Pollitt did point out that if they cannot reach an agreement, the 36% increase will stay as it was voted on in 2023 to continue for another three years.

# FY-26 Town budget introduced

The introduction of the FY-26 budget at the May Town Council meeting showed that costs throughout the Town are going up across the board. The increases have also inevitably forced the Council to make a decision with respect to the Town's controversial water rates. The FY-26 budget must be approved no later than June 27th and goes into effect July 1st.

The Town's General Fund revenue is anticipated to be \$2,682,000, a \$156,854 or 6% increase compared to FY-25. Most of this increase is attributed to real estate, property and local income taxes, as well as other similar forms of revenue, and is estimated to bring in \$1,406,925, or

9%, more than FY-25. Real estate tax will remain at .34 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. Revenues from the State increase by \$27,656 or 13% compared to FY-25 and the County tax equity is expected to increase by approximately 21% (\$515,371) from last year.

When FY-26 General Fund expenses are compared to the FY25 budget, the overall expenditures are 6% higher; \$2,682,322 compared to \$2,525,468, an increase of \$156,854. The police budget is expected to increase from \$354,306 to \$389,160, an uptick of \$34,854 this year compared to last. The majority of this cost is the contractual nature of the Town's police agreement. The

Council also considered increasing the donation it gives to the Vigilant Hose Company to be more in line with other municipalities. The current donation is \$6,000 and they directed Town staff to include an increase to \$20,000 in the next draft of the Budget. "We do give a very low amount [\$6,000] compared to other municipalities," said Commissioner Amy Boehman-Pollitt.

Much of the Town's Capital Projects \$1,037,506 budget is slated for the Green Street Project (\$230,684) and work on curbs, gutters, sidewalks and roads throughout Town (\$289,094).

Davis proposed a 3% cost of living adjustment, as well as a 1-3% merit increase for

Town staff. Davis also asked the Council to approve additional increases in salary for two employees that were, according to Town Manager Cathy Willets, “not consistent with industry standards.” These increases will contribute to the overall increase in the salaries budget by 5.8% to \$1,416,000.

The Towns Sewer Fund is expected to increase from \$1,143,496 to \$1,193,000; a \$50,114 increase compared to FY25. The Storm Water Management Fund is also expected to see an increase from \$8,000 last FY to \$58,800 this year.

The big decision is what the Council will do with the Water Fund as it currently sits at a deficit in the budget. The Council has been arguing back and forth for

months whether to continue with the 36% water rate increase, as was instituted in 2023 and set to continue through 2028, to boost the fund's cash resources or if the rate should be decreased to give financial relief to the Town's residents. After 2028 the rates will increase by 3% annually unless changed by the Council.

If they were to initiate a 0% increase in FY-26, the Water Fund's expenses would be \$925,408 and the revenues \$967,808 a difference of \$42,400. However, this positive balance does not include depreciation or emergency repairs. That being said, the Water Fund expenditures are expected to increase by almost 20% (\$116,987) compared to the last FY due to higher costs of materials, repairs and salaries.

With a lot of compromise between the Commissioners, the Town staff was instructed to decrease the Water Rate to 15% for FY-26 in the next draft. The Council included a stipulation that the rate will adjust automatically according to the CPI thereafter unless changed by the Council at a yearly meeting specific to the water rates.

*Editor's Note: A public hearing is scheduled on June 2 to allow residents to provide input regarding not only the water rates but also student housing.*

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## Fairfield School District eyes 2% tax increase

The Fairfield Area School Board reduced its potential tax increase to 2% during a recent meeting. The board dedicated 1% of that hike to the district's operational fund and 1% to the proposed future expansion of Adams County Technical Institute (ACTI). This is the second year for the ACTI allocation, similar to other Adams County districts' pledge to the project.

The proposal, which will be presented for final adoption on June 23, includes \$23.35 million in expendi-

tures and \$22.81 million in revenue. The difference will be funded from the assigned fund balance.

Business Manager Scott Wilt reminded the board that local revenue is the district's largest source of income. Of the \$14.087 million in local revenue expected for the 2025-26 school year, \$10.16 million will come from property taxes. The district is expected to receive \$8.65 million from the state and \$162,621 from the federal government.

During a work session in May, several residents who moved to the area

from Maryland in recent years lambasted the board for perceived overspending and lack of fundraising. The citizens pleaded with the board to remember those on fixed incomes.

Wilt, who joined the district's staff last year, said he has already saved the district money in several ways, including changing banks, switching copiers, eliminating unnecessary software, and hiring staff who were previously contracted through and third-party company.

Wilt also said the cost of running the district is increasing. Contrac-

tually-obligated salaries and wages will rise 4.80% and employee benefits will increase 5.15%. The district is expected to spend \$449,000 more on charter schools compared to the 2024-25 school year. Charter school tuition is mandated under Pennsylvania law.

"Things are going up, but the tax rate doesn't seem to be going up a whole lot," he said.

The citizens also questioned the necessity of several planned capital projects. Administrators are exploring capital projects total-

ling \$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.

Board members said previous boards delayed maintenance to save money but those short-term fixes ended up being costlier in the long run.

"Please start thinking about the bigger picture, what this does for this community and everyone in it," Theodore Sayres, Jr., board secretary, said.

## Liberty Township removing trees, fixing roads

Liberty Township supervisors are asking residents to look for dead trees. Supervisor Walter "Mickey" Barlow told the board during its May meeting that about nine trees along township roads fell in April. The township preventively removed an additional five dead trees.

"I do encourage the residents that if they see dead trees along the roadway that they feel will be a danger to residents and passersby, please contact us," Barlow said.

Barlow, who also serves as town-

ship roadmaster, said the governing body plans to upgrade Orchard Road from Route 16 to Tract Road. The improvements will include widening the road by two feet between Route 16 and Topper Road. The township approved advertising for bids for the project, which is estimated to cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

Barlow said Orchard Road is the only project the road crew is planning for this year. The township will reevaluate its plan once it determines how much the repair will cost.

The township also approved spending \$3950 to upgrade the office's air conditioning system.

Barlow said the existing unit is leaking Freon. Township staff attempted to fix the unit but realized they needed to hire specialty contractors. They approved a quote of \$850 from B&M Heating and Air Conditioning.

The supervisors also approved paying B&M Heating and Air Conditioning \$3,100 to install a second unit. Barlow said township employees prefer different temperatures, and

frequent adjustments are overworking the system. Adding a second unit will give the police department control of one and the office staff control of the other.

"I hate to spend that money, but it is one way to get it right and be done with it," Vice Chairman Bobby Keilhotz said.

Police Chief Terry DeWitt announced the department will host National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 5 to 8 at Mid Atlantic Soaring Association, 154 Pecher

Road. The event is intended to build relationships between first responders and the community. Greenmount Community Fire Department is partnering with the department on the free event.

DeWitt said Police Officer Manager Jessica Ilko is seeking funding for National Night Out from Liberty, Freedom, and Hamiltonban Township. Supervisors tabled Ilko's request until June because they prefer to know how much the other townships are contributing before they commit. Liberty Township contracts police services to Highland and Liberty.

## Carroll Valley explores Code Enforcement Appeals Board

Carroll Valley Borough Manager Dave Hazlett has been referred to throughout the southwestern Adams County municipality as "King Dave" in reference to his ability to enforce the borough's code of ordinances and then adjudicate the cases.

The 20-year borough manager hoped to retire his sceptre and orb, but the council decided he should keep it for now.

During May's meeting, Hazlett proposed naming citizens to a code enforcement appeals board that can determine if the code enforcement officer has correctly interpreted its ordinance. Hazlett and Stephen Beans serve as the borough's code enforcement officers. If a citizen believes they were unfairly treated, Hazlett will review their case. Hazlett said code enforcement actions have increased since Beans joined the staff and, in turn, more peo-

ple are seeking to have their case reviewed.

In the 1970s, the borough decided that a code enforcement appeals board would review citizens' cases. That board has been defunct for some time, but Hazlett requested that the council consider reviving it.

The code enforcement appeals board would handle all appeals not involving zoning matters. Those cases, Hazlett said, would still be handled by the Zoning Hearing Board.

Hazlett suggested the council carefully pick members since the body's decisions are final. Solicitor Zachary Rice of Salzmann Hughes PC said the board, if enacted, would only determine if enforcement officers properly enforced the ordinance and not grant variances.

Rice said variances tend to weaken ordinances because citizens can refer to the variance when building their case in the future.

"Craft your ordinance to say what you want it to say," Rice said.

Rice also said the board may have to hire a separate attorney who can represent the board independently from the council, which makes the law. Rice stopped short of suggesting the council dissolve the defunct board but did not advocate for its revival.

"It would be fairly rare in my experience with our municipal clients to have a code hearing board that exists for all of the ordinance," he said.

Council President Richard Mathews said citizens who feel that they have been wronged by a code enforcement officer can appeal their case to the district magistrate. Council members David Lillard and Cody Gilbert expressed interest in keeping the board and naming citizens to serve.

The council and staff will continue to review Hazlett's request and discuss it further at their June meeting.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Planning Commission discusses minimum street widths

The Planning and Zoning Commission, at the behest of the Town Council, discussed street widths (curb to curb) and whether to change the Town's current Code. These changes would only affect future developments, not existing roads.

The Town's current Code outlines the minimum widths to 20 feet for residential lanes that see less than 200 trips a day and secondary residential streets that see less than 400 trips. Primary residences that see less than 1,500 trips a day have a minimum of 25 feet and Minor Collector Roads that see less than 2,000 trips are to be determined by the Planning Commission during the review process. It should

be noted that 20 feet is considered the minimum width for emergency vehicle access, however, it should be an "unobstructed roadway," meaning cars parking on the sides would count as obstructions.

Town Planner Kelly Duty dug through layers of research to find information regarding recommendations and statistics. "A very important perspective on street widths [come from] those charged with maintaining the roads, as well as our emergency responders," pointed out Duty. She said the Town's Streets and Park Department recommends 32 feet to allow for maneuvering of snowplows and large equipment and

allow on-street parking at the same time. Thurmont's police department pointed out that a 32-foot street is similar to other streets in Town, however, they acknowledged that a wider street correlates with increased speeding. The Fire Department didn't suggest a minimum street width, but did say a narrow street makes it more difficult to maneuver their large equipment when responding to emergency calls.

The concern with increasing the minimum street width is the increase of speeding that will accompany it. "The wider the streets, people tend to go faster," said Duty. One AAA study found a correlation between

wider streets and increases in pedestrian injuries.

According to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), streets between 22 to 26 feet provide adequate width without sacrificing room for emergency vehicles, impacting environmental areas or creating financial restraints.

For example, Orchard Street is 23.9 feet, Hammaker Hills is 24 feet and Lombard is 33 feet. Commissioner Liaison Marty Burns said, "There's parking on both sides [of Orchard] and when I drive my truck, I'm like 'I hope I don't nail a mirror'". Member Grant Johnson described growing up on Lombard, "There's parking on both

sides and I've never had an issue growing up there," he said. "It's safe."

The Commission discussed the merit of limiting parking to one side of certain roads and eliminating parking overall on others, giving them more width for passing cars. However, Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick suggested avoiding this restriction as it would be challenging for the residents.

Residents at the meeting encouraged the Commission to increase the width of the streets because of larger vehicles and more cars per household requiring more parking. The Commission decided to push a decision to May in order to give them time to review all the information discussed.

## Council mulls preliminary wastewater department budget

The Town Council reviewed the preliminary wastewater budget at the April 8 meeting for FY-26. The budget, which showed a total surplus of \$151,989 for the wastewater department, will be approved at a future meeting.

CFO Linda Joyce and Wastewater Superintendent Randy Eyler presented a budget with \$1,938,244 in revenue for the next fiscal year in this department. This is a decrease from the current fiscal year's estimate of \$2,022,000. One difference made in the revenue allocation is the sewer service, which Joyce and Eyler indicted \$1,817,069 in revenue for the next fiscal year, a \$57,431 decrease from the current fiscal year. Joyce explained that she reduced this

revenue line based on the current year-to-date revenue collected — only \$1,267,712.

Prior to the meeting, Eyler had pointed out there was now reduced inflow and infiltration (I&I) from state parks, or the entry of rainwater and groundwater into the sewer system. "Like we said last year, the state parks redid the line coming down 77," Eyler said. "That line had substantial I&I. On average, it had 9-12 gallons a minute and when it rained it could go as high as 200 gallons a minute, maybe even higher. Now, we're looking at 2-3 gallons a minute." He went on to explain that the federal park is currently working on the issue on their side.

The preliminary budget includes

predicted expenses for the next fiscal year to be \$1,786,254, decreased from the current year's prediction of \$2,022,024. Currently, the Town has incurred \$1,581,494 in expenses.

The wastewater department expects to add an additional employee to the team in the next fiscal year, in preparation for Eyler's retirement at an unspecified date. "Denied," Commissioner Marty Burns joked. Eyler would like someone now to be able to train that employee properly and to give him or her time to learn Thurmont's system. Mayor John Kinnaird confirmed that the department would be finding a replacement for Assistant Superintendent Troy Wastler's position, implying but not confirming that

Wastler would be promoted to Eyler's position as superintendent upon the latter's retirement.

Despite the surplus in funds, Eyler explained that he was aware the department didn't have enough in the capital gains funds to cover all of the projects they'd like to do in the coming fiscal year. He presented the projects to the Town Council in order of importance understanding that they may not all be completed in the next year. "We know we're not going to have enough money to fund everything this year, so we're just going to try to stack it up as we go so that what's not funded this year will hopefully get funded next year," Eyler said.

The exception is the Howard Street sewer replacement proj-

ect, which is estimated to cost \$320,000. Because of the high cost, Eyler plans to apply for grants to pay for this project rather than using capital funds. "It's just too much for us to handle coming out of the sewer fund," he said. Town Manager Jim Humerick said that with stormwater included in that project, it's closer to \$500,000.

In order of importance as presented at the April 8 meeting, the wastewater department intends to use their capital funds for the following projects: truck replacement, raw screen overhaul, I tracker flow meters for I&I, replacement of three HVAC units, lab seal unit replacement and the replacement of IR air compressors.

## Mid-year budget amendments approved

The Town Council approved the adoption of mid-year budget amendments for the current fiscal year at the May 6 meeting. The amendments ordinance took effect on May 13.

The mid-year budget amendments reallocate funds that no longer match their prior estimations in the budget as is. Prior to her retirement, CFO Linda Joyce presented the amendments ordinance at the April 29 meeting for revenue and expenses from the General Fund, Wastewater Fund, Water Fund and Electric Fund for FY-25. The new CFO Suzanne Saxton was present at the May

6 meeting, but the Town Council did not need any clarifications from her before their vote.

"I thought it would be best to do ones that are pretty obvious right now and then later on through the year, when we can get a better feel for where we are at the year end, which is right around the corner, we can do the rest of them," Joyce said.

The amendments for each fund covered unanticipated revenue from interest earned after transitioning to a sweep account. The amendments also allocated for the bank fees expenses as a result of the change. The Town initially antici-

pated \$70,00 in interest earned for the General Fund but are now estimating \$145,000 in interest revenue. Joyce expects \$3,000 in interest earned from each of the remaining funds, as noted in the amendments.

The additional interested earned in each fund will be transferred to the unrestricted fund balance. The unrestricted fund balance will then cover the bank fees: \$8,800 for all four funds. Joyce explained to the Board that creating these amendments for audits and closing the end of year books, even though the revenue replaces the expenses in the

unrestricted fund balance. "It shows that we've been monitoring our budget throughout the year," she said.

The General Fund incurred two additional unanticipated expenses outside of the bank fees during the current fiscal year for camera licenses and maintenance as well as building repairs. The new cameras, used for public safety, will incur \$6,000 in monthly fees for their license for usage and for any maintenance needed to keep the cameras working. Joyce suggested using the funds allotted for meetings, training and travel; travel expenses; and contractual to

cover the unanticipated monthly camera fees. Chief David Armstrong discussed the monthly fees to operate the cameras at a previous meeting.

For the R&M Building repairs, costing the Town \$5,000, Joyce suggests transferring funds from recruitment, uniforms and contractual. The R&M Building houses police headquarters, but it's not immediately clear what the needed repairs were.

The amendments also included the replacement the Town's office phones, another unexpected expense not included in the original budget. The replacement phones cost the Town \$4,225 using the unrestricted fund balance.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

New City Council gets to work

The highly contentious May City Council election to fill three vacant Commissioner seats saw an overall disappointing turnout. With a total of 5,558 registered voters in the City, only 366 showed up to vote, a mere 7%. Nick Kalinock received the highest number of votes with 279. Harry Meade ran a close second with 270 votes and Rachael Miller filled out the new Council with 191 votes. The last candidate was Lillian Hardie who pulled 177 votes.

After swearing in the new members, the Council's first act of business was to vote for the "Mayor Pro Tem", essentially the backup for Mayor Christopher Miller if he is absent or unable to perform his duties. Rachael Miller was nominated and accepted the position.

Council liaison appointments were next on the new Council's docket. Kalinock will be working with Parks and Recreation, R. Miller with the Police Department, Meade will be on the Planning and Zoning Council, Councilman Christopher Tillman will be assigned to the Economic Development Council and Councilman James McCarron rounded out the appointments by working with Public Works.

The new Council immediately began working on introducing and approving various Ordinances and

Resolutions. The first was the introduction of the FY-26 Operating Budget, which required immediate attention as it will take effect in July. The budget covers all the revenue streams, expenditures and grant monies that the City will need to support itself for the next year.

The introduction of the FY-26 Water and Sewer Rates prompted much discussion over whether the Fund could support a 5% decrease in rates as proposed by Mayor Miller. The Council also approved the introduction of an Ordinance to create a yearly workshop in April to discuss the Water and Sewer rates and whether to increase or decrease them accordingly.

The FY-26 Tax Rate was up for emergency adoption. Although it will not change from its existing rate of .37 cents per \$100, by adopting it immediately the City can begin filling out the necessary paperwork.

The introduction of the Police Manual Ordinance was up next, it will allow the Chief of Police to adopt an official police manual that is updated by Lexipol, a company that provides state-specific public safety policies and training solutions. Mayor Miller stated that the Ordinance has been sitting "on a back burner for over a year". The Ordinance will also allow the Chief to make changes to the man-

ual and allow the Council to view the changes.

An ordinance to determine police protection standards was also introduced. This ordinance sets police staffing minimums at 16 officers and gives the Chief the ability to sign off on a proposed development even if the minimum of 16 has not been reached. "If there's a development coming through and they still believe they can provide adequate police protection it's giving him the ability to still sign off on that," said Mayor Miller.

The City Attorney Requirement Ordinance was changed to state that the City Attorney may be "requested instead of required" to attend Council meetings. Making this change would save the City money by eliminating attorney costs for meetings that do not need the Attorney's attendance.

The Council next discussed the introduction of an ordinance to create an Executive Administrative Assistant position that would essentially be a "Jack of all trades". This person would be able to cover the job duties of different positions in the City, such as the Economic Development Director, if needed. It would also reduce the abundant workload placed on Jim Wieprecht, the City's Manager.

The first amendment to the Code

introduced by the new Council involved Signs and how they would be managed in the City. This was the first major point of discord for the new Council. The current Code only allows signs to be placed where the activity is occurring, but the amendment will allow signs to be placed throughout the Community with requirements on removal, approval process, maximum number allowed and size. Tillman expressed concern over the proposed changes saying, "I think our sign Ordinances are outdated, but let's be smart," he said. "I just don't think that this particular Ordinance is ready to move forward." The introduction passed with a vote of three to two, Tillman and McCarron against.

Both Tillman and McCarron opposed the Ordinance that would allow the Mayor to suspend the enforcement of an Ordinance for up to 60 days and then be reviewed by the Council. A written notice stating why the Ordinance was suspended would be required to be sent to the Council and the City Manager. Mayor Miller explained why he introduced this change, "The issue with this is we have a bunch of ordinances here in the City of Taneytown that, realistically, we don't have the enforceability for." The ability to suspend an ordinance would force the Council to review said ordinance and make it more enforceable. The Mayor further explained that the

Council would have the power to affirm whether the suspended ordinance is doing its job, and if so, be able to place it back into effect immediately. Despite Tillman and McCarron's disapproval, the other Council members outnumbered them, and the Ordinance passed.

The repeal of campaign finance requirements was a hot topic for the new Council. Mayor Miller explained it as an overhaul of election requirements, especially the campaign finance section. Tillman was adamantly against the repeal stating, "This is the wrong way to do it, you don't want to repeal this legislation and then have nothing," he said. Meade agreed and the introduction failed.

The new Council addressed three resolutions, which are less formal decisions made by the Council. The first was to decide on a list of the Council's priorities which include hiring an Economic Development Director and creation of the Main Street Program's framework. They also discussed details for the creation of a monthly newsletter that will be available by mail or online. Wieprecht pointed out, "Postage is not in the budget for this. We cut postage to fund some of the other stuff so we need to figure that out." Lastly, the naming of the Police Department building after previous Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer Darryl Hale was also approved by Council.

Council passes 5% water rates decrease

With other local municipalities raising Water rates, the new Taneytown City Council voted to lower their rates by 5% instead. Mayor Christopher Miller asked City staff to include the 5% decrease in the draft of the FY-26 budget in preparation for introduction at the May meeting.

With Walkersville increasing their rates by 20%, Emmitsburg in turmoil over a 36% increase implemented in 2023 and Thurmont implementing an increase of 15%, the decision to lower the rates shocked City Manager Jim Wieprecht. He asked the Council why they wished to lower the rates and how the 5% number was determined. "I'm very curious as to how that is in the City's best interest," he said.

Commissioner Harry Meade explained that besides traffic concerns, the water rates were the single most complained about item while he was campaigning. Commissioner Nick Kalinock kicked the question back to Wieprecht asking if the Water Fund was drawing enough funds to do all of the projects the City needed. Wieprecht said Enterprise Funds (which is where the Water and Sewer Funds fall under) are supposed to pay for themselves through the user rates which the City of Taneytown is doing, however, what the City has coming in as revenue is not enough to cover repairs. "Over the last five years the Utility Fund [both Water and Sewer] has come up with a surplus of \$7.576 million. There are \$11.8 million worth of projects just for water and sewer projected for the next five years," said Wieprecht. "I would suggest that our existing user rates are

not adequate to cover the long-term maintenance of the system."

Councilman Christopher Tillman pointed out that the draft budget showed the revenue in the water fund at \$2.7 million and the expenses at \$2.7 million, meaning the Fund was capable of balancing, however the City's debt service is not covered. Debt service is the total cash required to pay back all debt obligations. "We have a debt service on the Water and Sewer, so that's \$900,000 plus," he said. "How does that get paid?" Even after rental charges, interest and late payment fees the City's debt service comes to approximately \$565,000 that is not covered by revenue alone.

Wieprecht explained that in years past the City has borrowed from the Utility Fund balance to pay for the debt service, which is not an ideal solution. "The only thing it shouldn't pay for is building additional capacity. That should be charged to developers but the maintenance of the system

including money we have to borrow to maintain the system or have had to borrow in the past really should be paid by the user rates." He pointed out that the operating revenue and sewer user rates should generate enough money to pay for the capital project expenses as well as repairs.

Another issue with the debt service is the City is still carrying debt from the wastewater treatment plant's construction. "I believe that debt has probably been refinanced into something else at this point." The City was under a consent order from the Department of the Environment because the old plant was overflowing regularly whenever it rained. The new plant was built to allow growth so it came with an additional cost that should be paid for by impact fees. He also explained that the cost of replacing the plant with the existing capacity was to be paid for by a base fee that was only charged for a couple of years but was intended to be charged for much longer. The base

fee was removed because residents quickly grew tired of paying it, however Wieprecht suggested the Council could reinstate something similar.

The 5% decrease would amount to an estimated \$169,000 which Miller pointed out "This is not going to break our piggybank." Wieprecht however reiterated his advice, "If the rates were adequate to sustain the maintenance of the system we would not have had \$4 million worth of projects to catch up on."

The Council also introduced an Ordinance where a yearly workshop dedicated to the Water rates would occur in April. During this time the financial records regarding the water fund would be reviewed and adjusted; either increased or decreased accordingly.

The Council approved the introduction of both the 5% decrease and the yearly workshop dedicated to the Water Rates, but will continue work on both the budget and the Ordinance.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Congresswoman April McClain Delaney

I took my usual seat on the House Agriculture Committee—front row and one of the last in the speaking order. As a first-term Congresswoman who grew up in a farming family, I've spent much of my time here listening and looking for common ground. Sadly, after hours of debate on the House Majority's sweeping budget reconciliation package, I left feeling frustrated, unsettled, and frankly, livid.

The House Agriculture Committee was founded over 200 years ago with a shared mission of feeding the country and supporting rural America. For generations the House Agriculture Committee has served as a place where partisanship takes a backseat to pragmatism and finding common ground. This week that legacy was tested—and failed miserably.

Instead of advancing a bipartisan Farm Bill—a cornerstone of stability for farmers, producers and rural economies—House Republicans pushed through a deeply partisan reconciliation package. Rather than meeting the needs of our rural communities, this legislation prioritizes tax breaks for large corporations and the ultra-wealthy while simultaneously inflicting sudden, severe and nonsensical cuts to

essential agricultural, conservation and nutritional programs.

Let's be clear about what's happening. Among the hardest hit by these proposed cuts would be the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps more than 42 million Americans, many of them in rural communities, afford groceries at a time of skyrocketing food prices. In my district, one in nine families in Western Maryland relies on SNAP to feed themselves—half of whom are children. In Frederick County, over 18,000 of our family, friends and neighbors rely on it. Across the country, more than 27,000 authorized SNAP retailers would also be at risk if this package is passed into law, including over 3,500 small grocery stores, over 900 specialty food shops, and 600 farmers markets. Beyond its direct impact, studies show that for every dollar spent on SNAP benefits, an estimated \$1.50 in economic activity is generated. This activity translates into farmers selling into local food banks and school lunch programs, into boosting local businesses which accept SNAP benefits and truckers who transport the crops. These are not just numbers; but real impacts on real farmers, working fami-

lies and rural communities.

As a farmer's daughter, I prioritize supporting our country's rural communities. Since taking office, I've met with the Maryland Farm Bureau and all five county farm bureaus in my district. I've visited with farmers, small businesses and rural leaders, and their message is clear: they want a Farm Bill that works for them. Unfortunately, the legislation which moved out of committee last night misses the mark. Shut out of the legislative process, my colleagues and I were given the drafted reconciliation and notice of the mark-up only 24 hours before the hearing started. I joined my colleagues in voicing opposition about the lack of transparency, the fact that no hearings or expert testimony was called, and no bipartisan dialogue occurred about how to best invest in our farming communities.

I introduced several different amendments, including one that would have expanded critical rural broadband access—an issue raised again and again in every corner of my district and one I've worked on for decades before serving in Congress. Mind you, the Farm Bill isn't just about farms, it's about supporting infrastructure that underpins rural America. Roughly 25% of rural

Americans still lack reliable, high-speed internet. In Maryland, more than one in six, including thousands of families in my own district, remain cut off from the digital infrastructure that powers access to precision farming, education, health care and jobs. Broadband isn't a luxury, it's a necessity.

Unfortunately, the Committee didn't even have a chance to consider this amendment, and many others, after the Republicans in charge cut off debate after 16 hours over two days. We—and by extension the communities we represent—weren't afforded a full debate (even though several of my Republican colleagues commiserated in private about the tragic impact of these cuts). To say this was a disappointing end to this process would be an understatement.

The Farm Bill has always occupied a rare space where bipartisanship wasn't just encouraged—it was essential. Rural America isn't red or blue—it's made up of families who care about putting food on the table, getting a fair price for their crops and having access to basic services. And when we abandon good-faith bipartisanship, we abandon the people we're elected to serve.

This moment should have been

about passing a serious, bipartisan Farm Bill—a real opportunity to increase access to capital for farmers, invest in sustainable agriculture, protect natural resources and strengthen the rural economy. Instead, we witnessed a Committee meeting that placed ideology ahead of community needs.

Let's not pretend this is about fiscal responsibility. It's about misplaced priorities. Rural communities aren't being left behind because we lack the resources to help them—they're being left behind because House leadership is looking the other way to meet a self-conceived bottom line from this Administration.

Every year we delay the Farm Bill, rural hospitals go underfunded, farmers face financial uncertainty, conservation efforts are stalled, and nutrition programs hang by a thread. The clock is ticking, and every day without action is a day of unnecessary hardship for the families who feed this country and those vulnerable families who are at risk of going hungry.

It's time to pass a bipartisan Farm Bill that puts people over politics. And no matter the obstacles, I will continue to show up—because every Representative must remember who they serve, who they're fighting for and how they can truly stand with the working families who are struggling to get ahead.

Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

Spring is flying by and as we head into the summer months, I want to give you an update on the projects that have been on-going for the last several months.

The new Sewer Lift Station on Creamery Road is up and running and appears to be operating as designed. This project replaced another piece of our ageing infrastructure and will not only oper-

ate more efficiently but will also prevent overflows during heavy rain events. Much of this project was funded by grants which saved the town over one million dollars.

The Water Clarifier project is on schedule and should be up and running by December. This will be another addition to updating our water treatment process, which is over fifty years old. Over

one million dollars of this project was grant funded and will reduce the cost of producing water.

The new restroom and concession stand are completed and up and running in the E. Eugene Myers Memorial Park. Baseball and softball have always been a bright spot in the history of sports in Emmitsburg and we have found a way to honor all the athletes that played the

game. The front walkway leading to the concession stand has been lined with bricks that may be purchased to give you the opportunity to display the name of individuals and teams. You may purchase bricks until July 1st to be included in the first installation of the commemorative area. You can contact the Town Office or go to our website for more information.


The new parking area at Rainbow Lake has been completed and has added much needed parking for fishing and trail users.

The DePaul Street Waterline project is complete, which was a much-needed improvement to our

water delivery system. We have made the decision to install sewer cleanouts for all properties before paving the entire street. With the addition of these projects, completions and paving are projected to be completed by mid-summer.

Finally, the Emmitsburg Community Garden is in full bloom and community involvement has been over and above projections. The town has approved the expansion of the garden area with future growth expected.

As always please feel free to contact me with any questions and concerns, and thank you for your continued support in making Emmitsburg a better place to live and work.



# Public Notice

## 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, 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 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.



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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

June marks the beginning of a vibrant season in Frederick County. As schools close for the summer, our streets and parks will be filled with children enjoying their break. Please be extra vigilant while driving and mindful of the increased activity in our neighborhoods.

We also celebrate Pride Month, a time dedicated to honoring and uplifting our LGBTQ+ community. This celebration not only acknowledges the struggles and achievements of the LGBTQ+ community, but also reinforces our dedication to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone.

June is also National Immigrant Heritage Month. Frederick County is honored to host a Heritage Festival on Friday, June 6, from 4 - 8 pm at Hill Street Park, located at 100 Hill Street in Frederick. This event will feature music, food, and activities that highlight the contributions of our diverse cultures. We hope you can join us!

**Update on the FY26 Budget**  
I would like to extend my grati-

tude to everyone who participated in the FY26 budget process. Your input was invaluable and ensured that our budget for the coming fiscal year, which starts on July 1, reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to the County Council for their diligent work and collaboration in passing the budget as introduced. I am proud that this year's budget prioritizes education and protects core services while maintaining fiscal responsibility. To learn more about the budget, visit [FrederickCountyMD.gov/Budget](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/Budget).

**Limiting Data Centers**  
One of the most important questions facing our community is where data centers can be located and, by extension, where they will not be allowed.

Last month, the County Council and I jointly announced a compromise to limit where data centers can be built to the area around the old East Alcoa property north of Adamstown. I want to thank the Council for working together to create a way forward that we can

all support.

This bipartisan compromise ensures we are protecting our environment and quality of life, while acknowledging that Frederick County's location makes it a logical site for this critical industry.

We will limit the development to less than 1% of the County's total land mass, in an area with the infrastructure to support it, and ensure the County Council retains the tools to prevent future sprawl.

An amendment will be introduced to the zoning code to create a tool called an overlay, which will be used to limit data center development.

The Council will review and vote on the bill through its ordinary public legislative process. After that, the Division of Planning and Permitting will develop a map through an open and transparent public process, which will be presented to the Planning Commission for review and the County Council for approval.

Community Partnership Grants  
I recently announced \$1.2 million in grants to 32 local non-profit organizations through the

Community Partnership Grant program. This initiative awards competitive grants to nonprofits focusing on four key areas: addressing homelessness and housing solutions, enhancing quality of life, improving public health, and supporting the arts.

Frederick County has an amazingly strong nonprofit network. Partnerships with our nonprofits results in big impacts for our community. Together, we can provide more services to more people, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

The grants will fund a variety of critical services that foster resilience, bridge gaps, and bring innovative solutions. For example, Mission of Mercy, which serves Brunswick and Emmitsburg, and the Seton Center in Emmitsburg provide resources and assistance to those in need, ensuring that everyone has access to essential health-care and support services.

Local nonprofits applied for a total of 61 grants, requesting nearly \$3 million in funding. Independent review panels recommended the final list of grantees, which can be viewed online at

[FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPG-awardsFY26](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPG-awardsFY26).

**Frederick County Becomes Maryland's First Bird County**  
The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership officially recognized Frederick County as Maryland's first "Bird County" during Earth Week 2025. The designation acknowledges the County's efforts in ecosystem restoration, environmental education, and habitat protection.

Frederick County joins a growing network that includes eight Bird Cities across the state, including Brunswick and Middletown.

Birds are not only beautiful to watch – they also tell us a lot about the health of our environment. Because they respond quickly to changes in nature and are easy to observe, birds help us understand the conditions of our ecosystems.

By protecting birds and their habitats, we are also protecting the health and well-being of people in our community. The Bird County designation highlights this important connection and recognizes our continued leadership in environmental stewardship.

To learn more, visit [FrederickCountyMD.gov/BirdCounty](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/BirdCounty).

## County Councilwoman Renee Knapp

Frederick County is in full bloom, and we've even had some substantial rain recently. This is better than the drought conditions that local farmers were facing this time last year. Hopefully, this trend continues, and we see a successful growing season. Dedication to agricultural stewardship and sustainability are everyday values put into practice and evident throughout the County.

Two tools that help with those efforts are rain barrels and compost bins. Composting is great for the garden and helps to reduce landfill waste, and collecting rainwater for gardening and outdoor cleaning is great for your water bill. The Division of Energy and the Environment and the Division of Solid Waste and Recycling have teamed up to offer a limited-time opportunity for residents to purchase rain barrels and compost bins at reduced prices. You can browse the products and orders can be placed through June 21st at [www.enviroworld.us/frederickcountymd](http://www.enviroworld.us/frederickcountymd). You don't have to be a county resident to place an order, but you must pick up your order on Saturday, June 28th between 8 and 1 at 9031 Reichs Ford Rd.

The Frederick County Sustainability Commission will be holding their annual awards ceremony on October 20th. Each year, the Commission recognizes community members who have made contributions to climate and sustainability practices. The

awards are based on innovation and successful outcomes in areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, composting, air quality, reforestation, environmental awareness, and others. Awards are given for four categories. They are Individuals, Students or Student Groups, Nonprofit Organizations, and Small Commercial/Industrial Enterprises, (less than 50 employees), and Large Commercial/Industrial Enterprises. If you would like to nominate a person or organization for a Sustainability Award, you can visit [www.frederickcountymd.gov/GreenAward](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/GreenAward). Nominations must be received by June 30th.

One good indicator of the health of our local environment is a thriving bird population. This time of year, I'm filling up our backyard bird-feeder at least once a day. Birdwatching has become a popular pastime, and studies have shown that listening to birdsong has positive effects on mental health. Earlier this year, the County Council passed a resolution for Frederick County to be named the first "Bird County" by the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. Usually, this designation is received by cities or towns. The County officially received this designation during Earth Week 2025. We,

along with Brunswick, Middletown, and the City of Frederick, are now part of the Bird City Network which connects us with other bird friendly communities to share information and bird friendly practices. If you are looking for information about good bird-watching areas in the County, you can visit [www.frederickcountymd.gov/BirdCounty](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/BirdCounty).

If you have a passion for sustainability and would like to volunteer to be a member of the Sustainability Commission, there are currently openings. Potential members must demonstrate experience in areas like agriculture, land preservation, green building,

green technology, recycling, environmental education, and renewable energy, just to name a few. Resumes and letters of interest can be sent to [fcb-boards@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:fcb-boards@frederickcountymd.gov). There are also openings on other boards and commissions. It's a great way to lend your expertise to serve the community. A full list can be found on the County's website.

I hope you're getting a chance to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors in Frederick County, whether to garden, or just to take a walk and listen to the birds. If you would like more information about sustainability or another issue, please feel free to reach out to me at [rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov).

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# FROM THE DESK OF...

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

The last two weeks of April were interesting as far as the weather was concerned. Due to the lack of rain, windy conditions, and extremely dry conditions, a Burn Ban was issued. However, based on the numerous rainstorms experienced in early May, the Burn Ban was lifted based on the recommendation of Chief Bill Jacobs of the Fairfield Fire & EM and Chief David Martin of the Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department. Let's see what June brings us. Remember, open burning of any construction/demolition waste, garbage or food, tins or containers, or municipal waste on any premises is prohibited. Burning of leaf and yard waste is permitted only in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 19 of the Carroll Valley Code of Ordinances, the International Fire Code, latest edition, and 25 Pa.Code §129.14. When you conduct an open burn, you must notify Adams County at 717-334-8101.

In June, we celebrate our national flag and honor our fathers. National Flag Day is June 14th. President Woodrow Wilson officially established Flag Day on May 30th, 1916. In 1949, President Truman designated June 14 as National Flag Day each year. Be

proud! Fly the flag that day. Remember, the flag should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. You are permitted to display the flag at night if illuminated. Father's Day will be celebrated on June 15th. Father's Day originated in 1909 when a woman named Sonora Dodd conceived the idea to celebrate her father, who was born in June. She encouraged others to honor their fathers in June. It didn't become an official holiday until 1972 when President Nixon issued a proclamation declaring the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

Now that school is out, more people, both young and old, will be bicycling and walking on our trails. This may be a good opportunity to review our Pennsylvania laws regarding both. In Chapter 35, Section 3510 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, a law requires all bicyclists aged 12 and under to wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet every time they ride their bicycle. In fact, it is recommended that all bicyclists wear a safety helmet when riding a bicycle. Please note that a bicycle is considered a vehicle and, therefore, when riding on a roadway, must be operated in the same direction as required of other vehicles on the road-

way. All bicyclists are required to use hand-arm signals while on the road. Section 3507 mandates that bicyclists who ride after dark install reflective devices or lights on their bicycle.

We know that pedestrians have the "right of way". But what are your responsibilities/duties regarding walking on our trails? Section 3544 states that where a sidewalk is provided, and its use is practicable, it is unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway. Where a sidewalk is not available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk only on a shoulder as far as practicable from the edge of the roadway. Where neither a sidewalk nor a shoulder is available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk as near as practicable to an outside edge of the roadway and, if on a two-way roadway, shall walk only on the left side of the roadway. Bottom line, please follow these laws. They are for you and your family's safety on the road. For us drivers, slow down when in the Valley. Watch out for the unexpected when it comes to people walking, jogging, and bicycling on our beautiful trails.

The Carroll Valley Trout Fishing Derby was held on Sunday, April 27,

with 96 children and 71 adults in attendance. It was an outstanding event that everyone enjoyed. Thank you, Council, especially Councilmember Cody Gilbert, for organizing and managing the derby. Thank you, Dave Swope and the McSherrystown Fish and Game, for providing the fish, and the Carroll Valley Maintenance crew for depositing the trout into the designated areas of Tom's Creek. Approximately 400 trout were deposited. Vicky Simmet, Gannon Associates Insurance, and the Laptook family provided donated gifts. The Reddings hardware of Gettysburg gave the Borough a discount on the purchase of the door prizes. Thanks to the volunteers who assisted the attendees. The volunteers were Cody Gilbert, Vicky Simmel, and Gayle Marthers—special thanks to Mrs. Laura Mathews, who created and donated a lovely quilt to be given away. To see the photo taken, visit [www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-XQDDvQ](http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-XQDDvQ)

Note that in Pennsylvania, a REAL ID is optional but is required to board domestic commercial flights and access certain federal facilities starting May 7. If you don't have a REAL ID, you'll need an alternative federally acceptable form of identification, such as a valid passport or military ID, for these purposes.

On June 5 a new state law, known as Paul Miller's Law, takes effect in Pennsylvania, banning the use of all handheld devices while driving. This includes situations where you are stopped at stop signs or traffic lights. The handheld device includes phones, tablets, or computers while the user is operating a motor vehicle.

The last Blood Drive was held on Monday, May 12th, at the Carroll Valley Borough Office conference room. There were 26 donors. Twenty-two (22) pints of blood were collected, which means sixty-six (66) potential local lives will be saved. Thank you for your gift of life.

The Carroll Valley Community-Wide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, June 7th. There is a new "twist". Read on. There are two ways to participate: namely, (1) Rent a \$20 spot at the Carroll Valley Borough Office from 8 am to 1 pm, or (2) Rent a \$10 spot on the online Yard Sale map and have the yard sale at your house. To register, go to [carrollvalley.org](http://carrollvalley.org). Click on Online Payments > Other Payments, then select Community Yard Sale, and follow the instructions. If you have any questions, please call the Borough at 717-642-8269, Ext. 104. If I can help, call 301-606-2021. Have a great day!

## Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

At the May Supervisor's meeting, Liberty Township agreed to promote a well water testing research project for Pennsylvania and New Jersey families with children under 4 who drink well water. Temple University researchers are recruiting families for a paid study lasting one year. The goal of this study is to understand if drinking well water can cause illness in children, which can include symptoms of diarrhea, cough, or fever. Participation in the program offers a free whole

home UV water treatment device, gift cards, and a chance to win a family trip to Hershey Park. Information can be found at [www.wettrial.org](http://www.wettrial.org). The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and participating counties implement various tools and strategies to control mosquito populations. This reduces the transmission of mosquito-borne disease and allows the public to enjoy outdoor spaces. From May through October, Adams County will be setting mosquito traps throughout

the county on a regular basis to monitor for mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile Virus and Jamestown Canyon Virus. They will also be responding to mosquito-related complaints from county residents who are encouraged to use the online reporting tool located on their website.

Wildfires have been a recent problem in the area, and we have had several fire bans already this year. Please be safe with summer bonfires and burning. Liberty Township requires residents to contact the Adams County Emergency services on their non-emergency number 717-334-8101 to report an intent to burn and check to see if a fire ban is in place.

Our Pickup PA Event officially ended on May 31st, but we still have

supplies left over. We will continue to distribute them until they run out. If you would still like to participate, please contact the Township Office to coordinate pick up of FREE trash bags, work gloves, and safety vests. Thank you to everyone who has participated in the event to help keep our Township clean and beautiful.

The Liberty Township Police Department offers Vacation Checks to the resident of Liberty, Freedom, and Highland Townships for the protection of your property while away. Visit the [liberty.adamscountypa.gov](http://liberty.adamscountypa.gov), and click on the Police Patch at the bottom of the home page. On the right side of the next page is "House Check Request", open the form and fill it in then email

it to [libertypd@libertytownship.pa.gov](mailto:libertypd@libertytownship.pa.gov). Please provide as much information as possible. The Liberty Township Police Department with support of Liberty, Freedom and Highland Townships will be partnering with Greenmount Community Volunteer Fire Department to host National Night Out on August 5, from 5 to 8 at the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association. The purpose of this event is to promote strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, and a more caring place to live and work. It is a night to promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity.

National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement. Join us for food trucks, child safety education, face painting, bounce house, obstacle course, emergency vehicle display, law enforcement personnel, community outreach programs. If you would like to support the Liberty Township Police Department in hosting National Night Out by making a donation or by being a volunteer, please contact the Liberty Township Police Department or email [jilko@libertytownship.pa.gov](mailto:jilko@libertytownship.pa.gov). Thank you for your support in helping us make a difference in our community.

Our Tax Collector is currently accepting Municipal and County taxes at Face value. They go into penalty phase on July 1. Payment for Municipal and County real estate and per capita taxes can only be accepted until December 31. School taxes will be released the first week of July and will be accepted at the 2% discount rate until August 30.

Sealed proposals are now being received by Liberty Township at 39 Topper Road Fairfield Township, PA 17320 until noon, on June 3 for road work on Orchard Road. Bid packets are available on the township website.

I hope everyone has a safe and fun filled Summer!



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Marty Qally

In a previous article I highlighted that there are changes coming to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. This is an agreement signed by the governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia, New York, the District of Columbia's Mayor, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The agreement was intended to create a unified approach to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay until 2025. As this agreement sunsets, these executives tasked the Principle Staff Committee (PSC), mostly state level cabinet members, such as the Pennsylvania Secretaries of Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture, with revising the agreement for 2025 and beyond. In 2024 Governor Shapiro appointed me to an advisory board tasked with providing local government advice to the Chesapeake Bay Program.

In this role I sit on the Management Board for the Chesapeake, which is the staff tasked with doing most of the work. In this role I have had a front row participatory role in the revision of the 2025 plans. On May 23rd we presented our suggestions to the Principle Staff Committee for their review. This agreement is too far ranging and with too much detail to address fully in one article. Today, I will focus on the proposed changes to the Agreement's Vision.

In 2024 the Executive Council indicated that any changes should reflect the following principles and directions:

**A renewed and greater emphasis on engaging all communities of the watershed as active stewards of a healthy and resilient Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.**

This is a huge change, one championed by the Local Government Advisory Committee on which I serve. For too long the focus of the Bay programs have been focused "the bay". In truth the impacts to the Bay can start as far away as New York state. How in the world do we instill a desire to improve the Chesapeake Bay to people, who may have never seen or even know about the Chesapeake Bay? By focusing on the watershed and the communities within it, efforts can be made to highlight local concerns, which also impact the Bay. The most obvious example is flooding. No one likes it when their property or local road infrastructure is impacted by flooding. Likewise, flooding is bad for the Bay, as it results in a wave of harmful debris, chemicals, and nutrients reaching the Bay. If we fix our flooding issues, we help ourselves AND the Bay. This new focus on upstream community engagement is critical to keeping our communities and the Bay healthy.

**Our mandate to address water quality and living resources throughout the Bay and watershed.**

This is sort of a no brainer, but it matters that the focus isn't just on the water. Focusing on living resources,

such as, trout, fresh water mussels, crabs, oysters, trees, etc..., helps to provide a means to measure water quality improvements AND a way to continue the engagement with communities throughout the watershed. One could say that improving living resources is a good unto itself, but the truth is at a community level, we need more than that. We need to highlight how improving our water, improves our living resources. By the way, we are also a living resources and clean water is good for us.

**Elevating conservation as a key pillar of the Chesapeake Bay Program, alongside science, restoration, and partnership.**

When it comes to improving damaged ecosystems or most anything, the basis must be in the most recent science. It is pointless to ignore reality and ignoring the science generally doesn't end well for anyone AND tends to cost us more. Restoration is the goal, not just for healthy crabs and oysters, but for the economic viability of communities throughout the watershed. Flood debris can take out a bridge in Adams County as easily as anywhere else. Restoring natural floodplains is a scientifically proving way to restore the health to waterways and communities.

In the case of the Bay, partnerships are critical, as no one state is responsible for the damage done and no one state can solve the problems.

This does take partnerships. Enter conservation as a peer to these three key pillars. Conservation is tricky concept. Some see it as preservation of natural resources, others see it as the responsible management of natural resources. The general feeling with the Bay program is that the latter is more appropriate. While preservation is the gold standard, it is also more expensive and often times conflicts with the natural growth of communities. We can find ways to conserve resources without stopping growth an there are conservation measures that can be unique to specific land types, planning and

zoning criteria, and population density. Conservation is not a one size fits all approach, instead it is an effort to work with communities to provide for sustainable quality of life, the economic base and the environmental health of a community.

**A grounding in the most recent scientific understandings and issues that have emerged since the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was signed in 2014.**

Another no brainer. Our understanding of the natural world and how it changes is critical to everything we do. Since 2014, we have seen an increase to high intensity storms and flooding, and increase in "ghost" forests due to salt water infiltrating coastal fresh water systems, ocean levels have risen, and the temperature of waters throughout the watershed has increased. The more we understand these changing climate conditions, the better and more cost effective our response can be.

**Goals and outcomes that are measurable and time bound. Time frames should be sufficient to accomplish the outcomes as quickly as possible. In particular, our regulated nutrient and sediment load reductions, especially those within non-point sources.**

I am going to skip the long version of this, as I will be covering this in another article regarding the ways this partnership intends to measure success.

**Acknowledgement that our scientific understanding is continuously evolving and that our efforts need to constantly adapt accordingly.**

We have gone over this one in the course of the previous principles. One note that I do have to make is that how we talk about the climate is changing. Due to staff at the United States no longer being able to use the term, Climate Change, the entire partnership has accepted the phrase, changing environmental conditions. It is on one hand a ridiculous compromise, which really changes nothing,

On the other hand, it does open up the definition to no longer being solely focused on the environmental sciences. It isn't just global warming and climate change causing problems, it is also population increases, technological and consumer product and waste changes. Hopefully, this change will result in a fuller discussion of issues impacting the world in which we live.

**The fact that while each partner shares a common goal, we are all approaching this goal from different perspectives, challenges, and opportunities.**

This is a big one from the partnership perspective. In order to keep

a partnership this size together, we must respect each perspective in order to keep everyone engaged. Having met a fair amount of elected officials and now serving on and chairing an advisory board of 22 elected officials, I can say there are many many perspectives on the causes, impacts, and solutions to the health of our shared watershed. I am pleased to say that being a part of this effort has been an experience unlike any other. This is largely due to this last concept of respecting our partners.

There will be more in articles to come. Next time I will outline the specific goals of the partnership and get into the weeds of the goals which most impact our communities.

# JUNE EVENTS

## First Friday Bingo - June 6

Doors open 5:30 ~ Early Birds 6:50 ~ Regular Bingo 7

Kitchen will be open with full menu.  
SGOC will also be available for purchase.

## Third Thursday Bingo - June 19

This will be our final Thursday Bingo event

Doors open 5:30 ~ Early Birds 6:50 ~ Regular Bingo 7

Kitchen will be open with full menu.

Because of declining attendance for our Third Thursday Bingos, we have made the difficult decision to no longer have them. The June 19 event will be the final Thursday Bingo. If the Thursday Players Pool game is not claimed that night, there will be a special game at the end of the evening to award the cash in the Players Pool.

## Outdoor Cash Event - Sat., June 14

### \$30 Per Person

Includes: Food, beverages, 2 random numbers to win cash prizes  
Gates open at 10 a.m. with final jackpot drawing at 4 p.m.  
Money drawings every 15 minutes starting at noon. Only 800 tickets sold.  
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Eliminating a mortgage in retirement increases cash flow.  
A HECM does not require monthly mortgage payments. Borrower must occupy home as primary residence and remain current on property taxes, homeowner's insurance, the costs of home maintenance, and any HOA fees.

### Stand-By Credit Line

A retirement strategy where the homeowner uses the credit line as a bucket to draw from during bear markets.

### Long Term Care Protection

Set up a credit line and let it grow untouched, to use only if needed.

### Emergency Back-Up

Set up a credit line to use only as needed.

### Tenure Payments

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

### HECM For Purchase

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

### Divorce Settlement

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



# COMMENTARY

## Words from Winterbilt

### Politics and changing one's mind

Shannon Bohrer

Changing one's position can be good or bad, depending on the circumstances. Reporters who cover politics are very astute about keeping records on politicians' words and promises. When a politician employs ambiguous language to convey strong and seemingly inflexible beliefs, they are frequently scrutinized, especially if their later position changes. Yet, there are instances when people, including politicians, change their minds. When additional information becomes available on a topic that questions one's position, changing one's position can be reasonable.

The topic of changing one's position is often criticized and has historically been labeled as flip-flopping. The term political speech itself often conveys the idea that the content can depend on whom the person is talking to. In politics, the inferences of changing one's position are often viewed as inconsistent and unreliable, denoting that one cannot be trusted.

We have witnessed politicians changing their positions on global warming and alternative energy sources, often citing added information. We have also witnessed politicians maintain positions even after the facts do not support them. COVID was a pandemic that many denied even after it was scientifically and fac-

tually proven to exist. Sometimes, being consistent and not changing one's position, after the facts have changed, implies a closed mind.

The supporters of our current president often describe him as being focused. He says what is on his mind and does not waver from his promises, yet that description has not always been accurate, because he has demonstrated the ability to change his positions. When he ran for office, he promised to raise tariffs on countries we trade with, because we have a trade deficit. After being elected, he kept his promise and raised tariffs. The tariffs negatively affected our economy, the bond markets, and the value of our currency. He then withdrew some of the tariffs. Having more information can allow someone to make better decisions. He then promised to raise the tariffs again and expressed possible exceptions for numerous tariffs. So, he kept his promise and changed his mind, but he still promised to raise tariffs again. So, even someone who appears steadfast in their beliefs can be flexible.

Another change he made, which is related to the tariffs, goes back to his first term in office. At the end of his first term in 2020, he signed the USMCA trade agreement, which updated NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, originally signed into law by President Clinton. The overhaul was "designed to update the pact to reflect the rise of

e-commerce and other technological changes and to do more to encourage factories to move production to the United States." He acquired more information and changed his mind by adding additional tariffs to Canada and Mexico.

When Trump was campaigning, he also promised numerous times to eliminate DEI, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and later signed four executive orders, one of which bans transgender individuals from serving in the military. The order banning transgender military service is "Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness." The order states that "This policy is inconsistent with the medical, surgical, and mental health constraints on individuals with gender dysphoria."

Yet, in 2018, during Trump's first term, medical procedures for transgender persons were addressed when "Officials in the justice department gave the green light to procedures that also included hormone therapy and hair removal." Additionally, "Prison bureau officials wrote in a budget memo to Congress in February 2018 that the government was obligated to pay for sex-change procedures if deemed medically necessary." The medical care included cross-gender hormone therapy, including surgical intervention if needed, and counseling if required. So, he changed his mind, again.

In 2018, President Donald Trump said, "The Iran Deal was one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into." The deal with Iran

he referred to was «the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," signed into law by President Obama. The deal included a transfer of Iranian assets/monies back to Iran and a lifting of sanctions, provided Iran ceases its nuclear program and agrees to inspections. Trump cancelled the deal during his first term.

Recently, while in his second term, he changed his mind again, sending a letter to Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The letter proposed a new nuclear deal and a "two-month deadline to reach an agreement." Brian Hughes, speaking for the National Security Council, said that "Trump wanted to resolve the dispute over Iran's nuclear program diplomatically – and very soon – and if this was not possible, there would be other ways to resolve the dispute." Also, during a telephone call with NBC News, Trump said, "If they don't make a deal, there will be bombing." He also promised secondary tariffs if a deal could not be made.

To be clear, there was a deal with Iran to stop the production of nuclear materials under President Obama. After Trump was elected for his first term, he cancelled the deal, and Iran restarted the processing of nuclear materials. Now that Trump is in his second term, he wants to revive or recreate the deal that Obama made. Obviously, or maybe obliviously, he has changed his mind again.

As discussed, changing one's position when added information becomes available can be a good thing. However, there are times when changing or not changing a position is not based on new infor-

mation but based on political perspectives. How does my position compare to my opponents? This is often referred to as diversion speech. Sometimes, the best way to defend your party's poor decisions is to say the opposing party is worse, often for doing the same thing.

Diversion speech is often not recognized for what it is, because the facts are just a distraction. When Trump was running for his first term, he complained that Hillary Clinton's computer contained secret information, and that was tantamount to treason. In fact, he said she should be locked up. Recently, Pete Hegseth was accused of having classified documents on a private email with minimal security. The email was sent to numerous administration officials and included a news reporter. Outside of the administration, every national security expert vilified the incident, saying that anyone in a lower position would lose their rank and face charges. Trump defended Hegseth, saying the military action was successful.

When both sides use diversion speech—look over there—it becomes difficult to have rational conversation. Changing one's mind should not be confused with diversion speech. One can be justified, and the other cannot.

"If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading."- Laozi

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

## The Bulwark

### I don't care if MAGA burns down your house

Jonathan Glass

Let's start with Emmitsburg. The town is home to the National Fire Academy, which is like the Army War College for firefighters. The NFA became a target of DOGE and, by order of the Trump administration, is no longer conducting in-person classes. This development is bad for the local economy, bad for the institution of the National Fire Academy, bad for firefighters, and ultimately bad for anyone, anywhere, who might someday need emergency services.

NPR spoke to a number of people in and around the NFA, all of whom voted for Trump, all of whom claimed to support what Trump is doing as president—and all of whom think that what Trump is doing to the National Fire Academy is . . . bad.

Here is Frank Davis, the mayor of Emmitsburg and a volunteer firefighter:

Frank Davis saw a lot of waste during his decades in the federal government. In November, he voted for Donald Trump to get rid of it. So far, Davis likes a lot of what he has seen.

"I'm probably gonna get shot for this, but he is doing what he said he was going to do," says Davis, who serves as mayor of this town of about 3,000 people in western Maryland, just south of Gettysburg.

Davis says the administration is

reviewing the academy's operations, and he is hopeful it will restore classes. If not, he says, he'll see the administration somewhat differently.

"It will change my outlook to say that they're not being fair," says Davis, who also serves as emergency medical services captain at the local firehouse, known as the Vigilant Hose Company. "They're just going in to cut and not caring what they cut."

Here is John Beck, a volunteer fire chief (and Trump voter) from a neighboring town across the Pennsylvania state line, who was supposed to attend a leadership course at the NFA this summer:

"We're only 100-plus days in," Beck says of Trump's current term. "I wish things were going differently."

Beck doesn't regret his vote — yet. "I'm not 100% there yet, but it may not take much more," he says.

And here is Susan Glass, who owns a pub in Emmitsburg that gets 30 percent of its business from firefighters visiting the academy:

"I've already told a lot of our employees that it's a possibility they won't have a job for the summer, but we're hoping things open back up," Glass says.

In fact, many of the town's residents hold out hope that the administration will see the value of the academy and start classes again. Glass also voted for Trump but feels the administration is moving too fast.

"I agree with a lot of things that they're doing, but sometimes I dis-

agree on how they're doing them," says Glass, who thinks the administration shouldn't try to do so much at once. "Maybe ... spread it out a little bit. It just seems like it's just one hammer after another."

Perhaps you can understand why I got so worked up.

But still. I'm sure that somewhere out there is a firefighter who's a jackass. But I've never met one. Firefighters are like nurses: One of those professions that attracts the very best kind of souls.

There's an old joke: Tough guys who want to boss people around become cops; tough guys who want to help people become firefighters.

So I should assume the best about Mayor Davis and Chief Beck because firefighters are great human beings. And I bet these guys are great, too. If they were selfish, they wouldn't have become firefighters in the first place. You don't sign up for that gig for the ducats.

I'm sorry, guys. I was the jackass. But what made me angry was the narrowness of vision expressed by the people of Emmitsburg. Because this isn't just an intellectual failure. It's a civic failure. And a potentially fatal one.

The general view of the Emmitsburg Trump voters NPR spoke with was:

They like Trump. They want Trump to shut down a bunch of government programs.

They do not have any specific recommendations for programs they believe are wasteful.

However they are certain that their pet program is valuable.

And so if Trump restores funding to the National Fire Academy, they will continue to support him.

But if Trump does not restore funding to the NFA, then—and only then—they will conclude that his assault on government is harmful.

This is a myopic, untenable civic approach to democracy.

We talk about Direct Personal Consequences, but the truth is that national politics rarely manifests DPCs for voters.

The Trump administration—unlike most previous administrations—is causing a great many Direct Personal Consequences. Miss Glass, the Emmitsburg pub owner, might lose her business because of Trump's decision to cancel in-person classes at the National Fire Academy.

But Direct Personal Consequences should not be the determinative factor in either people's understanding of the world or their voting behavior.

Put it this way: The Trump administration chose to destroy USAID. As a result, children in Africa are dying.

The Trump administration chose to disrupt medical research being funded by the NIH and is seeking to impose deep cuts on public health programs at both the NIH and the CDC.

The Trump voters in Emmitsburg look at these actions and essentially say:

If Trump restores funding to the National Fire Academy, then the cuts at USAID, the NIH, and the CDC are okay with me.

But if Trump permanently cuts National Fire Academy funding, then I will view the other cuts as bad, too.

This is not okay. Politics in a healthy society cannot be driven by such provincialism.

The most important issues rarely have Direct Personal Consequences for Americans. That is one of our nation's many privileges.

America fought the Cold War for fifty years and it was the most important political issue in most of the elections during that time. Yet the U.S. strategy in the Cold War did not carry Direct Personal Consequences for most voters. Still, they cared about it anyway and considered it part of their decision matrices.

On the other hand, consider how much Americans say they care about immigration right now, even though immigration has zero bearing on their day-to-day experiences. Seriously: Go ask someone how their month went when border crossings were up versus on a month when border crossings were down. The average American experiences zero impact on their lives relative to the number of immigrants, yet cares a great deal about "immigration."

We've got to do better. A society in which people reserve judgment on the alligator until they see whether or not the alligator eats them is in trouble.

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



# The Liberal Patriot

## The rise of anti-politics

John Halpin

Americans like to dance around their problems rather than confronting them head on. One such unaddressed issue is politics itself. People hate politics. They don't like the government, elected officials, the media, and many of the policy outcomes produced by the legislative and executive branches. In 2023, a meager four percent of U.S. adults told Pew that they think the political system is working either extremely well or very well.

Partisans really hate politics—when their opponents are in charge. Trump people hated Obama and Clinton people. The Resistance hated Trump. MAGA hated Biden. The Resistance hates MAGA again. The cycle of partisan animosity spins round and round. Everyone else who is not a regimanted partisan wisely checks out to focus on other things.

Rather than constituting normal democratic processes and public deliberation on important national matters and reforms, all of this elevated public distrust and anger at institutions, along with mutual loathing between partisans, constitutes a distinctly American form of anti-politics. Anti-politics is a concept that describes public opposition to traditional democratic norms and procedures ranging from radicalism and conspiracy theories to elite technocracy and one-man authoritarian rule.

Anti-politics in America is exemplified by two populist leaders from

the right and left: Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders. Trump is America's leading master of a certain kind of anti-politics emanating from the nationalist right: against all established institutions they don't control, dismissive of "elites" and "experts," distrustful of elections and political processes that don't advance their positions, disdainful of outsiders, and dedicated to the belief that only their leadership can break through governmental corruption to restore the country.

In contrast, Bernie Sanders represents a more ideological form of leftist anti-politics based on the primary belief that everything in American life is a rigged game that favors the wealthy. Although Sanders competes for influence within the Democratic Party, he remains an independent. His supporters despise establishment politics. His solution for nearly every problem is always to attack the "oligarchs" and "billionaires" and to replace plutocratic government with some nascent form of democratic socialism built on high taxation, nationalized health care, a smaller military, green energy policies, and universal social spending.

Leftist anti-politics generally performs better in continental Europe than in America given historical left-wing activism in countries like France, Greece, Portugal, and Spain. Unlike Trump, however, Bernie Sanders has been less successful in capitalizing on leftist anti-politics within America's two-party system. Sanders and his progressive followers clearly have amassed influence but have never taken over or transformed the Demo-

cratic Party the way Trump did on the Republican side. Although Sanders has built a fiercely loyal constituency, and enjoys decent personal popularity and support for his attacks on the rich, he faces a strong counterbalance from moderate Democrats while his national support is capped by Americans' general resistance to higher taxes, more governmental regulation of the economy, and higher social spending.

Why are both Trump and Sanders considered exemplars of anti-politics rather than politics? It's not just semantics. Both men and their movements are engaged in political activity, but it is a distinctly disruptive form of political action rather than a steady, incremental approach designed to achieve policy goals through majoritarian legislation or other bipartisan measures.

Anti-politics generally works much better as an election framework than as a blueprint for governing. Populist anti-politics is thus best viewed as a shock to the system, not a well administered and widely supported course of treatment. The strengths and weaknesses of this model are best seen in the heavy dose of executive actions early in Trump's second term coupled with his rapidly declining job approval ratings.

The fragmentation-apathy side of anti-politics is most apparent in the backlash to mainstream media and other expert bodies along with the proliferation of new social media influencers, podcasters, bloggers, activists, tech evangelists, and regular people "doing their own research" to get around the partisan gatekeepers they feel routinely mislead or lie to the public. Similarly, for those not drawn to these fragmented anti-elite

media voices, the most common form of anti-politics is paying little to no attention to traditional politics, public debates, or decisions by government.

"I hate politics and won't participate" is a rapidly growing if disorganized movement among independent and non-affiliated Americans who are fed up with partisan rhetoric and policy failures.

What is the future of anti-politics in America?

One possible end game is that Trumpian anti-politics from the right cements its power in government and maintains electoral advantages for the next few presidential cycles as a cohesive plurality movement with the ability to reach majority status by bringing in other disgruntled Americans who like their disruption and change.

Another possible outcome is that Trump's second term ends up in a ditch, probably due to economic mismanagement and right-wing culture wars. This could allow leftist anti-politics to finally take over the Democrats and convince enough disappointed Americans among the larger electorate to give the opposite end of the ideological spectrum a chance to prove their worth. This scenario is plausible but not probable. It would first require centrist and moderate Democrats to give up their internal fight for control of the party and then would require mainstream Americans to take on notably more progressive economic and cultural views than they currently hold.

A third scenario is that anti-politics on the right and left fails in the eyes of many Americans who instead band together to back a "return to normalcy" as represented by something other than the Trump or Sanders

wings of their respective two parties. Since Trump is in power and completely dominates his party, this would most likely have to come from a moderate or reform-minded presidential nominee giving voice to this sentiment from the Democratic side. Joe Biden was elected in 2020 based on this approach but he did not deliver the goods in the eyes of most Americans thus fueling another round of anti-politics from Trump.

Given the dynamics that have emerged in the U.S. since 2000, a return to normalcy would likely represent a temporary solution at best rather than a long-term turnaround for traditional politics and governing. The stark reality is that anti-politics isn't going away anytime soon. The days of civic-minded officials working cooperatively within and across party lines to advance national economic, social, and security goals with public backing are either long gone or a romantic delusion.

Once public trust and confidence in government and politics is lost, it's difficult for any party to rebuild it with sustained majority support.

Unfortunately, this means America may be in for a rough period of governance since anti-politics engages the most angry and radical segments of society and rarely pleases anyone else. Perhaps various right-wing and left-wing populist outbursts will lead to reforms that most Americans like. More likely than not, however, anti-politics will continue to swamp rational efforts at consensus building and pragmatic policy making in defense of America's interests and all its people.

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

# Good Day Neighbor

## Someone to watch over me

Dorothea Mordan

Joe Biden has become a victim of prostate cancer. One of my brothers has prostate cancer. Small changes in my brother's behavior starting occurring at random times, long before diagnosis. It turned out a large tumor was growing from his prostate, pressing on his bladder, backing up his urine. This can cause a temporary hallucinatory state. During one of his, he got caught in a conversation with a scammer who talked him out of \$97,000. But by 8 o'clock that night, his mind cleared and he called me for help (I did, money saved.) My brother has lived a lifetime of brilliant conversation and healthy habits. None of us around him would have known that a few random times of foggiess were really a deadly cancer disrupting everything we were conditioned to expect from him. By the time we were aware of it, his tumor was the size of a grapefruit.

There are people all around us who are going through something small or large that can change their behavior, and how they deal with life and their responsibilities.

Small changes subtle enough that family, friends and professional associates can brush off an odd bad day until, BOOM! suddenly everything is different.

Not long after Ronald Reagan left office, it was publicly announced that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1994. His son Ron said he had seen changes in his father for a decade, His son Michael said Reagan was the same man almost up to the diagnosis. Perception. Dementia in various forms can take a long time to develop and change a person. There was speculation whether this had impacted Reagan's time in office as President.

Reagan's Alzheimer's was very unlikely to have been present during his presidency. Doctors who treated him know that because of medical research. The kind done at the NIH. That is the knowledge that allows us to have confidence in our leaders and elected officials. That is the issue with medical conditions. They can take a long to develop. Often there is no way of telling what their impact is until the symptoms are permanently visible. If we can't see it, we don't know it. Even then it takes research and study to understand medical condition.

Perception makes all the dif-

ference. The view we have on a person makes a big difference in how we respond to their behavior. For me, suddenly getting a call that my brother had been conned, and listening to his confusion as he described the steps in the event, caused a seismic shift in everything I understood about my sibling. This is a person I love. It made me concerned and sad. Imagine, using my handy examples, a politician who you dislike has the same slow march into the unknown. Is there sadness?

We have federal agencies that research cancer, Alzheimer's disease and other medical conditions. They bring the most answers and cures in the world, taking some of the pressure off the march each of us takes into the unknown. The 2025 federal government is dismantling them, stopping federal programs for research on cancer cures, and other components of medical care, dead in their tracks.

Perception. For Republicans, all perceived unnecessary spending is bad versus medical experiments to find cures for disease. Which part of the experiments are a waste of money? Where is the logic and administrative responsibility in these funding cut decisions?

The proposed 2026 Federal budget has a 40% cut to the total NIH budget.

"The proposal slashes the NIH budget, and in some cases com-

pletely eliminates funding for groundbreaking research initiatives, public health programs and essential support systems that have contributed to advancements in cancer prevention, early detection and more effective treatment options. Returning to funding levels from two decades ago – and three decades ago when accounting for biomedical inflation – will set this nation back dramatically in our ability to reduce death and suffering from a disease that is expected to kill more than 618,000 Americans this year alone.

"For the past 50 years, every significant medical breakthrough, especially in the treatment of cancer, has been linked to sustained federal investment in research. This commitment has contributed to the remarkable statistic of over 18 million cancer survivors currently living in the U.S. today. Moving backwards in funding would not only stall scientific breakthroughs but also impact our ability to combat the rising incidence of cancer nationwide. With more than 2 million people in America expected to be diagnosed with cancer this year, now is the time to strengthen, not weaken, our commitment to ending cancer as we know it, for everyone."

— Lisa Lacasse, president of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN):

The changes in our federal gov-

ernment are being done to superficially look good. The people who were taking care of us have been taken out of their jobs and the real impact is that the care you and I need won't be there when we need it.

Perspective. Maybe the current administration is not a Team Scrooge, cutting Medicaid so that if people die without health-care they will do their sacrifice by decreasing the surplus population. Or maybe we need more population, the Trump administration can't seem to decide. Maybe we are supposed to be self-sufficient, sacrifice, and mix up cancer cures in our kitchens.

Perspective and our perception of the people who watch over us. Hindsight is twenty-twenty. Maybe in five or six years it will be announced that Trump has an illness that caused an unspecified decline in mental acuity. We are losing not only because there aren't enough people to care for each other. There aren't enough of us to care about learning HOW to take care of each other. There aren't enough of us to watch over each other as we go through life and need care. With the Trump administration, we have even less.

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



# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## A Father to the fatherless

**Pastor Sabrina Slimmer**  
**Keymar Evangelical Wesleyan Church**

Father's Day is a day many of us mark with joy. It's a time to fire up the grill, send a heartfelt card, and honor the men who have guided us with strength, gentleness, and wisdom. Yet, for others, it's a day that carries a different kind of weight. Perhaps it brings bittersweet memories of a dad who's no longer here. Maybe it stirs pain from wounds left by a father who was absent, distant, or even harmful.

Whatever your experience has been, one truth brings hope and healing: we all have access to a perfect, loving Father—the One who created us, knows us intimately, and never fails us.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 68:5, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling." These words describe God's character. He does not turn a blind eye to our pain. He steps into the broken spaces of our lives with strength, comfort, and the kind of love that brings restoration.

Let's be honest—earthly fathers, like all people, are flawed. Some do their best with the tools they were given. They show up, support their families, provide guidance, and leave a legacy of faith and character. If that's your experience, give thanks. You've seen a glimpse of God's heart through your father's love, protection, and presence.

But for many others, the word

"father" may feel loaded. You may have grown up in a home where your dad was more of a shadow than a shepherd. Perhaps your childhood was filled with unanswered questions, unmet needs, or the sting of being overlooked or misunderstood. Fatherlessness isn't always about physical absence—it can be emotional, spiritual, or relational.

Yet here is the beautiful truth: our identity and security are not ultimately rooted in our earthly fathers. They are grounded in our heavenly father.

God is not just another version of our dads—He is altogether different. He is holy, just, and all-powerful. But He is also tender, compassionate, and full of mercy. He knows our past, yet He still draws us near. He knows our weaknesses, yet He calls us his children. He is patient when we fail, generous when we ask, and faithful when we fail.

The apostle John wrote in 1 John 3:1, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" That word lavished speaks of abundance—overflowing love, poured out not because we earned it, but because He delights in us.

Jesus, the Son of God, introduced us to this divine relationship when He taught His disciples to pray, saying, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9). That simple phrase, "Our Father," revolution-



ized the way people saw God. He is not a distant ruler but a personal Father who longs for relationship with His children.

If you carry the ache of father wounds, you're not alone. Even some of the greatest heroes of the faith carried pain from their families. David, the shepherd-king, was overlooked by his father Jesse when the prophet Samuel came to anoint a new king. Joseph was rejected by his brothers and left for dead. Even Jesus was misunderstood by His earthly family during His ministry.

But none of that disqualified them from God's purposes. In fact, God often uses our pain to draw us closer to Him and to show the world what healing and redemption look like.

Psalm 34:18 says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." On Father's Day, that verse

rings especially true. If you are hurting today—emotionally, spiritually, relationally—know that your heavenly Father is near. He doesn't ask you to clean up before coming to Him. He meets you in the mess and walks with you toward wholeness.

To all the dads reading this—your role is sacred. Whether you are a biological father, a stepfather, an adoptive father, or a spiritual father—your presence matters. The words you speak (or don't speak), the example you live, and the time you give are shaping a future generation.

Proverbs 20:7 says, "The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them." The impact of a godly father cannot be overstated. It's found in bedtime prayers, patient discipline, shared bibles, and intentional moments of love. You are pointing your children to a Father who will never leave

them, even when you're no longer able to walk beside them.

Maybe you feel like you've failed. Maybe you wish you could rewrite chapters of your fatherhood story. Here's the good news: God's grace is bigger than our regrets. It's never too late to love better, speak life, and lead your family toward Jesus.

This Father's Day, whether you are honoring a great dad, mourning a loss, or lamenting what was missing—may you look to the One who never changes. God, our Heavenly Father, is consistent in a world of inconsistency. He is faithful in a world of failure. He is near in a world that often feels distant and disconnected.

And maybe today, you can do something more than reflect. Maybe you can become a reflection of that Fatherly love for someone else. Is there a child who needs a mentor? Is there a neighbor who needs a kind word or a visit? Is there someone in your own family who needs to hear, "I'm proud of you. I love you. I'm here for you"?

You can be the vessel through which God's fatherly love is poured out. Not because you're perfect—but because He is.

The story of the Bible is not primarily about rules, religion, or ritual. It is a love story. A Father pursuing His children, calling them home, and welcoming them with open arms.

In Luke 15, Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son—a young man who squandered his inheritance and returned home expecting judgment. Instead, the father ran to him, embraced him, and threw a celebration. That's the heart of our Heavenly Father. He runs to meet us when we take even one step toward Him.

So if you've wandered, return. If you've doubted, come close. If you've been hurt, let Him heal. You are not forgotten. You are not disqualified. You are not unloved. You are a child of the most high God.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Midsummer Day



**June 24**  
Considering the part borne by the John the Baptist in the transactions on which Christianity is founded, it is not wonderful that the day set apart for the observance of his nativity should be, in all ages and most parts of Europe, one of the most popular of religious festivals. It enjoys the greater distinction that it is considered as Midsummer Day, and therefore has inherited a number of observances from heathen times.

The observances connected with the Nativity of St. John commenced on the previous evening, called, as usual, the eve or vigil of the festival, or Midsummer Eve. On that evening the people were accustomed to go into the woods and break down branches of trees, which they brought to their homes, and planted over their doors, amidst great demonstrations of joy, to make good the Scripture prophecy respecting the Baptist, that many should rejoice in his birth.

This custom was universal in England till the recent change in manners. In Oxford there was a specialty in the observance, of a curious nature. Within the first court of Magdalen College, from a stone pulpit at one corner, a sermon was always preached on St. John's Day; at the same time the court was embowered with green boughs, 'that the preaching might resemble that of the Baptist in the wilderness.'

Towards night, materials for a fire were collected in a public place and kindled. To this the name of bonfire was given, a term

of which the most rational explanation seems to be, that it was composed of contributions collected as boons, or gifts of social and charitable feeling. Around this fire the people danced with almost frantic mirth, the men and boys occasionally jumping through it, not to show their agility, but as a compliance with ancient custom. There can be no doubt that this leaping through the fire is one of the most ancient of all known superstitions.

It was customary in towns to keep a watch walking about during the Midsummer Night, although no such practice might prevail at the place from motives of precaution. Every citizen either went himself, or sent a substitute; and an oath for the preservation of peace was duly administered to the company at their first 'meeting at sunset. They paraded the town in parties during the night, every person wearing a garland of flowers upon his head, additionally embellished in some instances with ribbons and jewels.

In London, during the Middle Ages, this watch, consisting of not less than two thousand men, paraded both on this night and on the eves of St. Paul's and St. Peter's days. The watchmen were provided with cressets, or torches, carried in barred pots on the tops of long poles, which, added to the bonfires on the streets, must have given the town a striking appearance in an age when there was no regular street-lighting. The great came to give their countenance to this marching watch, and made it quite a pageant.

Some of the superstitious notions connected with St. John's Eve are of a highly fanciful nature. The Irish believe that the souls of all people on this night leave their bodies, and wander to the place, by land or sea, where death shall finally separate them from the tenement of day. It is not improbable that this notion was originally universal, and was the cause of the widespread custom of watching or sitting up awake on St. John's night, for we may well believe that there would be a general wish to prevent the soul from going upon that somewhat dismal ramble.

In England, and perhaps in other countries also, it was believed that, if any one sat up fasting all night in the church porch, he would see the spirits of those who were to die in the parish during the ensuing

twelvemonths come and knock at the church door, in the order and succession in which they were to die. We can easily perceive a possible connection between this dreary fancy and that of the soul's midnight ramble.

To sleep on St. John's Eve was thought to ensure a wandering of the spirit, while watching was regarded as conferring the power of seeing the vagrant spirits of those who slept. Amongst a company who sat up in a church porch, one fell so deeply asleep that he could not be waked. His companions after-wards averred that, whilst he was in this state, they beheld his spirit go and knock at the church door.

The same notion of a temporary liberation of the soul is perhaps at the bottom of a number of superstitious practices resembling those appropriate to Hallow-eve. It was supposed, for example, that if an unmarried woman, fasting, laid a cloth at midnight with bread and cheese, and sat down as if to eat, leaving the street-door open, the person whom she was to marry would come into the room and drink to her by bowing, after which, setting down the glass, with another bow he would retire. It was customary on this eve to gather certain plants which were supposed to have a supernatural character. The fern is one of those herbs which have their seed on the back of the leaf, so small as to escape the sight. It was concluded, according to the strange irrelative reasoning of former times, that to possess this seed, not easily visible,

was a means of rendering one's self invisible. Young men would go out at midnight of St. John's Eve, and endeavour to catch some in a plate, but without touching the plant—an attempt rather trying to patience, and which often failed.

Our Elizabethan dramatists and poets, including Shakspeare and Jonson, have many allusions to the invisibility-conferring powers of fern seed. The people also gathered on this night the rose, St. John's wort, vervain, trefoil, and rue, all of which were thought to have magical properties. They set the orpine in clay upon pieces of slate or potsherd in their houses, calling it a Midsummer Man. As the stalk was found next morning to incline to the right or left, the anxious maiden knew whether her lover would prove true to her or not. Young women likewise sought for what they called pieces of coal, but in reality, certain hard, black, dead roots, often found under the living mugwort, designing to place these under their pillows, that they might dream of their lovers.

The observance of St. John's Day seems to have been, by a practical bull, confined mainly to the previous evening. On the day itself, we only find that the people kept their doors and beds embowered in the branches set up the night before, upon the understanding that these had a virtue in averting thunder, tempest, and all kinds of noxious physical agencies.

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



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ECOLOGY

Wild Strawberries Summer Camp

Anne Gageby  
Director of Environmental Education  
Strawberry Hill Foundation

If you've been around campus over the last year or so, you might have noticed rocks being left on the railing of one of the Nature Trail's bridges. That's no accident. Those rocks are left for George, one of our resident trolls. Yes, we have trolls at Strawberry Hill. But don't worry; they're good trolls who love geology and dendrology, the study of trees. The forest is their home, and their stories help us teach kids of all ages about the science and history of the woods.

These trolls, like much of our campus folklore, developed over time during our Wild Strawberries camp days. Our young explorers love finding unfamiliar rocks, leaves, mushrooms, insects, and more. These discoveries come with questions that have real, scientific answers. And some fun answers as well. Over time, our folklore blossomed into what it is today and it's thanks in part to our Wild Strawberries campers' questions and enthusiasm for nature.

Wild Strawberries is Strawberry Hill's summer camp designed to immerse kids in nature while engaging their hearts and minds with hands-on, play-based learning outdoors. It gets kids outside and away from electronics while

bolstering their love of adventure. It fosters community connections and affords kids the opportunity to make new friends, usually outside their social circle and school network. Kids share their experiences and learn and grow together while enjoying the great outdoors.

Wild Strawberries runs from Monday through Thursday from 9am-4pm. Each week has a different theme from exploring a watershed to nature science to survival skills. Kicking off the summer season is Outdoor Survivalist from June 23rd - 26th. Create memories that will last a lifetime as you join your friends on the trails. We'll learn the basics of hiking safety, understanding landmarks, orienteering, fire safety, building shelters, and tackle a survivalist challenge! Outdoor Survivalist is unfortunately sold out but reach out if you'd like to be added to our waitlist.

Week two is Bee Bilingual from July 7th - 10th and this is a week that's sure to be a hit as we learn how animals and insects communicate. Join us as we discover the hidden "languages" of woodland creatures while adding in nature education in English, Spanish, and Sign Language! We will also learn how different animals sneak through the forest, find food, and water, and spend their days and nights when we're not watching.

Up next is Nature Scientist

which runs from July 14th - 17th. By the middle of July, summer will be in full swing and that means the forest is hopping! Join us as we explore and discover the wide variety of creatures that call our forests home. We'll participate in community science activities, try nature experiments, and so much more.

Follow that up with Forest Friends from July 21st - 24th and see what secrets the forest holds! Join us for a week of learning how to show kindness to the forest, making nature art, meeting Strawberry Hill's animal ambassadors, and creating new memories while adventuring outdoors.

End your summer camp experience with Water, Water, Everywhere! from July 28th - 31st. Grab your water shoes because this week is all about water. We'll learn how to locate hidden sources of water, water safety while out in the woods, how to prevent pollution, why a healthy watershed is important, and so much more!

Wild Strawberries summer camp is an experience like no other. It offers kids a chance to engage in environmental education without the pressure of tests and grades. It makes learning fun again. It also fosters a natural curiosity that helps children become real-world problem solvers and self-motivated learners. They gain valuable experience in leader-



Strawberry Hill's Wild Strawberries Summer Camp is designed to immerse kids in nature while engaging their hearts and minds with hands-on, play-based learning outdoors.

ship, communication, and decision-making through hands-on activities with peers. And it accomplishes this while allowing children the freedom to be themselves and have a blast with friends. After all, camp should always include games and activities that allow kids to just be kids.

While learning is an important piece of the summer camp experience, imagination is just as important. That's part of why we use creative storytelling. Because it helps kids to engage in their learning in an enjoyable way while absorbing genuine science in the process. So, when campers ask questions about the quartz they find all around us or want to know more about a new fungus they just found, we have fun answers. Just look at George, our geology troll. He teaches us about the uniqueness of our mountain and region. His story encourages kids to pick up rocks, to be fascinated by the world around them. And at the end of the day, who doesn't love a troll with a hobby of collecting metamorphic rocks?

These stories and experiences at camp bring out the joy of being

a kid. And they help foster a better appreciation for our natural world. Being immersed in nature deepens the connection to it. At Wild Strawberries, children explore creeks, forests, make nature art, discover geology, and so much more during their time on campus. We encourage children to ask questions, share their knowledge and ideas, and form emotional connection to our natural world through play and exploration. All while making memories that are sure to last a lifetime.

I would know because my own kids went to camp at Strawberry Hill when they were younger. Summer camp on the hill still holds a special place in their hearts even though they're grown. It mixes learning with fun and makes a recipe for an unforgettable classic childhood experience for many. Up at Strawberry Hill, the next summer adventure starts in just a few short weeks and we're so excited for the fun to begin!

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



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IN THE COUNTRY

Last flight of the Bumblebee

Tim Iverson  
Naturalist

There has been a lot of buzz in the news lately about bees and other pollinators. It may even come across as alarmist and sensationalistic fear mongering with titles such as, “Bee-pocalypse: The End of The World”. Full disclosure, that wasn’t an actual title I’ve come across, but it might as well be. The truth is that with the sudden and rapid decimation of bee and other pollinator populations we’re in for an uncertain and costly future, and that is alarming.

Pollinators serve a vital and irreplaceable role in our world. The word pollinator immediately conjures up images of bees, specifically honey bees. While bees are an important pollinator they don’t have the market cornered. Other pollinators include bats, birds, beetles, moths, butterflies, and small mammals. Pollination is the process by which pollen from flowering plants is spread. In a recent report from the USDA it is estimated that, “Pollinators, most often honey bees, are also responsible for one in every three bites of food we take, and increase our nation’s crop values each year by more than 15 billion dollars.” With the sudden inexplicable loss of a significant pollinator we should be alarmed.

For the past decade honey bees have suffering from what is called Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD. CCD, by definition, is a colony with either no adult bees or surrounded by dead bees but with a live queen and may or may not have honey or immature bees. It is still largely not understood and happening in droves.

Beekeepers reportedly lost 42% of their colonies over the last year alone. Even more troubling is much of this loss occurred during the summer months which is unusual. This has become such a systemic problem that it now has the full weight of the federal government behind it.

Launched in 2014 The White House began a Pollinator Health Task Force. On May 19 this task force unveiled their national strategy to promote the health of

honey bees and other pollinators. The goal of which is to devote more money to research on pollinators, educate the public on the importance of protecting honeybees and monarch butterflies, reexamine the use of widely used pesticides, change landscaping techniques on federally controlled lands and property, and to restore and develop roughly 7 million acres of pollinator habitat.

Leading the charge on this is the Environmental Protection Agency, which has put a freeze on new uses of a class of chemicals known as neonicotinoids until further research has been done, and the Department of Agriculture. Neonicotinoids are often cited as the culprit behind the staggering losses, but a recent study from the University of Maryland found otherwise.

The study, which was published in March 2015, closely examined the effect of imidacloprid (a type of neonicotinoid pesticide) on honeybees over the course of three years. Interestingly the study found that in real world dosage levels the pesticide did not have a significant impact. Only at levels of at least four times normal dosage did the pesticide have significant impacts. Neonicotinoids aren’t entirely absolved by this study. “Everyone is pointing the finger at these insecticides.

If you pull up a search on the Internet, that’s practically all anyone is talking about...This paper says no, it’s not the sole cause. It contributes, but there is a bigger picture,” said Galen Dively, emeritus profes-

sor of entomology at UMD and lead author of the study. According to the researchers, the test colonies for the study were treated well and weren’t subjected to any additional real world stressors, such as multiple pesticides or malnourishment. “It’s a multifactorial issue, with lots of stress factors...Honey bees have a lot of pests and diseases to deal with. Insecticide exposure is one factor among many. It’s not the lone villain,” Dively said.

While the government and universities are diving head first into the problem there is a lot a private citizen can do help the cause too. Selecting certain plants to encourage pollinators will attract and strengthen local species. Plants like milkweed, ironweed, coneflower, goldenrod, and asters are favorites of pollinators as they provide food and habitat. Providing nesting sites by planting these plants will encourage population growth, but you can also include bee nesting blocks. Nesting blocks can be purchased or made by bundling hollow stems (usually bamboo) horizontally together.

Of course, as the study and EPA, have indicated pesticides are a contributing factor. Avoid using them, when and if you can, as they can still have an impact days after application. You can encourage predatory insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals by planting specific types of native plants. The University of Maryland has a great resource for Integrated Pest Management control available online.



What is clear from the information we currently have is that nothing is immediately clear. With time and a cautious approach we can hopefully reverse the downward spiral. While more research into the issue is underway there are meaningful avenues we can take to mitigate losses. Native pollinators contribute billions to the economy and ecosystem and are too signifi-

cant to idly let them vanish. Human intervention is likely required to tackle a human caused problem, and an all hands on deck approach is important to protect and encourage these species. By being proactive, being responsible, and being stewards we’ll be okay.

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Ad nauseum: How rigged science sells pills

Boyce Rensberger

If you watch television a lot, you’ve seen ads for products that claim to improve your memory, especially a pill called Prevagen. Do you remember the commercial that began with the words, “Your brain is an amazing thing”? It went on to say the product containing an ingredient found in, surprise, jellyfish. There was a pretty video of jellyfish waving their tentacles rhythmically.

The announcer called it a “break-through” that “actually improves memory.”

That sounded pretty interesting to me. At my advancing age lapses in memory are increasingly common. And it was not lost on me that the word Prevagen sounds like “prevent aging.” (Oh, the marvels of ad agency creativity!)

To support its claim, the commercial said the product had been tested in clinical trials. Sounds good. That’s something that savvy consumers want to know. The commercial featured a sciency-looking bar chart showing that after 90 days Prevagen boosted short term memory by between 15 and 20 percent.

I never bought the stuff, because I am a skeptic about almost all advertising claims, but lately I have noticed that Prevagen commercials have dropped the amazing-brain and jellyfish business and now offer simple personal testimonials that sound like ordinary people in a calm conversation. For example, the announcer says, “David takes Prevagen for his brain, and this is his story.” Then David comes on and tells how he thinks his brain is better. No health or medical claims; just regular folks who say it works for them.

What happened to the jellyfish and the bar chart? A Federal court made them stop. The Federal Trade Commission, along with the New York

State Attorney General, had sued the manufacturer, Quincy Bioscience, alleging fraudulent advertising. That was seven years ago. But only last winter did the court issue its ruling.

The company didn’t have to take Prevagen off the market; it just had to stop claiming there was scientific evidence that it worked.

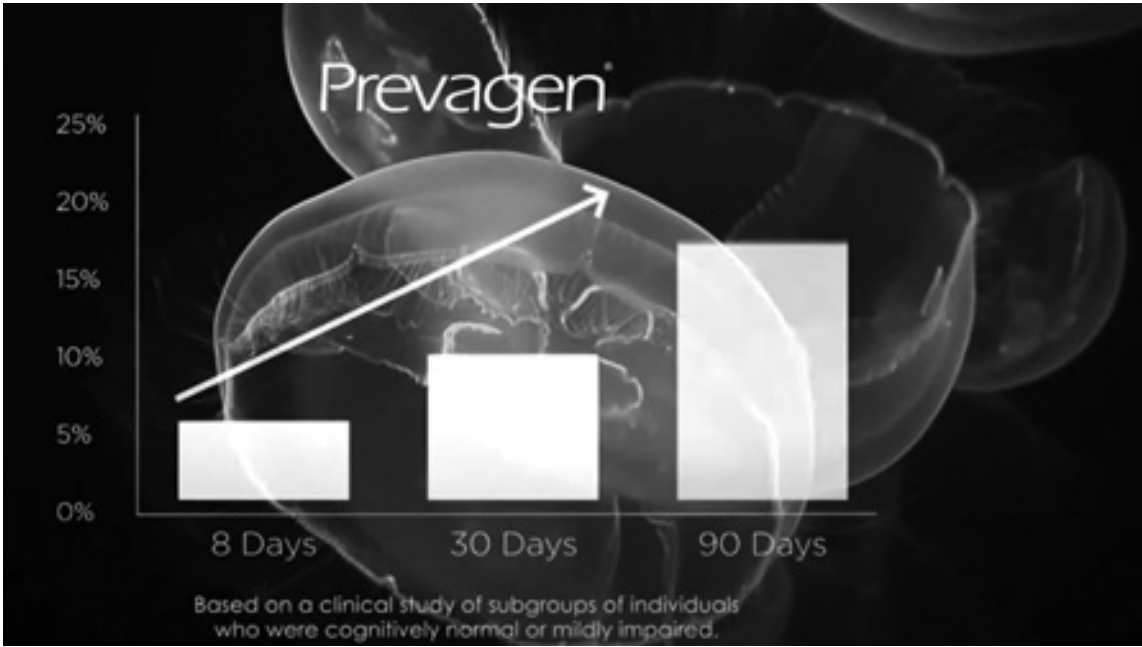
There was a clinical trial, all right, but when the manufacturer was forced to show the court what happened in the one trial, it turned out that the company had manipulated the results, over-counting people who seemed to improve and under-counting people who didn’t improve or, who, in fact, got worse.

You’re not supposed to do that in real science. Drug companies are famous for manipulating the design of clinical trials or the findings or both. Sometimes it’s as simple as spotting patients in the study whose results look very bad and saying this just can’t be right, so we won’t count those people.

I know this because a friend of mine who used to be a good medical journalist switched careers and began helping drug companies tailor their research reports and their press releases to make their pills look better. He’s not proud of this turn in his career, but it did let him put two kids through college at the same time.

Just last December, after seven years of litigation, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York ordered Quincy Bioscience to stop making false claims about Prevagen’s effectiveness.

The director of FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection issued this statement: “Following seven years of hard-fought litigation, including a jury trial, we are pleased that the Court has ordered Quincy Bioscience to cease making claims about Prevagen that mislead Americans concerned about memory loss. Companies should take



One of the fraudulent claims banned from TV.

note and remember that health claims need to be backed up by reliable scientific evidence.”

Although Prevagen is still heavily advertised on TV, gone are claims of evidence. Now what we get are those testimonials from “real people.” It’s not clear whether the people on camera really take Prevagen or are merely actors saying so. Having spent a small part of my career making TV shows, I know how hard it is to get people to look and speak “naturally” on camera. It takes scripting or at least prompting, repeated takes and clever editing.

Prevagen is not alone in claiming or suggesting that their product improves memory. There are also pills such as Neuriva, RediMind, Dynamic Brain, and Focus Factor. Sadly, they don’t have the ingredient found in jellyfish. Instead, they have various combinations of vitamins, minerals, herbs, and other substances that can all be sold legally as dietary supplements. The brain health supplement market was estimated at \$7.6 billion in 2021 and predicted to increase to more than \$15 billion by 2030.

You may be surprised to know

that there is no government regulation of “supplements,” not even before Trump. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (F.D.A.) does not have the authority to evaluate dietary supplements for safety, effectiveness, or labeling. If the company doesn’t make any health claims, the F.D.A. can do nothing. Prevagen got nailed because it said there was real clinical evidence of memory improvement.

Marketers know that the number of older Americans is growing and also their worries about memory. Growing right along is the number of oldsters with a weak grasp of what constitutes evidence.

Testimonials, as Prevagen is now offering, are not evidence. Remember the placebo effect: if you think it’s going to work, you are likely to feel that it *is* working, especially if you paid good money for it. To be sure, a sense of confidence may well perk up your brain and make it perform better than usual. There do appear to be natural mechanisms in our bodies that can be boosted by faith in some person or pill.

Real evidence would be something called a randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial. I’ve discussed these in an earlier column. People are

randomly assigned to a group that will get the pill or to the placebo group which will get a dummy pill. The subjects are said to be “blind” as to which group they are in. An even better version of clinical trial is “double blind,” meaning that even the scientists, especially those evaluating each person don’t know which is which. They evaluated results strictly on objective measures.

In a double-blind trial, a monitor or nowadays a computer randomly assigns each subject a code number and a group. Once the trial is finished, the code is broken, and researchers can see who got what.

In the Prevagen trial there was one more bit of evidence. The jury learned that the main ingredient—the stuff from jellyfish—is rapidly digested in the stomach and that very little reaches the bloodstream.

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

Communication

Jack Deatherage

Communication has never been easier, or more difficult. Once upon a time, I could look up someone’s telephone number in a phone book and get in touch with them. That was in the days before answering machines and caller ID which allowed people to only respond to those callers they felt like talking to. With the advent of the cell phone, phone books vanished- with the exception of business phone books. Business phone books eventually disappeared with the invention of the “smart phone” which gave users access to the Internet where most all businesses have a presence.

While our private phone numbers are no longer listed in books, they are readily available to telemarketers, advertisers and scammers, but not to people who may have lost touch with us over the years and are trying to reconnect. I think it’s hilarious that people who once chastised me for giving their cell phone numbers to acquaintances who’d lost touch with them are now constantly bombarded by telemarketers, advertisers and scammers.

Email was and is my favorite way of communicating. Especially now when my memory is growing less reliable. However, other than a homesteader in Oklahoma, the editor of this paper, a few librarians, the mayor, a commissioner or two and a few town staffers, the bulk of the emails I receive daily are advertisements and scammers- all of which I delete without opening.

There’s a small sign at the Cedar Avenue Community Garden with my phone number and email address displayed.

“Awful bold of you to assume people can read.” A newcomer to the community garden said with a smile after I pointed to the sign when asked how I could be contacted.

I’ve not received a call or email concerning the garden from anyone other than town staff, commissioners and librarians. Maybe the newcomer is correct, though I suspect “people don’t read” is more likely. I certainly don’t read every sign I happen upon.

According to numerous Internet websites- between 4,000 and 10,000 advertisements are placed before us daily. I long ago trained myself to ignore ads so I’m at

the high end of another Internet “fact” -the average person makes a purchase after seeing an ad at least 7 to 13 times. That’s assuming people actually pay attention to an ad, which I rarely do unless I’m already interested in whatever the ad promotes.

Technology allows me to chat with bakers- professionals and dabblers -in Barcelona Spain and Singapore at no cost to us, yet I can’t phone a cousin across town because their “free” government phone only allows specific callers to get through. I talk to friends in Belgium and Bulgaria for free, but have to pay to find the phone number of old acquaintances still living in town?

I know where people live, but don’t know their phone numbers or email addresses which they seldom check now that they have access to: Snapchat, Instagram, Threads, X, Facebook, Twitch, WeChat, Bluesky, FaceTime, TikTok, Discord and Telegram to name a few. How many social media platforms does one have to join in order to communicate now?

Communicating at the personal level, while sometimes frustrating, pales in comparison when I talk to the mayor, town staff and commissioners about their efforts to keep the citizenry informed.

“We’re at a loss.” One staffer groaned. “We place notices everywhere we can- both local newspapers, shop windows, community and town bulletin boards, the monthly town newsletter, in the quarterly water bills, on the town’s official website, on Facebook, emailings and on the town’s app. We still get complaints that people are unaware of town functions, public meetings, or changes in event locations, town ordinances and service fee increases.”

That the village idiot is asked for suggestions on how the town can keep the citizens informed is a clue as to how frustrated our local government is. All I know is the problem is not unique to the town office.

The Cedar Avenue Community Garden is a microcosm of “failure to communicate”. Fourteen individuals asked for garden beds this year - 13 of them have shown up to plant something. Near as I can tell, most of them happened by the garden while going elsewhere and stopped in when those of us

building the garden happened to be working in it. Rarely has anyone contacted me via Facebook group posts about the garden. As far as I know, none of the people who’ve inquired about the garden at the town office have ever contacted me. No one has admitted to learning about the garden via the columns I’ve written for this paper over the last coupla years.

At least five of the gardeners live outside of town- one of those I have no way of contacting short of showing up at their home unannounced, which is seldom a good idea. The rest of the gardeners are scattered across town. Rarely do I see these people at the garden and I suspect trying to get them all together in one place to hash out a garden design, purpose and rules would be impossible. We’re a diverse group of characters- some working odd hours “down the road”, more than a few of us with health issues (mental in my case), some retired, others on disability.

Because I’ve failed to establish any form of an organization I’ve found seedlings planted in areas I’d set aside for my or the DW’s use. Sometimes I know who planted what where and sometimes I haven’t a clue. I sigh and change my plans for the garden yet again. It helps being a child of Chaos. I don’t expect things to conform to my plans, such as they were. The situation drives First Sister and the DW nuts- poor perfectionists that they be.

“How are they going to have a farmers market with your garden



After years of work, Jack was finally rewarded with an official opening of the Emmitsburg community garden.

taking up so much of the lot?” Several visitors asked me since the new metal beds were placed on the lot.

The questioners were completely confused when I told them the market had been moved into the E. Eugene Myers Community Park and would only take place once a month on Saturdays.

“What? Where is that park? Do you mean by the pool? Why?”

Now it’s my turn to be confused. Brandy Malocha, Operation Specialist, tells me she’s promoted the new market as “FUN, FARM AND FAMILY DAYS” via every media resource she has access to as well as placing fliers all over the town.

“Jack, if people haven’t heard about the venue change I don’t know what else to do.”

I can sympathize. On the way back to the parking lot after we took in the new market, I chanced upon a woman working in the park’s community garden. I asked how things were going and mentioned the new garden on Cedar Avenue. She was stunned to learn the beds in the Cedar Ave garden were available at no cost, this year at least.

“I thought that was a private garden.”

I thought about pounding my head on the garden’s gate post, but the DW was waiting in the car with frozen beef we’d bought from Roclans Farm while meandering the market.

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Key pests in the summer landscape & garden

Annette McCoy, Connie Schmotzer,  
and Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardeners

As summer arrives, we notice interesting as well as annoying insect and disease problems in our gardens and landscapes. While many visiting insects are beneficial, some are not. And some disease problems in our landscapes are damaging, while some are just annoying. Identifying and understanding these insect and disease life cycles will help us to maintain a healthy and beautiful garden.

### Bagworms

If you have needled evergreens, chances are you have encountered this nasty pest. Bagworms feed on needles and leaves and can be very damaging, especially to evergreens. Start look-

ing now for bagworms on your evergreens, locusts, sycamores and oaks. These bags resemble cocoons hanging from branches of trees. They are 1 to 2 inch long “bags” made of silk, leaves and twigs attached to branches with a silken thread.

Scouting is especially important if you had bagworm damage last year. Many of these bags contained eggs that hatched at the end of May. At this time of year, the eggs have already hatched, so start scouting throughout June for the small (1/8-1/2”) recently hatched caterpillars. The large bags left from last year will feel empty and hand-picking in June is pointless.

After this insect hatches, it crawls out of the bag and produces a tiny silken thread that will hang from the bag. This allows the tiny worm to be moved by the wind from plant to

plant. It begins to feed and feed, and as it does so, builds the bag around itself. It continues to feed through August, at which point it pupates and turns into a moth around early September. The male will leave the bag and fly till it finds a female. The female remains in the bag until a male finds her. After mating, the male dies. The female will lay her eggs then die in the bag. The eggs will overwinter in those bags – perfect time to pick off and control next year’s population!

However, at this time of year chemical control is very effective. Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis), a naturally occurring microorganism that produces a toxin that paralyzes the insect’s digestive system, is successful at this stage. As the young caterpillars eat the leaves and ingest the Bt, they stop feeding and die several days later. Bt is selective. It kills just caterpillars. Other insects like beetles, bees or soft-bodied insects are not affected by this pesticide.

Other pesticides that are effective are Carbaryl, also known as Sevin, and Malathion. Unlike Bt, these pesticides are not selective in the insects that they kill. Beneficial insects as well as bagworms will die from the application of these insecticides. As always, read the label before applying any pesticide.

### Lacebugs on Broad-Leaved Evergreens

If you have azaleas or pieris, you have no doubt encountered these damaging insects. They insert their mouth parts into a leaf’s lower surface and suck out the plant juices, leaving many small white or yellow spots. In severe infestations the leaves will appear stippled and washed out. Scout for this insect by looking on the underside of the leaves. You may see black or dark red spots made by their excrement or you may see the insects themselves, small, 1/16 to 1/8” nymphs or adults.

Prevention is often the best control for this pest. Most lacebugs seem to prefer sunny sites. If your shade-loving azalea or rhododendron is in full sun and has recurrent lacebug problems, consider moving it to the shade. In the proper location it will be more pest free.

Using a hard, jet stream of water from a hose will dislodge young nymphs in



See those tiny white dots on strings? Those are lacewing eggs, a beneficial insect that feeds on the bad bugs. Be careful when using any pesticide so these insects are not killed.

mid-May just after hatch. They have been living as eggs throughout the winter in the leaf tissue of the plant. At this time of year, however, you are limited to more aggressive control.

Predators such as lacewings and assassin bugs help to naturally control lacebugs. You can conserve these allies by avoiding the use of broad-spectrum insecticides that kill a wide range of insects and linger on the plant. Begin looking for lacebugs in May and throughout the summer. Insecticidal soap is a useful tool, but you need to make sure you spray the underside of the leaves where the insects are feeding. You may need to make additional applications. At this point, getting the population under control early will prevent damage and avoid the need for more toxic chemicals. Keep scouting throughout summer to make sure plants don’t become re-infested. Other options of control are carbaryl (Sevin), or Malathion. But remember, these are non-selective pesticides. They will kill beneficial insects as well.

As the summer progresses, these damaging insects can have as many as three generations, the second hatching in mid to late July. No matter which pesticide you choose, always remember to read the label first for proper application.

### Japanese Beetles

You’ve seen them, the metallic green beetles that show up on in your

landscape every July. Later in summer you know them as white grubs that turn your lawn into a brown, rollup carpet. These are two of the stages of the Japanese beetle. How do you deal with this import from Japan that has few natural enemies here in Pennsylvania?

Knowing a little about your enemy helps in the battle. After skeletonizing your favorite plants last July, the females laid eggs in the ground. These eggs hatched and the young grubs began feeding on plant roots. They fed and grew until they went deeper into the soil to overwinter. This April the grubs returned to the surface where they continued their development to the pupal stage. In late June, they will be back as those familiar metallic beetles.

When dealing with these colorful beetles, prevention is always better than reaching for the spray can. Keep in mind that though Japanese beetles feed on over 300 species of plants. Adult beetles are attracted to plants in full sun, especially members of the rose family, which includes ornamental apples, cherries and plums. Norway and Japanese maples are also favorites. Minimizing these plants in your landscape will help reduce the beetles. The larvae (grubs), favor cool season grasses such as bluegrass, ryegrass and tall fescue. Replacing some lawn with tree, shrub and



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# THE MASTER GARDENER

flower beds of less favored species may help.

This summer, when you see the first Japanese beetles emerging from the ground and landing on your plants, take action. Because beetles are sluggish early in the morning, you can easily shake them off the plants into a bucket of soapy water. Not only will you prevent damage from this first wave, but you will also keep them from using their pheromones to call in reinforcements. This hand-to-hand combat may seem yucky, but it has an added benefit over the standard treatment chemical sprays. Broad spectrum insecticides such as carbaryl (Sevin) and pyrethroids kill beneficial insects and may result in outbreaks of other pests.

This brings us to beetle traps. Though it may make you feel good to fill up bags with beetle carcasses, traps can draw beetles from all over your neighborhood and beyond. Research shows that only a fraction of them end up in the traps while the rest feed on your plants.

The other front on which you can

attack Japanese beetles is the grub stage. Here are a couple of tips:

- Don't water your lawn in mid/late summer. Moisture helps the survival of the eggs and young grubs.
- If you had grub damage last year, you may want to consider control in the problem areas. A non-chemical control is to introduce nematodes into the soil when the grubs are small.

Chemical control for those problem areas include imidacloprid and halofenozide applied in June and early July.

And don't be too quick to chase away the skunks that frequent your lawn in September. They work at night, do a great job eating the grubs, and the divots they leave behind are easily repaired. Here is a fact sheet for more information: <https://extension.psu.edu/white-grubs-in-home-lawns>

A note: when using pesticides, always read the label. Follow the instructions for mixing, application, and protection.

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

## Small Town Gardener

### Chaos and order for a harmonious design

Marianne Willburn

Summer is coming and wild is still on the menu with a side of wind-swept and a dollop of scruffy. This is fine and well and good and most importantly, virtuous. But if you're a gardener who loves a clean line as much as cool drink at the end of the day, is there still a place for you in polite company?

Moreover, can we find a balance between chaos and order in our garden design, and benefit from the exciting tension that results, instead of boxing ourselves (or being boxed) into one aesthetic or the other?

I believe that intentional order and serendipitous chaos can exist together and — dare I say — should exist together in good garden design, each element softening the edges of the other's worst tendencies.

Void against mass. Bold shapes in the midst of frothy undulation. Moments of frothy undulation in the midst of bold shapes. Or simply, garden rooms for both.

Our eyes instinctively search for opposites as we scan a garden. In a pinched and primed front yard, where gum-balls and obelisks reign, we are drawn to the excitement of a rambling rose or a trailing clematis dipping toes into an ordered mix. In a mono-textural mass of meadow perennials, wide mown paths or an upraised viewing platform give our eyes a place

to rest and regroup — providing contrast, and inviting immersion.

It doesn't need to be one or the other. The best gardens I visit recognize this beautiful tension and play with it. The worst — of either type — bore the pants off me.

Playing with Chaos

My own ornamental garden — made up of both native and non-native plants — satisfies my yearning for both elements — though it would not necessarily win awards for design; and would definitely horrify the HOA clipboard police just as surely as the strident floral nativists.

The plants touch each other (regardless of passport), the turf is untreated and rife with many species, and volunteer seedlings often battle and best the plants that were carefully chosen.

They romp and battle each other in beds that live under the threat of encroaching woodland and its aggressive/invasive understory (which is in itself a tension between chaos and order).

I weed out sycamore and sassafras seedlings along with the box elder and ailanthus, and know that I am only here for this tiniest of moments, creating and tending this garden.

There are moments when it all feels out of control, and moments when it gels, but in each space, each bed, I try to showcase one of three energies: The exciting potential of what will be; the sustained climax of what is, and the gentle, attractive decline of what was.

When all three come together, it is magic. And I am helped in this quest by limiting my palette not by passport, but by performance; planting for true, inclusive

diversity, and respecting the new connections slowly being forged between flora and fauna in a changing climate.

Dabbling in Order

In other parts of my garden, order reigns. My enclosed vegetable garden is made up of raised beds arranged geometrically and precisely in graveled paths. A manicured collection of hardy succulent troughs tempts me into fussiness. And a minimalist platform with seats for gathering friends overlooks all.

Nearby, a cedar greenhouse rises from the mix of vegetables, artfully hiding tools and gear and what feels like a thousand black plastic pots. With the door closed, they all go away.

When we renovated this vegetable garden three years ago in response to rotting raised beds and mulched paths weedier than the beds themselves, my overall goal was to create a sense of ordered abundance. Paths that didn't look like dirt. Clear boundaries between beds and bare. It worked.

When the majority of the ornamental garden is having an over-enthusiastic moment and overwhelming the senses, I can retreat to a simple chair on a simple platform that overlooks a simple design, and breathe deeply — plunging once again into the fray when my energy matches its abundance.

The macro-garden that's created with all of these elements is a duality of opposites that instinctively feels harmonious to me. Too much of either and I'm instantly bored and turned off. Mono-textural landscapes so common to the native plant movement do not move me any more than tightly pinched gardens ruled by chemical-wielding gardeners in immaculate aprons.

Order and chaos. Yin and Yang. The universe is ruled by this tension, why not our gardens? -MW

Marianne Willburn is the co-host of *The Garden Mixer Podcast* and a contributing editor at *GardenRant.com*. She gardens in Lovettsville, VA.

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PETS

Mama cats

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

I witnessed a phenomenon this week at the shelter that was just so amazing, I had to share. We are basically in what is called kitten season. That is the time of year when shelters get a whole lot of kittens coming in the doors. Adult cats are out sowing their wild oats and they bring us the results. It basically means we are over-run with kittens. We have some kittens who come in without a mother and others who come in with a mother. Recently, we had some really little kittens come into the shelter without their mama and we tried to bottle feed them. One of them wasn't doing too well on the bottle and we knew we needed a feline to help. Well, we have one mother who

is feeding two kittens right now and we named her Mama. What can I say? Some days we're not all that original. We figured we would see if she might like a third baby. Keep in mind, this is a kitten who isn't hers and isn't even the same age as her babies. We knew it was a long shot and we might need to have another plan, but we crossed our fingers and introduced her to the kitten. I have to tell you, it absolutely choked me up to watch this mama cat seem a little confused at first, but eventually take the baby into her litter. I'm not joking. She was feeding the baby just like he or she was her own. I say he or she because sometimes it's tough to tell whether really little kittens are male or female. We occasionally have to wait until they are older to be certain. I feel for the mama cats at the shelter, actually. They always look so tired and they have this expres-

sion on their faces that seems to say, "Can you get me away from these hooligans?" Despite the exhaustion, they are always there for their kittens. Over the years, I've seen some really amazing mama cats at the shelter in terms of caring for their babies. Mama is definitely one of those. She's not only feeding for her own offspring, but someone else's. Animals really are incredibly amazing. I remember a few years ago I saw a show, I think it was on Animal Planet, about a snake, a mouse and a bird who all lived together in the same terrarium. They were natural prey and predator, and yet they coexisted quite happily. It reminded me a little of the animated movie Zootopia, but that's a subject for another column. Sometimes I think the only place you can truly find something like that is in the animal world. We can learn so many lessons from our four-legged friends. Mama definitely taught me that families can be blood, but they can also be made. Heck, I know some human families who don't speak to one another for one reason or another and here is a cat not only nursing her own kittens, but another one as well. Some days at the shelter can be incredibly tough. We struggle sometimes when we hear the bad stories about animals being abused and neglected. But then there are the days when a mama cat helps a random kitten and we're reminded why we do this job. It's not all bad. And sometimes the good actually reminds us what it is to be human. Thank you, Mama, for being a true source of unconditional love for all creatures. You've done more us lowly humans than you will ever really know.

*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).*



Babs came into the shelter a stray, so we don't have a lot of information about her, but this is one nice brown and white tabby girl. She's about 3 years old and loves a good snuggle. Could you be her snuggle companion for life?



Sprite came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't have a lot of information about her. She is a 4-year-old grey girl who is sweet, but can be on the shy side. She would do best in a home that is on the calm side. Could you help Sprite out?



Harley is a sweet, laid-back girl that loves to go on walks! She is around 6 years old and came into the shelter as a stray. She was a little chunky for a stray and had some hair loss along her sides that didn't seem to grow back. Bloodwork discovered that Harley was hypothyroid. She is now on a thyroid medication (that is relatively cheap) and will need to be on it for the rest of her life.



Lars is 2-year-old terrier mix who came into the shelter as a stray. He's a real sweet guy that loves to go in the play yard and play! Lars will need someone that can provide him with regular exercise and loving! He does have a high chase drive, so a home without cats or small animals may be best for Lars. Lars may be too much for small children. He would love to find out what a loving forever home is all about soon!



Lou was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. He is a 3-year-old Terrier mix who is a BIG boy—he weighs 74 pounds. He loves people too! Lou can be a little rough with jumping up when excited, so he'll need someone to work with him on this. Per his previous owner, Lou may be too much for small children, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply. Please discuss this with the shelter staff. Also, per his previous owner, Lou should not go to a home with cats as he chases them and will not leave them alone. Lou would love to find his second chance at a loving forever home soon!

For more information about Babs, Sprite, Harley, Lars, or Lou, 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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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

Pet ownership is a big commitment

Shawn Snyder  
Frederick County Animal Control  
& Pet Adoption Center

It's no secret that pet ownership is a big commitment, but what may be a less well-known fact is that Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center is just as committed to our residents as we are to our personal pets. Our former longest resident, the recently adopted Evan, is a great example of this commitment.

When the pit bull mix first arrived at FCAC in March of 2023, it was evident that he was feeling a bit of FAS (Fear, Anxiety, and Stress) and struggled to settle in. Staff tried different strategies to make him feel more comfortable. Things like covering his kennel, playing relaxing music and moving him to kennels in quieter areas with less foot traffic. The stray dog was here for nearly a month before he was processed for adoption because our facility is committed to giving each animal in our care the opportunity to acclimate to the stressful shelter environment and show us who they truly are. We are also committed to doing everything we possibly can to help them through that process.

Once he was processed for adoption and officially became Evan, we noticed that he loved his toys a little more than the rest of the dogs and was doing a bit of low-level resource guarding. We began giving him frequent, supervised playtime with his stuffies to make them less valuable and when an opportunity for Evan to go to training to work specifically on this issue presented itself, we jumped at it. Protocols were implemented like "I Come in Peace" and "Trade." We continued to do maintenance training throughout the shelter dog's long stay with us. Today, Evan is a recovering resource guarder because we as a facility are committed to providing our animals with training basics and behavior modification when we see a need including seeking outside help from our community partners.

During our Home for the Holidays event in December of 2023, Evan was placed in a foster home. Shortly after, they decide to make it

official and adopt. Sadly, in February of 2024 the family realized that maybe Evan wasn't the best fit for them after all. While we were all saddened by the fact that this wasn't his forever family, we happily took Evan back into the FCAC family because once an animal comes through our facility we are committed to them for life. If at any time they can no longer stay with their adoptive families and those same families cannot appropriately rehome the pet themselves, they are welcome to be returned to us, in fact, we request it. It's in our contract.

In June of 2024, Evan started acting a little off. Turned out the toy-crazed goofball ate four squeakers. FCAC's medical team sprung into action. They induced vomiting, got X-Rays and when it became necessary, performed surgery. He stayed overnight at a local vet and then recovered in offices and foster care for the following couple of weeks. This facility is committed to providing the best medical care possible to our residents and we can do this in part because so many others

are also committed to us. Without our contract vets, the community of local veterinary clinics, and of course, FFOCAS, who are equally committed, these lifesaving procedures would not be possible.

Finally, in May of 2025, more than two years after he first became a part of our family, Evan was finally adopted by his forever family. He serves as a prime example of the fact that we do not have time limits here at Frederick County Animal Control. Not only will we provide them with the basics, but we will love them and treat them like they are our own. Hikes, car rides, cuddles, special toys, tasty treats are all on offer for the pets that call FCAC home.

While Evan may be the most recent example of Frederick County Animal Control's commitment to our residents, he is certainly not alone or special in this area. If you want to know more about our commitment, just ask us. We'll be happy to gush over all the animals we've loved and cared for over the years and those still residing with us until they find forever homes of their own.



Rosie is a real sweetheart. She is friendly, loves to be pet and enjoys the company of other dogs. Rosie has attended a few off-site shelter events and enjoyed meeting so many new people! Her previous owner told us she is a three-year-old Rottweiler/Belgium Malinois mix. Unfortunately, she was relinquished to the shelter because her owner's housing situation changed and her could no longer keep her.



Astro is a handsome, two-year-old, Siamese cat. Unfortunately, Astro's previous owner became sick and was no longer able to care for him. His profile indicates he is energetic, independent and has shared his home with other cats. At the shelter, Astro is outgoing, friendly and like a lot of Siamese cats, he can hold up his end of a conversation.



If you visit the shelter's cat adoption room you will likely find Leo at the front of his cage, politely asking for a pet from anyone that passes by. Unlike some new arrivals, Leo is not afraid of new people or his current living arrangement. His laid-back personality will make him a great fit for families with kids of any age or, with careful introduction, other pets.



Pumpkin needs your help! Currently, she weighs twenty-three pounds and needs to lose approximately nine pounds to reach a healthy weight. At only three years old, she is still playful and really enjoys wand toys. At the shelter, Pumpkin lives in one of the shelter's free roam rooms to encourage exercise and movement. She is reserved when meeting new people but once you gain her trust, she enjoys head scratches and chin rubs.



Milo is a one-year-old Pitbull Terrier mix with a beautiful blue coat. Like most young dogs, Milo is full of energy. He enjoys going for walks but would really benefit from off-leash play time. Staff has been working with Milo and overall, they have seen an improvement in his manners. He seems to like everyone he meets and is very affectionate. Milo hopes to find a home that will continue his training and provide him daily exercise.

For more information about Rosie, Astro, Leo, Pumpkin, or Milo call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at [www.frederick-countymd.gov/fcac](http://www.frederick-countymd.gov/fcac) or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter!

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# COUNTY NOTES

## Frederick County Designated Maryland's First Bird County

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership officially recognized Frederick County as the State of Maryland's first "Bird County" during Earth Week 2025. The designation acknowledges the County's efforts in ecosystem restoration, environmental education, and habitat protection and marks a milestone in statewide efforts to connect communities through bird-friendly practices.

"Being named the first Bird County in Maryland is an honor and we are proud to lead the way in environmental stewardship," said County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. "This accomplishment reflects Frederick County's deep commitment to protecting our natural resources and fostering a community where both people and wildlife can thrive."

The Bird County Maryland program is an extension of the Bird City Maryland initiative, which is administered by the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. The program encourages towns, cities, college campuses, and counties to take measurable actions that improve conditions for local bird populations. Frederick County was recently added as the first official Bird County, joining a growing network that includes eight Bird Cities and four Bird Campuses across the state, such as the City of Brunswick, the City of Frederick, and the Town of Middletown. By joining this initiative, Frederick County becomes part of the larger Bird City Network which connects more than 200 bird-friendly communities across four countries in North and South America in their conservation efforts.

Birds are not only beautiful to

watch—they also tell us a lot about the health of our environment. Because they respond quickly to changes in nature and are easy to observe, birds help us understand the conditions of our ecosystems. By protecting birds and their habitats, Frederick County is also protecting the health and well-being of its residents. The Bird County designation highlights this important connection and recognizes the County's continued leadership in environmental stewardship.

As part of its Bird County designation, Frederick County has passed a Resolution in support of the Bird City Maryland initiative and will observe World Migratory Bird Day in North America each year, both key components of the Bird County Maryland program. These efforts aim to increase public awareness and inspire the community to take part in local conservation efforts.

To learn more about Frederick County's Bird County designation, upcoming events, or to explore top birdwatching spots in the area, visit [FrederickCountyMD.gov/BirdCounty](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/BirdCounty).

## Legislation Introduced to Limit Data Centers

Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater and members of the County Council announced a compromise to limit where data centers can be built to the area around the old East Alcoa property north of Adamstown. The compromise will limit the development to less than 1% of the County's total land mass, in an area with the infrastructure to support it, and ensure the County Council retains the tools to prevent future sprawl.

"One of the most important questions facing our community is where

data centers can be located and, by extension, where they will not be allowed," Executive Fitzwater said. "This bipartisan compromise ensures we are protecting our environment and quality of life, while acknowledging that Frederick County's location makes it a logical site for this critical industry. I want to thank the Council members, who have worked with my Administration to create a way forward that we can all support."

The County Executive will introduce a text amendment to the zoning code to create a tool called an overlay, which will be used to limit data center development. All seven Council members will co-sponsor the measure. The Council will review and vote on the bill through its ordinary public legislative process. After that, the Division of Planning and Permitting will develop a map through an open and transparent public process, which will be presented to the Planning Commission for review and the County Council for approval.

Here's what others are saying: Council President Brad Young (at-large): "I'm excited to support this commonsense approach to data center siting. We heard loud and clear from the public about the need for limits on where these facilities can be built. This solution addresses those concerns effectively—without relying on floating zones."

Council Member Steve McKay (District 2): "I am very pleased to support this compromise approach to where the County plans for data center growth. I have pushed for the floating zone because I wanted to ensure that the Council maintains a firm hand on where we allow data centers. This over-

lay approach satisfies that goal and then goes one step further by ensuring that we further limit data center development to the Eastalco area. I look forward to seeing the details and working to implement this important piece of legislation."

Council Member Renee Knapp (at-large): "Frederick County is emerging as a leader for sensible data center regulations that address community concerns for sustainability while supporting an industry that adds important diversification to our local economy. I am proud to have been part of a solution that addresses the concerns of our community while providing everyone the certainty and clarity they deserve."

Council Member Jerry Donald (District 1): "I would like to thank County Executive Fitzwater for brokering a bipartisan compromise that both encourages economic development while protecting the rights of landowners to peacefully enjoy their property."

## "Voices of Affordable Housing" Video Series Launched to Share Affordable Housing Resources in Frederick County

The Affordable Housing Council of Frederick County is excited to announce the release of a groundbreaking video series titled "Voices of Affordable Housing." This initiative aims to raise awareness about housing challenges in Frederick County and provide educational resources to those in need.

"By launching the 'Voices of Affordable Housing' video series, we hope to shine a light on the pressing housing challenges in our community and to provide valuable resources

to those who need them most," said Hugh Gordon, Chair of the Affordable Housing Council. "We believe that by bringing together stories from our neighbors and insights from local leaders, we can foster greater understanding and support for affordable housing initiatives."

The "Voices of Affordable Housing" series includes four short videos that cover the key topics of homelessness, rental assistance, affordable housing, and senior housing. The videos feature insights from executive directors, leaders of local nonprofit organizations, and personal stories from clients—providing a comprehensive overview of the housing challenges faced by many in the community.

The videos are available for viewing on Frederick County's YouTube channel and on various websites, including the Affordable Housing Council, the County's Division of Housing, and the City of Frederick's Department of Housing and Human Services. The videos will also air periodically on FCG TV (Comcast channels 1072 and 19).

Contributors to the videos include the Affordable Housing Council, Advocates for Homeless Families, the Frederick Rescue Mission, Heartly House, SHIP, Beyond Shelter Frederick, Habitat for Humanity Frederick, the Interfaith Housing Alliance, the Frederick County Division of Aging and Independence, and SOAR of Frederick.

For more information on affordable housing initiatives and resources, please contact Gary Bennett of the Affordable Housing Council at 301-606-3012 or [gabennett01@comcast.net](mailto:gabennett01@comcast.net).



# Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day

## Saturday, June 28th

### Beer Garden



### Hayride & Barrel Ride



### Lions Chicken BBQ

### AND more...



### For information and schedule

## Emmitsburgevents.com

### Parade

### Food Trucks

### History Hayride

### Music with Sticktime!

### Fireworks

### Family field games



### Children's Play Area



### Free pool all day

Join our Facebook Group "Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day" and keep up-to-date on all the planned activities.



# 2024 Thurmont Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Town of Thurmont is pleased to present this year’s Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the Thurmont Water System, PWSID #010-0023. This report is designed to inform you about the quality and sources of the Town’s drinking water. Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We work continually to improve our treatment process and to protect our water resources. The drinking water provided by the Town of Thurmont during the past calendar year met all of the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Maryland health standards for drinking water contaminants.

Our drinking water source is ground water consisting of five wells, 3, 4, 9, 7 and 8, with three treatment facilities. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are treated at the same plant. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are in the Frederick Limestone aquifer and Wells 7 and 8 are in the Gettysburg Shale aquifer. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has categorized through testing, that Well 3 is ground water under the influence of surface water and it is treated the same as a surface water source. MDE has completed source water assessments on the vulnerability of all State water sources to contamination. For more information on specific assessments you may call the MDE Source Water Protection Division at 410-537-3714.

The Town of Thurmont routinely monitors for contaminants in our drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. Not all contaminants are tested annually. The table below shows results of contaminants that were detected for the previous year January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, unless otherwise noted. As water travels over land or underground it can pick up contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals along with radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-comprised persons such as those with cancer, undergoing chemotherapy, who have undergone organ transplants, have HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Definitions of Abbreviations and Terms used in this report:

AL	Action Level, The Concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
LRAA	Locational running annual average
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety. These goals represent a target level for a contaminant that is not necessarily achievable with standard treatment.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water based on present regulations as set by the EPA to protect the public health. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible, based on the best treatment technology currently available.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.
NA	Not Applicable.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a unit of measure for the cloudiness or turbidity of drinking water.
ND	Not Detected.
PPM	Parts per Million or milligrams per liter or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
PPB	Parts per Billion or micrograms per liter or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
PPT	Parts per Trillion or nanogram per liter or one ounce in 7.5 billion gallons of water.
pCi/L	Picocuries Per Liter, A measure of radioactivity in water.
RAA	Running annual average
TT	Treatment Technique.

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles, We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

**Information about lead in Drinking Water:** Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Thurmont is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Town of Thurmont Water Superintendent Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313 for a list of laboratories in your area that provide water testing services. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## WHAT IS PFAS?

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human – made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain – and water – resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE's website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA,PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. PFOA and PFOS are two of the most prevalent PFAS compounds. PFOA concentrations from samples taken from our water system in 2024 ranged from 4.60-13.9 parts per trillion (ppt); PFOS concentration from samples taken from our water system in 2024 ranged from 3.72-40.2 ppt. In March 2024, EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above the MCLs. EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2024 or beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: [www.mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx](http://www.mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx).

**We at the Town of Thurmont Water Department work around the clock to provide quality water to our residents. With water being our most precious resource, we ask you to not only conserve water but to help us in protecting our water sources for future generations. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313. Town meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Town Office, 615 E. Main Street.**

Disinfectant	Date	Highest RAA	Unit	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
Chlorine	2024	0.9	PPM	-	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

Turbidity - Percentage Of Samples In Compliance With Standard	Months Occurred	Violation	Highest Single Measurement	Month Occurred	Sources	Level Indicator
100%	12	No	0.34	December	WTP – Wells 3, 4. & 9	Yes

Regulated Contaminants	Period	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Range of Sample Results	Units	AL	Sites Over Action Level	Typical Source
Copper	2024	.266	.035-.593	Ppm	1.3	0	Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives. Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead	2024	.002	<0.001-.044	Ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of Natural Deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Ace Hardware	2023-2024	6	5.93-5.93	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Public Works Offices	2023-2024	1	1.28-1.28	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	Ace Hardware	2023-2024	25	25-25	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	Public Works Offices	2023-2024	7	6.7-6.7	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Valve	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Di(2-Ethylhexyl) Adipate	3/4/2024	1.53	0-1.53	ppb	400	400	Discharge from chemical factories
Dibromochloromethane	5/8/2023	0.00374	0.00374	MG/L	0.1	0.06	
Nitrate	3/4/2024	2.6	2.6	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite	2/19/2024	3.4	2.1-3.4	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Trichloroethylene	5/8/2023	0.61	0-0.61	ppb	5	0	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Combined Radium (226 & 228	6/13/2021	0.3	0.3	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium – 226	6/13/2021	0.3	0 – 0.3	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium – 228	5/8/2023	0.5	0.5	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminates	Collection Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	2024	24.66	6.81-50.8	0	4.0	ppt	No
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	2024	12.15	4.72-18.4	0	4.0	ppt	No
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2024	5.09	3.86-6.11	10.0	10.0	ppt	No
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	2024	3.18	2.48-3.94	N/A	N/A	ppt	No
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	2024	1.95	1.84-2.06	N/A	N/A	Ppt	No
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	2024	2.08	2.08	N/A	N/A	Ppt	No



HEALTH

Frederick Health names nurses & employees of the year

With a strong emphasis on team culture, excellence, and patient-facing care, Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in the area, prides itself on its employee recognition efforts. Each year, the healthcare system names two nurses of the year and two employees of the year, one a team leader and one a team member.

Why two of each, you may ask? In healthcare, nurses are usually assigned to two unique categories. The first is patient-facing or direct-care nurses. These nurses are responsible for patient care in the hospital, urgent care, emergency department, and inpatient treatment. The other category is indirect-care nurses. These nurses administer system-wide programs, new initiatives, and other essential operational tasks. Both categories

are vital in maintaining the high level of care provided by healthcare teams and systems. Additionally, most employees at Frederick Health are considered team members or team leaders. It is important to honor the unique contributions in each category. Additionally, their colleagues and peers must nominate the award winners. The nominations are then reviewed and compared by a selection committee. Once the committee has decided the winners, they are announced at two different ceremonies. As such, Frederick Health is pleased to announce the 2024 winners in each category.

**Jeb Gibson, a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Emergency Department, was named the Indirect Care Nurse of the Year.**

Wearing many hats, Jeb is a strong nurse, educator, paramedic, and Clinical Nurse Specialist. Working in the emergency department can sometimes be challenging, but Jeb has accomplished a great deal in helping to keep this community healthy. His years of experience, certifications, and education make him a strong leader and patient advocate. Throughout the pandemic, Jeb rose to the challenge and supported the hospital. “This is such an incredible honor. I have the benefit of being surrounded by an amazing team. I am truly humbled,” said Gibson. Jeb’s manager had high praise for Gibson. “He routinely shows his dedication, compassion, leadership, and expertise; he is a proven, trusted asset to Frederick Health,” said

Peggy McNeill, Director of Nursing Quality and Professional Practice. **Ellen Nicodemus, a Registered Nurse in the Pediatrics Department, was named the Direct Care Nurse of the Year.** According to her colleagues and supervisors, Ellen is a fantastic asset to the Pediatrics team. With over 22 years of experience, she is a leader and someone all staff look up to, always there to aid others with a smile. The Pediatrics Department praised Ellen for her way of teaching both clinical expertise and the art of compassion. “I’ve always felt privileged to be part of this team of healthcare providers. It means a lot to be recognized by my peers, whom I really admire,” Nicodemus stated.

Nicodemus, slated to retire later this year, is much beloved by her entire department. “Ellen is the epitome of the art of nursing. She has the delicate balance of skill, compassion, integrity, and experience that all nurses should strive for,” said Charli Crawford, Manager of the Pediatrics Department. The 2024 Employees of the Year winners were equally surprised and honored by their awards.

**Brenda Zell, Accounting Manager, was named Team Leader of the Year.** Zell has worked at Frederick Health for over 49 years. Her responsibilities include monthly and annual financial reporting for the organization. She also maintains accurate accounting records and leads all banking transactions with vendors. Many ‘other duties are assigned,’ including supporting numerous grants, COVID-19 and FEMA-related funding, and annual Community Benefits reporting. “This means everything to be recognized by my peers. They are all like family,” said Zell. Zell is known to nearly everyone in Frederick Health, and her efforts impact almost every facet of the organization. “Brenda is the epitome of dedication and loyalty,” said Hannah Jacobs, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer with Frederick Health. She meets the daily stress of her role with optimism. Her entire team values her positive spirit and compassionate leadership style, and she has demonstrated her commitment with long-tenured careers here at Frederick Health.

**Clayton Holdcroft, Learning Technology Specialist, was named Team Member of the Year.** Holdcroft has worked at Frederick Health for six years. He is responsible for streamlining internal processes, designing, and updating Human Resources communication tools, and organizing the internal NetLearning employee modules. He is also a strong advocate for employee engagement and education. “It’s a pretty high honor,” said Holdcroft, “there were so many amazing people nominated that I think it’s a testament to the wonderful team we have at Frederick Health.”

“Clayton is like our Swiss Army Knife,” said Chris Bumbaugh, Vice President of Human Resources with Frederick Health. He can do it all. Clayton has a great talent for technology, analytics, and data integration. He makes life better for many people at Frederick Health and is one of the nicest people I know. I can’t say enough nice things about him; he is a star.” Congratulations to Jeb, Ellen, Brenda, and Clayton.

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## Meet your staff: Devin and Gracie!

*The Emmitsburg News-Journal and Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journal would not be where they are today without the help of Managing Editor Devin Owen and Staff Writer Gracie Smith. In honor of celebrating the Mount and local communities, you will be getting to know a bit about each writer, including their backgrounds, time at the Mount, and why they write for the News-Journals! Enjoy this feature about your dedicated, ambitious staff, and learn all about why they do what they do!*

### Managing Editor, Devin Owen

Devin Owen, a current junior at the Mount, was born in raised in Southern Delaware, spending any and all time she had at the beach. Growing up in a town where everyone knew everyone, Devin admits that her town shaped who she is today. “I find peace listening to the waves crash, and I’ve found that being from a small town makes me more sociable with adults.”

After high school graduation, Devin decided to trade the beach for the mountains. “I had a friend...who committed [at the Mount],” says Devin. “He had sent me a message saying how much I would like it here—it’s a beautiful campus in a small town. I ended up keeping his words in mind when applying to schools, and after my tour here in March of my senior year, I ended up committing!” Much like her hometown, the Mount boasts that small-town feel that Devin craves. Devin was attracted to the Mount’s atmosphere, natural beauty, and the Liberal Arts college, where she would pursue a degree in English.

As an English major and Communication minor, Devin hopes to work in a writing-related job. Other than the News-Journals, Devin is part of the Mount Honors Program and works part-time as a waitress.

Devin discovered the *Emmitsburg News-Journal* her freshman year at the Mount—and for that we are so thankful! Interviewed by former Managing Editor McKenna Snow, Devin earned a position as a Feature Writer—a writer who ventures around the community, conducting interviews and research for exciting stories. “The first story I actually wrote was a feature on the Farmers Market in town. It never got run in the paper, but it was the first interview I did, the first article I wrote, and the first time I got to really do it all on my own.” Devin admits that while feature writing was initially challenging, the job prepared her for being a Four Years at the Mount (FYATM) writer, which she finds much more enjoyable.

Devin’s current role in the News-Journal is Managing Edi-

tor. This job includes meeting with Editor Michael Hillman on articles, organizing staff meetings, compiling and completing edits, and even mentoring a local high school writer. Simply put, she is a superstar.

For Devin, working with the News-Journals has been a wonderful experience. “I have refined my writing skills and gained real-world experience,” she says. “Not to mention, I have made myself part of the Emmitsburg community. It has helped make this town feel like a home to me.” In her free time, Devin enjoys reading and writing (not just ENJ articles, but also poetry, songs, and pieces about home) as well as spending time with family and friends. And, as anyone who grew up hearing the ocean waves, Devin loves the beach. “Being there brings me an absolute complete sense of peace. It’s my favorite place.”

### Gracie Smith, Staff Writer

Gracie, a sophomore at the Mount, is an equally impressive writer and staff member. From Hanover, Pennsylvania, Gracie adores the fact that her hometown is unique and reputable. “That is to say, we have the Utz Potato Chip Factory, Snyder’s Pretzels, Hanover Food, Clarks Shoes, and now even Campbell’s Soup,” she says. Gracie’s hometown—the Snack Capital of the World—is not far from the Mount, making it an easy trip home for whenever she craves some salt and vinegar chips.

Gracie decided to go to the Mount because of its small campus size, low student-to-teacher ratio, and its strong faith identity. Although the first few days on campus were overwhelming, Gracie has adjusted wonderfully. “It was very easy to find my way around and identify my resources. To this day, I have no regrets as to my college choice.”

A double major in History and English with a minor in Spanish, Gracie dreams of being a Historian and writing historical works about military history and war, hoping to one day publish a novel about a historical event or figure. While studying for two degrees, Gracie enjoys the writing-heavy assignments from her professor, noting the significance of writing a lot and writing well.

Other than the News-Journals, Gracie works at Walmart as a Pharmacy Technician in-training, where she enjoys working with “brilliant minds” that are “engrossed with mathematics”—a change of scenery from Gracie’s history-and-English brain. Gracie also just recently took the Licensed Gettysburg Battlefield Guide Exam, testing her knowledge on a battle she’s been study-

ing since the eighth grade. “I often find myself reading and collecting history books to read in my free time when I’m not working,” Gracie says.

Her first year at the Mount, Gracie received an email advertising a freshman writing position for the *Emmitsburg News-Journal*. Intrigued and excited, Gracie applied, eager to meet like-minded writers. After being interviewed by yours truly, Gracie became the new FYATM writer!

“I love being part of our small newspaper staff,” Gracie says. “If there is one thing I’ve learned from writing for this paper, it’s how significant your work is.” Gracie notes how there is so much time, work, and effort put into each edition—and how this is significant to the staff’s close attention to detail. In addition to FYATM pieces, Gracie will also write feature articles. She also assists Devin in editing articles and managing the paper’s layout.

“The ENJ has helped me connect with Emmitsburg in a way that I otherwise wouldn’t have,” adds Gracie. “I have met amazing people in the community and learned so much about the



**Junior Devin Owen assumed the role of Managing Editor in November with Sophomore Gracie taking over her previous role as Assistant Editor. This was the first time underclassmen have taken over the reins of the paper. We would like to think they have done a great job, and now that they are seasoned veterans, will have a bang-up year next year!**

importance of staying connected, and that’s what this paper does.” Gracie values her role within the News-Journals as well as the communication and writing skills she has gained. In her free time, Gracie loves to read nonfiction books

and occasionally play some fun, simple video games.

*To read any articles by Devin or Gracie, visit [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net). Take the time to read their fabulous writing, and if you ever see them around the community, be sure to say hi!*

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HISTORY

The Contralto

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

Chapter 13

“The performance, we are happy to say, was an artistic, social, and financial success, and being the first of many contemplated, presages a delightful winter season for Emmitsburg. We may add that some of the principals have talent to warrant efforts in a wider sphere.” Thus ended the two-column write-up of “The Princess,” an operetta, by Frederick Halm, Doc. Mus. In reporting the affair Louis Higbee surpassed himself.

As the appointed date approached, excitement ran high. The New York firm was slow in delivering the proscenium curtain and did the impressario listen to the pleadings of the home artists, the telegraph company would have been materially enriched. The curtain pole, a marvel of grooving and fitting by Uncle Bennett, was ready, the finishing touches put to the work of Stoner and Carrigan, and all waited impatiently the great day of judgment when their product would be aligned with that of the Metropolitan expert. The train had not come to a full stop on the evening before the eventful day, when Bob Crittendon leaping aboard the baggage-car, took a survey of its contents, and with the nearest expression to sorrow that ever rested on his freckled face, announced to those outside, “Nothin’ diddin”

When the news of the non-arrival reached the hall, it spread consternation. Solos went wrong, chorus bungled helplessly in sharps and flats, feet tangled in dances. Halm, the imperturbable Halm, lost patience. Harry, though he struggled heroically to preserve his calm, was nervous and found the dentist’s forced

wit hard to tolerate. The tension was so great at the end of the first act, Halm having administered a sharp rebuke, several of the chorus burst into tears. Something must be done to relieve the strain, hence the Professor, mounting the stage, delivered a speech in which he told the young people the curtain was merely an accessory, no one ever paid the least attention to dead canvas when the stage was filled with living beauty, that he was prepared to erect a plain muslin sheet did not the other come, and that the rehearsal go on without more worry.

This had a quieting effect, the rest of the practice proceeded with sufficient smoothness. When all was over, however, none seemed anxious to retire, for young hearts were flustered and fear contended with courage in girlish bosoms. It was near midnight when the groups dispersed, dragging themselves to sleepless beds.

The curtain came on the morning train and was carried to the hall on the shoulders of three boys, followed by the panting expressman holding his book ready to be signed. It was but the work of an hour for Uncle Bennett, helped and hindered by a dozen volunteers, to mount it, and ropes, rolle and pulleys moved with the precision of clock work. It pictured the duel scene from Romeo and Juliet, while from the upper drapery, Shakespeare, flanked by Mozart and Augustine Daly, looked upon the audience.

The home artists set their wood scene, insisting on the curtain being raised and lowered several times, that comparison might be made. The Professor assuring them the contrast was all in their favor, gave Stoner tickets for himself and family, while Carrigan refusing to accept any, compromised by offering to act as scene shifter.

By noon everything was in readiness, the costumes being prepared

under the watchful guidance of Mrs. Halm, who had worked between spells of ill health. Harry and the Rector discussed the coming event at luncheon in minutest detail. The older man had persistently refused to visit the hall during the weeks of preparation, saying he did not wish to spoil his enjoyment of the finished product, but as the Professor well knew, really desirous of showing the fullest confidence in the judgment of the younger man.

Peter reported an astonishing sale of tickets and as it would be moonlight, the farmers for miles around might be expected. Father Flynn accepted the invitation extended through the Rector, assuring the attendance of some hundred boys. He also charged the Rector to report any attempt at disorder his hopefuls might make. Harry made note of this that he might mention it to the Doctor’s credit, not relaxing his vigilance in the least, however, for he knew that mandates of college presidents are not always obeyed.

At two o’clock, the boys filed into the hall under the care of six proctors who looked anything but formidable guardians of discipline. They pushed roughly up the stairs, only to halt and sway backwards as they met the square bulk and steady eye of Tom Greavy at the top. “Slow there, gentlemen,” ordered Tom, letting them pass two by two, to be ushered into the choicest seats in the house by the members of the baseball team dressed in their finest.

A few of the largest thanked the Professor, who stood at the door, for his kindness. One with a twinkle in his eye desired to shake hands with the author of “The Musings of a Common Man”—all the boys were reading them; nearly two hundred copies of the Bulletin had run the blockade the past week. White, in philosophy, was at a loss to understand where they were getting the questions they fired at him after each lecture.

The orchestra, composed of local talent carefully drilled in the simple music, struck up the overture, and the crowd ceased

talking. The curtain slowly glided up disclosing a bevy of beautiful girls, if that word mean the sweetest product of nature unadorned, the full throated chorus of uncultivated voices broke out and the audience was thrilled. Dainty Miss Topper delivered to her army an exhortation to valor in a voice slightly nasal, a delightful lisp, but with a verve and swing of her trim figure, which made the hearers gasp with wonder. The applause which greeted the finish of her solo was spontaneous, dying in a shrill whistle such as gallery-gods sometimes indulge in. This produced a visible shiver in the crowd. Before it passed, however, Tom Greavy stood over the culprit, ghastly with rage. “That will be about all of that,” he said, and those who saw and heard him felt that it would be about all.

The matinee over, Harry hastened behind the scenes to congratulate his boys and girls. Each received a hand-clasp; one girl, in her enthusiasm, kissing him and then retiring in confusion at her temerity. Forman, emerging from his armor, declared they had the college and academy pushed off the map, had them backed up an alley, and after the evening performance they would need a searchlight to find themselves. On the general rejoicing Tom Greavy entered to tell the Professor that a portion of the college boys were outside desiring to speak to the girls. The dentist ordered Tom to throw a few of them over the balustrade, but Harry restrained him and went to talk to the contingent.

**FIRST PERFORMANCE**

Of “The Princess” Given By The Emmitsburg Opera Company.

Twenty young ladies, under the direction of Father Maloy and Prof. Frederick J. Halm, opened the dramatic season, on Tuesday evening, in St. Euphemia's Hall, by giving Prof. Halm's delightful operetta, “The Princess.” A small but appreciative audience greeted the singers at this initial performance and, judging from the splendid way in which the young ladies acquitted themselves and the bright and catchy music of the operetta, not only will a larger audience be in evidence at the next performance but there will be a strong demand made for a repetition of this sprightly little opera. The inclement weather had a good deal to do with the size of the audience and by no means should the small attendance dampen the ardor of the conscientious young performers.

From first to last there is not an uninteresting line in the libretto nor was there any evidence of hitch or unfamiliarity with the score. The stage settings were good and the costumes, made by Miss Rose Tyson, were beautiful as well as tasteful and appropriate. Too much credit can not be given to the chorus and about the only suggestion that might be offered by an attentive listener would be that the stage manager should have the soloists a little nearer the foot lights. The acoustics of the hall and stage demand this. The accompaniment at times, was a little too heavy to make the ensemble effective, but no doubt, in the second rendition, which will be given this evening, these little inequalities will no longer be in evidence.

Advancing to the group which shuffled in embarrassment at his approach, he thanked them for their presence, hoped they would honor him again, and advised that they start for home lest they be late for dinner and thus offend Father Flynn.

“Let’s see the goils,” asked a square faced Cuban, and the others repeated the petition.

“Certainly, if the ladies wish it,” assented the Professor, ringing up the curtain and announcing the request at the door of the dressing room, while the expectant youths ranged themselves along the footlights.

“We don’t want them,” came in many keys from behind the closed door, one shrill voice shouting, “Beat it!” The curtain was lowered as the lady-killers wended their way out of the building.

Before the evening performance the Professor was nervous, issuing orders in themselves contradictory. The smoothness with which the matinee had been run off only tended to worry him lest over-confidence be generated in the minds of the actors. At dinner, despite the solicitude of the Rector, he could not eat, merely drinking several cups of coffee. Meeting Miss Tyson on the semi-darkened stage shortly after seven he said, somewhat sharply,

“Hurry up, please, we must be prompt in starting. “What’s the

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# HISTORY



Covered bridge on Old Emmitsburg Road over Toms Creek looking towards town ~ 1900s.  
This is the road Mount students took to go to Emmitsburg

matter with you, Harry?” taking him by the arm.

“Nothing, Miss Tyson, but I don’t want any delay.”

“There will not be any delay,” caressingly; “you are nervous tonight, sit with the audience during the play.”

“I know I’m superfluous,” he snapped, “but there is no necessity for rubbing it in.”

She looked at him for a space, the tears glistening in her eyes while he turned away half in shame for his temper, then walked slowly towards the dressing room, leaving him to the mercies of the dentist, who came up with, “Say, Professor, who is going to make up the ladies?”

“Oh Hell! let them make themselves up, they know more about it than we do,” and the dumb-founded Forman joined the crowd in the men’s room.

The orchestra had commenced, the chorus was in place on the stage, Harry stood by Carrigan ready to give the signal for lifting the curtain. The auditorium was crowded, the ushers and Greavy handling the throng with the expertness of professionals. The Rector with several members of the college faculty, Starling and Higbee note paper in hand, occupied seats in the front row. The Rector, pale with expectation, answered questions in an abstracted manner. The newspapermen overlooked the crowd and their good-natured faces were sufficient to awaken enthusiasm in all who saw.

The Professor’s heart thumped as it had done but once before in his memory, on the occasion when “Big Blondy” had planted the ball on Harvard’s five-yard line after dragging half of the opposing team from the twenty mark. He recalled what he had done then and moistened his lips with his tongue. The curtain was up to a murmur of admiration, another splendid start of the operetta was made. Carrigan wound the ropes round the swivel, went back and sat down, while Harry leaned wearily against the wall.

“What’s the matter?” whispered Jimmy, “you’re tremblin’ like a leaf,” fingering his pocket.

“What have you there?”

In answer he produced a flask which the Professor seized, extracted the cork, and took a long pull, altogether unmindful of a pair of brown eyes that watched him through the lane of singers, from the opposite wing where Miss Tyson waited for her cue. In a moment a flush came back to his face, the dull eyes glistened, he stepped forward with Carrigan to see Marion enter. She came on steadily, her splendid figure brought out in every line of her costume. The audience waited, her note was sounded and for the shortest second she hesitated, then the voice rolled out.

“My God! she’s nervous,” exclaimed the Professor.

“Not a bit of it,” Jimmy assured him, “she’s just struck her gait, watch her.”

Every note reached the furthestmost of the assembly, people forgetting to breathe. Halm, not daring to look at her, kept head and hands going to modulate the chords of the orchestra. Harry’s thoughts were befuddled; he cursed himself in whispers for taking the liquor. No connected understanding of the music came to him and before she finished he turned his back chattering, in a silly tone, Svengali’s description of Trilby, “Mon Dieu! she has a mouth like the dome of the Pantheon.” He sank into a chair as the building rocked with applause, and the “Bra-vas” of Galt and Higbee came dully to his ears. Raising his eyes when a hand was laid on his shoulder, he beheld Marion. Master of himself in a second, he said:

“Go out and repeat, they want you.”

“On condition that you stand where I can see you,” she whispered determinedly.

“Very well, go.”

This time she faced partially off stage to where he stood and every note was for him; he listened to a story he had never heard before. Members of the chorus, observing the direction of her eyes, followed it, unsophisticated young hearts catching the wireless message, responded to the spell and when the encore was finished, forgot their place and joined in the handclapping.

The operetta over, the people lingered to offer congratulations to Halm and the performers, but the Professor was nowhere to be found. Gradually the crowd faded away, proud fathers and mothers hugging boys and girls as they moved down the street. The editor stepped back to tell Jimmy, who was closing up, that he wished to see the Professor at the office, were he not too tired. When all but one gaslight was turned off, Carrigan was startled by a vision in white, a cloak dropping from its shoulders.

“Has Har—the Professor returned?”

“Deed, I ain’t seen him, Miss Marion.”

“I must see him, don’t extinguish that light for a moment please, wait I—”

“Closed up, Jimmy?” came his voice from the stairs. “Ah! Miss Marion haven’t gone home yet?”

“No, I desire to see you,” descending to where he stood.

“By the way, Professor, Mr. Galt wants to see you at the office, if you

ain’t too tired,” said Carrigan, about to close the outer door.

“Very good,” excusing himself to the girl and stepping back from the porch; “give me another pull out of that bottle, Jimmy.”

Marion walked slowly down the street as fully aware of his reason for returning as if he had told her, for such is woman’s intuition. He joined her in a moment, his handkerchief to his mouth.

“Did I sing well?”

“Divinely,” squeezing her arm; “but you must wait until tomorrow for me to tell you, I am knocked out tonight.”

“Yes, you are very tired, don’t go to the office,” pleading.

“We shall remain but a few minutes.”

“But you are so tired, and—I don’t want you to go “

“It’s only a matter of trains for tomorrow, for our trip to Washington; I shall be home and in bed in ten minutes.”

“Cannot you attend to that in the morning?”

The egoist’s method of answering an unwelcome appeal is to ignore the issue. There was no apparent reason to his mind why he should not accede to the girl’s request, yet he refused to consider it further. Perhaps in his hypersensitive state it seemed dictation. In the shadow of the porch he took her extended hand, loosed it, grasped her cloak near the throat, thought of the whiskey and let go just as the bell sounded in response to her touch.

“Good night, Harry,” she whispered.

“Good night, dear,” raising his hat.

Part way up the street he hesitated, looked around thinking he heard footsteps behind him, and then hurried along laughing at his nervous apprehension. He would sleep all morning to restore his balance. At the Bulletin a bright light

burned behind drawn curtains. The Editor answered his knock, locked the door behind him, each took a cigar and sat down. When these were lighted to their satisfaction, Galt said:

“Well, my boy, you have scored another hit.” “Didn’t they pull it off well?”

“And won’t Louis give it a write up? He’s at the house now, hitting it off while the inspiration is hot within him. Miss Tyson is of operatic calibre, she’s a star of the first magnitude, I have never heard anything richer.”

“Do you think so?”

“Nothing else to it, she has a voice in a million; you ought to advise it.”

This subject did not seem agreeable to the Professor and was dropped. The Editor considered that the triumph of the evening warranted some refreshment, not, as he said, anything heavy, just enough stimulation to bring the full amount of joy. The first bottle was exhausted in further discussion of the operetta, the second put the Barons in the proper attitude towards their dependents, subsequent ones brought the Western Maryland Railroad as humble petitioner to its metaphorical knees, the shirt factory’s machines could be heard in the distance, and as the town clock struck three the empty beer case was pushed into hiding under the Editor’s desk. Out on the street they shook hands, promising thickly to be ready to drive to Brookville to catch the afternoon train on the Pennsylvania Railroad for they would not condescend to travel over the Western Maryland Railroad.

Chapter 14 next month

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## June 5

### Decoration Day Finely Observed

By general consent, Taneytown had the most creditable celebration of Decoration Day of any community. The parade was larger, and the observance at the cemeteries was appropriate and well carried out. The following were in line; two Civil War veterans, George Duttera and Luke Bitzel; one Spanish American War - Harry Baumgardner; 25 World War survivors; Hanover Pa. Drum Corps; Town Officials; a long line of children with flowers; Taneytown Band; 50 members of the P.O.S. of A.; the fire truck and firemen.

At the cemeteries, and at the soldiers' memorial members of the American Legion rendered the customary honors, bugle calls and salutes; appropriate to such occasions, and the graves were decorated by the children.

At the Catholic cemetery, an address by Father Quinn was omitted due to his enforced absence on account of the illness of his brother.

At the Lutheran cemetery, festivities included selections by band, singing of "America," prayer by Rev. Shipley, address by Rev. Garrett.

At the Reformed cemetery, selection by band, prayer by Rev. Ritter, singing "Abide With Me", address by Rev. Bready.

At the Memorial, selection by band, prayer by Rev. Shipley, singing "Jesus Lover of My Soul," addresses by Rev Ritter and Rev. Shipley.

The theme of all of the addresses was "sacrifice," as embodied in the full measure given by the soldiers dead, that made by the home folks in many ways, the sacrifice that is due by all good citizens at all times that our dearly bought heritage shall be properly safeguarded, and the importance of showing our gratitude for the liberties we enjoy through perpetuating the best memories of Decoration Day.

The streets of the town and the cemeteries were filled with people from far and near, who spent the two hours from 1 to 3 o'clock observing the various events. The large number of visitors from quite a distance was distinctly noticeable.

The committee having charge of the arrangements are grateful for the assistance and encouragement it received, and returns thanks to everybody who in any way contributed to the success of the event.

### 50th Anniversary To Be Observed At Rocky Ridge Church

The 50th anniversary of the organization and building of the Mount Tabor Reformed and Lutheran Union Church at Rocky Ridge, will be celebrated from June 9th to the 14th by special services each night and addresses by a number of churchman.

Splendid progress in an attempt to make Rocky Ridge an ideal community is reported; that having been the aim of the church for a number of years. The church at the present time has a park containing 17 acres equipped for religious and social purposes, one of the largest of its kind in Maryland.

### Fairfield to Graduate Seven

Seven seniors will be graduated from the Fairfield High School at commencement exercises to be held Friday evening, in the Old Fellows Hall, Fairfield.

Dr. Kline, member of the faculty of Gettysburg College, will deliver the address to the graduating class of which Miss Catherine Weaver is Valedictorian, and Harold Wentz solitarian.

Lloyd Keefauver, Assistant County Superintendent Of Schools, will present the diplomas to the seven graduates. Members of the graduating class are Mary Kebil, Nelda McCleaf, Margaret Seabrook, Steve Sites, John Low, Harold Wantz and Katherine Weaver.

An elaborate program in which all members of the graduating class will participate has been arranged for the class day exercises. Numbers on the program consist of an address by the class President, Miss Weaver; an address titled "Shrinking of Violets," by Miss McCleaf; the class poem by Miss Seabrook; the class prophecy, by Stuart Sites and John Low; and an address by Margaret Seabrook titled "Omissions". Music will be furnished by the school orchestra.

On June 11, the Fairfield graduates will go to Washington accompanied by Mrs. Ira Henderson, faculty and the board of directors for a two-day visit. This is the first time the seniors of the Fairfield school will go to Washington, but it is planned to make the Washington trip and annual affair.

### Auto Races at Fair Ground

Automobile racing will be staged on Taneytown's fair ground track, Saturday afternoon, June 13th. The races will be run under rules and sanction of the National Motor Racing Association.

Six events have been carded for the afternoon's sport; the feature race will be for the distance of 20 miles and for the championship of Maryland.

Auto racing is one of the most daring and thrilling sports and only those with nerves of steel, a cool head and absolutely fearless, can drive a car at top speed on a race track, so those who like thrills will get plenty of them by attending the races. Races start promptly at 2:30.

### Taneytown High School

We have the report, unofficially, that an amicable suit, or at least one agreed to by both parties, will be entered, to decide between the County Commissioners and the School Board, with reference to the Taneytown high school building. Apparently, this is the only way to reconcile the differences between the two Boards, and we trust that the whole matter will be decided in time for a new building this year.

### Thurmont Band To Play At Meet

The Thurmont high school band will furnish the music at the annual State Olympic meet to be held in the Baltimore stadium on Saturday. There are about two high school bands in the State, both being located in Frederick County.

The Thurmont high school band was organized five years ago, this being the second time that they have served at the state meet. Charles Stull, member of the high school faculty is the director and organizer of the Thurmont band.

The band is comprised of 32 pieces, being well equipped. Special uniforms have been secured for the event, and the organization is expected to make an impressive appearance.

## June 12

### The Drought Continues

Heavy rains have visited some sections of the state, with a Monday night deluge causing damage estimated at \$100,000 from flooded cellars and first floors. And while the rains have also visited portions of Frederick and Carroll counties, they once again bypassed the northern portions of the Frederick and Carroll Counties and southern Adams County, which are suffering greatly from the effects of heat, and no rain of any consequence.

Corn, peas, and potatoes have been



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irreparably hurt, and the effect of the heat on the wheat is expected to be felt in reduced yield. A lot of corn acreage is yet unplanted. Tomato plants, both garden and for cannery purposes, are especially suffering.

Rains have been going around Emmitsburg & Taneytown the past week, the one on Monday reaching us within a mile, passing north in the direction of Harney. No rain of any consequence has fallen here for over two weeks and gardens are suffering greatly. The temperature has dropped very materially, since last week, but the need for rain is becoming serious.

### Flag Day

The approaching observance of Flag Day, nation-wide in scope and world-wide in sentiment, tends to bring us into a closer realization of the significance attached to our National Colors.

The stripes of red, symbolic of the baptism in the noble blood of American manhood, alternating with the pure white stripes, that should never bear the stains of national dishonor; together with the clear-cut stars amid the field of blue, all forming the component parts of the banner representing these United States of America; is a beautiful and impressive sight to behold as it floats in an azure sky, with the bright sunlight playing upon its glorious and protecting folds.

Our Flag should have the loyal support of all true Americans. Government officials, the men in whose hands the welfare of this country rests, should ever remember and practice - the sacred trust reposed in them. No un-American practice, or malfeasance of public office, can be tolerated, supported or condoned by our people.

National and state legislatures should forget, momentarily at least, on this day of reverence, all-party differences, and unite in rendering due homage. For our Flag to continue to wave over the repub-

lic as the symbol of Liberty, in its truest sense, and rational patriotism in its noblest form, thus justifying that proud boast of unsullied reputation so well known to every school student, is our prayer.

Our country should be free from sectarianism; free from corrupt political influences and practices; eternally grateful to the brave men who have, by sacrificing their live, insured Democracy; and solicitous of the comfort and welfare of its maimed veterans.

### Fall From Train Fatal

Missing his footing and falling between two cars from a Western Maryland freight train on which he was a brakeman, John Vaughn, 32, of Woodsboro, sustained injuries Thursday morning, which resulted in his death a few hours later at the Frederick Hospital.

The mishap occurred about 5 o'clock as Vaughn left the engine of the train to go back over the freight to make the inspection, which is conducted following each trip made through the mountains.

He missed his footing and fell between two cars, his right arm was cut off as was his left foot at the end step. He was dragged for some distance, which caused injuries about the head and hips.

The mishap occurred about a half mile west of Thurmont. Vaughn was rushed into the northern county town, where a few minutes later he was taken in a car to Frederick. But died about two hours later.

### Fire At Sawmill

Fire was discovered Tuesday morning in a large pile of sawed wood at the sawmill of Stouffer and Riffle, about 4 miles north of Thurmont, along the State Road. Efforts to control it failed and a call when out at 6 a.m. to Edwin Root, foreman of the fire company in Thurmont. The chemical apparatus was loaded on a truck and taken to the



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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

fire and did good service in containing the fire to a restricted area, and saving a majority of the sawed lumber. About 75 cords of wood cut in stove lengths was destroyed.

### Firemen Have A Busy Week

The Taneytown firemen had a big week of it, conducting their annual carnival at Sauble's field, which attracted a big crowd as the weather was ideal for outdoor attractions.

The big evening of the week was Thursday, when a parade was given. It was not a big parade, as parades are estimated, but was nonetheless a creditable success. The line was made up of the Taneytown Band, the Emmitsburg Fire Company, a Manchester fire truck and firemen, a Union Bridge fire truck and firemen, a Lineboro Fire truck and firemen, the Taneytown fire trucks and all the fire company member, and a number of business trucks and cars, attractively decorated.

Hundreds of cars lined the curbs of the wide streets filled with sightseers, while the side-walks were a jam of humanity bent on seeing what was going on, and finally wound up at the carnival ground. The Emmitsburg firemen made an especially fine appearance with their extensive display of flags. The line of march took in all of the town except Mill Ave. and George St. The Carnival was a success financially, the net proceeds for the Company being about \$300.

### Harney School Event

On Tuesday evening Rev. and Mrs. Null entertained at their home, near Harney, the patrons and pupils of the Harney School, of which Mr. Null is teacher. This yearly event marks the closing of the school year and the graduation of the 7th grade pupils.

From a stage erected on their lawn, a very interesting program was given consisting of the dramatization of the "Burning of the Peggy Stewart"; a play - "The Original Thirteen States" emphasizing the settlement and subsequent history of Maryland; a comedy entitled - "Billy's Mishaps"; and, a dialogue - "The Black Recruit."

A very interesting talk was given by Dr. W. C. Stone, Deputy State Health officer, who was a guest of the evening. The lawn was beautifully decorated with flags and Japanese lanterns. About 25 guests were present.

Refreshments were served consist-

ing of cake, ice cream and lemonade. Mrs. Null was assisted in entertaining by Mrs. George Hess, Mrs. Albert Claybaugh and Mrs. Mary Wantz, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Clutz and Mr. Charles Stambaugh.

## June 19

### Mrs. Sebold Becomes Treasurer Of The Emmitsburg Railroad Company

Louise Seabold, 28, acting manager of the Emmitsburg railroad since the death of her father, Vincent Seabold, last March, has been raised to position of treasurer of the company by action of the board of directors.

Mrs. Sebold will relinquish her management position to James Avery, her brother-in-law and executor of her father's will. Mr. Sebold have been manager of the railroad since 1893, but failing health prior to his death, compelled him to relinquish many of his duties to his daughter.

The new treasurer, a leader of society in Emmitsburg, is secretary of the Saint Joseph's College Alumni Association and his prominent in many Civic activities.

The Emmitsburg railroad is a short stretch of track between Emmitsburg and Rocky Ridge, where it connects with the western Maryland line. It was built in 1868.

### Robbery on Keymar Road

Last Wednesday night, as Marshall Bell was coming home on the Woodsboro Pike road, he noticed a rope stretched across the road, and as he got near the rope saw two men, a white and a colored, who held the rope and called to Mr. Bell to stop. He did not know what to do but did slow up, the white and colored men jumped on each side of the car and grabbed for his watch. But the chain tore so they got only part of the chain and did not get the watch.

Mr. Bell fought them and kept his car running. He knocked the white man off first, and then had the colored man to contend with. He fought him and kept his car running, and going down a big hill he knocked him off. Mr. Bell went on to Walkersville and reported the robbery to the Deputy Sheriff.

### The Keymar Fishing Club

The Keymar Fishing Club had an outing Saturday to the Potomac River,

where they had a most delightful time and plenty of fishing, and on Monday night gave a fish roast on the lawn of White Plank's, one of the members. They invited their friends and family, and all did justice to the fish, which all said was prepared fine and was served camp style. The Four Leaf Clover Orchestra furnished music.

### Automobile Traffic and Birds

The heavy automobile traffic in most parts of the country, presents as grave a problem to the birds as it ever can to humans.

We can remember driving along the country roads and counting the birds nest in trees and wayside bushes. Robins, orioles, catbirds, bluebirds and many others seemed to nest and raise brood after brood in the reach of humans and not show the least fear. Bob-whites and the more timid ruffed grouse might often be seen running across the road in front of horse's feet.

All this has changed. The noise and smothering dust and burned gas of the passing cars have driven the birds far back into the woodlands. If a nest is seen it is far up and no sociable burst of song greets us as we journey along.

Occasionally a dead woodpecker or sparrow, or perhaps a young quail, tells of some overbold fellow who will sing no more.

The telegraph and telephone wires have long been fatal to many flying birds. One day while riding with a friend in a wagon, along a country road, we saw a ruffed grouse flying toward us, but she never reached the road. She hit a telephone wire with such force that she dropped dead almost beneath the horse's feet.

If birds are able to think at all, they must feel that all mankind is leagued against them.

## June 26

### Storm Does Heavy Damage

Barns were unroofed and blown over, fencing leveled, trees uprooted, sheaves of wheat tossed about and carried from one field to another, and outbuildings demolished in the locations of Creagerstown, Lewistown, and Woodsboro Saturday afternoon in one of the heaviest rain and wind storms of the summer.

The storm broke near Creagerstown, between four and 5 o'clock and was accompanied by wind, hail, and rain. A barn on the farm of George Ramsburg,

near Creagerstown was blown over and wrecked, and the barn on the farm of County Commissioner Frank Stevens was partially unroofed. A garage on the premise of Russell Smith, near Lewistown, was lifted from its foundation and sent in an adjoining field. A car in the building was damaged.

The barn on the farm of Newton Kramer, near Woodsboro, was blown over. A large number of trees were uprooted near Lewistown and hay shed on the farm owned by Mr. Stevens, near Creagerstown, was demolished. A large locust tree was uprooted and blown across the front porch of the house occupied by Mr. Garvey.

The road for some distance along Hunting Creek was blocked by uprooted trees. Orchards were stripped of fruit and fencing on a number of farms was blown over. In some places, the force of the wind broke off fence posts even with the ground. Farmers near Creagerstown were compelled to work nearly all day Sunday rebuilding their fences to keep their stock from straying away.

A culvert on the road near the farm of Harvey Rhensburger was washed out and the stream overflowed the road and adjoining fields. Sheaves of wheat were carried down the stream and lodged in trees along hunting creek. Practically every sheave of wheat in the fields adjacent to Creagerstown where blown over and many sheaves were scattered in every direction. Dozens of large trees were uprooted and others blown over. Telephone service between the communities was put out of commission for a short time Saturday afternoon. A severe storm also settled in over Keymar and Ladiesburg.

### Auto Touring House

Jesse Bowers was in town on Thursday with a touring house on a Ford truck—a complete up-to-date little home on wheels, in which he and his family expects to take a long trip, perhaps to California.

According to friends however, Bower's wife, Nette, said it would be a "cold day in Hades before she would step foot into that monstrosity with the couple's six children. We barely get out of each other way in our home, and he wants us to live a glorified traveling outhouse for three weeks? This is what happens when

a women turns a blind eye to her man's nightly boozing."

### Fresh News

We have long ago learned to sympathize with housekeepers who at times find it difficult to get "some-thing to cook." It's the same with getting out a newspaper—some weeks fresh news is as scarce as vegetables in a garden.

### Supreme Court Gives to Parents Control of Education

The Supreme Court, on Monday, without a dissenting vote, declared invalid a Oregon school law, requiring all children between the ages of 8 and 16 years, to attend the public schools. The decision therefore upholds the decision of the District Court of Oregon, from whose decision the Governor and Attorney-General of the State had appealed.

The decision holds that a State has the power "reasonably to regulate all schools, to inspect, supervise and examine them, their teachers and pupils; to require that all children of proper age attend some school; that teachers shall be of good moral character and patriotic disposition, and that certain studies plainly essential to good citizenship must be sought and nothing be taught which is manifested inimical to the public welfare."

However, beyond that broad general ground, the Supreme Court does not go and it clearly upholds the right of a parent to send his child to a private, public or parochial school.

The opinion, rendered by Justice McReynolds, of Tennessee, said among other things: "We think it entirely plain that the (Oregon) act of 1922 unreasonably interferes with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control. As often heretofore pointed out, rights guaranteed by the Constitution may not be abridged by legislation that has no reasonable relation to some purpose within the competency of the State. The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations."

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# TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## Taneytown’s parks: where remembrance and nature meet

David Buie

With spring in the air and summer just around the corner, June is the perfect time to reintroduce Taneytown residents—both new and longtime—to the city’s exceptional park system. Spanning 226 acres across six unique public parks, Taneytown offers outdoor experiences for every age and interest, from tranquil walking trails and nature preserves to bustling sports fields and inclusive playgrounds. The City’s Parks & Recreation Department ensures all parks remain free and open to the public year-round, with even more amenities and improvements on the horizon.

As part of a series for the rest of the year, each of Taneytown’s parks will be featured over the next six months, spotlighting their history, amenities, and the vision behind them. In July, readers will explore Bollinger Park, a 102-acre nature preserve and the city’s largest park. August will highlight Flickinger Park, a compact neighborhood playground named for former Mayor W. Robert “Bob” Flickinger. In September, Memorial Park will take center stage, with a focus on its role as both a community gathering space and a site of remembrance, including a tribute to Taneytown’s 9/11 loss. October brings attention to Roberts Mill Park, just in time for soccer season and fall walks around its scenic pond. November will feature Roth Avenue Park, a modest but vital green space for southeast neighborhood families. And in December—a month of celebration—Festival Park will be introduced, sharing the city’s exciting plans for this ambitious future venue for concerts, rallies, and large-scale events.

“Our parks are the heartbeat of Taneytown,” said a former Mayor. “They reflect our community val-

ues and serve as welcoming spaces for play, reflection, and connection.”

**Coming in July: Bollinger Park**  
Located at 3775 Fringer Road, Bollinger Park is Taneytown’s newest and largest recreational area. It began with a generous gift in 1997 from Percy and Pauline Bollinger, who donated 51 acres with the vision of creating a peaceful nature reserve. The city expanded the property by acquiring 11 additional acres in 2003 and 40 more in 2014. After years of planning and phased development, the park officially opened in April 2024.

Bollinger Park is designed as a conservancy, not a sports complex. A paved, wheelchair-accessible trail stretches nearly a mile through wooded areas and meadows, with benches and a carved black bear sculpture providing resting spots and photo ops. A two-acre pollinator meadow supports native flora and fauna, while Piney Run Creek flows along the park’s edge. Solar-powered lights enhance the safety of the parking area for year-round visits. Already, the park is being embraced for Scout projects and nature education programs.

“We wanted to preserve something beautiful for future generations,” stated an individual on behalf of the Bollinger family. “This park is our gift to the people of Taneytown.”

**August Spotlight: Flickinger Park**  
Tucked into the Copperfield subdivision, Flickinger Park offers a pocket-sized refuge for young families. Bordered by Morning Frost, Bancroft, and Kenan Streets, the park was developed in the early 2000s and officially dedicated in 2007. It honors Mayor W. Robert “Bob” Flickinger, who helped guide the city through a period of growth.

Flickinger Park features a cen-

tral playground with separate toddler equipment, shaded benches, and open green space. Though modest, it provides a safe and convenient spot for local children to play. Proposed future upgrades include a picnic area and looping trails to enhance usability.

“Bob Flickinger believed in building community from the ground up,” said one longtime resident. “This park is part of his legacy.”

**September Focus: Memorial Park**  
Located at 300 West Baltimore Street, Memorial Park is the heart of Taneytown’s recreational landscape. Nearly 40 acres in size, the park serves as a hub for sports, celebrations, and remembrance. Its namesake memorial, dedicated in 1953, honors local veterans and includes a tribute to a Taneytown resident lost in the September 11 attacks.

The city began assembling land for the park in the late 1940s, driven by a post-WWII push for recreational space. In 1999, an additional 22 acres were added to the south to allow for future expansion. Today, Memorial Park boasts multiple sports fields, three playgrounds, tennis and pickleball courts, a basketball court, a gazebo, a pond, a Story Stroll walking path, and eight public pavilions. Plans currently underway include four new natural turf athletic fields, a new playground, athletic-association building, and eco-friendly bioretention features.

“It’s more than a park,” said one long term resident and veteran. “It’s a place where we remember, where we honor those who gave everything.”

**October Feature: Roberts Mill Park**  
Located at 4501 Stumptown Road, Roberts Mill Park was developed in the 1990s on land once used for agriculture. The 28-acre park is centered around a spring-fed pond popular

with local anglers for trout, bass, bluegill, and crappie.

A paved, lighted walking trail loops around the pond, making it ideal for exercise and wildlife watching. The park includes three picnic pavilions, a large playground, a basketball court, and lighted soccer and lacrosse fields. A dual-section dog park was added in 2022, offering space for both large and small breeds. With its mix of active recreation and natural charm, Roberts Mill is a favorite fall destination.

**November Highlight: Roth Avenue Park**  
Serving the southeast neighborhood, Roth Avenue Park is small but meaningful. Built in the early 2010s as part of a residential development, the park includes a toddler tot lot, a compact playground, and benches for resting or supervising children.

Although not suited for large events or sports, Roth Avenue Park provides a convenient, safe environment for young children to play close to home. Its simplicity is its strength, filling a vital need in the local community.

**Coming in December: Festival Park**  
Festival Park is Taneytown’s most ambitious future park project. Located

on a 26-acre tract north of Roberts Mill Park, the land was acquired in the 2010s with plans to create a venue for large-scale community events.

Proposed amenities include an amphitheater, open event lawns, RV hookups, restrooms, and ample parking. Once completed, the park will be the go-to spot for concerts, fireworks, food truck rallies, and seasonal celebrations. Festival Park will embody Taneytown’s spirit of community and serve as a regional draw for years to come.

“Festival Park represents our city’s future,” said Parks Director Lorena Vaccare. “It’s where we’ll come together to celebrate, reflect, and grow.”

Taneytown’s parks are more than green spaces; they are reflections of the city’s growth, values, and commitment to improving quality of life. From the quiet trails of Bollinger Park to the bustling fields at Memorial and Roberts Mill, each park offers its own story and purpose. Over the next six months, residents will have the chance to rediscover these gems—and perhaps find new favorites along the way.

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



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TEACHER TALK!

Passing seasons

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

One year. One year post college graduation, one year turned like a page in a novel, one year dimming into the past like a lightbulb slowly giving out. It is hard to believe that this time last year, I had walked the stage at Commencement, my heels tapping against the floor as I marched into a new chapter of my life. I still remember the excitement in the air, the endless applause as my name was spoken into a crowd of hundreds. I still cherish it to this day.

I want to congratulate Class of 2025 graduates Dolores Hans and Emelie Beckman for their huge accomplishments. Dori and Emelie are wonderful writers, students, and colleagues; I am so excited to hear and read about their accomplishments as they, too, take their first steps into their post-grad chapters. The Emmitsburg News-Journal and Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journal are both lucky to have known these talented individuals. Likewise, rising senior Devin Owen is more than ready to lead the News-Journal and finish her time at the Mount.

While this has been a whirlwind of a year—from adjusting to life after college to finishing up my first year of teaching—I am grateful for the News-Journal. It keeps me tethered to the Mount, to this community. Every time I visit my alma mater, I am overwhelmed with nostalgia and glittering memories, and this has been the most helpful as I navigate this year. Ten months ago, in the thickening heat and haziness of late summer, I attended a friend’s wedding at the Mount. This was just weeks before move-in, and I didn’t realize how the nostalgia had hit me, like a truck. I had forgotten how summer painted the grass and trees a lively green, how the sun reflected off church bells and stained-glass windows. I had forgotten how the air shimmers with heat, how anticipation lingers within each movement of wind. “A new school year,” I thought, and while I would find myself in a classroom that Septem-

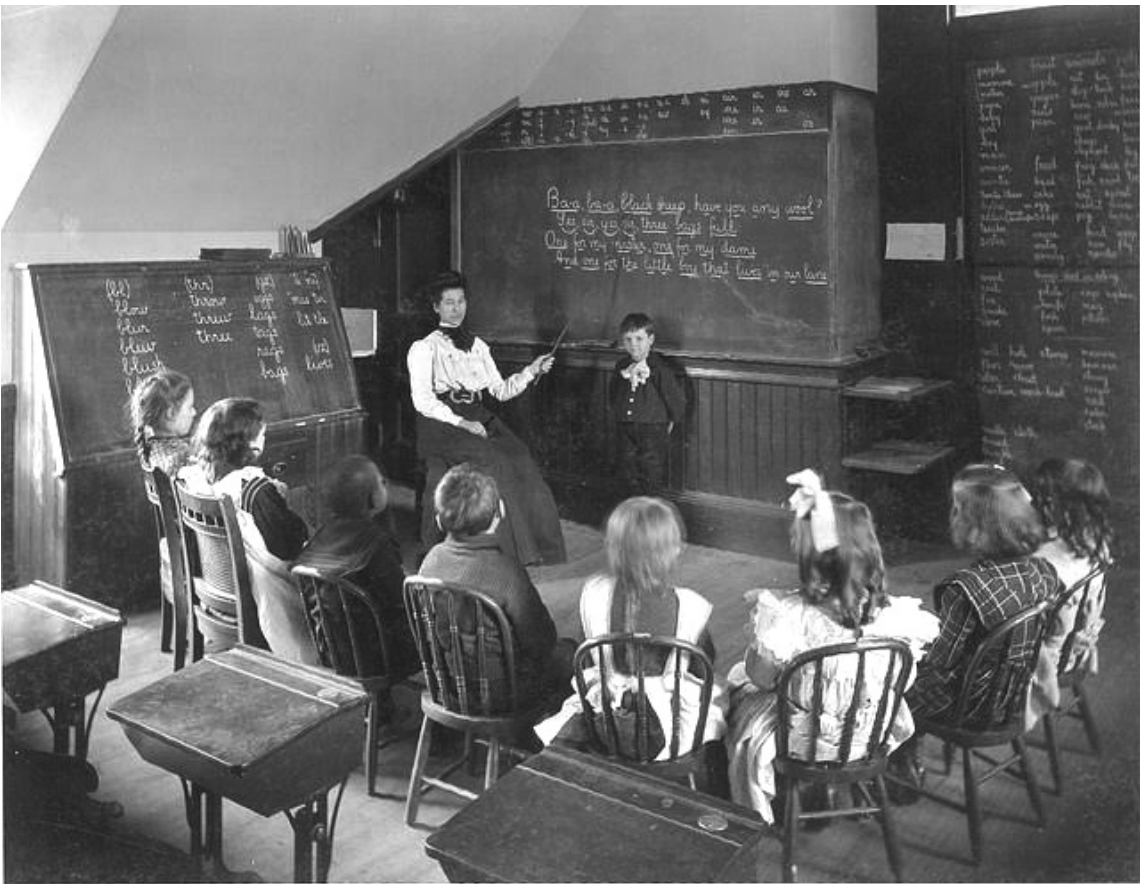
ber, it certainly wouldn’t have been in the Knott Academic Center or the Phillips Library. It would have been somewhere new, someplace scary yet exciting.

My friend’s wedding was beautiful, and my memories were quickly replaced with joy. We departed the IC Chapel for the wedding reception, and I didn’t know when I’d be back.

Six months ago, in the very middle of autumn, I found myself back at the Mount for a rugby game. It was difficult to find a weekend that coordinated with all my other graduated friends, but we managed to find a Saturday in October. The sky was thick and gray, the air crisp. It was a joyous occasion, to see everyone again. I even managed to see a friend who graduated in 2022 (Shoutout, Emmy!) and caught up with her. This reunion was perfect. I did all the “Mount” things, like go to Dunkin’ and drive on the autumnal backroads and grab lunch in Gettysburg. For a fleeting moment, it felt like I was in college again. Of course, this thought quickly vanished when I was asked, “How is work?”

Of course, it was great. I love it, and I love teaching. I couldn’t imagine doing anything else. I loved talking to my graduated friends about their jobs, as well. There was a certain bittersweet feeling in the air, though. We all missed our lives here, but we couldn’t quite pin it down to a word. “Nostalgia” felt too soon. Although I can’t remember how the rugby game ended, I do remember this being such a memorable visit.

Two months ago, it was still winter, but barely. March. We were back for another rugby game, only this time clothed in sweatpants and sweaters, sitting on blankets in the damp and icy grass. I’ll never forget this winter: snow (finally!) and doing nothing but teaching and reading and sleeping. The dark commute to work; the chilly bite of air as I walked out the door. Winter in teaching is hard. The school year feels eternal, and winter to spring is always an uphill battle. Visiting the Mount was nice, but I didn’t miss it like I used to. There was talk of



We congratulate Claire for finishing her first year as teacher! Bravo Zulu!

graduation, mere months away, and plans after graduation, and I realized that by May, I’d be a year post-grad. While everyone was preparing for Commencement and their post-grad year, what had I accomplished?

So much. Teaching my students, and creating lessons, and building my own classroom. Even though I practically lived in my winter coat, I looked forward to going to school. Realizing this also made me realize that while it was okay to have nostalgia and visit the Mount, I also was so lucky to have made such success this year.

Two weeks ago, azaleas and wildflowers scattered against the green backdrop of campus. I was at the Mount for Divine Mercy Sunday Mass and a celebration with

friends. The Mount was alive with students, and graduation was a few short weeks down the road. I could feel the excitement in the air, but it wasn’t mine. And that was okay. I felt happy for my friends, for the Class of 2025 graduates, and I was thrilled for their futures.

This past year was filled plenty of new journeys with many ups and downs. As I spent month after month teaching, I also (and unexpectedly) visited the Mount in each season of the year, watching from afar how the summers and falls and winters and springs shape this campus again and again, so many times you’d think it was magic. I am thankful to have come back, but I am also grateful for what I have in the present moment, and what lies ahead. This

month we return to the season of summer, and another cycle will continue, over and over. Will I always feel nostalgic over the passing seasons at Mount St. Mary’s? Will I always miss the church bells, the stone buildings, the rolling green fields?

As I continue to make new memories at new places, with old and new friends, and as years of teaching continue to turn like chapters in a book, I will still, forever and always, return. Maybe not every season, but perhaps during my favorite one. After all, the Mount never looked better with pinkish-white blossoms budding on the trees.

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

Adams County Library System’s 8th Annual FunFest

The Adams County Library System’s 8th Annual FunFest will be held on Friday, June 13th from 3 to 7 at the Gettysburg Area Recreation Park. This free, family-friendly event marks the official kickoff of Summer-Quest, the Library’s county-wide summer learning program.

More than 50 nonprofit organizations will be onsite offering fun and educational activities for all ages. We’ve confirmed four food trucks so far, with more on the way! The event is made possible thanks to the generous support of 25 local businesses throughout Adams County.

We’re expecting another great turnout this year, with approxi-

mately 2,000 attendees, consistent with the past two years.

This year’s FunFest is especially exciting as we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Adams County Library System serving the community. Plus, we’ll be making two major county-wide announcements that will benefit families and children across the region!

Please join us at 5:30 at the DJ stage for these special announcements—and take time to visit the many nonprofit booths throughout the afternoon. The more we learn about the organizations supporting our community, the stronger and more connected we all become.

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## COOKING

# Ode to Minnie

**Sonya Verlaque**  
**FCC Culinary Program**

My dear friend's dog died. Any of us who has loved an animal knows that it's such a perfect love that it leaves a gaping hole in your heart. She found Minnie on the streets of Detroit, rehabbed her, and then lived loved her for 14 years. Human relationships are complicated, but a dogs love is simple and honest. This article is for Minnie and her family who loved her, bake some cookies or take a plate of pasta to your friends when they lose their fur babies.

## Pumpkin and Oat Dog Cookies

These are a healthy grain free dog cookie you can make for your best friend.

### Ingredients

- 1 cup of pureed pumpkin (not the pie filling—just plain pumpkin)
- 2 1/2 cups of oats (ground into flour or use oat flour)
- 1 egg (for binding)
- 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon (optional, but a nice flavor boost)

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large mixing bowl, combine the pureed pumpkin, egg, and cinnamon. Make sure the egg is fully incorporated and mix until smooth. Cinnamon is optional. Slowly add the oat flour into the pumpkin mixture, stirring as you go. If you don't have oat flour on hand, don't worry. Just blend some rolled oats in a food processor or blender until they turn into flour. The dough will start to come together

and should be easy to handle. If it's too sticky, add a little more oat flour, one tablespoon at a time. Roll out the dough to about 1/4 inch thick on a floured surface. Cut the dough into shapes using cookie cutters, or if you're feeling lazy (no judgment), just cut them into squares with a knife. Place the cookies on the baking sheet and pop them in the oven for 20-25 minutes. You'll know they're done when they're firm and slightly golden around the edges. The longer you bake them, the crunchier they'll get, which is great for keeping your pup entertained with a longer chew. Let the cookies cool completely before giving one to your dog. Store them in an airtight container, and they'll last for about a week. If you want to make a big batch and save them for later, you can also freeze them. Just thaw them out before serving.

## Green Pea Pasta with Roasted Asparagus

This is a nice spring pasta, that is warm and lemony. Minnie's mom is vegan, and pesto can easily be dairy free by switching nutritional yeast for the parmesan. But you can always use what you prefer. A bowl of pasta always helps mend a broken heart.

### Ingredients

- Asparagus bunch  
Olive oil  
Salt  
Black pepper freshly ground  
16 ounces pasta

### Pea Pesto

- 10 ounces frozen peas  
1 cup fresh basil packed  
¼ cup lemon juice freshly  
squeezed

- ¼ cup olive oil  
 2 tablespoons nutritional yeast  
 2 tablespoons pine nuts  
 2 garlic cloves peeled  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 ½ teaspoon black pepper freshly  
 ground

Instructions: Preheat the oven to 425F. Remove the tough ends from the asparagus by snapping them off with your hands. Once removed, cut the asparagus into 1-inch pieces. Transfer to a parchment-lined baking sheet and drizzle with oil, salt, and pepper. Mix to distribute oil and seasoning. Roast for 15 minutes, stirring halfway. Keep the oven light on and check periodically as all ovens differ. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook pasta according to package instructions. Fill a small saucepan about a quarter of the way with water and add the peas. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat, and cook 4-6 minutes. Scoop out ¼ cup of water (it's okay if some peas sneak in!). Drain and add the ¼ cup of water and the peas to your blender. Add all of the pea pesto ingredients to the blender. Blend on high until smooth. Add sauce to the bowl with the pasta, toss in the roasted asparagus, and stir to combine. Serve with fresh basil and black pepper.

## Vegan Lemon Sugar Cookies

These are easy chewy cookies that will be done in 30 minutes to walk over to your friends house. They can be legal or use dairy butter dairy and egg, instead of a “flax-egg”

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup room temperature vegan  
butter  
1/2 cup+ 2 Tablespoons sugar 1/2  
cup for dough, 2 tablespoon



## Minnie

- for rolling before baking
- 1 tablespoon ground flax
  - 2 tablespoon lemon juice
  - 2 teaspoon lemon zest
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste or  
vanilla extract
  - 1 cup+ 3 Tablespoons all-purpose  
flour
  - ½ teaspoon baking powder
  - ¼ teaspoon salt

Instructions: First add the butter and ½ cup of the sugar to a bowl and cream together until light and fluffy, about 1 minute. Then, add in the ground flax, lemon juice, lemon zest, and vanilla and mix together. Next, add in sifted flour, baking powder, and salt to the mixing bowl. Mix until a smooth and thick cookie batter forms. Do not over mix or else you will form too much gluten and the cookies will not spread as much and be tough. Next, add the bowl of dough to the fridge, cover, and let chill for 30 minutes- 1 hour. Cover a baking sheet in parchment paper and preheat the oven to 350F. Next, remove the dough from the fridge and use a 1.5 tablespoon cookie scoop to form your cookie dough (30 grams per cookie of dough). Roll

into balls between your palms and then roll in the 2 tablespoon of sugar that was set aside so that each dough ball is coated. Place the lemon sugar cookie dough balls onto the baking sheet. If you want flatter cookies, you can slightly press the dough down with your palm, but leave as is for the cookies you see pictured. Make sure that each cookie is kept about 2 inches apart since they will spread while baking. Bake for 10-14 minutes until bottoms are lightly browned and the cookie is cooked through but has slightly soft centers.

The cookies will continue baking after they are removed from the oven so the centers should still be soft, but not glossy or raw, when they are removed from the oven. Remove the cookie tray from the oven and immediately tap the tray on the counter to produce a more “wrinkly” cookie. Then, let the cookies cool on the baking sheet for 5-10 minutes. The cookies will be soft and puffy out of the oven and will naturally deflate a little while cooling. Once the cookies have cooled, serve and enjoy!

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



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# MOMS' TIME OUT

## Hug your babies!

Michele Angel

From the time I was born, my mom always said I loved to hug. She said she wasn't a hugger, and the Lord was forcing her out of her comfort zone. As time went on, I outgrew this great desire to hug. Then I had children and once again that changed. When they say everything changes when you have kids, they really do mean everything.

When my first son was born, I suddenly couldn't get enough of hugging. He was such an amazing gift, and I could spend every day giving him hugs! With each child there were more and more hugs. It was amazing to have these little people constantly wanting to be near me. No matter what was going on, a single hug from me made everything better. They needed me and it was a wonderful feeling that I had never been on the receiving end of.

As a mom being needed by your kids is endearing, heart-warming, and a bit overwhelming. When they are little, they need you for so much more than hugs. As they grow up, they start to become more and more independent. This is what the terrible twos are all about. I remember when my second son was in this toddler phase, he wanted to do everything on his own. He wanted to get dressed on his own, he learned the word no, and he was practicing different ways to test my patience.

Move forward a few years and they are going to school. This is when they really start to become independent. They still needed me, but it was changing. In elementary school my usefulness was still primary. They needed me to drive them, feed them, and put a roof over their heads. There was a constant request for homework

help. My kids also loved lunch, shopping, or play-dates with mom. So, independence at this stage was demonstrated by them insisting they needed to wear certain clothes and absolutely could never wear other items ever again. It might also manifest in food choices, but in the elementary school years their independence usually involved preferences rather than more adult independence choices. After all, they are still your sweet little "babies".

It wasn't long and they were entering middle school.

Many aspects of the kids needing me didn't change in middle school. They still weren't driving and had no income. This is the age where they become more defiant and push the envelope of patience just a little bit further. Middle school is that magical time when the teenage hormones are rearing their ugly head and the kids want to feel way more independent than they are. This is also a time when hugs are few and far between. They are trying to figure out if hugging their mom is just too uncool. There is definitely no hugging in public.

If you survive the middle school angst, then you will enter the high school years when my kids were able to actually be independent. This is a time of mixed emotions. My husband and I were once again able to travel and do little weekend getaways. This was balanced by the kids being "independent" when we were home as well. Our second son demonstrated his independence by dating before he had permission, and our oldest daughter by not cleaning her room. Our oldest and youngest didn't give us too much grief at this age. Probably luring us into a false sense of security. Independence isn't always all it's

cracked up to be. As I had been a stay-at-home/ homeschool mom until the last was in high school, I was also able to return to work. Now that they could drive, they would run to the grocery store for me. For them, though, this was a time when they could go out with their friends whenever they wanted. They no longer had to ask me to drive them anywhere. We actually instated a rule that everyone had to let us know in the group text whether or not they would be home for dinner.

This independence was amazing for everyone, but also a little sad as a mom. I loved seeing them thrive and grow but missed actually seeing them. One positive is that by their junior and senior year they have figured out who they are (mostly) and some of the hugs returned. The problem with that is when they are never home when will they hug you? Each of my kids demonstrated independence at different stages by withholding hugs. I remember the first time one of my kids was upset, I offered a hug to make them feel better, and they said, "No, not now. Please don't touch me." I was taken aback and truly didn't know what to say or do. I know the shock was all over my face. How could they not want a hug from mom, especially when I needed one more than ever at that moment!

As they graduate from high school you can finally take a deep breath and a sigh of relief that you have all survived. At this point they are, or soon will be, adults.



They are as independent as they will ever be under your roof. This is a magical time where you are still a parent, but also someone they will want to have deep conversations with.

Although all these stages are necessary and amazing in their own right, please know that it is okay to be sad and mourn the passing of time as your little ones need you less and less. Trust me when I tell you it is a real struggle. As my last child is getting ready to graduate from high school, I am excited, proud, and

terribly depressed all at the same time. Just don't get so caught up in being sad that you don't enjoy each and every step along the way. Above all take those hugs when they are offered and enjoy every minute of it. When they are adults be sure and still offer up a hug now and again, as it will do you both a lot of good and, take it from me, you will LOVE IT!

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

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# PROPOSED SUMMER HOLIDAYS

## Senior Emmits-burger Day

Dolores Hans  
MSMU Class of 2025

The summer is a special time of year because it provides opportunities for endless adventure. Family and community are the heart of who we are; they give us the sense of belonging, support, and connection that we all need in life. Whether it's celebrating birthdays, helping each other through tough times, or just sharing meals and stories, family creates a foundation of love and trust. But it's not just about the people you're related to — community plays a huge role too.

Good neighbors, kind teachers, helpful friends, and even familiar faces at the local store can make life feel fuller and safer. Being part of a community means you're never truly alone. It gives you people to lean on, laugh with, and grow alongside. It teaches us how to share, respect others, and care about something bigger than ourselves. When families and communities are strong, everyone benefits — kids grow up more confident, adults feel supported, and elders are respected and included. In a fast-paced world where it's easy to

feel isolated, taking time to connect with family and community is more important than ever. Those bonds remind us that we matter, that we're loved, and that together, we can get through just about anything.

Growing up my absolute favorite time of year was summer. No school, going for walks and bike rides every day, manhunt and catching fireflies with neighbors, bonfires, swimming in the river, and barbecues. These barbecues were always big events with friends and family gathered in our backyard, our driveway overflowing with cars, spilling out into the street. There was something magical about waiting by the window and guessing who would be the next person to arrive. By this point my mom had already planned and shopped for the various meals and snacks that were going to be put out, and I helped her prep some of the food.

Cutting veggies or salads, baking desserts, putting chips into bowls, and my personal favorite, the buffalo chicken dip. My dad would fire up the grill, cooking everything from barbecue chicken and ribs to hamburgers and hot dogs. My dad's side of the family, the men specifically, all sound exactly alike when they get together. I loved just sitting and listening to them joke around and tell stories and laugh similarly.

The women on my mom's side will

stand around the counter top picking at bits of food as they gab and bring each other up to date on the latest in their day to day lives. As time passed my dad will start a bonfire in the backyard and people will start to make their exit. Then, once it's dark out, there are only a few left, and they sit around the fire pit with us and talk about everything under the sun, from deep philosophical topics or good movies that they have seen lately to stupid poop jokes. These barbecues mean so much to me that I think there should be a holiday where everyone opens their doors to family, friends, and neighbors, and has a barbecue.

Emmitsburg and the surrounding areas have truly become my home away from home. Nestled in the quiet beauty of rural Maryland, this close-knit community offers a sense of belonging that is rare to find. The people here know each other by name, lend a helping hand without hesitation, and treat neighbors like extended family. Whether it's a friendly wave from across the street or a spontaneous conversation at the Otts, there's a warmth that makes you feel seen and cared for.

To me, nothing says family and community like a yard filled with laughter, shared meals, and memories made under the open sky. It's where children run barefoot through

the grass, singing, dancing and playing whatever games their hearts desire, where barbecues bring folks together on summer evenings, and where the simple act of gathering becomes something sacred. A yard, in this sense, isn't just a patch of land — it's the heart of a home, and the heart of the community too.

If I were to make a summer holiday, I would have one designated to the Emmitsburg area, called "Emmits-burger Day". It would be one day during the summer when everyone either hosts or visits a barbecue. Like one big potluck, people visiting will bring food and drink to the homes who have the grill. There will be competitions between recipes, including pasta salad, barbecue sauces, and hamburgers. Music will play throughout the streets, there will be activities specifically for kids like scavenger hunts and bounce houses. The Knights of Columbus would set up in Town and donate burgers to anyone who stopped by, providing an opportunity for those who are struggling with food insecurity to get some food and be a part of the community. Emmits-burger Day will be the last Saturday in May. People can have their own private barbecues, or they can register to host one on their lawn for anyone to stop by. The Ott House could offer discounts on wings

or beer to get more business while people walk around in search of barbecues and activities.

In all honesty, this holiday might be more than the Town can chew, no pun intended, but I think that the ideals of the Town, the importance of community and family mentality, and knowing food brings people together would support the holiday. If needed or if possible, surrounding communities, such as Thurmont, might want to join in.

I'm beyond grateful to this area for supporting me the past four years and creating such a loving and beautiful place for me to find work, go to school, and have many adventures. But to me the best part was meeting new people. Families I've come to know, college students, my students at Ballenger Creek, members of St. Anthony's Shrine, coworkers of the paper, especially Michael Hillman, and Mount St Mary's professors and staff. Words cannot describe the feeling of gratitude and fullness in me that is all because of so many people. It has been a blessing getting to know this community and every detail of its beauty, which is exactly why I would create a holiday that highlights just that.

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

## Creative Burn your homework day

Abby Dacombe  
MSMU Class of 2027

A car door slammed somewhere behind her as she walked up the driveway. She could already hear music coming from the other side of the house. People were spilling out onto the front lawn, and smoke curled up into the darkening sky behind them.

"Elle!" She looked up at the sound of her name, searching through the crowd of seniors until her eyes fell upon her friends. "You got your work?"

"Of course, I'd never come unprepared," she patted the bag hanging at her side, smiling as she moved closer to the group.

"I heard the fire pit is bigger than last year," Nicole's eyes were wide with excitement as she spoke. "I can't believe it's our final year of this."

Sarah nodded her head. "Mark said it's only juniors and seniors this year. The freshman are throwing their own bonfire for themselves and the sophomores."

Everyone's eyebrows raised; this year would be much more chill than previous years, without the freshman who went a little crazy on burn day.

"Thank God," Ashley said, rolling her eyes. "Last year was an absolute nightmare."

"The freshmen do become a little too enthusiastic about burn day." Elle snorted at Nicole's comment. That was putting it lightly. The freshman never understood the purpose of burn day and always made it out to be crazier than the upperclassmen did. Even in their freshman year,

there had been far too much yelling and chaos.

Now that they were seniors, they finally understood that burn day was about letting go of the stress, not the knowledge they'd gained. Once a year, all over the country, college students came together at the end of their semesters to burn all the homework and papers they'd accumulated at the end of the year. It was meant to promote less waste at the end of the year, put into action when students had begun tossing all of their papers into the trash instead of the recycling.

Every year of college, Elle and her friends attended the end-of-year bonfire that fell on Burn Day, bringing schoolwork and old papers. This year was their final year of this, and their bags were still heavy with paper, like always.

Together, the four of them walked around the side of the house, pushing past classmates milling around. The backyard air was thick with humidity and smoke, and the sun had begun to set, so the huge fire pit in the middle of the yard illuminated the area. A few of their mutual friends were sitting in front of the fire, stacks of paper in their hands, waving when they spotted them.

"When does it start?" Nicole asked, plopping down on a lawn chair set up next to the fire.

"Any minute now," Monika said, "we're just waiting for Mark."

"Is this not his house?" Ashley raised an eyebrow.

"Yeah, but the whole swim team put the party together. Mark is getting some last-minute stuff."

"He better hurry up, my shoulder is about to fall off. How I carried this around all year, I'll never know." Elle sighed, sitting on the

arm of Nicole's chair, letting her bag fall onto the grass.

Her eyes wandered across the yard, where others were beginning to pile in. The space was becoming fuller by the minute, and everyone from the front of the house was moving to the back. A few people waved as they passed, moving to meet up with their own friends.

This was the event of the year. Everyone had been discussing it for months, which classes had accumulated the most paper for the fire, and which classes had been digital.

"Hey guys! Sorry, I was late," Mark slid into the open space between Sarah and Elle, slinging an arm over their shoulders. At the sight of him, the students gathered in the yard cheered. "Are we ready to get this started?"

Everyone cheered again, waving papers around above their heads. Elle reached into her bag, grabbing a few for the initial toss.

"Okay, you all know the rules: toss and step back!" Mark called over the crowd. "Everyone ready? For the first round, step forward."

For a minute, people began to move towards the fire, pushing each other until a clear ring formed around the pit, with Elle, Ashley, Sarah, and Nicole joining them.

"On three!" Mark held up his papers, "One... Two... Three!"

In unison, thirty people tossed their papers onto the flames, cheering as they caught light, before taking ten steps backward as sparks danced upwards. The yard erupted into excited yells as more people carried their papers toward the flames.

The air became thick again, as white smoke curled up towards the sky. It clung to Elle's skin; she knew she'd have to wash her hair three

times to rid it of the campfire smell. It would be worth it, though, spending the last night before graduation with her friends on Burn Day.

She watched as others began to come forward, tossing their own papers into the flames, cheering afterward. It was bittersweet, people she'd known for four years, moving onto the next chapter of their lives, burning the stress of their semester away and emerging new on the other side.

"You have more you want to burn?" Ashley nudged her side, jolting her out of her thoughts.

"Yeah, tons." She grinned, grabbing more from her bag. "Way too many printing dollars were spent this year."

"At least we weren't spending our real money," Sarah added, "now we have to."

Nicole groaned, "Don't remind me, real life is expensive."

"Don't remind me that this is all ending," Elle frowned as they tossed another handful of assignments into the flames. "We won't see each other every day anymore."

"No more late nights in the library." Sarah wrapped an arm around Elle's shoulders.

"Or trips to get a sweet treat after class," Ashley added, smiling at them. "I'll miss that the most."

"I never thought I would be emotional on Burn Day," Sarah laughed, "but here we are!"

"It's our last one; we've earned the right to be sad." They watched the flames curl around their papers, burning away the sleepless nights and bad days, leaving behind ashes to emerge from.

"I'll miss you guys." Nicole said, eyes glossy with unshed tears.

A chorus of "same" went around

as the light from the fire illuminated their faces.

"We might be burning our old assignments, but we aren't burning the memories we created while doing them." Elle's eyes flickered between her friends. "We still have those, and they won't go anywhere."

Nicole sighed, her sadness palpable to the other three girls. "It just won't be the same anymore."

"Yeah, but," Ashley paused, "we'll still see each other, it just won't be how it was. But that doesn't mean we stop being friends because of it."

"Ash is right," Sarah said, grabbing their hands. "Just because this chapter ends doesn't mean our friendship will."

As the sky darkened even further, they grabbed their final papers and tossed them into the flames, letting go of the remnants of their senior year.

Elle smiled, following her friends as they weaved back out through the crowd, waiving as she passed familiar faces, gripping her empty bag tightly. They made their way back to the front yard, stopping just before they reached their cars.

"See you tomorrow?" Elle wrapped her arms around them in a group hug.

Burn Day held memories they'd never forget. From freshman year to senior year, they'd spent it together. It brought them together, and now they were ready to part ways, knowing they would always have this moment.

The four of them went their separate ways as smoke curled behind them, the glow of the flames, and their past behind them.

*To read other articles by Abby Dacombe, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*







SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Public Schools

Editor's Note: Yes we know, the next county election is still 18 months away, but its never to early to start to learn about those wishing to serve!

Hi there! My name is Casey Day, and I'm running for the Frederick County Board of Education. I grew up right here in the county, raised my children here, and for the past 29 years, I've proudly served as a teacher in FCPS. I've had the privilege of teaching students from early childhood through high school, and later, working with educators as a graduate instructor at Hood College.

When people ask me why I'm running for the Board of Education, my answer is simple: I believe in the power of public education to transform lives, and I believe our schools deserve bold, thoughtful, and compassionate leadership to make that happen. I've spent decades advocating for our schools, working to strengthen them from the inside. As I approach retirement next year, stepping into this role feels like a natural continuation of that work. I'm not just running for a seat at the table, I'm running to pull up more chairs for everyone: students, educators, families, and the entire community.

I didn't make this decision lightly; I've spent years listening to educators who work tirelessly under increasing pressure, to families navigating a complex and changing world, and to students who are both hopeful and worried

about the future they're inheriting. Through it all, one truth stood out to me loud and clear: our public schools are the heart of our community, and we need a Board that will treat them that way.

I'm not a politician, I'm a public school teacher and advocate who knows what it means to show up, roll up my sleeves, and do the work. I've done my homework, completed training, learning to run an effective campaign, and spent time in the community, listening to what matters most to people across our county.

I don't come from a background of corporate connections or political offices; my family is made up of hard-working blue-collar folks. I do, though, bring a deep well of connections built over nearly three decades with the families of the 4,000+ students I've taught, with the educators I've worked alongside or mentored, and with the community leaders I've advocated, volunteered, and served with.

I'm in this race because I love

this community, and I want to see it thrive.

This campaign is grounded in the values I hold most dear: equity, respect, transparency, growth, and love. Every child deserves access to a safe, inclusive, well-resourced public school. I believe in uplifting our educators and staff, ensuring they are empowered, supported, and heard. I believe in transparency and accountability; decisions should be made openly, with community voices at the center. I believe in growth, not just academic progress, but a system that adapts and strives to serve all students better. Above all, I believe in leading with love, for our students, our staff, our community, and the future we are building together.

A key focus of my platform is educator sustainability. We have incredible staff in Frederick County, but too many are burning out, and asked to do more with less. I want to work with fellow Board members to champion fair compensation, strong support,

and healthy workplace conditions that attract and retain the very best educators.

I'm also thinking about innovation and long-term planning. From expanding career and technical education to strengthening academic support systems, I want us to be bold in our vision and practical in our steps. We must plan carefully for growth and ensure that all our schools, from the newest to the oldest, are equitably resourced so that every student has the same opportunities.

None of this happens in isolation. That's why I'm committed to communication and collaboration. I want to foster stronger partnerships between schools and families, educators and administrators, and the Board and the broader community.

I want to keep listening, really listening, to what's working and what's not. Leadership isn't about having all the answers. It's about asking the right questions and growing with the people you serve.

At the end of the day, I'm running because I believe in public education. I believe in the brilliance of our students, the dedication of our educators, and the strength of our neighborhoods. And I believe that when we keep people as our focus, not politics, we can build a school system that reflects the best of who we are and the brightest of who we can become.

If you'd like to learn more or get involved, please visit aGoodDay-ForFrederick.com. I look forward to earning your vote!

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**Town of Thurmont Parks & Recreation**  
**"A Day in the Park"**  
for children ages 6-12  
at the **Community Park** in Thurmont  
**8:30 to noon** in rain or shine!

This year's program will be held for one week during each month of the summer from 8:30 to noon. Registration is limited to 30 children and closes the week prior to programming. The fee for each week-long program is \$55. All participants receive an official "A Day in the Park" t-shirt, knapsack, and more! See what's new this year!

**Registration is open!**

**WEEK ONE: June 23-27**  
Registration closes June 15<sup>th</sup>  
**Wild Wonders Week** - Exciting adventures where kids become nature explorers, scavenger hunting in the woods, exploring plants and animals, building habitats, and engaging with the natural world!

**WEEK TWO: July 14-18**  
Registration closes July 6<sup>th</sup>  
**Eco-Quest Expedition** - A fun-filled journey where kids solve nature's mysteries, learn survival skills, and take on exciting eco-challenges like building a pollinator garden and supporting native wildlife!

**WEEK THREE: August 4-8**  
Registration closes July 27<sup>th</sup>  
**Mad Scientist in the Wild** - A wacky, activity-packed week where kids mix nature and science with solar-powered inventions and hands-on outdoor fun dissecting flowers, building birdhouses, and studying insect superpowers!

Stop by the Town Office at 615 East Main Street between 8 & 4 Monday through Friday to pick up the registration packet or call 301-271-7313, press 0, and a packet can be sent to you.

For more information or if you have questions about the program, please email:  
[ADayintheParkThurmont@gmail.com](mailto:ADayintheParkThurmont@gmail.com)



ARTS

Majestic’s Summer Classic Movies return!

Classic movies return to the Majestic’s beautiful 1925 theater every Wednesday this summer! Following in the tradition that was begun by the Majestic’s Founding Executive Director, Jeffrey Gabel, and inspired by the history of Ike and Mamie Eisenhower attending westerns at the Majestic on Wednesdays; this summer’s offering represents six different decades of American film across several genres.

The season kicks off on June 4 with the classic film noir from 1949, *The Third Man*. Post-war Vienna is the shadowy backdrop for Holly Martins (Joseph Cotten) to investigate the murder of his old pal, Harry Lime (Orson Welles). The mystery unfolds to a jaunty yet moody score performed on the zither by Anton Karas. Pulp novelist Holly Martins travels to shadowy, postwar Vienna, only to find himself investigating the mysterious death of an old friend, Harry Lime.

The *Great Outdoors* (1988) - June 11. Dan Akroyd and John Candy demonstrate how funny it can be when family vacations go wrong in the 1988 family comedy, *The Great Outdoors*. A Chicago man and his family go on their summer lake vacation in Wisconsin when his obnoxious brother-in-law and their family show

up to upend the plans for wholesome family fun. Hotdogs are traded for lobsters before tempers flare.

*Strangers on a Train* (1951) – June 18. Film noir returns with the 1951 psychological thriller by the master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock, in his *Strangers on a Train*. A psychopath tries to recruit a tennis player to collaborate on the perfect crime- a double murder where they both murder the other’s most hated person. His plan is relatively simple: Two strangers each agree to kill someone the other person wants gone. For example, Guy could kill his father and he could get rid of Guy’s wife Miriam, freeing him to marry Anne Morton, the beautiful daughter of a U.S. Senator.

*Sister Act* (1992) – June 25. The month of June is book ended by the oldest and newest films of the 2025 season concluding with the 1992 musical, *Sister Act*. Whoopi Goldberg plays a nightclub singer who finds herself entering a convent while in hiding from the mob. The convent’s Mother Superior (Dame Maggie Smith) reluctantly takes her in despite not looking or acting like a typical nun. Musical hilarity ensues as she upends the modesty and rigidity of the nunnery, turning the convent’s

choir into a soulful chorus. Vespers are traded for Motown in this fun film that will have the Majestic’s audiences dancing in their seats!

*Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* (1989) - On July 2. The 1989 family comedy, *Honey I Shrunk the Kids* tells the story of the inventor and father, Professor Wayne Szalinski (Rick Moranis) whose new invention shrinks his teenage kids, who find themselves on a great adventure in their own backyard. Now, to return to the relative safety of their home while being reduced to a mere quarter-inch size, they must venture out into the dense and perilous landscapes of their now-immense yard: a hostile environment where nearly everything spells trouble. Can they exit the green maze of grass in one piece?

*The Omega Man* (1971) - July 9. Charleston Heston portrays the last man on Earth in 1971’s *The Omega Man*, only he is not alone! Dr. Robert Neville has developed an experimental vaccine which makes him the only immune survivor of a biological catastrophe. A gang of homicidal mutants blame science for their condition and attempt to kill him. This action-packed dystopian sci-fi ends with an iconic motorcycle chase just in time for Gettysburg Bike Week.

*The NeverEnding Story* (1984) - July 16. Imagination becomes reality as a troubled boy dives into a wondrous fantasy world through the pages of a mysterious book in 1984’s epic fantasy, *The Never-Ending Story*. This cult classic has reminded generations of daydreamers to embrace their imagination and sense of adventure.

*Gremlins* (1984) – July 23. Celebrate Christmas in July with another hit from 1984, Stephen Spielberg’s *Gremlins*. After receiving an exotic small animal as a Christmas gift, a young man inadvertently breaks three important rules concerning his new pet, which unleashes a horde of malevolently mischievous creatures on a small town.

*Harold and Maude* (1971) - July 30. The month concludes with the sounds of Cat Stevens who scored the 1971 idiosyncratic counter culture gem, *Harold and Maude*. Young, rich, and obsessed with death, Harold finds himself changed forever when he meets lively septuagenarian Maude at a funeral. This quirky black comedy/romance by Hal Ashby introduces us to a young adult, preoccupied by death and his unlikely companion, an older woman whose obsession with living life on her own terms.

*Spaceballs* (1987) – August 6. After appearances earlier in the series, a diminutive Rick Moranis, and fuzzy John Candy in Mel Brooks’ quirky parody from 1987, *Spaceballs*. A star-pilot for hire and his trusty sidekick must come to the rescue of a princess and save Planet Druidia from the clutches of the evil *Spaceballs*.

*The Magnificent Seven* (1960) – August 13. Paying homage to the days when Ike and Mamie Eisenhower attended westerns at the Majestic, the star-studded *The Magnificent Seven* takes us back to our roots with one of the greatest westerns ever made. Seven gunfighters are hired by Mexican peasants to liberate their village from oppressive bandits. Yul Brynner and Steve McQueen star in this retelling of the original samurai film.

*Ghost* (1990) - The season closes with the unexpected blockbuster of 1990, *Ghost*. Re-live the iconic moments from this romantic drama starring Demi Moore, Patrick Swayze, and Whoopi Goldberg. After a young man is murdered, his spirit stays behind to warn his lover of impending danger, with the help of a reluctant psychic.

Tickets can be purchased in person at the Majestic Box Office at 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, or online at [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org).

Totem Pole Playhouse celebrates its Diamond Anniversary

Totem Pole Playhouse is turning 75—and it’s going to be one unforgettable summer. With a lineup packed with musicals, comedy, variety, and a brand-new Tuesday night series, Pennsylvania’s premiere summer theatre is celebrating its Diamond Anniversary in sparkling style.

“We’ve packed this season with blockbuster titles, beloved artists,

and big surprises. From jukebox musicals to magical Tuesdays, it’s going to be a party all summer long—and we want everyone to come celebrate with us!” said Producing Artistic Director Ryan B. Gibbs.

The 75th season opens May 30 with *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (only 12 performances, May 30–June 8), the story of four best friends

who sing at their high school prom (1958) and reunite a decade (1968) later to perform again. This jukebox joyride is a tribute to anyone who still keeps in touch with their best friends from high school—and it’s the perfect throwback to launch a season about memories and music.

From there, the tempo picks up with 9 to 5: *The Musical* (20 performances, June 20–July 6), featuring music and lyrics by Dolly Parton. With strong women, big laughs, and even bigger hair, this workplace revenge fantasy is set to break Totem Pole’s group sales record—so don’t wait too long to grab those tickets!

Up next is Alfred Hitchcock’s *The 39 Steps* (only 12 performances, July 18–July 27), a fast-paced comedy murder mystery where four actors take on performing over 50 characters in a nonstop whirlwind of espionage, slapstick, and surprises.

Beautiful: *The Carole King Musical* (20 performances, August 8–24) tells the inspiring life story of the groundbreaking singer-songwriter behind the soundtrack of a

generation. Filled with chart-topping hits and woven together like a musical “tapestry”, this Broadway smash is a heartfelt celebration of creativity, resilience, and finding your own voice.

Closing the mainstage season is *Diamond: The Neil Diamond Tribute* starring Scott Moreau (only 8 performances, August 27–August 31). With all the hits you know by heart—and happening on a literal hot August night—this show is the ultimate capstone to our Diamond Anniversary. Coincidence? We don’t think so.

Alongside these mainstage blockbusters, Totem Pole proudly debuts *Tucked Away Tuesdays*—a brand-new series of short-run shows with surprising acts, affordable pricing, and only two performances each:

Marc Cordes: *The Spouse Whisperer* (June 10) – A family-friendly comedian delivering hilarious, insightful relationship advice.

Brady & Caroline’s *Piano Bar Duo* (July 8) – A cruise-ship-on-land musical experience with

sing-along favorites and powerhouse vocals.

Boston Bachert’s *Variety Show* (July 29) – An unforgettable experience of magic, juggling, comedy, and all-around amazement.

Totem Pole audiences will recognize favorite performers like Amy Decker, Hannah Taylor, Taylor Whidden, Sam Little, Scott Moreau, Jason Cohen, Damon Bonetti, and Mallory Hawks. Every mainstage show is directed by an artist with Broadway experience, and the company includes performers with similar Broadway, national tour, and international shows on their resumes—as well as over 30 local artists and technicians bringing their talent home to the mountain.

For 75 years, Totem Pole Playhouse has been a cultural beacon in the region, best known for its years under the stewardship of Bill Putch and Jean Stapleton, followed by beloved leaders Carl Schurr and Wil Love. Today, Producing Artistic Director Ryan B. Gibbs is guiding the next chapter of this treasured institution.

“This milestone season is a tribute to the vision and care of the incredible artists who built Totem Pole’s legacy. We’re honored to stand on their shoulders as we bring fresh energy, joy, and heart to our stage for the next generation,” said Gibbs.

Totem Pole has built this season specially for our community in Central PA and Northern MD—this show-stopping season has all tickets on sale now.

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MOUNT ARTS

Totempole Playhouse presents the Marvelous Wonderettes

Your Favorite Oldies Come to Life in This High-Energy, Hometown Musical Hit!

The Marvelous Wonderettes brings four powerhouse voices, prom night drama, and nonstop nostalgia to Totem Pole Playhouse this summer, launching its 75th Anniversary Season with toe-tapping joy. Running for 12 performances only from May 30 through June 8, this charming jukebox musical will have you singing along with hits like “Lollipop,” “Stupid Cupid,” “It’s My Party,” and “Son of a Preacher Man.”

Set in 1958 at the Springfield High School prom, the show fol-

lows four best friends—Suzy, Missy, Betty Jean, and Cindy Lou—as they navigate crushes, friendship, and life’s unexpected turns. Ten years later, they reunite for their high school reunion, bringing heart, humor, and harmonies that never go out of style. With over 30 classic hits from the ‘50s and ‘60s, this musical is a jukebox love letter to simpler times.

The cast features Katie Sexton as Suzy (Broadway: The Play That Goes Wrong), Jessica Wagner as Missy (National Tour: The Phantom of the Opera), Carolyn Anne Miller as Cindy Lou (Frozen: Dis-

ney Cruise Lines), and Beth DeMichele as Betty Jean (National Tour: Pete the Cat) and local sensation Carly Paige Lafferty as the “Wonderstudy.” The production is directed by Ryan B. Gibbs, Totem Pole’s Producing Artistic Director, whose credits include Wicked, Rent, and productions for Disney Theatricals and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

“Four girls. One stage. A whole lot of heart—The Marvelous Wonderettes is everything we love about live theatre,” said Gibbs. “Opening our 75th season with this production is a celebration

of community, memory, and the timeless magic of great music.”

“With over 30 classic hits from the ‘50s and ‘60s, this musical is a jukebox love letter to simpler times.

“This show captures the joy and spirit that Totem Pole has shared with generations of local families—singing, laughing, and celebrating together.”

The Marvelous Wonderettes was created by Roger Bean and first premiered at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater in 1999 before becoming an Off-Broadway hit in 2008. Bean’s clever concept and direction launched a string of

sequels and adaptations celebrating retro girl groups and the music that defined an era.

Perfect for all ages—especially couples, date nights, mother-daughter outings, and group reunions—this lighthearted musical reminds us that some friendships and songs never fade.

*Tickets are on sale now at [www.totempoleplayhouse.org](http://www.totempoleplayhouse.org) or by calling the Box Office at 717-352-2164. Press and media are encouraged to attend, cover the event, or schedule interviews with the cast and creative team.*

WOB presents Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella

As The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre continues its 2025 Season, this summer, the theatre will present a new staging of Rodgers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella – The Broadway Musical. The revised version of the classic musical opens June 20th and runs through August 16th.

Rodgers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella - The Broadway Musical is the 2013 Broadway adaptation of the classic musical that tells the timeless story of a kind and mistreated young woman who, with the help of her Fairy Godmother, is able to attend the royal ball where she captivates the heart of the Prince, while opening his eyes to injustices throughout his kingdom. With a revised book by Douglas Carter Beane, this is a fresh-telling of a favorite tale.

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Outer Critics Circle Award nominations (winning Outstanding Costume Design - Long).

Leading the cast in the title role will be Emily Flack, who made her WOB debut last season as the Grand Duchess Anastasia in Anastasia. She will be joined on stage by Randy Stull as Prince Topher, Jessica Billones as the Fairy Godmother, Sarah Melinda as Madame, Kaley Harman as Gabrielle, Melissa Ann Martin as Charlotte, Kyle Donovan as Jean-Michel, Steve Steele as Sebastian, and Dominic Massimino as Lord Pinkleton. Rounding out the cast will be MacKenzie Brannen, Chris DeOcampo, Grace Guzman, Piper Guzman, Nathan Pitzer, and Tristan Vail.

This version of Cinderella has

music by Richard Rodgers and an original book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, with revisions by Douglas Carter Beane. Way Off Broadway’s production is under the direction of Bill Kiska, the theatre’s Executive Producer, with music direction by Tina M. Bruley and choreography by Dee Buchanan.

The show will run June 20 –

August 16, with performance every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of month. Tickets on a Friday or Sunday are \$60 per person and \$65 on Saturdays.

*To learn more about Cinderella, or any of Way Off Broadway’s productions this season visit [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).*



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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Spring sports proceed to regionals!

Richelle Zheng  
CHS Class of 2025

The school year may be coming to an end, but Catoctin’s softball and unified track teams are indestructible as they move onwards to regionals! The softball team also proceeded to states on May 24 at the University of Maryland, representing Catoctin High School on live television! Nevertheless, these student athletes are all unstoppable as they continue to put in the work in both academics and sports!

Softball

On April 26, the junior varsity Lady Cougars competed against the Boonsboro Warriors. The game began with a slow start as the girls did not score their first run until the bottom of the fourth inning. Sophia Perez and Logyn Thomas each scored a run, with Perez doubling to center field and Thomas singling to the left side of the infield. Corine Jewell was the starting pitcher. With the success of her incredible pitches, she was able to strike out five batters and walk two. However, the Warriors managed six hits and three runs throughout seven innings. The back-to-back lineup with Perez and Thomas gave the Warriors a tough time since they are both strong batters, both allowing one run batted in for the team. Additionally, Perez led the team in hits, making three out of three hits! The Cougars defeated the Warriors 3-2, with the top contributors being Perez and Thomas!

Just a few days after prom night, the girls put their game faces back on as they went to take on Williamsport High School on April 28. Up at the plate, junior Cassidy Kreitz led the team by making four hits, which allowed for a home run, two doubles, and four runs batted in! In addition, Bralyn West and senior Madison Ohler both contributed three hits. West’s strong performance allowed for a triple, and Ohler’s hits drove in

three runs. Senior Taylor Smith made two home runs and allowed for six runs batted in, driving in the most runs! Kelsey Roberts contributed to the team’s success by making two doubles and three runs batted in. Junior Tatiana Owens made two hits, one of which included a double. Highlights from the field include Smith’s incredible strength, allowing Catoctin to obtain the win by throwing two innings and striking out all six batters she pitched for! Then, Caitlynn Stambaugh finished off the rest of the game, pitching for three innings and making one strikeout. During the final three innings, the Williamsport Wildcats made two hits and one earned run. Behind the plate was Charley Keilholtz, who was the catcher for both pitchers. The Lady Cougars showed off their strength and agility in this game, taking the win from the Wildcats, 22-1!

The Lady Cougars headed to regionals on May 15 to play against South Carroll High School. At bat, West and Kelsey Roberts both made two hits each, with a home run! Smith also contributed another home run. Kreitz and Stambaugh both made one hit. Additionally, senior Madison Ott added to the team with a hit as well. Roberts and Smith both made two runs batted in. Then, with all bases loaded, the South Carroll Cavaliers intentionally threw Smith a softball, making her walk. Over on the field, Smith came in clutch, pitching all innings of a game and allowing three hits, which were all shutouts. She also had eleven strikeouts. Keilholtz remained tough behind the plate, catching Smith’s brutal throws. The Lady Cougars took the victory against the Cavaliers, 6-1, allowing their Central Maryland Conference record to remain undefeated!

The girls then went on to play against Fallston High School on May 17 and won 9-0. Highlights from the offensive plays



The Lady Cougars celebrate their regional victory!

include senior Abagayle Shives leading the team by making four hits, which drove in three runs! Kreitz made two hits during the game, and seniors Aubrie Courtney and Kenzie Lewis both hit a double, driving in one run each. Ott made a hit with two runs batted in, and Ryleigh Hammond hit a single with a run batted in. On the field, Smith’s aggressive throws led the opponents to be unable to hit any balls back, causing a no-hit shutout. In total, Smith made sixteen strikeouts, with the sixth strikeout marking her 700th career strikeout! Catoctin can not wait to see what the University of Virginia, a division I school, has awaiting for Smith!

Unified Track

On Tuesday, April 29, the unified track team competed in the county tournament against Frederick High School and Maryland School for the Deaf. Vinny Perella was the first to run. He competed in the 100-meter run and made a great start to the meet by placing third! Additionally, Lucas Phelan worked hard to beat his personal record and placed second in the same event! On the same note, senior Chad Zimmerman hit a new personal best as well and placed second in the 100-meter event. CJ Endlich placed second, and Falyn Zimmerman made a new personal record for himself and placed third in the 100-meter run. Then, in the 200-meter run, John Greenwell and James Grossnickle were

head-to-head, competing for the first-place spot. Their friendly competition against each other drove them to make new personal bests! This exhilarating contest ended with Greenwell taking first and Grossnickle right behind him in second. Shay Johnson dominated the 400-meter event as he showed great agility, placing first! In the 4x100-meter relay event, the team of Phelan, senior Josh Ramos, Falyn Zimmerman, and Chad Zimmerman worked together and placed second, setting a new team record! For the 4x200-meter relay, Greenwell, Endlich, Grossnickle, and Johnson swiftly transferred the baton to one another and placed first, also with a new team record! On the field, Maria Perella competed in the softball throw event. Her incredible strength allowed her to place first, with Vinny Perella coming in third. Greenwell, Chad Zimmerman, and Josh Ramos all participated in the shot-put event. Taking the medal was Greenwell in first, then Zimmerman in second, and Ramos in third. In the mini javelin category, Johnson took first place, and Grossnickle and Phelan both tied for third. Additionally, Grossnickle, Falyn Zimmerman, and Phelan each threw new personal bests! Endlich competed in the running long jump and came in first place! Although Catoctin is a small team, they are all incredibly hardworking and unstoppable, allowing them to claim the Division III, Frederick

County Unified Track and Field Championship!

Later, on May 15, the unified track team took to regionals! The meet was held at Prince George’s Sports and Learning Complex with the Cougars competing in the 2025 Interscholastic Unified Track and Field State High School Invitational! Division I schools included Catoctin High School, Parkdale High School, Southern Garrett High School, Largo High School, Wise High School, and Maryland School for the Deaf. The Cougars began their competition out on the field with Maria Perella and Vinny Perella starting in the softball throw event. Maria took second place and Vinny took third. Next, in the shot-put category, Catoctin was represented by Ramos, Greenwell, and Chad Zimmerman. These three athletes stole the top three spots as Ramos placed first, Greenwell second, and Zimmerman third. In the mini javelin Grossnickle’s incredible strength landed him the first place spot! Following not far behind were Johnson in second and Falyn Zimmerman in third. Endlich took on the running long jump event and placed second. These incredible athletes all pushed themselves to great distances, allowing them to gain new personal bests and get silver at regionals!

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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MOUNT SPORTS

Baseball falls in single elimination after stellar 2025 season

Steve Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

While the national pastime transitions from the gleeful spectacle of hope and possibility into the doldrums of the mid-season push to the All-Star break, college baseball ramps up with conference tournaments and regional playoffs, with the final stage of the super-regional playoffs before the culmination of more than a year's work in the College World Series. Emmitsburg is no different, as Mount St. Mary's baseball were set to once again challenge for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference title, eventually falling to Marist in the single elimination round by a score of 12-3 in Pomona, New York. But how did the team get there and how did they fare in the cold of western Maryland against the rest of their opponents in conference play?

Before April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Mountaineers had an overall record of 16-26 with a MAAC record of 9-12. With an opening series sweep against Norfolk State and an early series win against Saint Joseph's, the Mount found themselves falling into a little bit of a rut, losing four combined games against Stetson and Indiana as well as an opening conference series loss to Sacred Heart. After a 9-3 loss to Maryland in College Park on March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Mount drew a further record of 6-9 before being swept in Ann Arbor by Michigan, only posting 10 total hits against the Wolverines in three games.

Fortunes seemed to change for the Mountaineers on April 30<sup>th</sup> after the team posted a 25-16 scoreline at home against Georgetown, beating the Hoyas with 20 hits on the day. After giving up two runs to Georgetown in the first inning, the runs for the Mount started to pour in during the bottom of the inning after Ty Fredo hit a Grand Slam to take a 4-2 lead. A game-tying, two-run shot in the top of the third by the Hoyas was swiftly canceled out as Mateo Zeppieri singled down the right field line to score Sam Grube. The next at bat, Bryce Rudisill promptly dispatched a ball over the fence for a three-run home run, now cementing an 8-4 lead.

Georgetown went on to score seven runs in the top of the fourth, taking an 11-8 lead less than halfway through the game. Over the next three innings, nine Mountaineers crossed the plate. It started with Alex Mendes scoring from third on an overthrow from the catcher, followed up by a Zeppieri home run in the bottom of the fourth. A Mendes single that scored Evan Smith was followed up by three walks, a hit by pitch, and a wild pitch, driving in six more runs in the bottom of the fifth to make it a 15-11 Mountaineer lead. Three more runs came across the plate before Ty Fredo doubled off the left field wall, driving in Rudisill, Zeppieri, and Nolan Book in the bottom of the eighth. Before the inning was

over, Smith, Grube, and Mendes singled, driving in three more runs while rounding out an eventful marathon of base path action.

After their beat down of the Hoyas, the Mount went on a run, winning six of their last seven games including notable series win Quinnipiac and a sweep of Saint Peter's. In their last game of the year against Manhattan on May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Mount clinched a their second MAAC postseason berth in as many years in a 7-6 win in 10 innings.

After the cancelled first day of the series on Thursday due to field conditions, the Jaspers took an early 2-0 lead through the first two innings of game one on Friday. The scoreless run for the Mountaineers was finally broken as Alex Mendes hit out a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the third, scoring Kyle Cincinnati for the Mount's first run. Later in the inning, Bryce Rudisill singled through the right side of the infield to score Evan Meier to tie the game at 2-2.

In the bottom of the fifth, Mendes singled through the left side of the infield, scoring Cincinnati and Sam Grube to take a two-run lead. The Mount poured on more in the inning as Rudisill ground out to second, driving in Mendes for a 5-2 lead. The Jaspers went onto score two in the top of the sixth to make it 5-4, but with the bases juiced in the top of the seventh, Josh Halcsak worked himself out of a sticky situation, striking out the final batter in the inning.

The bottom of the seventh started off well for the Mount, as Evan Meier was driven in by a Mendes hard-hit single up the middle to add to the lead. But a top of the ninth rally by Manhattan saw two visitor runs come



Ty Fredo after his solo home run in the single elimination game against Marist.

across the plate to relinquish the Mount lead and force extras.

Coming into relieve Halcsak out of the bullpen, Maximus McCrary pitched to a one, two, three inning, fanning the leadoff man while producing a ground out and a fly out. Mendes drew a walk to start the bottom of the tenth followed by a Rudisill hit by pitch two put two men on base. A double steal was put in motion, putting both men into scoring position. Then, after much deliberation from the Manhattan coaching staff, putting five men into the infield, Logan Yi pitched a hit for Sam Dinitz with zero outs on the board. After taking a first pitch ball, Yi laid down a bunt in front of the plate with enough back spin to completely halt the ball in between the pitcher and catcher, scoring Mendes from third while sending the Mount dugout into pandemonium over the walk-off bunt.

Leaving for the conference playoffs in New York, the Mount saw themselves ranked a sixth seed against the seventh seed Marist Red Foxes. The Mountaineer bats started the game off in the bottom of the

first after a Nolan Book Single to center field scored Alex Mendes for an early 1-0 lead. But Marist struck back in the top of the second when two runs came in after an error was made by Fredo at third off a bat hop from the dirt. The Red Foxes went onto score another run in the top of the third before falling silent for an inning. Ty Fredo hit out a solo home run into the left field bleachers during the bottom of the fourth inning to cut the deficit to one only for Marist to strike again in the top of the fifth to make it 4-2.

After a shutout sixth inning from both teams, the Red Foxes jumped ahead in the seventh and eighth inning, scoring four runs and three runs in each respective inning. The Red Foxes scored one more run in the top of the ninth, mak-

ing it a 12-2 ball game headed into the bottom of the inning. Down by 10 runs, Head Coach Frank Leoni decided to put his seniors into the game for their final appearance as college baseball players. Earlier in the ninth, Tommy Moore was called out of the bullpen, striking out a batter. Danny Salisbury came in from the bullpen a few at bats later and got out of the inning. Logan Yi and Nick Fleming were pinch hit in the bottom of the ninth, with Yi being hit by a pitch and scoring a run off of a single from Kyle Cincinnati, ending the Mount's scoring efforts on the day, losing the game 12-3.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Artificial or natural intelligence, you choose

Jefferson Breland

I can't tell you how disappointed I was to discover that I did not invent the phrase, "Natural Intelligence." I really thought I was onto something.

A few weeks ago, I was sitting at my dining room table musing about the world, the meaning of life, and what to have for breakfast.

In one of my online newspapers, I saw a headline about Artificial Intelligence (AI). I thought, "If there is AI, there must be "Natural Intelligence."

It occurred to me this natural intelligence is the very same thing I have been rambling about in the pages of this newspaper and in my treatment room with my patients for years. Our bodies are wise and our symptoms are our teachers. Our bodies provide real-time feedback on the state of our being using our natural intelligence.

This is the same natural intelligence that has allowed the human race to survive for approximately 300,000 years. (Google's AI gave me this statistic)

I am admittedly a person of old fashioned tastes.

I wear wrist watches without batteries that just tell the time. I have and sometimes use a typewriter from the 1940's. I have film cameras and prefer black and white film. I have a collection of fountain pens I use. I shave with a single-edged safety razor. I also use a shaving brush and shaving soap. I read books, actual books made of paper. I practice one of the world's

oldest continually practiced forms of medicine.

It is, therefore, not a stretch to guess I have a few reservations of this newfangled technology named of AI.

Curiously, AI is not newfangled. According to Britannica.com, the fundamental idea of a machine that could search, learn, analyze text and images, solve problems, make choices in a manner similar to the human brain was first described in 1935 by the British mathematician and logician, Alan Turing.

Turing's ideas were expanded during the 1940s and were the foundation of modern computers and computer science as well as being instrumental in WWII code breaking efforts.

The specific term "artificial intelligence" was coined in 1956 by a couple of nerds according to Wikipedia.

What's newfangled is its prevalence. AI is here. It's everywhere. There is no getting around it. AI is with us for at least the next few weeks.

In healthcare, AI is being used for a wide variety of purposes. According to the AI-generated Google search, these include - diagnostic assistance, drug research, personalized treatment plans, chatbots and virtual health assistants, robot-assisted surgery, medical education, clinical trials, and NLP (Natural Language Processing) which allows computers to process huge amounts of data and create reports.

In some of these instances, there is clear evidence that the analytical capabilities of AI surpass human abilities.

In the journal, Bioengineering, an article entitled, "How Artificial Intel-

ligence Is Shaping Medical Imaging Technology: A Survey of Innovations and Applications," discusses one such example.

It states, "One of the key advantages of AI in medical imaging is its ability to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of disease diagnosis. Through this process, AI can assist healthcare professionals in detecting abnormalities, identifying specific structures, and predicting disease outcomes."

There is no doubt that the massive computing power of AI provides a huge benefit in our fast-paced medical system.

And, the AI is only as good as the data it analyzes.

AI is also subject to the laws of "The Butterfly Effect." This theory states that a small change in the data can lead to catastrophic shifts in the outcome of a computation. This was first observed by a research meteorologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology named Edward Lorenz in 1961.

Lorenz ran mathematical computer simulations of weather. He discovered subtle changes in the initial data of his simulations would lead to dramatic differences in weather predictions over time. The longer the program ran, the bigger the differences. This is still the case in weather reports. There are so many variables, it is impossible to make completely accurate predictions.

So, AI is not foolproof. The Google "AI Overview" even makes a disclaimer "AI responses may include mistakes."

It seems all technology, however



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For more information about Maise 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!

advanced, shares with its human creators and counterparts the humbling ability to get stuff wrong.

We "Ooh and aah," about the latest technologies forgetting that we created and accomplished amazing things with only pencil and paper and our human natural intelligence.

Einstein used his Natural Intelligence, his imagination to create the Theory of Relativity. He did the calculations for it using only pencil and paper, mathematical tables, and a slide rule.

Now you may say, "I'm no Einstein," and you would be correct. There was and will only ever be one Albert Einstein who created the Theory of Relativity in the history of the Universe.

The same can be said of you. You are the only you that ever was, is, or will be in the history of the Universe.

And both, you and Einstein, share the same Natural Intelligence of the human body. We share the same natural intelligence that has allowed the human race to survive hundreds of millennia.

This intelligence is the wisdom stored in our DNA passed down through the generations. Remember DNA is only a probability. For the most part, it is not an inevitability. The DNA we have inherited has both the potential for disease or health. Generally speaking, our DNA will express itself based on how we live our life.

This wisdom is waiting for us to use it to stay healthy so that we can live to pass on this wisdom through our children and our children's children. This wisdom is expressed by what our bodies feel. It is expressed in our symptoms both comfortable and not comfortable.

We rarely think of feeling good as a symptom. It is an indication that we are doing something which helps our body, mind, and spirit.

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) defines a symptom as: "a physical or mental feature which is regarded as indicating a condition of disease, particularly such a feature that is apparent to the patient."

Why does it only have to be a "con-

dition of a disease?" It is simply an indication of the state of our being. It is also how we know we are doing well, are happy.

Sadly, in our modern times we often define our health by lack of or degree of disease or pain. We quantify our health by diagnoses or the number of medications we are on. What if we defined health by the quality of our life, not by the lack of quality?

The more we can learn to trust our symptoms, our body's wisdom, the less we will have to rely on someone else or a technology to tell us what our bodies already know.

Great, this is all well and good. How do we achieve this?

We do it by reconnecting to our Natural Intelligence.

Intelligence has a bad rap. We think it has to do with being "smart." At some point in human history someone defined that intelligence had to do something with standardized knowledge and taking tests. I disagree.

Intelligence simply refers to our ability to understand. We all understand things slightly differently in our own unique way.

The OED defines natural as "Existing in, determined by, conforming to, or based on nature... existing or present by nature; inherent in the very constitution of a person or thing; innate; not acquired or assumed."

I love this. Combine the definitions of natural and intelligence and it simply means understanding that which is already present in us. It is already here.

There is no studying. No testing.

Natural intelligence is simply waking up and paying attention to what we experience in our bodies.

The body never lies. Our body always tell the truth whether we like it or not. What we do with this truth is entirely up to us.

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

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No matter what, age catches up with all of us. As we age balance becomes more important to our overall health. Around the age of 35 our balance begins to change at a very slow rate and we may not notice it until we get older. I'm not saying we will stumble and fall or are not be able to walk a straight line, but ever so slightly we lose a little more stability as we age. I have written about balance and aging before but I believe it is important to have a reminder. We have heard so many facts about what we should be doing to improve or maintain our health but sometimes we need to hear them again. It is never too late to start working on keeping and improving our balance so hopefully you won't fall or if you do, your muscles will be in good shape and the healing process may be a little shorter. Strength training, yoga, t'ai chi and stretching are great ways to work on balance as well as keeping our muscles strong. One simple way to keep our balance in top shape is to stand on one foot while washing dishes or waiting in the check-out line at the store. You don't have to raise your foot very high to engage the stabilization muscles on the leg you are standing on to strengthen them and your core muscles. Tighten your core

muscles as you walk around or even as you sit. Working on and keeping a strong core will help with balance as well as helping the rest of your body stay in the best shape possible. Stepping up and down on a stair or a sidewalk curb is also a great way to work on balance. This will strengthen your legs, core and feet muscles and give you practice going up and down which is where many falls occur. Keeping your leg muscles in good shape help you get up and down in a chair, go up and down stairs as well as being able to keep going for those walks many people enjoy. Walking is not only good for cardio but also for lungs and overall health. Many people cannot run, ride a bike or do other more strenuous activities but most of us can walk and that is all we need. Don't wait until you are not able to go for a walk and wish you could. I remember my grandmother saying "if I could only walk better". She had trouble with her knees and didn't keep them moving. After a while she just couldn't walk well enough to go for a walk. She even had trouble just walking around the house. I see many people having trouble walking on uneven sidewalks or ground at outside events. This keeps some people from enjoying time with their friends and family just because they have trouble walking. Don't

wait until you have fallen and injured yourself to start working on improving your balance. Start today with a short walk and work your way up. Challenging yourself to adding five minutes every few days will help you increase your time and distance till you reach your goal. If you have ever had an injury you know it takes time to recuperate and it takes time to increase

your walking distance, speed and time. Another simple way to strengthen leg muscles is to sit on the couch or chair while watching TV and pump your leg up and down and back and forth like you are pressing on the gas and brake peddle of your car. This motion will work the quadricep and hamstring muscles as well as the muscles around your knee. It doesn't seem like much but you will feel it the next day. Doing this simple movement a few times a week will strengthen your leg muscles and keep them in good shape to help your balance. Don't give up, keep moving forward and get back to the best strength and condition you can. There is always a safe way to exercise and work on what is challenging your health. If you have any questions about getting started just call me at 717-334-6009 and remember to Keep Moving.



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of June

Professor Wayne Wooten

For June 2025, the first quarter moon is on June 2. The full moon, the Honeymoon, is June 11th. Last quarter moon is June 18th. Summer begins at 10:42 p.m. with the solstice, the longest day, with 14 hours of sunlight locally. The waning crescent moon is passing above Saturn in the dawn on June 19, and just north of Venus on June 22nd. The moon is new on June 25th. The waxing crescent moon passes Mercury in the west on June 26th.

This June Mercury passes Jupiter low in the NW at dusk on June 5th. Jupiter becomes lost in the Sun's glare for the rest of the month, but Mercury is visible low in the west for the rest of June, with the nicest grouping with the crescent moon and the Gemini, Castor and Pollux, all in a row in twilight; great photo op for smartphones! Mercury is at greatest elongation, 26 degrees east of the Sun, on July 4, but quickly gets lost in the Sun's glare by mid month.

Venus dominates the dawn sky. She reaches greatest western elongation, 46 degrees ahead of the rising sun, on June 1st, and will appear half lit in telescopes. After that, it pulls away from the earth, shrinking in size but appearing gibbous in phase for the next several months.

Mars is still visible in the western evening sky, and makes a nice grouping with Regulus in Leo on June 16th, passing just over a lunar diameter (.8 degrees) north. While comparable in brightness then, Mars of course will be much



Omega Centauri, the grandest globular cluster in the sky.

redder than blue Regulus.

While Jupiter passes directly behind the Sun on June 24th, Saturn is well placed for dawn observers, who can see the rings, edge on for the last several weeks, tilting more open each morning. The rings continue opening until their solstice in 2032, when they will tilt 27 degrees toward the Sun and more than double the planet's present brightness. It is still the brightest object in the southern fall sky now, in Pisces.

The Big Dipper is almost overhead as twilight falls, and its pointers take you north to the Pole Star. If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion is in the SW. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. 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.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. North of Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, is where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years distant.

South of Corvus lies the famed Southern Cross, but only its top three stars are BARELY visible on the Gulf horizon for us. But much of the rest of Centaurus is visible, and two notable deep sky objects beckon binocular viewers. The easiest is Omega Centauri, the grandest globular cluster in the sky. Visible as a circular blur with the naked eye, it can be resolved into some stars with even large binoculars. In my See Star S 50, it is a great sight

with clear skies, despite being only eight degrees high in the south!

Just a few degrees above Omega, Centaurus A is the most powerful radio galaxy in our neighborhood. Two great galaxies, each as massive as our own Milky Way, are colliding and merging before our eyes. In the middle is a giant elliptical, a ball of billions of older reddish stars but a thousand times more populated than Omega. Its black hole is pulling core of a spiral galaxy, not that different from our own, toward the core, while the spiral arms of the victim still lie silhouetted in front of the collision. All this collision of gas and dust is stirring up star formation at a furious pace, hence it is called a "starburst" galaxy, and its output of all forms of energy is indeed off the scale.

To the east, Hercules is well up, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega (from Carl Sagan's novel and movie, "Contact"), rises in the NE as twilight deepens. Twice as hot as our Sun, it appears blue-white, like most bright stars. They are bright because they are hot, even though on the main sequence, fusing hydrogen like our Sun, they are only a little larger than our home star.

Northeast of Lyra is Cygnus, the Swan, flying down the Milky Way. Its bright star Deneb, at the top of the "northern cross" is one of the luminaries of the Galaxy, about 50,000 times more luminous than our Sun and around 3,000 light years distant. Our solar system is orbiting the core of our own Galaxy every 250 million years, and currently moving in the direction of a point, our Apex, midway between Deneb and Vega.

Under dark skies, note the "Great Rift", a dark nebula in front of our solar system as we revolve around the core of the Milky Way in the Galactic Year of 250 million of our own years. The effect of our Sun and planets passing through such dusty regions as this is debated, and may effect our long term climate and even our Ice Ages. Warning, this cooling can not be in time to fix our present global warming issues!

To the east, Altair is the third bright star of the summer triangle. It lies in Aquila the Eagle, and is much closer than Deneb; it lies within about 13 light years of our Sun. Use your binocs to pick up many clusters in this rich region of our own Cygnus spiral arm rising now in the east. The nearest spiral arms of our Milky Way are now on the eastern horizon, and may be mistaken for a cloud rising if you are not used to the transparency of rural skies! They arc overhead in the morning hours for restless campers. To the south, Antares is well up at sunset in Scorpius.

It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Scorpius is the brightest constellation in the sky, with 13 stars brighter than the pole star Polaris! Note the fine naked eye clusters M-6 and M-7, just to the left of the Scorpion's tail. Just a little east of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which lies toward the center of the Milky Way. From a dark sky site, you can pick out the fine stellar nursery, M-8, the Lagoon Nebula, like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout.

Farmers' Almanac

"Reputation is what men know of you  
Character is what the angels know of you  
—Thomas Paine (1737-1809)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Dry and seasonable, then humid with occasional isolated afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); initially dry, very warm and humid, then a few showers, followed by dry and slightly cooler weather (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry and turning warm and humid with late day showers and thunderstorms after the 12th (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry and turning unseasonably hot and humid with mainly afternoon thunderstorms after the 19th (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); dry, warm, and humid at first, then showers and thunderstorms, then dry and turning a touch cooler and less humid (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); dry and comfortable at first, then warm and humid with scattered afternoon storms on the 29th and 30th.

**Severe Weather Watch:** The Town and Country Almanack sees severe thunderstorms in the Mid-Atlantic Region on the 23rd and the 24th of the month (23, 24).

**Full Moon:** The Full Moon in June will occur on Wednesday, June 11. It

has been known, quite famously, as Rose Moon because roses start to show their gorgeous blooms at the beginning of the month. It has also been referred to as Strawberry Moon because the first strawberries of the season become ripe for the picking in June!

**Special Notes:** The Summer Solstice that will occur on Friday, June 20th, marking the official beginning of summer. June is graduation time for many high school and college students. Celebrate this major milestone with a big party with family and friends or a very special gift. Consider marking the special year (or any special event) with a copy of the 2025 edition of the Town and Country Almanack. Go to [www.almanack.com/](http://www.almanack.com/) order and order one right now!

**Holidays:** Proudly display 'Old Glory' on Saturday, June 14th. Be sure to display it properly and reference [www.ushistory.org/betsy/more/displayonly.htm](http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/more/displayonly.htm) to be sure you're doing it right! Father's Day is Sunday, June 19th. Do something really nice for the guy who a) taught you how to ride a two-wheeler b) videotaped every sporting event or recital you ever were in, c) helped you finance that new (fill in the blank), or d) all of the above! National Independence Day, or Juneteenth, is celebrated on

Thursday in 2025. The day commemorates the ending of slavery in the United

**The Garden:** Feed roses after each bloom cycle, water regularly, and remove any spent flowers. It's not too late to start warm-season crops such as corn, beans, tomatoes, squash, peppers, and eggplant. Plant or sow summer annuals such as nasturtiums, vinca, verbena, geraniums, phlox, marigolds, lobelia, impatiens, cosmos, sunflowers, zinnias, and alyssum. Feed annuals and remove spent flowers to promote another round of flowers.

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

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COMPUTER Q&A

Windows 10 support ends in 2025

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer

It's hard to believe that Windows 10 will be 10 years old next July. Microsoft has announced that 22H2 will be the final version of Windows 10. Microsoft will continue to provide critical security updates monthly to devices that have the latest (22H2) version until the scheduled end-of-life date of October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Once this date is reached critical updates will cease leaving devices connected to the internet vulnerable to potential threats.

What can you do when Windows 10 support ends?

Once support for Windows 10 ends, users can choose to upgrade to a supported OS such as Windows 11, and switch platforms to Mac OS, Linux, or Chrome OS. Alternatively, users can opt into enrolling their up-to-date Windows 10 devices into the extended service update program which includes security and critical updates only. In the past, the extended service update program also known as ESU was a paid program that was geared towards organizations. With the Windows 10 ESU program individuals can take advantage of the extended support updates by paying an annual fee. There is no word from Microsoft on what they will charge but historically they have offered ESU plans at a tiered rate starting at \$50 for the first year and reaching \$200 for the third and final support year. With these plans reaching such high prices by the second and third years for most users it probably makes more sense to invest in upgrading or replacing devices to support Windows 11 before the software's end of life is reached in October 2025.

Is your PC compatible with Windows 11?

Not all devices that are compatible with Windows 10 will support Windows 11's hardware and security requirements. If your device is compatible with Windows 11, you will be asked to upgrade your computer to the new OS during Windows updates. If you are not being prompted to upgrade or if you would like to find out if your device is supported and what is needed to meet system requirements for Windows 11 you can download Microsoft's PC Health Check application by visiting <https://aka.ms/GetPCHHealthCheckApp> from a web browser on a Windows device. Most computers over 3-4 years old will likely not support the operating system without hardware upgrades as well as software updates. To have your computer checked by a professional for Windows 11 compatibility visit Jester's Computers located in Fairfield for a free estimate.

How long will Windows 11 be supported?

Windows 11 was released in October of 2021 and is currently on its third version 23H2. The typical life cycle of most software is 10 years of mainstream support. Looking back at prior Windows operating systems, Windows XP had 3 service packs and was in support for a total of 12 years, Windows 7 was supported for 10 years and now Windows 10 will follow suit. While there is no definitive date of when Windows 11 support will end, if users continue to keep their devices up to date they can expect that support will continue through 2031.

Should I be concerned about Windows 11?

Many end-users have expressed concerns about upgrading to Windows 11 especially surrounding security and privacy. The reason why Windows 11 is not supported on older hardware is because older hardware does not support the strict security

requirements deemed necessary by Microsoft to run Windows 11 on devices. It is true that the preferred settings of Windows 11 are configured to collect what users might consider to be an uncomfortable amount of unnecessary data. This paired with what many consider to be invasive Microsoft ads and AI integrated features has many hesitant to upgrade or use the latest Microsoft Windows operating system. The good news is that many of the settings that are configured during setup to share user data and collect optional diagnostic data can be disabled if you know how to find them and verify that those settings are no longer functioning.

*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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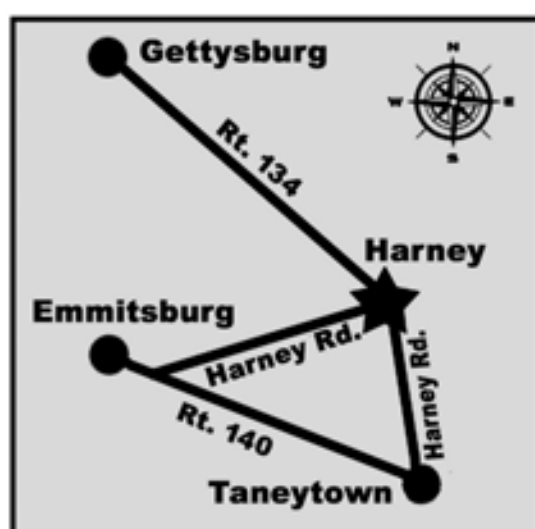
**Entertainment: Bands play from 7 - Till**

**Wednesday, June 25 - Borderline (Country)**

**Thursday, June 26 - Taylor Brown (Elvis tribute)**

**Friday, June 27 - Dixie Wind Band ( Classic country)**

**Saturday, June 28 - Cash Only (Country)**



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**915**

Graduates in the FCC Class of 2025  
*As reported by April 1, 2025*



**1,040**

Credentials Awarded to the FCC Class of 2025  
*As reported by April 1, 2025*

Top 5 Program Areas  
of Graduates:



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Technology,  
Engineering,  
and Math



Healthcare



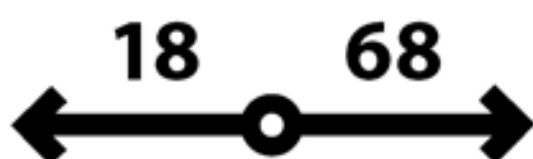
Business



Arts &  
Humanities



Social  
Sciences



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*Average age is 27*



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**36%**

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Learners  
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**2%**

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**41%**  
Male



**<1%**  
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**243**

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– Dr. Annesa Payne Cheek, FCC President

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