

Woodsboro - Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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Woodsboro VFC recognizes lifelong leadership

At its 2023 annual award banquet, the Woodsboro Volunteer Fire Company recognized Diane and Mickey Fyock for almost 40 years of service to the Company.

Mickey, the outgoing Fire Chief, was recognized by newly elected Fire Chief, James Lind, for his 40+ years of service. During his tenure, Lind said, "Frock was instrumental in building the fire company into the success it is today."

"From the time I first stepped foot into the fire hall, Mickey was ever-present. Mickey was a fixture in the company as I grew up. His dedication to service, his commitment to excellence, his high standards, have made him a role model for not only me, but for others who may one day chose to enter the fire service."

Susan Mosholder, former President of the Company, said she has known Mickey for "his entire 40 years at the department," and said, "Mickey would do anything for you, and could always be depended upon for putting the needs of the company above his own needs."

Only 575 of Walkersville's 4,672 voters, or slightly over 12 percent, participated in the February 13 special election which saw Michael McNiesh recapture the seat that was stripped from him in October for failing to attend three Town Council meetings in a row.

McNiesh received 303 of the 572 votes cast. Betsey Brannen came in second with 149 votes, David Toohey took the yellow ribbon with 42 votes, and Jason Bryant received 27.

Attention now turns to a second special election to be held on April 18 to fill the seat vacated by Michael Bailey when he resigned at the end of January prior to moving out of town.

Candidates interested in running to fill the remainder of Bailey's term must fill a Certificate of Candidacy with the town office no later than March 20.

McNiesh's win came on the heels of a decision by the Town Council to clarify language in the section of the Town Charter regarding the meaning between 'participation' and 'attendance' at town council meetings.

Following the decision of the Town Council to remove Commissioner Michael McNiesh for

Fyock, in accepting the Chief's Award, said that the proudest accomplishment of his years is the ability to say, "in all the fires I've fought, I never, ever, lost, or had a member hurt. Yes, while it's our job to protect the citizens and their property, it's the job of the Fire Chief to protect his crew. And that I did."

Mickey's wife, Diane, was recognized for her countless hours spent procuring items for the kitchen and fundraisers. Members of the company however, felt her greatest contribution was in managing her husband. "I always knew that when I could not reach Mickey, I could put in a call to Diane and my message would get delivered word for word." Said Lind. "She is a 'God Send' to the company."

JoAnn Shaffer was recognized with a Lifetime Membership award for her 20 years of service to the company. "JoAnn was a key player in all the fundraisers of the company," Lind said, "without which we would not have the money to buy new equipment or do the things we do. It's impossi-



Woodsboro Volunteer Fire Company's outgoing Chief Mickey Fyock was recognized for 40 years of dedicated service by incoming Fire Chief James Lind at the company's 2023 award banquet.

ble to overstate her importance to the company."

In reflecting upon the importance of the Fire Company for the Woodsboro community, Lind said, "Emergency services are important, and we play a pivotal role in providing that to the community. In addition, a volunteer company provides an opportunity for young people to come down and experience what being a firefighter is all about, and maybe encourage them to take it up as a career, as I did."

"But for those who can't, or don't want to be a firefighter, a volunteer company provides the opportunity for members of the community to volunteer, to give back to their community in a meaningful way," Lind explained. "A volunteer company instills a lot of positive values, like brotherhood and sisterhood."

"The fire company is a great opportunity and everyone should take part in it if they can. It is after all, all about taking care of each other."

One special council election down, one more to go

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Following the decision of the Town Council to remove Commissioner Michael McNiesh for

failing to 'attend' three council meetings in a row, discontent was felt among many in the Town. While McNiesh did 'participate' virtually, he not present physically, and therefore, according to the Charter, unable to vote, and thus marked down as not being in 'attendance'. It boiled down to the difference in interpretation of the intent of the current language in the town charter.

Under the revised language approved by the Town Council at their meeting on February 8th, Commissioners not physically present may join in on discussions via the internet or telephone, but they are prohibited from casting votes, and will not be counted as present in regards to Section 3.10, Determining of Quorum. Specifically "any Commissioner or Burgess participating via telephone or video conference pursuant to this section is also to consider to have failed to attend the meeting unless excused ... per the Forfeiture of Office Clause."

In reflecting on the rationale for his changes, Bailey said, "the more I think about what we do as a legislative body the more I think it is important for us to be present when we are able to be present. If we have conflicts and need to be excused - that is one thing -



Michael McNiesh won his Council seat back in the February 13 special election

but I think that part of the legislative process in representing our constituents is that it is important that our constituents can come sit before us and look at the whites of eyes, read our body language, and speak to us in person."

How McNiesh will navigate the new tighter attendance criteria is yet to be seen, but his ability to

do so got off to a less than auspicious start when he could not make the candidates' forum held on February 11 due to a conflict with his work schedule. However McNiesh told the News-Journal that he is no longer in training, where he had no control over his time, "now I can modify and request days off." He said.

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WOODSBORO NEWS

Council approves chickens in-town

In a three to one split decision, the Town Council agreed to move forward to the next step, the modification of the town code, for the allowance of owning chickens within town limits. Commissioner Bud Eckenrode cast the only vote in opposition.

Prior to the vote, the Commissioners reviewed and marked up the proposed 'Regulation of Fowl' ordinance, drafted by the town's Planning and Zoning Commission, which would govern the ownership of chickens.

As amended by the Town Council, property owners within the town who own less than an acre will be allowed to have 5 chickens. Owners of more than one acre will be allowed to own up to 12 chickens. Ownership of roosters is prohibited.

A majority of the requirements within the ordinance are related to ensuring the safety, health and well-being of the chickens. Especially, the ordinance lays out requirements for the minimum size of chicken coops based upon the number chickens and the size of their outdoor runs. It's important that chickens have the ability to move about, Commissioner John Cutshall said.

Chickens must be safely secured in well-constructed coops at night, and be protected at all times from attacks from wild animals, dogs and cats. In addition,

veterinary care must be provided for all sick or injured chickens.

The rights of adjacent property owners were also addressed by the proposed requirements. Specifically, when not in their pens, all chickens must be in an enclosed area to prevent them from being "free range chickens," according to Cutshall. In addition, the enclosure cannot be closer than 10 feet to an adjoining property. "While we want them to be able to move about, we don't want chickens to have the full run of someone's yard," Cutshall said.

Any odor from the chickens, including water byproducts, may not be discernable at the property line. Owners must dispose of all chicken waste, not used for fertilizer, properly. Disposal of chicken waste in the town's trash system is strictly prohibited.

The Council debated the merits of notifying adjacent property owners when a chicken permit is requested, but as Burgess Barnes pointed out, "we don't notify adjacent property owners now when someone applies for a building permit, or a permit to have a dog, so I don't see a need to do it here. Doing so will put us on a slippery slope with regards to notifications on other types of permits."

In order to obtain a town permit, owners must first register their chickens with the State's Domestic

Poultry division. Following the state registration, a resident can then apply for a town permit.

Prior to issuing a permit, the property will be inspected by the town's zoning enforcement officer to verify that the chicken coop and enclosure are compliant with all requirements.

Owners who violate any of the requirements within the new ordinance will be cited and fined, with fines increasing with each violation. An owner who is cited three times within a 12 month period will have their permit withdrawn and will be required to move their chickens outside of town limits.

If Avian Flu, a.k.a. 'Bird Flu', is detected in a flock, the flock will be destroyed. However, the ordinance is silent as to if 'flock' refers to only the chicken owned by a special individual, or all the chickens within town limits. In either case, the decision on the culling of a flock will be determined by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

A public hearing will be held, on April 11, on the proposed chicken ordinance. Following public input, the Council will make the final decision to reject or adopt the ordinance. If adopted, chicken lovers can then begin the process of bringing their chickens home to roost.

Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

P.O. Box 394
Woodsboro, Maryland 21798
301-471-3306
www.ww-nj.com

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Senior Advisors:

Boyce Rensberger
Dorothea Mordan

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

Managing Editor: McKenna Snow - MSMU Class of 2023

Assistant Editor: Claire Doll - MSMU Class of 2024

English Editor: Katie Wherley

News Reporter: Elizabeth Anderson & Audrey Shabelski, news@ww-nj.com

Graphic Design and Layout: Brian Barth, timebombstudios.com

Advertising: Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

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News Briefs...

Allowable Grass Height to Be Cut

Due to frequent complaints from residents related to adjoining property owners not cutting their lawns, town staff has recommend a change to the town code reducing the allowed height of lawns from 18 inches to 9 or 12 inches.

Burgess Barnes noted that even 12 inches was in his mind "still too high," but would defer to the input from the public on what the height should be.

A public meeting on changing the town code on allowable grass height will be held April 8. Residents will be afforded time to provide input to the Town Council.

Commissioner Dana Crum raised the possibility that since the public meeting will also include input on

the proposed Chicken Ordinance, the Town might explore updating the town code relative to unlicensed cars within town limits.

Burgess Barnes said that the current code does not allow any unlicensed cars within the town limits unless they are in a garage.

Commissioner Jesse Case asked if the code could be updated to allow owners of classic cars to simply put a cloth cover on them, instead of having to put them in a garage. Noting that there are a lot of classic car owners in town.

The Council agreed to hold off on updating the Town ordinance related to unlicensed cars until everyone could get up to speed on its current requirements.

T-Mobile Requests

Reduction In Antenna Fees

Citing its recent merger with Sprint, T-Mobile has requested the Town reduce the fees it charges the company for leasing space on the Town's water tower for cell phone repeater antennas from \$2,648/month to \$1,951/month.

Barnes suggested the Town call T-Mobile's bluff and reject the request. "What are they going to do? Go out and build their own cell tower? They are getting a great deal right now, and the \$700/month loss we would take by accepting their requested reduction would be felt by the town."

During the public comment period, Rachel Dzik raised concerns over the health effects from 'telephone related radiation' that was harming children, and suggested that before the town approved an extension to the T-Mobile antennae contract, the Town require T-Mobile pay for a physical for every resident within the town, and that if anyone developed any illness during the length of the contract,

that T-Mobile be required to pay for all their medical expenses. Barnes thanked Dzik for her suggestion.

Town Hall Update

In his monthly update on the new Town Hall, Barnes informed the Town Council that the latest site plan had to be returned to the site planner, as the current plan had no 'green space' in front of the building for a sign to be placed by the Town.

The sign, Barnes said, would be used to notify residents of upcoming events and meetings.

Once the plans are updated, Barnes said he hopes that the Planning and Zoning commission will do a preliminary approval, at which time the Town Council can be briefed in detail on the proposed design.

Town To Explore Renewal

Of Waste Water Treatment Plant Support Service Contract

Barnes informed the Council that the current Waste Water Treatment Plant

support service contractor that tests the town's water daily has increased his yearly fee from \$60,000/year to \$75,000/year.

This is the first increase in 14 years, Barnes said, recommending that the town council approve the updated contract with that amount when the current contract expires in June.

"Frankly I think we are getting a great deal, and we are not going to find anyone more supportive, or cheaper," said Barnes. Commissioner Cutshall concurred. "We have someone who currently knows our systems inside and out, and I for one am not interested in bringing in someone new, with all the problems that would bring, to save a few nickels."

The Council took Barnes and Cutshall's recommendation under advisement and will revisit the issue closer to the expiration date of the current contract.

Town To Renew CDs At Higher Rate

Until recently, the town had 10 financial 'instruments' with Woodsboro bank totaling \$2,021,949, with most earning only .05% interest. That is no longer the case, Barnes told the Council.

Town staff told the Council that in January that the Town renewed CDs the town held with Woodsboro Bank at the prevailing rate of 2.25% interest. At that rate, the CDs totaling \$869,000 will yield the town about an additional \$1,000 per month in additional income.

"\$1,000/month may seem like a small amount to some, but for a small community like Woodsboro, it's a lot," said Burgess Barnes.

In addition, the town staff has consolidated multiple accounts that it held with the bank, making it easier for the staff to track inflows and outflows from those accounts. The consolidated accounts will also be earning at an increased interest rate.

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WALKERSVILLE NEWS

Council mulls storm water improvement projects

At its February 8 meeting, the Town council was presented with four possible projects to meet the Town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) wastewater runoff reduction goals.

The Town's current MS4 permit requires the town to control the quality of storm water discharged to the storm drains and thence to waters of the Chesapeake Bay. The goal of MS4 is to reduce nutrient and sediment load runoff from within town limits.

Increased development across the Chesapeake Bay watershed has made storm water runoff the fastest growing source of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. As a result, MS4 communities such as Walkersville are required to calculate the total impervious surface acreage within its jurisdiction, and from

that, determine how much storm water runs off into existing storm water infrastructure, and from there directly into creeks and streams without treatment of any kind. The Town is then required to reduce the calculated untreated runoff by 20% by January 1, 2025.

Town staff reported the town has 281 acres of impervious surfaces, which are principally roads, parking lots, driveways, and rooftops. The 20 percent mandatory reduction resulted in the Town needing to identify at least 56.24 acres worth of land whose run off could be intercepted and treated with new and or upgraded storm water facilities prior to entering local waterways.

Projects indentified by the staff include: expanding and upgrading the existing storm water basin

in Colony Village, installing storm water basins within the open spaces in the Glade Town and Deerfield developments, and renovating the existing grass swale in Deerfield.

Unlike current storm water basins, which are dry unless filled with recent rains, the proposed upgraded storm water basin in Colony Village, and new basin in Glade Town and Deerfield developments, will be designed to contain multiple 'pools' of year-round standing water of anywhere from 1 to 2.75 feet of water.

The Town staff noted that there would be concerns over the impact that standing water will have on the mosquito population, especially near homes adjacent to the basins, but the landscaping designs for each basin would include vegetation that would

support wildlife, e.g. frogs and toads, that would feed on the mosquitoes to keep the problem at bay.

While supportive of the goals, Commissioner Ennis nevertheless expressed concern that the projects would take up all the open space in the affected communities.

In discussing the loss of the field around the Glade Town basin, Ennis said, "people use it to walk their dog, people playing ball & Frisbee play, &c, and that if they use the majority of the field – it will no longer be accessible to the public – it will no longer be an open field."

Town staff made it clear however, that while they identified four possible projects, not all four needed to be done. Expanding and retrofitting the Colony Village basin alone would accomplish

60 percent of the town's needs. The proposed Deerfield basin would meet almost 80 percent, while the proposed Glad Valley Basins would, by itself, meet the 2025 goals plus some.

The path forward on all projects, the staff said, would be based upon reaching an agreement with the Home Owners Associations who own the land the facilities would built upon. Staff noted however, that both the existing storm water basin in Colony Village and the swale in Deerfield have structural issues. By upgrading them, the town would be eliminating a future problem should they fail, and as the town needs property to meet its MS4 goals, fixing these properties for the home owner's associations would be a win-win for both parties.

P&Z Commission propose speakers take oath

The Town's Planning & Zoning (PZ) Commission has proposed a change to its rules of procedures to require anyone testifying before the Commission to take an oath to the truthfulness of any statement made. The oath will be made prior to any testimony to prevent "people from spouting off on subjects they are not qualified to speak about," said and Vice-chairman Mike Kuster.

The change to the P&Z procedures was proposed by the P&Z Chairman David Emmis and Kuster as a result of the December P&Z meeting where conflicting testimony was given with regards to a zoning issue under review.

Kuster pointed out that the pro-

posed change will remind residents that "people can't just come up and say whatever suites their fancy or suites their case."

While Commissioner Gary Baker said he thought that requiring people to take an oath was a good thing to do, and that "it will make them accountable when they make a statement," he questioned how the oath would be enforced. "We are not a court of law. So what is the purpose of it?"

Town Planner Susan Hauver said the purpose of the oath was to deter people from making speculative statements. "The Board" she said, "could remind them that they were under oath and ask them if they had any evi-

dence to prove" what they were saying.

Kuster noted that there was precedent for such an oath to make people more accountable for their statements, noting that the Frederick County Planning Commission makes people swear in prior to giving testimony or making comment on cases in front of the Board.

In agreeing to the change to meeting rules, Commissioner Dick Brady wanted to clarify that public comment is different from giving testimony. He and fellow Commissioners made it clear they "want residents to feel like they can come before them and express their opinions."

At the request of several Board members, a final decision was pushed

back to the March P&Z meeting so members could reflect upon the implications of the proposed change.

The case in question at the December P&Z meeting that led to the proposal involved a request by Lion Fink to add a storage building on his property to house classic cars. When questioned "if he shows the cars on his property", Fink said he "takes them places to show."

However, neighbors who showed up to argue against allowing the additional storage building provide conflicting testimony. Todd Himes said, "on weekends a lot of people come to see Fink's cars." Himes went on to argue that Fink was running a business

out of the property," directly disputing Mr. Fink's testimony that he was not running a business out of the property.

[Fink's request was denied until he could address storm water management concerns, the validity of the titles of all the cars currently on his property, and other issues.]

Walkersville's P&Z is not the only P&Z Commission dealing with the need to keep input focused. Thurmont's P&Z has proposed a change to its rules to only allow those formally invited by the Commission, or approved by the town staff to give testimony to the Commission during public 'Workshops'. Thurmont residents however, will still be allowed to provide comment at the conclusion of the Workshop.

Council awards ARPA grants to local non-profits

The Town Council unanimously voted to award American Rescue Funds to three local non-profits at their February 8 meeting.

Following a review of applications from local non-profits, the town's Economic Development Committee (EDC) recommended that the Town Council award the Walkersville High School (WHS) Music Boosters \$10K, the Walkersville Rescue Company \$20,749 and the Walkersville Fire Company \$38,528.

Burgess Chad Weddle concurred with the recommended amount for the Walkersville High School Music Boosters but recommend that the Town Council increase the amounts suggested by the EDC for the Walkersville Rescue Company and the Walkersville Fire Company.

Weddle recommend the Rescue Company get \$125K and the Fire Company get \$150K. The difference between the fire and rescue companies recommended grant amounts was based upon the difference the two submitted on their losses in fundraising during the COVID pandemic.

The mayor noted that "the grant amounts still do not bring any of those organizations up to a whole," but goes a long way to closing the gaps.

Before making his recombina-

tion, to avoid any appearance of a potential conflict of interest on his part, or that of Commissioners Gilbert and Baker, Weddle stated that he was a member of both the Rescue and Fire Companies, as is Gilbert and Baker.

In justifying his recombination for an increase grant amount above that recommend by the EDC, Weddle spoke of the important role both companies play in serving the Walkersville community, and the savings they bring to the town by raising their own funds to purchase fire equipment that serves the residents of Walkersville, and the cost

of the upkeep of their facilities that did not stop during the pandemic.

The WHS Music Boosters cited several instances in their application of fundraising deficiencies, including their Breakfast with Santa fundraiser, which raised less than \$100 compared to a pre-pandemic \$12,500. This left the Boosters' deficit at approximately \$12,402, motivating the EDC to grant the Boosters their request of \$10,000 in relief.

In its application, the Rescue Company cited a loss of income from their bingo fundraiser, additional spending on their awards

banquet including food and drink, and the need to move forward with purchase of a new ambulance for the company.

In its application, the Walkersville Fire Company stated that they had previously requested another grant from the state of Maryland. While the amount they received through this grant was not disclosed, it did appear to be more than what was received by other nonprofits. The EDC nevertheless made the decision to grant the Fire Company ten percent of their average income to use as they see fit.

American Rescue Plan Act

(ARPA) was passed in 2021 as a federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the losses experienced by many small businesses and nonprofit organizations. The EDC chose to start distribution of these funds with nonprofits, hoping to mitigate losses as a result of the pandemic. To apply, these groups were required to present a cause, financial papers, and funds they hoped to receive. The EDC agreed that it would award up to \$55,000 or ten percent of the applicants' average revenue—whichever is lower. However, the Town Council opted not to follow the EDC suggested limits.



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WALKERSVILLE INFO

Wed., Mar. 1 - 7 p.m. - Parks Meeting

Thurs., Mar 2 - Yard waste pickup starts

Wed., Mar. 8 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

Tues., Mar. 14 - 7 p.m. - Planning Workshop

Mon., Mar. 20 - 7 p.m. - EDC Meeting

Wed., Mar. 22 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

Tues., Mar. 28 - 7 p.m. - Planning Meeting

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 Walkersville: Our Town

LOCAL & COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Congressman David Trone

My top priorities as a Member of Congress are being your voice in Washington, serving you, and delivering results to the 6th District. While many leaders are focused on the notoriety of their positions, I can say without any doubt that my constituents come first.

Representing you isn't just about voting on legislation that comes to the House floor. In fact, much of the important work in Congress occurs in committee rooms. I'm thrilled to be serving on some powerful committees this term which I know will lead to great things for this district, building on the progress that we've made over the past few years.

For the second consecutive term, I've been appointed to serve on the House Appropriations Committee, allocating federal funds to important priorities across the country. This role gives me a seat at the table to directly address some of the biggest challenges we face — rebuilding our infrastructure, growing our economy, investing in our work-

force, addressing opioids and mental health, and so much more. As a businessman, I feel particularly well-prepared to make decisions on funding that will impact our cities and towns, and I know that this work will help us continue to rebuild our economy and make a difference in American lives. Some of the very best ideas I get are from listening to people who live and work in the district.

In the last Congress, my role on the Appropriations Committee brought millions of federal dollars to the 6th District, funding crucial projects across all five counties. In Western Maryland, I helped secure funding to rebuild a vital bridge connecting the City of Cumberland, continue rural broadband development in Garrett County, and rebuild the Boys & Girls Club in Hagerstown to offer more after-school and summer activities for the City's youth. Here in Frederick County, we invested millions of dollars to mitigate floods and prepare for natural disasters, provide

much-needed help to those struggling with substance use and mental health through the Crisis Stabilization Center, invest in Mount Saint Mary's University to expand their STEM research facilities, and help to build a new Center to serve the Asian American and other minority populations who are in need.

Each time I visit Frederick, I'm reminded of the challenges we face with road infrastructure — through conversations with business owners, families, and sitting in traffic on Route 15 myself. That's why I fought hard to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which delivered \$4.6 billion in federal formula funding over the next five years to fix our nation's roads and bridges. Thanks to this massive infusion of federal money due to this law, Governor Hogan was able to set aside over \$150 million to fully fund the expansion of Route 15 through the City of Frederick, which will reduce congestion and spare drivers the frustration of incessant delays.

In addition to funding projects here at home, my role on the Appropriations Committee also gives me the chance to focus on important priorities across the country. I'm pleased to have been appointed to the subcommittee for Commerce, Justice, and Science — an opportunity to further my efforts to reform our criminal justice system and give returning citizens a second chance. And I join the subcommittee for Homeland Security with a great sense of responsibility — and optimism — that I'll be able to use this role to continue to combat the opioid crisis and the flow of synthetic drugs into our communities.

I'm looking forward to continuing my work on the Joint Economic Committee as one of a handful of House members advising on our national, state, and local economies. With my background in business, I know that I can help move the needle forward to grow our economy and rebuild in an equitable way for workers and businesses of all sizes.

Finally, I'm excited to join the House Budget Committee for the

first time. While this is not a particularly glamorous committee, its work is vital to our progress as a nation. One of my favorite parts of both business and government is diving into the details of legislation, budgets, and challenges — and charting a path forward based on what we learn. This approach helped me grow my business into one of the largest retailers in the nation, and it's been integral to the success of my Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force. I know that the same will be true for my work on the Budget Committee.

In all that I do in Washington and throughout the 6th District, my constituents are top of mind. My goal in public service is to improve the lives of those that I represent — and I can't do it without hearing from you. If you have a question, concern, or comment about legislation, or if you want to share details about a project in your community, please don't hesitate to reach out. My team and I are here for you.

Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes

Greetings to all, our February 14th meeting was a busy, but productive meeting.

The town commissioners and I went through the recommendations on an ordinance to allow chickens in town. Chickens are currently not permitted in town per the town code that was implemented in 1972. After several deliberations and changes the vote was 3-1 to allow chickens in town. Yards less than 1 acre in size will be allowed up to 5 hens and lots over an acre in size will be allowed up to 12 hens.

No roosters will be allowed. This is the tentative approval as per code we are required to have a public hearing before amending the code.

The public hearing meeting is scheduled for April 11th before our regular town meeting. At that point in time unless the commissioners change their votes the code change will be solidified, and all of the requirements will be codified. We will also be adding an additional code change proposal at the meeting. That code change proposal concerns residents' grass height. The

current code states grass can be 18 inches high. We will be proposing a change to 9 or 12 inches height maximum.

Our Planning and Zoning committee sent the drawings back to the engineer for the sight plan for our town hall building at their February meeting due to not having enough green space up front to fit a sign and flagpoles. The engineer will have the revised plan back to P&Z for their March 6th meeting. If they approve it then it will come to the town council at the March 14th meeting and if the commissioners approves the sight plan the next step is that it will be to the county for the permitting process to begin.

We have a couple of things coming up in town and more details will follow. The community Easter Egg hunt in partnership with the Woodsboro Volunteer Fire Department will be April 1st in the park. The rain date will be April 8th. Reminder Woodsboro has elections coming up on May 13th. There will be two town commissioners up for election. To be eligible to run you must be 18 years old and a resident residing in the town limits for a

minimum of 1 year before the election. If you have an interest in running, please reach out to Mary in the town office.

We have started projects for grants that we have been approved for. Our 3 new flag poles have been installed at the veterans memorial where we will now be able to fly our American, Maryland, and Woodsboro flag all simultaneously on their own poles. In addition, construction will begin soon on the approved pavilion to be built in the upper side of the park by the disc golf course. I have also started the process of getting electricity run to the upper side of the park and will be working on getting the bathroom built up there as well. We were approved for a \$214,000 grant for these projects so we will be beginning them soon. My goal is to have the electricity run before Woodsboro Days in October. In addition we submitted a grant request to remodel the concision stand and upgrade the bathroom as well. We will have the answers for that when the governors

FYI 2024 budget is approved.

As always, I encourage everyone to support Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS) if you have clothes or food donations as they are always in need of items for members of the community. For more information, please contact GVCS by email at gvcs.inc@verizon.net, or call 301-845-0213.

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

Woodsboro Town meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. In addition, Planning and Zoning meetings are at 6pm on the First Monday of the month as needed. If you have an item for the agenda, it needs to be submitted 14 days before the P&Z meeting. The current location for meetings is the St. Johns United Church of Christ located at 8 N 2nd Street Woodsboro, MD 21798. The public is always invited to attend.

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LOCAL & COUNTY GOVERNMENT

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Budget Priorities

Later this month, I will be announcing some of the major projects that will be funded in Frederick County's next six-year Capital Improvement Plan. At the same time, the Budget Office will release the long list of requests made by County divisions and other agencies. There are always more requests than funding, and I want to hear from you what items you think should, or should not, be included.

Hundreds of residents spoke up during community listening sessions that I held in each district in January. If you weren't able to attend, you can still weigh in. There are two different ways to offer feedback in March.

On Tuesday, March 14, I will hold a public hearing at Winchester Hall, starting at 7 p.m. You can speak in person or call in during

the meeting. It will be streamed live on FCG TV, or you can watch at FrederickCountyMD.gov/BudgetPublicHearing.

The second way to make your voice heard is to participate in an interactive survey tool called Balancing Act. You can go online and select which programs and services you would include if you could draft the County's budget. Once you submit your choices, I will see which items you value the most. That feedback will help me to shape the spending plan for the coming year.

Watch the County's website and social media accounts in early March to see when the Balancing Act survey will be available.

New Opportunity for STEM Employers

Are you an employer or a col-

lege student in a STEM field? If so, you may be interested in a new initiative sponsored by the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, Workforce Services, and Visit Frederick. The partnership is launching the "Discover Frederick STEM Internship Program," designed to connect Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics businesses with summer interns.

Students get an opportunity to work at one of Frederick County's cutting-edge STEM businesses, attend workshops to help them succeed after graduation, and explore our community. Employers gain access to a well-trained workforce. Businesses can opt to have their interns stay on the campus of Hood College. At the end of the 10-week program, participating companies and interns will gather at

a special networking event. Interested employers can call FCOED at 301-600-1058 or visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/STEMinterns.

The Discover Frederick STEM Internship Program is an innovative way to ensure Frederick County's economy will continue to thrive well into the future.

Agriculture Preservation

Agriculture is one of Frederick County's oldest industries. Farmers provide the food we eat, so it is essential that we preserve our best farmland. Frederick County works hard to help keep farms in operation. In fact, more than 73,000 acres of agricultural land in our community has already been preserved through several different programs, such as installment purchase programs, preservation easements, and conservation of natural resources.

If you or someone you know is

thinking about preserving farmland, now is a great time to take action. The Frederick Agricultural Land Preservation Program is currently accepting applications for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Easement program.

The MALPF program pays farmers to restrict development on prime farmland and woodland forever, through the use of preservation easements. Since MALPF began in 1977, it has preserved more than 25,000 acres of farmland and woodlands in Frederick County. MALPF is one of the most successful programs of its kind in the country. If you want to learn more, contact Land Preservation Planner II Shannon O'Neil at 301-600-1411 or via e-mail at sonel@frederickcountymd.gov. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 3rd.

County Councilman At-Large, Renee Knapp

Last month I had the opportunity to attend the first Frederick County Forestry Forum. Representatives from industry, government, and the non-profit sectors spent the day listening, learning, and most importantly, having conversations about responsible forest management in Frederick County. In Maryland, 72% of forest land is privately owned, so it's important for county government to foster good communication between all these stakeholders. Everyone from conservationists to those in the timber industry agreed that we are all invested in healthy and well managed forests.

Those who attended listened to several panel discussions over the course of the day. One discussion addressed forest markets in or near Frederick County. These markets include lumber, furniture, and using renewable wood energy to heat homes. Another idea expressed was the possibility of finding ways to use lumber produced in Frederick County to be used to build homes in the county. When wood is not transported to a sawmill in another state, carbon emissions are lowered, and our local timber industry is supported. Concerns about regulatory barriers to timber industry growth were also discussed. Periodic evaluation of logging regulations is good for the timber industry and for good overall forest management.

Another panel discussion centered

around forest conservation initiatives. Through successful agricultural preservation programs, Frederick County has preserved over 70,000 acres of farmland. Since a significant amount of farmland includes some forest, this contributes to county forest conservation. Sustainability initiatives like tree planting and controlling storm water runoff improve the health of county forests, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. We finished the afternoon with a discussion of planning and permitting with county and state presentations. If you would like to have the zoning information about a property in Frederick County, there is an application at the county website called "Property Explorer". After entering an address, a report is generated that includes general property information, as well as information about voting, county services, and public safety.

Earlier last month I also attended the Legislative Day for the Frederick County Farm Bureau. Several other council members and County Executive Jessica Fitzwater also attended the county forum held at the New Midway Fire Hall where this year's legislative priorities were presented. A little more than half of the current county council is comprised of new elected members. This was a great opportunity to introduce ourselves and to listen to members of the agricultural community in the county. Several

concerns are ongoing and don't have easy solutions.

The continuing growth in Frederick County is putting more vehicles on the road every day. In addition to the main roads, rural roads continue to be stressed by new housing developments and construction traffic. Farmers can't increase the speed at which they move their equipment, so this makes addressing rural road safety more difficult. Much of the growth that can be seen in process today was approved several years ago by a previous county council, and the City of Frederick has also approved addi-

tional housing construction. We will have to work with state government and the other county municipalities to find creative solutions for our persistent traffic challenges.

Several positive county initiatives that support agriculture in Frederick County were also discussed. We have a very successful agricultural preservation program that is on track to exceed its original goal, and the county periodically offers agriculture innovation grants. Additionally, the county is working to address other issues such as controlling noxious weeds and timing the mowing of

areas along county roads to help control the spread of weeds. There is balance that needs to happen between weed control and preserving the rural beauty along those roads.

Lastly, this month County Executive Fitzwater will be holding a Budget Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00pm in the first-floor hearing room at Winchester Hall. We will not be having a County Council meeting that night. All are welcome to provide comment on the 2024 budget either in-person or by email. If you would like to reach me, my email address is rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov.

Hope you're enjoying the early spring weather in Frederick County.

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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Confused?

Shannon Bohrer

The last several years have caused me to question what I know, my beliefs, how I see the world, and how people think. From my perspective, the world has changed, or maybe it was always confusing, and I just failed to notice. I remember hearing the phrases “Alternative facts” and “Truth isn’t truth,” and I was perplexed, not because of the words, but because of who voiced them. Kelly Ann Conway produced the term “Alternative facts,” and she was working in the White House. Rudy Giuliani said, “Truth isn’t truth,” and was one of the president’s private attorneys. I would not have expected individuals in their positions to speak those words.

When you hear someone say something that is not true or something that seems nonsensical, you either ignore it or possibly believe that someone just misspoke. The lack of logic with “Alternative Facts” and “Truth isn’t truth” was confusing to me and still is. I understood that people have different thoughts and beliefs, but I always believed there was a common foundation to our thoughts, at least for most people. At that time, in my mind, most people did not put illogical words together. However, as time progressed, I learned that what I

believed was an irrational or illogical thought process - is more common than I believed. I still do not understand it. I just know it exists.

Muhammad Ali said, “The man who views the world at 50 the same as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life.” His quote, in many ways, defines the idea that we should gain wisdom as we grow and learn. I have known for a long time that people think differently, but I have gradually come to realize that the differences are broader than I ever imagined. I have also come to realize that even science and facts are often dismissed, frequently by educated people. The fact that people can think differently about a topic with the same facts does not surprise me. However, when the differences have no foundations or are not based on any logical thought process, one questions what the other person based their opinions on.

Sometimes, depending on who is at the center of a situation determines how one thinks about the event. When President Biden’s violation of possessing classified documents was reported, it seemed extremely serious. However, that was in contrast with how many political leaders defended the former president when similar documents were found at Mar-a-lago. Excusing the former president of stealing classified documents and

then professing righteous indignation at Biden’s situation, is not logical. We often hear that it is easy to find fault with our enemies and overlook flaws of our friends, but this seems extreme.

Watching the insurrection on January 6, 2021, I was shocked, saddened, and outraged. My emotions were all over the place, especially the anger I was feeling. I had trouble understanding that American citizens would think and believe that taking over the capital would result in them taking over the country. Insurrections occur in third-world countries, not in the United States of America. Seeing people waiving the American Flags as if they were patriots and then assaulting police officers was not in my realm of reality. The insurrectionist even accused the capital police, who were protecting the capital and congress, of being the enemy. It was a Rod Serling, “Twilight Zone” type of experience. Something you never expect to occur, and when it does, you can’t make sense of it. I became angrier as the news footage continued.

A number of the insurrectionist were carrying “Don’t Tread on Me” flags. The Gadsden flag, as it is known, was created during the American revolution. It was a symbol to the British that the Americans would not be denied their freedoms. The Gadsden flag is very popular today. However, when used in an insurrection, the purpose seemed counterintuitive.

If the insurrection had been successful and our democracy was dissolved, the freedoms we currently have and enjoy would disappear. It is a historical fact that when democracies fail, the person in charge (the dictator) invokes martial law and suspends freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, and any other freedoms that they deem not in their interest. And yet, many of the insurrections referred to themselves as freedom fighters.

There are instances when people can have a different view of an event with identical facts. Several years ago, a well know football player knelt during the playing of the national anthem, and his actions were vilified by some as being unpatriotic. Under our constitutional first amendment, individuals have a constitutional right to kneel, and those that were offended by his actions also had a constitutional right to complain. Using this example, if the insurrection had been successful, the first amendment would probably have been suspended. If so, possibly one or both sides would lose their rights. The rights that could be lost would depend on who emerged as the dictator.

During the insurrection, several individuals assaulted uniformed police officers with American flags: striking the officers with the flag poles. Many of the same people that vilified the football player(s) for kneeling, have since called the insurrectionists Patriots. To

some, kneeling for the national anthem is unpatriotic, but striking an officer is patriotic? Confusion cannot describe an illogical thought process, and yet many of the people espousing these views believe them. Even saying that it is easy to find fault with our enemies and overlook faults with our friends is not explainable in this situation.

A West Virginia lawmaker, Derick Evans, pleaded guilty to his involvement in the insurrection. During his trial, he expressed remorse for his actions, saying he made a “crucial mistake.” Now, “less than a year later, Evans is portraying himself as a victim of politically motivated prosecution as he runs to serve in the same building he stormed on January 2, 2001.” He currently calls himself a “J6 Patriot.”

How can someone hold two opposing beliefs, one being that they made a “crucial mistake” and the other that they are a “J6 Patriot?” Maybe he is just a dishonest politician? They do exist. How can it be unpatriotic to kneel during the national anthem and be patriotic to beat a police officer with an American Flag-pole? It seems that the more I learn, the more I have to question what I believe because I would never have expected that anyone trying to overthrow our government would be called a “patriot.”

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

Tumbleweeds

Mendacity

Mark Greathouse

Dictionary.com defines mendacity as the quality of being mendacious; untruthfulness; the tendency to lie. It’s about deceit, prevarication, falsehoods, deception, blasphemy, exaggeration, and lying. Mendacity is ubiquitous to mankind. Mark Twain noted, “The insincerity of man: all men are liars, partial or hidiers of facts, half tellers of truths, shirks, moral sneaks. When a merely honest man appears, he is a comet, his fame is eternal – needs no genius, no talent – mere honesty.”

Mendacity is challenging but is truth any easier? Truth is defined as the body of real things, events, or facts; a transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality. Yet truth can be cruel. We resort to truth bending and social filtering to avoid hurting folks’ feelings. Most folks consider this being civilized, but it’s a slippery slope from truths to lies, honesty to mendacity. After all, is it my truth, your truth, their truth, or the truth?

Politicians are mostly pathological liars, spewing whatever lies, myths, or exaggerations it takes to achieve their ends be they good or evil. One of my favorite quotes is from the late President John F. Kennedy, “The greatest enemy of the truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived, and dishonest – but the myth – persistent, persuasive, and realistic.” Gaslighting and outright lies abound, and we’ll get to some of those.

Out on America’s western frontier, we can cite all manner of mendacity. White settlers broke treaties with

Indian tribes and vice versa. Bureaucrats and tribal chiefs made promises they knew they couldn’t keep. Fraudsters simultaneously sold the same piece of land to multiple buyers, cattle thieves rebranded cattle, snake oil hucksters sold miracle cures, and politicians promised plenty they couldn’t deliver. Shucks, Jim Bowie of knife fame and hero of the Alamo was caught up in a land fraud scheme. Mendacity knows no era.

As noted by JFK, persistent repetition is critically important to lies or myths being perceived as truths. We see the term climate change substituted for global warming, choice becomes a supposedly more acceptable surrogate for abortion, racism is slung about as the cause of every social ill, and urban lootings and burnings become peaceful protests rather than riots. The effort to find focus-group-tested words to hide unpopular dogmas is continuous. Of course, word wrangling does little more than offer camouflage.

Mendacity? The emotionally raw lines of Big Daddy played by Burl Ives in “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” by Tennessee Williams define lying well, “Mendacity. What do you know about mendacity? I could write a book on it...Mendacity. Look at all the lies that I got to put up with. Pretenses. Hypocrisy. Pretendin’ like I care for Big Mama, I haven’t been able to stand that woman in forty years. Church! It bores me. But I go. And all those swindlin’ lodges and social clubs and money-grabbin’ auxiliaries. It’s-it’s got me on the number one sucker list. Boy, I’ve lived with mendacity. Now why can’t you live with it? You’ve got to live with it. There’s

nothin’ to live with but mendacity. Is there?” Wow!

Mendacity knows no political party boundaries. President Joseph Biden has a long and well-documented history of speech plagiarism plus the lies and repeated exaggerations in his speeches as he wanders from his teleprompter. Examples of political lying include Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) falsely claiming Vietnam service; Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) earning the sobriquet “Pocahontas” by falsely claiming Native American ancestry on her college job application; Representative George Santos (R-NY) making wildly false claims on his personal resume; and DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas lying about U.S. southern border security. There seems an endless supply of mendacious outpourings to draw from. It gets down to whom to trust? Government? Big tech and media fact checkers? Academic rubes? Educators pouring socialist drivel into children’s heads? It’s all such a frustrating morass of lies, myths, and half-truths.

Can politicians be trusted to keep the oath they swear to upon being sworn in as a United States Senator or Representative? “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.”

As they say out west, trust your neighbor but brand your

cattle. Elected folks are about as trustworthy as a rattlesnake ready to strike.

Media mendacity? How about rock throwing, police car burning, and shooting police in recent Atlanta riots being reported as non-violent? And we dare not forget the Trump collusion hoax. Again, an endless trail of lies.

Fact checkers? Blatant misinformation and disinformation spawned by all manner of sources from government to social media to big tech and academia reviewed by truth panels harkening back to George Orwell’s Newspeak in his dystopian novel 1984 wherein history is constantly recreated to suit the ends of Big Brother. And, if folks don’t toe the line to the fact checkers’ pronouncements, they’re likely to be cancelled, shadow-banned, doxed, or put in social media jail if not worse.

USSR dictator Josef Stalin famously disposed of his enemies and airbrushed them from photos. He also pulled the wool over the West’s eyes as Communism’s realities by creating Potemkin villages wherein peasant actors clustered around a stage set collective farm, happily praising Stalin and promising to produce more grain as a patriotic duty. In the actual Russian villages of the 1930s, starving over-worked peasants described collectivization as a “second serfdom.” Notably, some of President Franklin Roosevelt’s closest advisors fell under the Potemkin village ruse. President Biden was recently treated to a Potemkinesque exercise upon visiting the U.S. border in El Paso whereby the accumulated detritus of months of gathered immigrant waves were sanitized so as to deceive

him. They offered Biden the “blue pill” per the apocalyptic dystopian Matrix with no alternative “red pill” revealing the ongoing border horrors of rapes, drownings, suicides, murders, drugs, and human trafficking.

How do we end mendacity in our culture? Imagine laughing emojis. Seriously, there is a path out of the quagmire of lies and deceit. It begins with instilling solid moral values. The Ten Commandments offers a good start, and there’s great wisdom in the seven cardinal virtues: prudence, temperance, justice, faith, hope, charity, and fortitude. Juxtapose these virtues against the seven deadly sins often hidden beneath lies: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride. The Bible certainly offers examples of mendacity’s pain from Peter denying Jesus three times to David’s deceptions with Uriah’s wife Bathsheba. If you’re disinclined to follow Christian teachings, try Aristotle’s and Plato’s prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. Loss of values will surely lead to ever-greater crime and violence coming to a street corner near you. Words? Empty words? Actions matter. Even virtues and values aren’t worth much unless inculcated in our children by parents and reinforced through corporations, schools, media, and even politicians. If we don’t; well, you’re stuck with Big Daddy’s assurance, “You’ve got to live with it. There’s nothin’ to live with but mendacity. Is there?” Let’s never forget the words in our Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident...” Just sayin’.

To read past editions of Tumbleweeds, visit the Authors section of walkersville.net.

The Bulwark

A short guide to MAGA 'conservatism'

Charlie Sykes

How conservative is the GOP? It's an awkward question because it all depends on what you mean by the word 'conservative' these days.

What passes for 'conservatism' now, in right-wing media and MAGA circles, is not really what Edmund Burke, John Stewart Mill, George Will, or William F. Buckley had in mind.

Herewith is short and admittedly incomplete guide to what MAGA 'conservatism' is, and what it is not. Let me know what I left out.

MAGA 'conservatism' is for a strong national defense ... except, of course, when it is not. Exhibit 4 million of the changing GOP: The president of the Heritage Foundation, the principle 'think tank' for the MAGA movement, has called for spending cuts be made at the Pentagon.

MAGA 'Conservatives' believe in fiscal restraint ... except when they are in the White House. National Review's Rich Lowry notes the "sporadic commitment to fiscal conservatism" by the GOP. After a hiatus during the Trump years, Republicans are back in the mood for fiscal probity. "Hiatus," is kind of a nice way to put it. Actually, the Trump years added \$7.8 trillion to the national debt in just four years — which is about 25 percent of the nation's accumulated \$31 trillion debt bomb.

MAGA 'Conservatives' are devoted to the constitution, which must be strictly observed ... except when it needs to be scrapped in order to hold onto power. Trump calls for the termination of the Constitution in Truth Social post - "Do you throw the Presidential Elec-

tion Results of 2020 OUT and declare the RIGHTFUL WINNER, or do you have a NEW ELECTION? A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution."

MAGA 'Conservatives' believe in 'American Exceptionalism' ... except when they are lavishing praise on foreign leaders like Viktor Orban, or wishing that we could be more like the Philippines, or China, in our willingness to kill suspected criminals. Conservatives used to support resistance to Russian aggression ... but MAGA 'Conservatives' are now Vladimir Putin's most useful idiots.

MAGA 'Conservatives' are all about 'law and order' ... except when they say screw it. January 6 was 1776. The rioters were patriots and heroes. And if only they had been armed ... "Then Jan. 6 happens and next thing you know, I organized the whole thing along with Steve Bannon here," Marjorie Taylor Greene said as attendees laughed. "And I will tell you something: If Steve Bannon and I had organized that, we would have won." As cheers and clapping broke out in the audience, Greene added: "Not to mention, it would've been armed"

MAGA 'Conservatives' are all for free speech ... except when they are banning books.

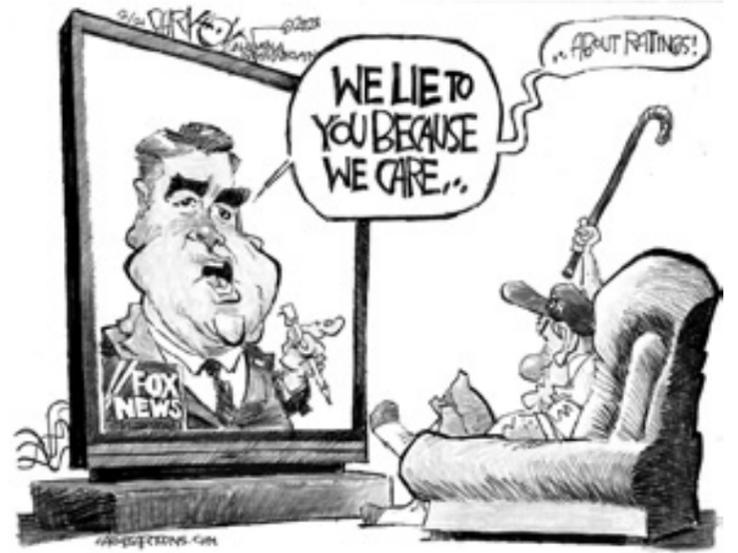
Students arrived in some Florida public school classrooms this month to find their teachers' bookshelves wrapped in paper — or entirely barren of books — after district officials launched a review of the texts' appropriateness under a new state law. A movement that started in schools has rapidly expanded to pub-

lic libraries. Conservative activists in several states, including Texas, Montana and Louisiana have joined forces with like-minded officials to dissolve libraries' governing bodies, rewrite or delete censorship protections, and remove books outside of official challenge procedures.

MAGA 'Conservatives' are for small government and the free market ... except when it comes to "woke" private businesses. Until about five minutes ago, conservatives were not merely pro-free market, but were adamant in their belief that corporations had constitutionally protected free speech rights. Conservatives were outraged when illiberal progressives kicked Chick-fil-A out of airports because of the political activities of the restaurant's owners. The cases of Hobby Lobby and Masterpiece Cake Shop were rallying points for the defense of conscience (and both businesses were vindicated in court). But the new conservatives are fully on board with state retaliation against private companies — like Disney — who engage in disfavored political speech.

MAGA 'Conservatives' back the Blue ... except when the 'Blue' is the Capitol Police.

In meetings with GOP members of Congress, Capital Police Officer Fanone asked how they could claim to "Back the Blue" while selling him out. They brought up Black Lives Matter and how they'd had the cops' backs. "You guys don't seem to have a problem when we're kicking the sh-t out of Black people," Fanone recalls saying. "But when we're kicking the sh-t out of white people, uh-oh, that's an issue." He found himself explaining why attempting to loot a CVS pharmacy was slightly different than attempting to overthrow the government. Why the peaceful transfer of power was a bigger deal than a few



anarchists in Portland, Ore.

Conservatives used to hate walls ... until they loved them. Ronald Reagan once thrilled the Right with his call, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Today, the MAGA right continues to get its tingles from calls to build a massive border wall that surely, surely, Mexico will pay for.

Then: Reagan describing his vision of America as a "shining city on a hill." "In my mind it was a tall, proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, windswept, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace; a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity. And if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here."

Now: President Trump often talked about fortifying a border wall with a water-filled trench, stocked with snakes or alligators, prompting aides to seek a cost estimate. He wanted the wall electrified, with spikes on top that could pierce human flesh. After publicly suggesting that soldiers shoot migrants if they threw rocks, the president backed

off when his staff told him that was illegal. But later in a meeting, aides recalled, he suggested that they shoot migrants in the legs to slow them down. That's not allowed either, they told him.

MEGA 'Conservatives' believe in traditional values and that character counts ... except when it doesn't. As recently as 2011, only 30 percent of white evangelicals agreed that "an elected official who commits an immoral act in their personal life can still behave ethically and fulfill their duties in their public life." But in the era of Trump, evangelical attitudes underwent a stunning, head-snapping transformation. A poll released in October 2016 found that fully 76 percent of white evangelicals had decided that a candidate's morals were no longer that important.

One commentator noted that the "immense shift in opinion means that the same types who made up the former 'Moral Majority' now comprise the religious group most likely to agree that public and private morality can be separate."

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

Good Day, Neighbor

The value of institutional knowledge

Dorothea Mordan

Weaving has been used by humans for thousands of years. Through the Middle Ages weaving was all done by hand. Then came the Industrial Age with inventions such as the Jacquard loom, patented in 1804. Joseph Marie Jacquard, building on earlier inventions, created a system of punchcards to control mechanical weaving. A hole in the punchcard would hold a warp thread in place. No hole and the thread would lift, allowing the weft thread to be alternately visible and invisible, thus creating a pattern. Ordered placing of one vertical thread over/under a horizontal thread makes any pattern possible. This mechanical function made organization of any sort of information possible. On/off, zeros and ones, the construct of computer data.

The path to our modern computer wizardry started over one hundred years before anyone reading this was born.

The impact of computers on human thinking is endless. Computation tools for medicine, farming, data management, distribution of food and other necessities, organizational systems for our lives—auto-

mobile manufacture, bus, train and plane schedules. Society's elders have seen such transitions over the course of decades—institutional knowledge of work and life.

Youth in any era are raised with existing inventions, and always push their elders to make way for the new. That's how it should be, progress is healthy. Anyone who makes it to their 30's, 40's and beyond starts to see the links in the chain of progress, and learns that new ways of doing things come from experience, trial and error. Often, more is learned from error than success.

Late 20th and early 21st century kids are increasingly raised in a society where necessities come to you by knowing what buttons to push and which store has food. It's a hard lesson when grandma takes you out to the garden to grow something—a bridge to understanding where we find food. Career employees with institutional knowledge of a company are bridges of understanding for young adults entering the work force.

All people want something, and at the same time they share the need for life sustaining food, water, and shelter. The elder politicians in our democratic system know the value of change over time. Change that comes

from learning how things are done, listening to what people want, and understanding the difference between wants and needs.

We have Social Security because a hundred years ago more people were dying in poverty than society would tolerate. Society tolerates a lot of misery if it's not happening to me and mine. With industrialization, new means of employment and the beginnings of a middle class in our economy, citizens increasingly demanded compensation after serving their country or employer. After history changing events, especially the Civil War and WWI, veterans protested a lack of support from the federal government they just fought to protect. Our fellow Americans are smart enough to understand that the Federal government's role is to organize aide for citizens who are without means of support. Pleas from constituents, debate in Congress, and subsequent laws added up to a solution with long term effects.

Using Democracy we built a social safety net which has a financial structure that works in tandem with our economic structure, and it is held in trust for each of us because of the confidence we have in each other. Our elders have learned, through institutional knowledge of life, that you can't have it both ways—use a system for one's own benefit, and say it is corrupt.

Institutional knowledge of our American system means understanding how we have worked together over decades to figure out how to use our assets to best advantage, while maintaining our individual freedoms. Our elders have lived it. Debates over what is fair, arguments to protect one person's property rights over another person's safety and civil rights is time spent on grievances rather than solutions.

Jacquard filled a need for cloth and satisfied the want for beautiful clothing. Silks, cotton, linen fabrics of every sort are ready to buy or ready to wear. The invention of weaving machines has impact beyond the production of cloth.

Serious people who spend their careers in elected office know that a law voted on and passed will have decades, maybe centuries of effects on society. A law that solves an immediate problem will have myriad unknown results. The fact that our tax and spend system is stunningly complicated, does not make it wrong. It means that solutions can be found in simplifying the system.

Some in the GOP hold grievance rallies against Social Security. No solution is offered except a new rule to talk about Social Security every five years in Congress, for the purpose of deciding whether or not to take it away from Americans who spent a lifetime paying into it.

Experience teaches that pointing out a problem, while offering no solution, helps no one.

Democratic leadership rallies for our Social Security system and the support it gives to the backbone of our American society—stability for families. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid support the American family through all stages of life, from at-risk pregnancies and births, developmental needs, death benefits for orphaned children, disability benefits, to a dependable fixed income late in life.

Politicians, with the Institutional Knowledge of why we have targeted support for social safety, offer a bridge of understanding for our youth. All social security money is earned. If you are employed and paying taxes to the Federal government, then you are paying into the social security system now. Our elders paid into it for decades. Our elders need our support, and we need their institutional knowledge of life.

Our children need a better education on how to see the problem in front of us and understand the long term consequences of a hasty solution.

Like Jacquard, focus on the problem in front of you makes you better able to find a solution. A real solution can take us anywhere.

To learn more about *Woodsboro's own Dorothea*, visit her site at *chandlerdesignslimited.com*.

PASTOR'S DESK

The river of life

Pastor Jay Petrella:
Graceham Moravian Church

In some ways life seems to flow on like a river and we can approach this river of life in a couple different ways.

First you have the lazy river type of expedition. You get yourself an inner tube. You fill a cooler with delicious snacks and beverages then tie it to your inner tube. You stock up on bug spray and slather on the SPF 50. Finally, you push out into the stream and allow the water to carry you off to wherever it wills. Without any additional input from you, you hope to be carried along by the current, freeing you to doze, snack, and think about nothing in particular while on the most relaxing journey of your life.

Then again, you can have a kayak or canoe, or perhaps a flat-bottomed Jon boat complete with a motor. With these floating vehicles you have more control. Equipped with a paddle, or a motor, you can steer to get to specific places. You can choose to go up stream if you wanted. You can choose the pace at which you travel, or choose to stay in one place if you find somewhere nice you'd like to linger.

But this method requires a lot more input and effort. With the first method, most already have a cooler laying around, and if there isn't some form of inflatable flotation device tucked away in a closet or basement, one can easily be had relatively cheap by making a quick trip to a big-box store.

However, a boat requires quite a bit more expense and planning. There might be licenses involved. It requires a means of transport, like

a roof rack or trailer, which means more money and logistics. You have to find somewhere to store it when not in use. You need a boat ramp or at least some spot near a road and a shore that descends gradually into the water. With an inner tube, you can just fall into the water off some riverbank in the woods and you're off. A boat requires bringing enough fuel or reserving enough arm strength to get you where you are going. None of this stuff concerns the chilled out individual bobbing along lazy river style.

For those of us who follow the church calendar, or lectionary cycles, the season of Lent is upon us. Lent, traditionally, is a time of self-reflection. Not that we shouldn't self reflect throughout the entire year, but we ought to especially do so during Lent in preparation for Easter. Why is a bit of navel gazing so important? Well, I used to think that one's life doesn't just happen. One has to make it happen. But that's not 100% true. Like the currents of a river, time sweeps all of us along from the beginning of our lives to the end with or without our input.

So while we all end up in the same place temporally speaking, the route we take to get to the end and the nature of the journey we take along the way are greatly impacted by the choices we make. When it comes to a river journey and our life journey, much is well outside our control, yet there is still a good bit of choice left to us, especially how we choose to react to and deal with that which is outside our control. So the lazy river style of living will just as assuredly get us to the end of our lives as living



with intention will, but the journey's promise to be quite different.

Just before the season of Lent begins we have transfiguration Sunday. Long story made short, transfiguration Sunday is the day on which we read the gospel story recounting the time Jesus hikes up a mountain with a few of his disciples. While up there on the mountain top God tells these disciples to listen to Jesus.

Jesus wasn't just some nice guy going from town to town, doing nice things for people, like serving free community dinners. He did that, but he was more than that. Jesus certainly wasn't a ladder climbing politician, stirring the pot to grab attention, attention for the purpose of boosting him to high positions of power. He certainly had some difficult words for the religious leaders of his day, but those words weren't spoken so he could self-aggrandize.

Jesus came to redeem us. Jesus came to show us the way to a better life, the life we were created to live. Everything Jesus did, points

beyond himself to God in heaven and our relationships with each other.

Therefore, heading into Lent we have God's voice, booming from a cloud on top of a mountain, telling the disciples gathered there, and us along with them, to listen to Jesus. To really listen to him. To heed his words and put his wisdom into practice in our day to day lives. Easier said than done.

Living the life God created us to live takes practice, intention. It also takes a lifetime. Some insights are only gained through the experience of living 30, 40, 60, 80 years, insights that might otherwise pass us by if we aren't paying attention. Which brings me to my point.

We all need a cool, lazy river in our lives from time to time. Life is too short and precious to constantly be stressed out over schedules, achievements, striving. Still, life is too precious to be lived without intention.

Lent specifically is a season of intentional self-reflection. When we're not paying attention, days

can pass into months and even into years with little notice. Life can be crazy sometimes. In those times people can tend to just keep their heads down and plow through the busyness. Eventually though we all look up and it's only then we realize what a great amount of time has passed. Another month has gone, another season has passed and we didn't do the things we were wanting to do, things we fully intended to do, but life somehow got away from us. Another decade somehow slipped away unnoticed, and we're not yet the people we wanted to become. How could that be, for we had the best of intentions?

So it can go with our relationship with God. We can hop from Sunday to Sunday out of habit and routine, without much thought. We can get so wrapped up in the comings and goings of our days, that we put off prayer and meditation, fellowship and bible study. Then at some point we look up from our busy lives and realize we aren't as close to God or each other as we'd like to be and we wonder where all that time went.

There is a time and a beauty to the inflatable raft on a lazy river carting us along. But may we all take the opportunity presented by this Lenten season to step out of the inner tube and into the intentionality of the canoe. May we look up from life's cooler and find our bearings, plot a course to a deeper faith and row with purpose. Reflect on life and the events that brought you to where you are now, and listen to Jesus, the Son of God to guide you on the next leg of your lie's journey.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

The Witches of Belvoir

On the 11th of March 1618-19, two women named Margaret and Philippa Flower, were burnt at Lincoln for the alleged crime of witch-craft. With their mother, Joan Flower, they had been confidential servants of the Earl and Countess of Rutland, at Belvoir Castle. Dissatisfaction with their employers seems to have gradually seduced these three women into the practice of hidden arts in order to obtain revenge. According to their own confession, they had entered into communion with familiar spirits, by which they were assisted in their wicked designs.

Joan Flower, the mother, had hers in the bodily form of a cat, which she called Rutterkin. They used to get the hair of a member of the family and burn it: they would steal one of his gloves and plunge it in boiling water, or rub it on the back of Rutterkin, in order to effect bodily harm to its owner. They would also use frightful imprecations of wrath and malice towards the objects of their hatred. In these ways they were believed to have accomplished the death of Lord Ross, the Earl of Rutland's son, besides inflicting frightful sicknesses upon other members of the family.

It was long before the earl and countess, who were an amiable couple, suspected any harm in these servants, although we are told that for some years there was a manifest change in the countenance of the mother, a diabolic expression being assumed. At length, at Christmas, 1618, the noble pair became convinced that they were the victims of a hellish plot, and the three women were apprehended, taken to Lincoln jail, and examined. The mother loudly protested innocence, and, calling for bread and butter, wished it might choke her if she were guilty of the offences laid to her charge. Immediately, taking a piece into her mouth, she fell down dead, probably, as we may allowably conjecture, overpowered by consciousness of the contrariety between these protestations and the guilty design which she had entertained in her mind.

Margaret Flower, on being examined, acknowledged that she

had stolen the glove of the young heir of the family, and given it to her mother, who stroked Rutterkin with it, dipped it in hot water, and pricked it: whereupon Lord Ross fell ill and suffered extremely. In order to prevent Lord and Lady Rutland from having any more children, they had taken some feathers from their bed, and a pair of gloves, which they boiled in water, mingled with a little blood. In all these particulars, Philippa corroborated her sister. Both women admitted that they had familiar spirits, which came and sucked them at various parts of their bodies: and they also described visions of devils in various forms which they had had from time to time.

Associated with the Flowers in their horrible practices were three other women, of the like grade in life,—Anne Baker, of Bottesford: Joan Willimot, of Goodby: and Ellen Greene, of Stathorne, all in the county of Leicester, whose confessions were to much the same purpose. Each had her own familiar spirits to assist in working out her malignant designs against her neighbours.

That of Joan Willimot was called Pretty. It had been blown into her mouth by her master, William Berry, in the form of a fairy, and immediately after came forth again and stood on the

floor in the shape of a woman, to whom she forthwith promised that her soul should be enlisted in the infernal service. On one occasion, at Joan Flower's house, she saw two spirits, one like an owl, the other like a rat, one of which sucked her under the ear. This woman, however, protested that, for her part, she only employed her spirit in inquiring after the health of persons whom she had undertaken to cure.

Greene confessed to having had a meeting with Willimot in the woods, when the latter called two spirits into their company, one like a kitten, the other like a mole, which, on her being left alone, mounted on her shoulders and sucked her under the ears. She had then sent them to bewitch a man and woman who had reviled her, and who, accordingly, died within a fortnight. Anne Baker seems to have been more of a visionary than any of the rest. She once saw a hand, and heard a voice from the air: she had been visited with a flash of fire: all of them ordinary occurrences in the annals of hallucination. She also had a spirit, but, as she alleged, a beneficent one, in the form of a white dog.

From the frontispiece of a contemporary pamphlet giving an account of this group of witches, we transfer a homely picture of Baker, Willimot, and Greene, attended each by her familiar spirit. The entire pub-



lication is reprinted in Nichols's Leicestershire.

The examinations of these wretched women were taken by magistrates of rank and credit, and when the judges came to Lincoln the two surviving Flowers

were duly tried, and on their own confessions condemned to death by the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Sir Henry Hobbert.

To read more selections from the Book of Days, visit Thebookofdays.com.



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ECOLOGY

Beavers

Anne Gageby
Environmental Education Manager
Strawberry Hill Foundation

There are few animals that agitate the well of emotions quite like the beaver. On one hand, farmers and landowners regularly lament the immense damage done by this instinct-driven animal. On the other hand, ecologists praise the positive ripple effect brought about by the animals' efforts. The undeniable reality is both are correct and justified in their opinions. Beavers are simple animals that produce complicated outcomes. They are, in effect, a true keystone species.

Keystone species are either predators, mutualists, or ecosystem engineers. Beavers fall into the latter category. River ecosystems depend on beavers to take down and remove old and dead trees. In doing so, healthier trees have more resources and opportunities to flourish. Furthermore, beaver dams affect a wide variety of species. Once a dam is built, the area surrounding the dam becomes a pond and marsh. As water covers the bases of trees, it cuts off oxygen for trees' root systems, killing the trees within a relatively short time frame. Snags, dead trees that haven't fallen, provide homes and perches for a wide variety of birds and animals, from owls and hawks to bats. These new marshes provide a healthy habitat for ducks, geese, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Otters, raccoons, herons, ospreys,

and other predators are drawn to the marsh's abundant prey. The new wetland quickly becomes a thriving ecosystem with incalculable benefits to local flora and fauna.

It's easy to wax poetic about beavers' ecological impact but the reality isn't entirely positive. Innumerable farmers have faced crop loss and devastation because of beavers damming creeks and ponds. The resulting floods can and have decimated a year's worth of crops, costing farmers income and lost time. Repairing damaged fields and streams further digs into landowners' pockets. To many, beavers are a frustrating and damaging animal to have around. Trapping and hunting are seen as vital to controlling population numbers and saving landowners from potential financial ruin.

The back-and-forth between valuable asset and troublesome nuisance isn't new. This strange-looking rodent has a storied yet complicated history going back thousands of years and spans the globe. Beavers have been featured on some of the oldest animal effigies in the world. The oldest known monumental wood carving (10,000-12,000 years ago), the Shigir Idol, was partially carved with tools made of the lower jawbone of a beaver. In ancient Persia, beavers were considered sacred and protected by law. A medieval bestiary held within Oxford's Bodleian Library contains depictions of beavers with silvery coats and long, wolf-like bodies. Beavers were considered so important to the city of Oxford that heralds included the

rodent on the city's coat of arms alongside an elephant. We still see evidence of this importance in modern-day America. Oregon, which was founded in 1859, adopted the beaver as the official state animal.

During America's early days, beavers were an especially valuable resource. Their pelts are thick and were used to trim clothing. In the early 1800s a single raw beaver pelt could earn a trapper roughly \$4, or about \$80 in today's money. Castoreum, produced from castor sacs, located near the anus of a beaver, has been used for centuries in medicines, perfumes, and even food additives. The oil can be processed with alcohol to create a surprisingly vanilla-like aroma.

Within a few generations, however, this valuable resource was nearly wiped out by unregulated trapping and hunting. By the end of the nineteenth century, beavers had been eliminated from most of the East coast and Pennsylvania. The tide turned for beavers after the state legislature passed a law protecting this keystone species in 1903. The Pennsylvania Game Commission released a pair of beavers from Wisconsin in the northern part of our state in 1917, setting off a string of planned releases between 1918 and 1925. The Game Commission imported Canadian beavers to be released within designated refuges throughout the state. The effect was nearly immediate. By 1934, the beaver population was large enough and healthy enough to allow trapping. There are now an estimated two million beaver thriving across North America.

Beavers once roamed North America in numbers estimated to be hundreds of millions. During the Pleistocene, beavers fell into the megafauna category alongside saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Prehistoric beavers were at one point the size of grizzlies. As the last ice age melted into history and glaciers became swirling rivers and lakes, beavers settled in for the ride. They chewed through the prehistoric forests and built dams, eventually redirecting the flow of massive waterways. Over the years, these waterways encouraged rich sediments to swell from within. Eventually, the water receded,



Beavers are simple animals that produce complicated outcomes. They are, in effect, a true keystone species.

through beaver colony dispersion, dam failure, or something else, leaving behind a slurry of nutrients vital to a budding ecosystem. After all, rich soil begets rich forests. The forests of North America would, in time, become something breathtaking.

Though considerably smaller than their ancestors, beavers haven't changed much over the ages. They are herbivores, preferring branches, twigs, and buds from trees such as poplar, willow, aspen, cottonwood, maple, birch, and black cherry trees. Pine, on the other hand, is usually too sticky for the average beaver, though there are exceptions to this rule. They also feast on water lilies, ferns, mushrooms, duckweed, algae, and water plants such as cattails. Beavers gather sticks to build their feed piles and anchor them to the bottom of the creek or pond. From there, they gather sticks and branches to create a pile of brush beneath the water. From this pile of brush comes their feed pile which provides food throughout the winter.

Despite appearances, beavers

don't actually eat the wood of a tree, just the bark. They prefer trees that are about three to four inches in diameter though they will fall trees several times if necessary. Ironically, beavers don't produce cellulase, the all-important enzyme needed for digesting cellulose. Instead, microorganisms called caecal microbes convert cellulose into nutrients on behalf of the host. Beavers, similar to ruminant animals such as sheep, goats, deer, and cows, digest their food twice.

On a larger scale, keystone species such as Yellowstone's wolves garner more attention and more debate than beavers. It's not likely beavers will ever be splashed about on television with experts chiming in on news segments or writing major articles for or against their existence. No, the North American beaver is less sensational than other keystone species. And yet, if you ask locals for their opinion, you'll likely get a heated opinion, one way or another.

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Tree Roots

Frederick county Forestry Board

Trees can grow to a very large size both above and below the ground. The roots of a tree, though not visible, are vital to its functions: they anchor and support the tree, store energy as starch during the winter, and absorb water and soil nutrients during the growing season.

Tree roots also form a mutually beneficial or 'symbiotic' relationship with mycorrhizal fungi networks in the soil, whereby the fungi enable the tree to obtain needed nitrogen and the mycorrhizae live off some of the trees energy reserves in return. These networks are key to sequestering carbon in the ground and for sharing important information with other trees, thus helping keep a forest healthy and resilient.

The roots of trees in a forest are connected through a mycorrhizal fungi network. These networks play an important role in sequestering carbon into forest soil and are increasingly recognized to facilitate inter-tree communication via resource, defense, and kin recognition signaling and thereby influence the sophisticated behavior of neighbors. Mycorrhizal

fungi networks are essential for the health of a forest ecosystem.

Some, but not all trees have a tap root, which grows straight down for a number of feet and helps support the tree. Trees with well-defined tap roots include hickories, walnut, and white oak. The woody buttress roots grow from the trunk of the tree down a few feet and these roots help support and anchor the tree to the ground.

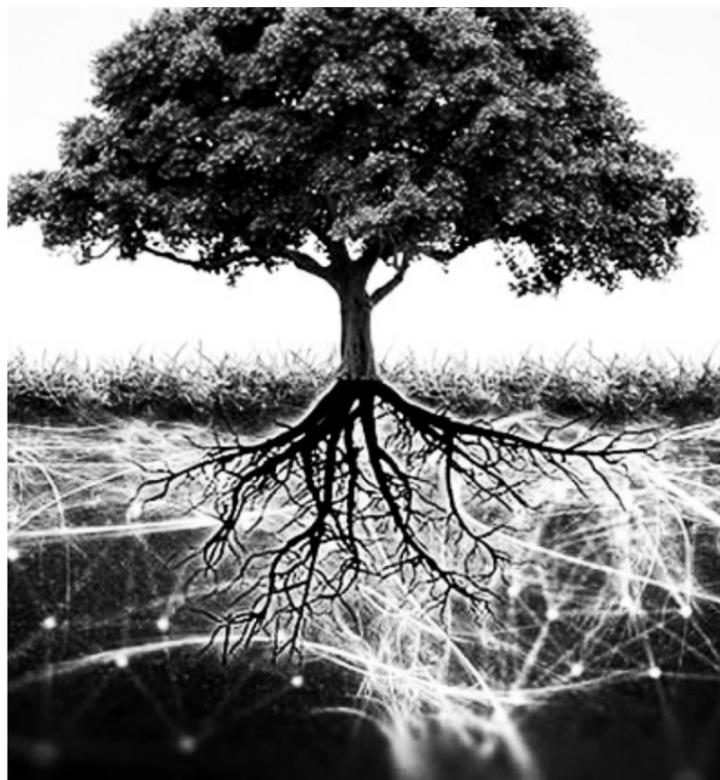
The feeder roots are woody but they have fibrous root hairs as well; and, they typically grow outward from the tree and are rarely deeper than a few inches to a foot below the surface. These feeder roots are involved with the uptake of water and nutrients.

Feeder roots are always actively growing unless the soil is frozen during winter; their function is to support the above-ground portion of the tree. Sometimes feeder roots grow well beyond the extent of the crown "drip line" of a tree in search of adequate nourishment. In the fall a tree will begin storing excess energy reserves in the form of starch in the buttress roots. This starch will provide the initial flush of energy necessary to allow for bud break and leaf expansion in the spring.

A healthy tree has an innate balance between its roots, trunk, and crown. Damaging roots can make the tree unstable so it can topple over or limit the tree's ability to obtain needed water or nutrients. Damaging the buttress roots can result in loss of tree stability, or it can permit decay, allowing fungi into the base of the tree which will slowly erode away the main support roots.

The feeder roots can be easily damaged since they are smaller and lie in close proximity to the surface. These feeder roots can be damaged by digging, piling additional soil or removing existing soil around the tree, applying herbicides, crushing the roots by moving heavy machinery around the tree or compacting the soil around the tree by regular foot traffic.

Damage to significant feeder roots can disrupt the balance between the roots and crown and result in dieback in the canopy. Certain allopathic plants can also harm a tree, usually by producing natural herbicides that could kill feeder roots or harm the symbiotic mycorrhizae that are important for nitrogen uptake in trees. Many of our exotic invasive species out-compete native plants by disrupting



The roots of trees in a forest are connected through a mycorrhizal fungi network. These networks facilitate inter-tree communication via resource, defense, and kin recognition signaling and thereby influence the sophisticated behavior of neighbors.

the symbiotic mycorrhizae of the native species. When newly transplanted trees receive abundant water, their roots do not have to develop as much to meet their requirements.

If that water source is removed abruptly, the tree may not have adequate feeder roots to support it

during severe drought. Sometimes diseases will travel between roots from an infected tree to another tree. Dutch elm disease and oak wilt are examples of diseases that can spread through a root system.

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

Plant trees and learn with Stream Link

Lisa Baird, Program Director
Stream-Link Education

A large-scale reforestation project continues in Emmitsburg, being led by local non-profit, Stream-Link Education (SLE). With over 2,000 trees still to plant, SLE is seeking volunteers to join them to successfully complete the project and establish a total of 30-acres of resilient, biodiverse forest that will protect water quality in tributaries that supplies public drinking water.

SLE works to involve the local community as it is a crucial component to organizations mission.

SLE is growing a community of land and water stewards by fostering environmental ethics through education and hands-on tree planting. Volunteer events are fun, meaningful, and productive, and they encourage people to ask questions.

Each event is open to the public and citizens of all ages are encouraged to attend. SLE seeks to recruit 100 volunteers per event and events will be held on every Saturday morning in April and

the first two Saturdays in May.

As many people know, trees produce oxygen and clean our air; but there are so many more benefits to learn about. It is SLE's hope that volunteers walk away with a sense of connection to their local and regional watersheds and an understanding of how the new forest planted on land adjacent to Tom's Creek will protect the water quality in the Monocacy River and the Chesapeake Bay.

streamlinededucation.org and subscribe to receive news and updates about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

The mission of Stream-Link Education is to connect community to conservation through educational and meaningful volunteer tree planting experiences. Volunteers walk away from a planting not only feeling good about their contribution, but also understanding the importance of their effort. Learn more at www.streamlinededucation.org.

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Is race a real thing?

Boyce Rensberger

Part 2

Part 1 discussed why scientists have concluded that there is no biological basis for racial categories. And yet we all know there are various features that seem distinctive of the social or cultural groups we call "race."

Biologists say most of these differences arose as a result of natural selection. This is the phenomenon that Darwin discovered in the 19th century, and it explains a lot about how evolution happens. In a nutshell, it means that if a mutation — a change in a person's genes — happens to produce a useful feature, the person with that change is more likely to be healthier, live longer and, most important for evolution, have more children. Since the change is in the genes, the children inherit it. Because the change gives each person an advantage in survival, eventually those with the change will outnumber those without it.

Skin color is a good example. People whose ancestors came from the tropics have dark skin. And the farther people lived from the equator, the lighter their skin. Southern Europeans are usually darker than northern Europeans. In Africa, the darkest skins are near the equator, but

at the north and south ends of the continent, people's skins are lighter. In southern India, closer to the equator, many people are as dark as the blackest Africans, while northern Indians are about as light-skinned as southern Europeans.

Whatever the skin color, it is all due to different amounts of a brown substance in skin cells called melanin. Freckles have extra melanin. Sun tanning stimulates melanin synthesis in skin.

That north-south spectrum evolved in response to the sun's intensity. Too much sun causes sunburn and skin cancer. Too little deprives the body of vitamin D. Without this vitamin, bones grow crooked, resulting in a disease called rickets. In the tropics, the sun is so strong that enough gets through dark skin to make all the vitamin D a person needs.

When dark-skinned people first migrated out of Africa and into northern climates, they may well have suffered rickets, which can also deform the pelvis, making childbirth dangerous or impossible. But because skin color can vary slightly even within a family, lighter-skinned children would be less affected. As a result, they would probably have more surviving children than their darker relatives. And those children would be even



Where would you draw the line?

more likely to have to have lighter-skinned children of their own.

This is Darwin's natural selection at work. Less well-known is another of Darwin's ideas—sexual selection. In a nutshell, it means that if some physical trait is seen as attractive by the opposite sex, individuals with it will be more likely to find mates and to reproduce. In crude terms, ugly people will be less likely to find mates and pass on their genes than will beautiful people. And, of course, the definition of beauty varies from culture to culture.

Most visible differences among people have no practical advantage. For example, nobody knows why Asian people have a special form of upper eyelid. The thin lips of northern Europeans and many Asians have no known advantage over the full lips of many Africans and Middle Eastern peoples. Why do white men go bald so much more often than the men of other backgrounds? Such differences are trivial in a biological sense. In fact, geneticists have estimated that the vari-

ations in genetic makeup that account for racial differences occupy only about one out of a thousand of our genes.

So, were there ever pure races? Until the mid-20th century, many researchers assumed that so-called pure races did once exist. Those early thinkers had great trouble figuring out who belonged in which race and decided that was simply because migrations and intermarriage had mixed up, or blended, the once-distinct traits.

Today, most anthropologists hold that pure races never existed, not in any biological sense. They think that human beings have always been migrating and intermarrying, spreading new genes worldwide. Traits such as skin color have always shaded gradually from region to region. Genes useful in all parts of the world would spread quickly — those, for example, that might improve the immune system. Surely the fastest to spread in prehistoric times were the genes that improved the brain. In fact, anthropologists who study fos-

sil skulls of the earliest human beings agree that a fully modern brain evolved long before any of today's so-called races came into existence.

Genes useful only in some regions would tend not to become common when carried to other places. Dark skin, for example, is not an advantage in cold climates. Light skin is a disadvantage in tropical climates. So skin color genes could not flow far and persist, at least not until the age of large hats, long sleeves, and milk fortified with vitamin D.

The bottom line is that biology does not support the idea of races as natural categories, not now nor in the past. There is no one trait, or group of traits, that can be used to define any race. People have tried to do this using visible features such as skin color and facial form but have ignored all the unseen genetic variability. We all use "race" for social or cultural groups—and that's fine—but those categories all have blurry edges.

The great lesson from anthropology, biology and genetics is that all people are the same in all essentials but highly diverse in a few things. The same is true of nearly all other known species. These differences have arisen not because there are biologically distinct groups of people but simply because genes sometimes change from one generation to the next, and because we are a hopeful, migratory species whose intelligence has allowed us to survive in almost every environment on Earth.

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

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



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IN THE COUNTRY

51st Frederick County Maple Syrup Festival

Becky Bickerton
Visit Frederick

It's no secret that Frederick is full of interesting history and unique traditions. Winter is here and that means one of the oldest and most popular annual events, the Maple Syrup Festival in Thurmont, is about to begin. The festival is held on the second and third weekends of March at the Houck Lake Area of Cunningham Falls State Park. This year you can experience the contact-light version of the event March 11, 12, 18, and 19. This year will mark the 51st Maple Syrup Festival!

Making maple syrup is a fascinating process that dates back in some form to the indigenous peoples in North America. It includes tapping trees to harvest maple tree sap, collecting gallons of sap in buckets, and boiling off the water to get sap that has been concentrated into maple syrup. All maple syrup has the same amount of maple sugar, but the maple flavor can differ and syrup can vary in color and taste throughout the sugaring season, as it is called.

More than 80% of the maple syrup you buy at the grocery store is made in Canada (most coming from Quebec), so this is a somewhat rare opportunity to enjoy some of the locally made sweet stuff. Maple syrup is almost entirely produced in the Northeast, so it is certainly a specialty that comes out of the area. It takes over forty gallons of maple sap to make a gallon of maple syrup. Sap is boiled down in the process and most of the liquid is evaporated. In some countries like South

Korea, people prefer to use maple sap unprocessed and straight from the tree. It is believed that the sap could help to prevent disease and osteoporosis.

The festival itself also has quite an interesting story. Originally started by the Catoctin Mountain Tourist Council and its small group of 25-35 members, the event started in nearby Catoctin Mountain Park. When the lake at Cunningham Falls State Park was completed and opened to the public, the event was moved to its current location. It is estimated that less than 50 people were in attendance at the very first Maple Syrup Festival, which was just a simple demonstration. No trees were tapped, no products were sold.

There was interest in continuing to grow the event both to bring visitors to the area and to kick off the spring season. "People are itching to get outside by that time of year," said Mike Irons whose family was involved in the creation of the event. According to Mike, his family and other festival volunteers used to actually make the syrup that was sold at the event. "We weren't allowed to sell syrup that was made outside of Maryland, the park wouldn't let us. So we travelled to Oakland to help make the syrup ourselves and bring it back to sell. Eventually we couldn't keep up with the amount of people wanting to buy it."

Today the products sold at the event come from S&S Maple Camp in Corriganville, Maryland. Leo Shinholt, the company's owner, is a third generation sugar producer. S&S has been in business just as

long as the festival. They tap more than 5,000 trees for just one season of syrup production. Leo has learned from experience that the first run is always the sweetest.

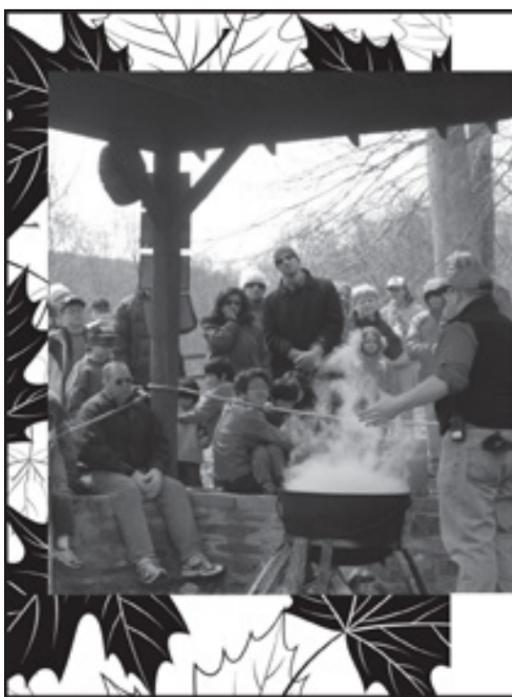
Each day of the Maple Syrup Festival visitors can enjoy live maple syrup demonstrations in two separate outdoor locations. Learn more about maple syrup is made in the cool air of late winter. If the weather is nice, start with a hike in the park and reward yourself with some tasty pancakes.

A donation is requested to attend the Maple Syrup Festival, in lieu of the usual park entry fee. All proceeds benefit Cunningham Falls State Park and Gambrill State Park through their Friends group which has been in existence since 1996. The group



has helped contribute things like Polaris vehicles, a skid loader, rescue boat, and a handicapped beach wheelchair to the park.

If you still have questions about the festival, call the park office at 301-271-7574. Park rangers and volunteers will be easy to find during the event and will have all the information you might need.



Maple Syrup Festival

MARCH 11-12 & 18-19 • 10AM-2PM

Cunningham Falls State Park—Houck Area

Welcome spring at Cunningham Falls State Park by learning how maple syrup is made from the sap of trees in the park. Enjoy a traditional pancake and sausage breakfast, stock up on maple syrup products, including syrup, maple cream, and candy. Syrup making demonstrations every hour. The event supports the Friends of Cunningham Falls. Follow signs from MD 77 west of U.S. 15 at Thurmont, MD.

For more information, call Cunningham Falls State Park 301-271-7574.

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PETS

Just the facts

Bethany Davidson
FCAC Humane Educator

Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center often receives questions in person, over the phone and on social media regarding the issue of “No-Kill.” While happy endings are always our goal and something we strive hard for daily, sometimes those positive outcomes are just not possible or humane. We never want any animal to suffer or to put the people and other animals in our community at risk. Our organization has always been open and honest about our policies on euthanasia.

At FCAC we do not euthanize for length of stay or population control. However, we do humanely euthanize for reasons of health, behavior and/or temperament. We also perform owner request euthanasia for those members of the Frederick County community who are unable to afford such services at local veterinarians. At FCAC all healthy, behaviorally sound, and adoptable animals will remain in our care until they are adopted or placed with a rescue organization.

While we do not label ourselves as a “No-Kill” facility, we do believe in the basic philosophy, which according to Best Friends Animal Society, is “saving every dog or cat in a shelter that can be saved.” The movement itself can be a controversial one for a variety of reasons with a lack of understanding of the term being at the top of the list.

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading organization in the No-Kill Movement and when defining the term they state the following: “Typi-

cally the number of pets who are suffering from irreparable medical or behavioral issues that compromise their quality of life and prevent them from being rehomed is not more than 10% of all dogs and cats entering shelters. Therefore, we designate shelters that meet the 90% save-rate benchmark as no-kill.” They go on to state that while the benchmark serves as a way to gauge progress, save rates may vary from facility to facility based on things such as services provided.

FCAC prepares statistics monthly and publishes those reports on our website. You can find them at the following link: www.frederickcountymd.gov/15/Animal-Control. We also submit our statistics online to the Maryland Department of Agriculture which then calculates live release rates for us.

According to that report, our approximate live release rate for the fourth quarter (October – December) of 2022 was 82% for dogs and 67% for cats. Our combined live release rate for the quarter was 74.5% putting us very close to that benchmark save rate of 90%.

Euthanasia is a difficult topic. Making those difficult decisions is not something that we enjoy or take lightly. All information in reviewed and multiple staff members must approve each decision. Our goal is always to do what is in the best interest of the animal and the Frederick County community.

Frederick County Animal Control strives to be as transparent as possible. We are happy to answer questions from the community on this and other topics. Without community support, we would not be able to save the lives of as many animals as we do each year.



Marley is an older fellow looking for a nice retirement home. His previous owner describes him as calm, playful and friendly, but felt she had too many pets to care for properly. Marley loves attention and shelter staff feels he would be a good match for families with children of any age. He has also lived with other dogs and may enjoy a canine companion in his new home.



Tanner is a young, fun-loving guy, however, he can't seem to catch a break. He has been adopted from FCAC twice only to be returned twice. The first time his owner fell ill and could no longer care for him, while the second time he had incident with another dog in the house over a toy. Tanner has a lot of potential but just needs consistency and a family that is committed to keeping him.



Paula Bean was found by an Animal Control Officer roaming Beebe Ct. on December 3. No owner has come looking for her and now she waits her turn to be adopted. Paula takes some time to settle in but once comfortable, she is very sweet and loves attention. She likes to sit in a lap but prefers not to be carried. Therefore, she may be best suited for children old enough to understand her preference to keep her paws on the ground.



Woodstock is the king of cuddles outside his kennel, however, on the adoption floor he looks a bit different. When visitors walk by, they don't see the smiley, playful Woodstock but a version that some may say is aggressive or mean. The truth is those behaviors aren't aggressive, they more commonly stem from fear, overexcitement or other factors.

For more information about Marley, Tanner, Woodstock, Paula Bean, or Woodstock call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.

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- 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...
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-- Author Unknown



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My Top Priorities, And a New Frederick County Office to Help You



My Top Priorities

My top priority in Congress is working for you. Each and every day, I'll fight to deliver health care for all Marylanders including mental health care, help those with opioid and other addictions, reduce inflation and improve our economy. I'll always put Maryland first and work to secure federal money to improve roads, bridges, highways and broadband to Frederick County and all of Western Maryland.

My Work on the Appropriations Committee Helps Maryland

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am in a unique position to deliver for Frederick County. In the last Congress, my role on the Appropriations Committee brought millions of federal dollars to our area of Maryland. In Frederick County, I successfully fought for millions of dollars to mitigate floods and prepare for natural disasters, provide much-needed help to those struggling with substance use and mental health through the Crisis Stabilization Center, invest in Mount Saint Mary's University to expand their research facilities, and help build a new Center to serve Asian American and other minority populations that are in need. And I'm proud to have successfully fought for \$4.6 billion to improve roadways and bridges across our nation, like Route 15 in Frederick County.

New Frederick County Office to Help You

To better serve you, we have a new office in Frederick County. If you are having any problems with a federal government agency, or need help getting the benefits you're entitled to, please contact my office. We are here to help!

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Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

Walkersville veteran reflects on a life well-lived and served

Elizabeth Anderson

Of all the accomplishments of the town of Walkersville, its commitment to service has stood out since its founding. Residents are known for uplifting local businesses, leading non-profit efforts, and particularly for supporting members of the military through numerous annual fundraisers and events. A veteran of the United States Army, Henry Lee Warren has lived in Walkersville for over 35 years with his family, yet his many accomplishments often go unrecognized.

Warren grew up in Mount Olive, North Carolina with eight siblings, his mother Beulah, and his father Edward, who was a farm sharer until 1955. From a young age, he was committed to service, helping to harvest his family's crop and remaining active in his local church.

It was through church that he met his wife of nearly 60 years, Janice. With both having a strong interest in singing, they participated in the church's junior choir together as well as their high school Glee Club. After Warren's graduation in 1960, it would be four years before they reconnected. The couple was married in November 1965 and raised two children together.

With a demanding job in the armed forces, Warren recounts his wife's constant support of him and their family. "She and I have always had a good working relationship," Warren says. "I don't think anything better could've happened to me."

Warren was drafted into the army in 1962 and enlisted two years later, and would remain there for 30 years until 1992. Prior to enlisting, he worked at a car wash in Philadelphia and then as a custodian and aide at Nassau Hospital while living in Jamaica Queens, New York. Just before his marriage to Janice in 1965, he had been deployed to Santo Domingo in the wake of the Dominican Civil War. After this, he would continue to travel as part of his job, serving in Hawaii, Korea, Vietnam, and Germany as well as several stateside forts.

Warren held a number of positions in the army, including squad leader, section chief, communications operations chief, drugs and alcohol counselor, and Sergeant Major. He was also an avid basketball player, having played throughout high school. "I had offers out of high school to become a professional basketball player, but it was hard to get scholarships," said Warren.

Instead, he played in the army at both company and base levels, practicing at least three days out of the week and playing other bases on weekends. "In Korea, I remember scoring 39 points in one game," he recalled. "In another, we were down one point with five seconds left and I scored to win the game."

Later, Warren's passion for athletics would also lead him to start running competitively, proudly placing 741st out of over 5,000 runners in the 7th Annual Army Ten Miler in 1991. And while he was stationed in Europe, it also opened up opportunities for him to participate in a sports commercial.

Warren fondly recalls much of the time he spent in Europe, both while he worked and during leisure periods. "I really enjoyed meeting with different people and interfacing with them, and just experiencing different life, different customs," said Warren.

While he cites the camaraderie of military colleagues as a positive memory while on base, Warren made sure to make the most of his time off as well, visiting Paris and the Eiffel Tower, Greece's Acropolis, and Holland with its extensive flora and fauna. In Germany, he attended Oktoberfest as well as the famed New Year's Eve display at the Heidelberg castle.

Warren and his family moved to Walkersville in 1987 due to duty assignments at Fort Detrick and Fort Ritchie. Over the next few years, he continued to pursue responsibility and passion both on and off duty. In 1990, Warren was awarded a trophy for Best Speaker in a Mason-Dixon Toastmasters competition, an honor for anyone but particularly for someone who had spent much of his life in the communications field. In addition, he also refereed for basketball and volleyball at military installations.

After retiring from the armed forces in 1992, Warren remained in Walkersville. He worked in civil service for 16 years as a telecommunications specialist and a youth counselor for several months, and afterward chose to retire to a more quiet life in his home.

Having lived in Walkersville for several decades, he has witnessed some of the exponential change and growth of the area over time. "When we moved here, there were only four houses in this development and the road was unpaved," Warren says. "But I like the growth and we have very nice neighbors. It's convenient being located to so many necessities."

Over the years, Warren has continued to travel with his wife to



Pictured are Henry Lee Warren and his wife, Janice. Warren rose to the prestigious rank of Sergeant Major, the highest enlisted rank in the Army. This paper salutes him for his service to our country.

destinations including Canada and Las Vegas, where he particularly remembers the many festivities and shows they attended. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic putting a halt to all of these travels in 2020, Warren has shifted his focus to more relaxing activities, spending much of his time exercising and manicuring his lawn. He is also working on preparing binders detailing his life which he plans to give to his children. "I see my life in three phases," said Warren, "the first being from the time

I was born until I went into the military, phase two being what happened in the military, and phase three the transition from military to civilian life."

Warren has much to share with his children about his many experiences before, during, and after his military service. Despite not having a clear picture of his future in his youth, he has since gained a vast array of knowledge and understanding which he can pass on to today's young generations. In many of his positions, Warren has

acted as a role model and a mentor, guiding others in how to improve, grow, and advance. "I've been the 'parent' of a lot of people," he says. "It's been challenging, but good."

And now, Warren notes the extensive progress that has been made during his lifetime, creating many more opportunities for people of all ages and skills. "If you set goals, work hard, stay focused, and persevere, you can succeed," he advises. "Be yourself in whatever endeavors you pursue; just think before you leap."



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HISTORY

Woodsboro Remembers

Francis Meehan Smith
Continued from last month

Part 4- Business

The Woodsboro and Frederick Turnpike Road Company

An act to incorporate a company to build a turnpike road from Woodsboro to the Monocacy Bridge, on the road leading to Frederick City, was enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland on May 27, 1853.

The subscription books were opened at Woodsboro, Walkersville, and Frederick City for a capital stock of \$12,000 in shares of \$20 each. The turnpike was to be sixteen feet wide, constructed as an artificial road of stone or gravel upon the plan, style, depth, and level of the already existing road from Frederick City to the Monocacy Bridge. The turnpike was to extend from the center of the square or cross-path at the north end of the town of Woodsboro to the Monocacy Bridge at Ceresville, providing the company could use the bed of the public road then leading from the same. It was also provided that no

toll gate should be erected within one mile from the taxable limits of Woodsboro, or any town or village through which the road was to pass.

Amendments were passed to the act in 1904 to accommodate the automobile.

In 1919 at a meeting of the stockholders, The Frederick and Woodsboro Turnpike Company was dissolved for the purpose of selling and conveying to

the County Commissioners of Frederick County the roadbed owned by the company.

Older residents remember having to stop for toll three times on the way to Frederick and purposely waiting until the toll keepers retired and raised the gate for the night. Free passage was also assured on horseback simply by riding around the end of the turnstile if no one was looking.

The tollgate south of Woodsboro was operated for several years by Irving (Shappy) S. Devilbiss for which his remuneration was \$6.67 per month. James R. Quick served as toll keeper previous to Mr. Devilbiss. Louis D. Hardy was the maintenance

man and M.J. Grove and Company supplied the necessary stone.

Tolls, minus maintenance, for the last six months of 1909 were \$432.75.

Woodsboro Canning Company

The Woodsboro Canning Company was organized in 1909. William B. Cutshall was President and guided its affairs until his death May 21, 1939. Gail L. Cutshall joined this company and was made Vice-president and Treasurer in 1916 and held these offices until the company dissolved in the early 1940's.

The site of the canning factory was along the Pennsylvania Railroad Company tracks (the present site of the Southern States Co-operative, Inc.)

At one time, this site was considered one of the company's greatest assets, having a sizable siding along the main track. However, the age of trucking and the improved highways decreased this value, as trucking became the most used method of transportation during the last years of the cannery business.

String beans, tomatoes and corn were canned at first, but during the last 25 years of its existence only corn was canned due to the fact that sufficient acreage could not be obtained for the other items.

During World War I the greater portion of the canned goods was purchased by the government.

The company was a small but flourishing business during its existence. Many local people were employed running the machinery, husking the corn, labeling, handling the silage, etc.

Enough water was always a problem. At first water from a well at the factory was used in the actual canning and water was hauled from the creeks for other needs. Finally,



The old toll house on the Woodsboro and Frederick Turnpike near the Monocacy Bridge.

wells from the town of Woodsboro and a nearby farm were used. They cooled the canned products by air in a cooling shed, but the government enacted a law that cooling had to be done by water.

This was not possible and the company dissolved and sold the property in the early forties.

Glade Valley Milling Company

The original operation of the Glade Valley Milling Company began in Troutville by Mr. Daniel p. Saylor. In the 1890's Anderson Etzler purchased the business and moved it to Woodsboro to use the services provided by the railroad.

The Glade Valley Milling Company bought the property about 1904 and enlarged the building considerably. The first mill along the railroad tracks was originally run by steam, as was the parent mill at Troutville. The small frame house on the west side of the mill was built as a home for the mill's engineer when the mill used steam. The steam was generated in the smaller brick building at the rear.

The mill in town was a two and

a half story frame building, built on a stone foundation, with the rear of the roof sloping to the west. An addition to the mill

squared up the structure, and raised its height to four stories. The delivery entrance for wagons, later trucks, was also built on the west side where the newly installed scales were located. Galvanized sheets of steel were attached to the renovated building to make the exterior uniform.

In the early days, flour and corn meal were packed in barrels and the mill employed its own cooper – a local man, Michael Holbrunner, who was exceedingly skilled at his trade. Barrels were made in three sizes as a rule: half bushel, bushel and five bushels.

Nearby farmers hauled their grain to the mill usually in two bushel sacks; top price was \$3 a bushel. Approximately three bushels of wheat produced a half-barrel of flour. Quite often the farmer would trade a certain amount of unprocessed grain for the equivalent value in flour or corn meal.

Early in the 20th Century the

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HISTORY



Powell's Pond. Frederick County at one time produced more goldfish than any other county in the United States.

mill changed from steam power to electric power but the services provided were much the same, with the raw grain being transformed into consumable products. The local farmers depended on the facility until the last decade or so when more and more farmers turned to raising diversified crops and found different markets for their harvest other than locally.

After the mill was idle since 1957, Rev. and Mrs. Gorden Wilson bought the one acre mill site and the two story frame house in 1973. The old mill has now begun a new life as the home of the Circuit Rider Shop, which features antiques and a wood and metal stripping service.

J.E. Stoner's Store

In 1915 Mr. J.E. Stoner purchased the stock of the store located on the lower floor of the bank building. Mr. Luther Donsife and Mr. Ray Gilbert first owned this store, then Mr. E.W. Powell and a Mr. Brown- ing.

Mr. Stoner had Mr. Herb Hol- brunner as a clerk for many years. The store had a table at the right rear amidst the shoe department where one could nearly always find a checker game in progress. "Doc"

Hitchcock, "Artie" Kemp, "Char- lie" (one arm) Smith, and "Han- nie" Stauffer were some of Mr. Stoner's regular opponents. No one could beat him until some new people began playing in later years. No betting took place -- the game was for fun only. The store was the main center for exchanging the lat- est local and national news and men came to town to spend an hour or so talking to friends while mak- ing necessary purchases for their homes. A complete line of shoes was also carried in the store as well as other staples.

Mr. Stoner sold out his business in 194g after the longest continu- ing merchandising venture, as far as can be determined, in Woodsboro's existence.

Powell's Ponds

Frederick County at one time pro- duced more goldfish than any other county in the United States. This was true from 1890 to about 1930 when the Depression and overpro- duction by competitors made the endeavor unprofitable.

The Powell brothers were largely responsible for the development of the lucrative and extensive system of raising and marketing of goldfish in this area.

The three young men, Elmer M., Luther C., and Ernest R., from Lewistown were intrigued by the fish they saw on the other side of the mountain near Smiths- burg. They returned with a spring wagon and purchased a small num- ber of goldfish, which they released into several ponds on their moth- er's farm.

In 1902 Elmer and Luther came to Woodsboro and bought the Beard farm on Route 550 east of town where they constructed four ponds. Luther bought out Elmer's interest and started his own ponds in 1908 on a forty-six acre tract of land at the northern end of Woods- boro along the west side of Israel's Creek and the Dorcus Branch.

About the same time Elmer Pow- ell purchased the Ruby farm on the east side of Israel' Creek and made ponds on the low land of this farm.

From this time on the indus- try flourished for many years. Fish were shipped in custom built, per- forated cans with sunken lids. The cans weighed about one hundred and twenty-five pounds were filled three-quarters full for shipment; they went express collect, mostly to des- tinations in a radius of eight hun- dred miles. However, the fish were sent to jobber, on the west coast as far as Seattle; to Chicago, Illinois; to Toledo, Ohio; to Rurlington. Iowa; to Kearnerville, North Carolina; to New York; and to many other cit- ies for outlets in the Walgreen Drug Store chain. McCrory's

Five and Dime Stores, pet shops,

parks, and for other uses.

The express charge often exceeded the price of the fish. The customers were supposed to return the empty cans for a refund of twenty cents but many containers never returned home. The fall of the year was the height of the ship- ping season when special baggage cars were pulled on the railroad sid- ing and one hundred and fifty cans were loaded onto a car which had a specially designated pickup time.

About 1935 some buyers began picking up the fish in tank trucks fitted with oxygen circulating pumps capable of hauling over one hundred thousand fish per load.

In early years when labor and fish food were cheap, small fish, one and one-half to two inches cost \$15 per thousand; medium size, two to three inches, \$25 per thousand; and large, three to four inches, \$35 per thousand.

Competition in the market and higher expenses forced the busi- ness to close in 1955. During the last ten years of the ponds' exist- ence many fish were sold simply as bait fish, which was highly unprofitable.

In 1926 L. Cramer Powell bought the Hull farm, now the town park, and had his separate operation of twelve ponds cover- ing seven or eight acres. His father, Luther had twenty ponds over fif- teen acres. His uncle, Elmer had larger ponds measuring about eigh- teen acres. In total, a good year at

Street Walkersville.

Please watch for more informa- tion from FCPS and keep your eyes out on the story the News-Journal will run on it next month!

the Powell ponds jointly produced two million fish.

During the early years when most farmers had an icehouse, they would cut and haul their ice from the ponds. The price for the ice was twenty-five cents per horse, that is, one dollar for a four-horse load or fifty cents for a two-horse load.

Elmer Powell had a loading chute with a drag and a gas engine that would pull the ice up the chute and drop it into the wagons. Others pulled the ice on the banks by hand and then pitched it on the wagon. The good icehouses would keep the ice until corn cut- ting time or the last of August. Farm- ers used the ice to cool and keep their milk, to use in the home icebox, and of course to make ice cream.

Cramer Powell had a canoe on the ponds for the family's pleasure and use in work as well as for use by the young people of the commu- nity. Another necessity, and some- times a sport, was to protect the fish from their enemies. Generally a gun was handy to shoot the night heron, crane, bittern, king-fisher, osprey, snakes, frogs, and musk- rats. Local marismen often joined the sport in the evening helping to eradicate the pests, with cigars to keep away mosquitoes, and ammu- nition supplied free of charge by the Powell family.

continued next moth

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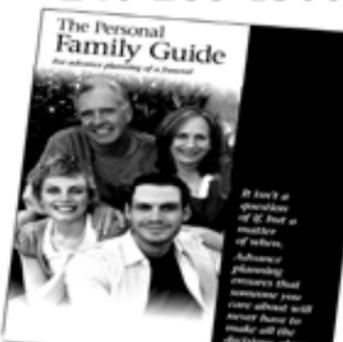
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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

March 2

Woodsboro Baseball Club Banquet

The banquet of the Woodsboro Baseball Club was held in the Woodsboro Opera on Thursday evening. Players of the Woodsboro club, members of the board of directors, the management of the club, officers of the Frederic County League, and visitors from other Frederick County league towns made up a good and enthusiastic a crowd around the banquet table.

Walter LeGore, President of the Woodsboro club during the season of 1923, presided as Toastmaster. Brief responses were made to a number of toasts. Mr. Thompson, President of the League, formally presented to the Woodsboro Club the cup for winning the championship of the county last year. The cup was received by John Stoner, Manager of the team during the past season.

Leonard Barrick, Woodsboro, First Vice President of the League – made a brief address in which he congratulated the club on winning the pennant and spoke of the high brand of sportsmanship displayed by the teams in the county league.

Accidents

On Wednesday morning of last week as John Crabster was on his way home from Keymar, his horse became unmanageable and got away from him and took him on a wild tour of the countryside. We are glad to say that neither Mr. Crabster, nor the horse, was hurt.

Three Held For Robbing LeGore Store

Edward Redman, James Potts and William Speaks, all of the vicinity of Woodsboro, were arrested on Monday by Deputy Sheriff Dorcas, charged with breaking into the store of the LeGore Lime and Stone Company Saturday night. The prisoners were lodged in the town jail. One of them it is said confessed to the robbery.

The store was entered through a window, and merchandise, including meat, &c. was taken. Soon after

the robbery was discovered, suspicion pointed to the three young men and Deputy Dorcas was notified. He found Redman and Speaks in Woodsboro, Potts at his home near LeGore. It was said that Potts had been drinking. Speaks was recently released from jail after serving time for a larceny charge.

March 9

Changeable Weather

During the past week we have had almost any kind of temperature. Last Saturday and Sunday the temperature was high, thermometers rising well into the 70s. Spring birds sang sweetly, maple trees put forth leaves to such an extent that the tops were green. The change to cooler came Sunday evening, and with it a heavy wind which lasted well into the night. Tuesday the County was swept by the worst blizzard and sleet storm of the winter.

Telephone lines were crippled. About 1,000 phones were knocked out in the county. 100 telephone poles were blown over by the storm. Trees broke under heavy burdens of sleet. It was impossible to estimate with any degree of certainty the amount of damage done in the county.

Trolley service slowed up and transportation over roads made difficult. Traffic on a number of the state roads was nonexistent until noon Wednesday. The snowplows of the State Road Commission had all State highway's clear of snow by that hour. Travel over several of the county roads in the mountain district was interrupted by trees and telephone poles, which broke off, falling across the highways according to reports.

To The Democratic Voters Of Frederick County

I announce myself as a candidate for the nomination of County Commissioner of Frederick County, subject to the decision of the Democratic primaries this fall. I appreciate the support giving me in the primaries four years ago, and took my defeat without question, working hard for the success of the ticket. I again

ask the vote of all Democrats, and pledge, if elected, to administer the office on a business like plan. I further believe that my section of the County is entitled to a representation on the board, and feel that I can serve the best interest of all. Any help given me would be appreciated. - J. T. Joy, Graceham

To The Republican Voters Of Frederick County

About two weeks ago, my name appeared in the News, as a probable candidate for the office of County Treasurer, on the Republican ticket. This was brought about by a few of my friends suggesting that I become a candidate.

Not wanting to go into the campaign ill advised, I have been in communication with quite a number of the districts throughout the County and have received very encouraging reports.

I therefore, announce myself as a candidate for Treasurer for Frederick County and will appreciate the support of the voters. If nominated and elected, I promise my undivided and personal attention to the office. - Very respectfully, Clarence Phicegey.

March 16

Good Advice To Boys

Students of Frederick County high schools where urge to seek employment in Frederick County near their homes after they graduated by Emory Coblenz, President of the School Board. Mr. Coblenz, took as his subject, 'Diamonds in Frederick County.' He told how there were diamonds in the backyard of each of the pupils. He showed how diamonds were merely opportunities for success and advancement. He spoke of the prerequisites to success and showed how it was necessary that the boys be honest, above everything else. He said that morality plays a key role in the achievement of the success.

How To Torture Your Wife

A man whose wife was visiting relatives in another state was getting lonesome, but couldn't get her to cut short her visit and return home. He wrote her a letter almost every day, pleading he was sick, that he couldn't get any good food. She wouldn't budge. Then he had an inspiration, a hunch some would call it.

Before the wife left home she had arranged to have two rooms papered and had ordered the paper, but was unable to get a workman to hang



it before she had to leave for the visit. The paper came while she was gone. The husband wrote a long letter to his wife, telling her the paperhanger had arrived, but that he didn't remember which paper was to go in which room. He said he told the paperhanger to go ahead, however, to use such-and-such paper (naming the dining room paper), in the front room, and the other paper (the front room paper) on the dining room. The wife reached home on the next train.

March 23

Mill At Union Bridge Burned

The Engleman Mill, at Union Bridge, with its equipment of machinery and a quantity of feed, was completely destroyed by fire Wednesday night. The loss is estimated at from \$15,000 to \$25,000, reported to be fairly well covered by insurance. The fire is supposed to have originated from a short circuit electric current.

The Union Bridge Fire Company was unable to handle the situation, due to lack of water, and a call was made to Westminster for their engine. The big La France truck, containing 23 firemen, made the trip of 11 miles and was throwing water on the building, within 18 minutes after leaving Westminster.

The Mill had been closed for repairs, little work having been done for about a year, but work had been resumed the day of the fire, after new equipment had been installed. The building was erected many years ago, and was known as

the Engleman Mill, for one of the former proprietors.

March 30

Autos And Booze

There are a great many arrests for driving cars while "under the influence of liquor." Other arrest attached to using cars for "transporting liquors"; there are "joy rides" cases of many kinds and consequences; auto trucks are used for freighting away liquors from robbed warehouses, racing on the highways, with booze accompaniment, frequently makes business for the courts, and there are other motor-vehicle liquor cases in great variety.

Evidently, motoring and booze are not safe partners; but this does not seem so apparent as that in some way to prohibition laws, and the impossibility of their enforcement, come in for the most blame, while autos, as quick getaway vehicles for criminals, get no blame whatsoever.

Honestly considered, the whole prohibition enforcement matter is rendered several times more difficult because of the use of motor vehicles. It is not so much that law violation and its old plan form, is so rampant, or that the many cases refer to represent normal opposition to these laws, but that the easy swift help of motors should bear the burden of the whole violations.

And just as honestly, we ought to ask what would be the situation, so far as accidents, deaths and joy rides are concerned, were saloons open on all streets and highways, as they were before the autos came into such universal use?

Bear Autoist

The State Attorney General recently advise the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, that the person responsible for running an automobile through Frederick County, with a bear sitting at the wheel should be prosecuted for reckless driving. In the case in question the real operator of the car was arrested, but the magistrate who heard the case, held that the car was being operated by the bear and that as there was no law prohibiting bears operating motorcars, he released the bear and the human sitting next to him.

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FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

March 2

There are many institutions in Frederick County which have enjoyed a fruitful and illustrious tradition. One of the oldest still in business (in 1997), after 170 years in operations, is the Fredericktown Bank and Trust Company in the unit block of North Market Street in Frederick. The handsome, federal-style building, now occupied as the main branch of the bank, was opened for business on March 2, 1970. But that's getting ahead of the story.

On March 7, 1828, the bank, then called the Fredericktown Savings Institution, was organized and the first deposits made. It was then located in the offices of Dr. Jacob Baer on North Market Street. From there it operated for many years until, on July 16, 1850, the board of directors ordered George Brengle to purchase the property of Mrs. Mary Howard on the eastside of North Market Street, where the headquarters of the bank remains today.

The lot has a frontage of 63 feet and a depth of 186 feet. The bank built a new brick building which stood for 57 years before it was demolished in 1907 to make way for a new structure. This building was made of granite, cement, steel and concrete and reflected the era in which it was built. Melville E. Doll was president of the bank at that time.

Sixty-one years later, the board of directors decided that their headquarters, which provided only 5,800 square feet of space, was inadequate and decided to build a new facility. Their decision to tear down the 1907 structure and rebuild on the same site has been viewed by many as the spark that led to a rebirth of downtown Frederick. Demolition began on December 9, 1968.

During the 15-month building period, Fredericktown Bank and Trust operated from the old Shipley's building at 103 North Market Street. That temporary facility closed at the end of the business day on Friday February 27, 1970, and the new headquarters opened Monday, March 2. Federal law required the rapid move.

The new bank, built during the presidency of W. Meredith Young, offered some new features for downtown customers in addition to its 24,000 square foot interior. Included was a drive through win-

dow which operated by way of a television camera.

A feature that pleased all who walk downtown was the heated pavement in front of the bank. Whenever the weather is inclement during the winter and the temperature was low enough to cause freezing, the bank turns on the heat and pedestrians are assured of safe footing. (Another cost-saving feature is that the bank doesn't have to pay to have snow and ice removed conventionally.)

In August 1980 the Fredericktown Bank decided to affiliate with Mercantile Bankshares Corporation of Baltimore. At the present time the bank also has several branch offices, two on West Patrick Street, one in the triangle with West South Street, and one on the Golden Mile; one at Thomas Johnson Drive and Opossumtown Pike; one at the Prospect Shopping Center; one on Yellow Springs Road, and one in Walkersville.

[Frederick County Government purchased the property after Mercantile Bankshares merged with another banking corporation. The County Treasurer's office is now located there on the first floor.]

March 9

For most of Frederick County's history the milling business has been an integral part of the commercial community. The Zentz Mill stood on N. Bentz St. for more than 130 years before fire destroyed it in 1926. The Baker and Delaplaine families, still prominent today in Frederick, had ancestors who operated mills.

On South Carroll Street today stands The Delaplaine Visual Arts Center. Originally it was The Mountain City Mill, operated by James Gambrill.

He was born March 9, 1866, in Baltimore, and was raised in Frederick County and attended the public schools here. At 16 he became an apprentice with his father in the milling business.

From 1888 to 1893 he was in the mercantile business in Alabama, but Frederick drew him back. In 1898 he was an incorporator of the Truckers Association of Frederick County, which was founded to better market the products of local farmers.

Four years later The Frederick

County Farmers' Exchange was founded with Mr. Gambrill as the treasurer. Several years later he and D. W. Dietrich purchased the stock of this company and operated it in conjunction with the Mountain City Mill.

In 1907 Mr. Gambrill was elected a city alderman, but refused to stand for re-election in 1910. However, that year he was one of seven men appointed to revise the City Charter. He also set a true fiscal example by refusing to accept his aldermanic salary while in office.

If there was a civic organization that could benefit from his abilities, Mr. Gambrill would offer his services. He was a director of Citizens National Bank, chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Home for The Aged (now The Record Street Home), and was a member of The Governor's Commission to study relief and old age pension. He was also active in the Chamber of Commerce, Federated Charities, the Community Chest, the Monocacy Battlefield Association, the Frederick City Park Board, and The Rotary Club, of which he was a charter member.

Mr. Gambrill was an avid sportsman and served for a time as chairman of the State Game and Inland Fish Commission. An outspoken conservationist, he was president of the Confederation of Western Maryland Communities, formed to preserve the area's natural resources.

To recognize his efforts and his devotion to the cause, Gambrill State Park was named in his honor.

From 1916 until his death in 1951, Mr. Gambrill was a member of the Board of Trustees of Hood College, serving as vice-president in 1942. In November of 1949, Hood College named its new gymnasium after him in appreciation for his years of service to the college. The facility, which contains the Hodson pool, classrooms, faculty offices, and locker rooms was built originally at a cost of \$420,000, which was donated over a quarter century by alumnae of the college

March 16

On March 16, 1829, just five weeks after President-Elect Andrew Jackson had received an inauspicious welcome in our fair community, retiring Secretary of State Henry Clay arrived for several days of festivities, including a banquet in his honor at Talbott's City Hotel. It had been Clay who was responsible for Jackson defeat in the House of Representatives in 1824, when John Quincy Adams was elected president by that body.

Once again Frederick was on the direct route home for a public servant. Clay was on his way to his Lexington, Kentucky, home when he stopped here for respite.

Clay must have felt like a candidate for president again during his stay because, as The Frederick Town Herald reported: "...so continual was the press of visitors that scarcely could he avail himself of the neces-

sary hours of refreshment." On March 18, a banquet was held at Talbott's, and, although the \$3 price was considered expensive in those days, more than 200 attended. The Frederick Band was complimented by the press "for their polite attendance and tasteful and appropriate tunes."

As was the custom then, just about everyone in the room afforded a toast, some more than one. Among those in attendance were John Wright, Dr. John Tyler, George Baer, George Baltzell, Capt. John Dudderer, Dr. John Baltzell, who built the home which today serves as the headquarters for The Frederick County Historical Society, William Schley and Jacob Cornish.

When all were finished, Clay, noticing that Lawrence Everhart, who had saved Col. William Washington at the Battle of Cowpens, and had assisted a wounded Lafayette from the Brandywine Battlefield during the Revolution, was in attendance with several other War of Independence veterans, rose and asked those present "to unite with him in the expression of the pleasure their presence added to the scene, by a toast 'to Lawrence Everhart and his fellow soldiers.'

The Herald, in the closing paragraph of its story reporting the event, remarked on the coincidence that those in attendance number the same as the members of the House of Representatives - 213 - which Clay had served for several years as Speaker.

From John Ashbury's '... and all our yesterdays: A chronicle of Frederick County'.



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SCHOOL AND LIBRARY NEWS

Walkersville library

The Walkersville Library is proud to offer a wide array of programs that will keep you feeling cheerful and lucky this March.

Are you ready to get moving? Wear some comfortable clothes and bring some water for our fitness offerings this month. Join us for Freedom Bang at 10 a.m. every Saturday in March. Freedom Bang is a pre-choreographed fusion of boxing, hip hop, world dance, optional weighted gloves and just a touch of attitude. It offers a wide range of intensity options to help you customize your workout. Then join us on Monday, the 6th and 20th of March, for Sol Yoga. This is a free yoga class the begins at 6 p.m..

We know that there is so much to learn as you or your loved one's age. That's why we are offering a Senior Resource and Education Seminar on Monday March 13th at 10:30 a.m.. This seminar will feature a panel of experts on topics such as Medicare, Senior fitness, Home Safety, In home Care, Home Health, FCC ILR program, Elder Law, Assisted Living, Adult Day Care, Brain Health, Financial and other resources.

Come enjoy some tea while getting a look into the future with Victorian Parlor Divination and Tea Sunday on Sunday, March 26th at 2 p.m.. It promises to be a mystical afternoon as we sample tea, and enjoy conversation and demonstrations. We will cover such topics as Tasseology, Divination, Crystals, Tarot cards, and more!

Hey teens! Looking for something to do afterschool on Tuesdays and Fridays? Join us at 3:30 p.m. the first three Tuesdays of March for Teen S.T.E.A.M. Explore, create, and experiment with a variety of science, technology, engineer-

ing, art, and math activities. This month will feature Just Dance on the 7th, Leprechaun Traps on the 14th, and Speed Cubing on the 21st. Then join us on Fridays at 3:30 p.m. for Teen Connect. Come and enjoy a variety of tabletop games, video games, and assorted activities. Teen Connect kickoffs on March 3rd with VR games!

The library is continuing with its weekly story times throughout the month of March! Our youngest patrons and their caregivers can join us on Monday for a morning packed with stories, songs and fun. The fun begins at 10 a.m. with Infant Storytime, designed for children 0-12 months and their families. This is followed directly by It Takes a Village, a caregiver-led discussion and playgroup for tips and tricks to help navigate raising little ones, at 10:30 a.m.. Then bring your energy to explore songs, stories, and fun designed for our youngest audience and their caregivers with Baby Storytime at 11.

Our toddling tots get to join in on the fun every Tuesday at 11 a.m. with Toddler Storytime. Bring your wiggles for songs, stories, and fun for toddlers and their grownups. Stay for Toddler Skills directly after at 11:30 which introduces toddlers and their caregivers to a variety of preschool-readiness skills including fine motor development, social emotional skills, and early literacy activities.

And we didn't forget about our 3- to 5-year-olds. Every Thursday at 11 a.m. we have Preschool Storytime filled with songs, stories, and fun for our preschoolers and their grownups. Then at 11:30 we have School Skills for Preschoolers where preschoolers and their caregivers will practice school-readiness skills with cutting, tracing, play, and

other literacy activities.

Looking for something that the whole family can enjoy? Join us every Wednesday in March for Family Storytime at 6 p.m.. Wear your pajamas and join us inside for songs, stories, and fun for the whole family!

For even more fun the library is continuing our Fri-Yay! Program on Friday's at 11 a.m. Each Friday is a different themed activity geared toward children from birth to elementary.

Join us on Thursday March 9th at 6:30 p.m. for Paws to Read with Go Team Therapy Dogs. Beginning readers can improve their reading confidence and make a new friend when they read aloud to a therapy dog.

As a part of the 275th anniversary of Frederick County, the library will be hosting From Sheep to Sweater. On Friday March 10th at 1 p.m., children can come and meet a professional shepherdess who will teach them about caring for sheep and how farmers turn wool into clothing!

On Friday, March 17th and 24th kids can come and investigate the world of fiber arts during Fun with Fiber Arts. The fun starts at 1 p.m. in front of the Fireplace.

Looking for something new to read but having trouble picking your next title? The library offers a range of ways of finding your next book. NovelList is a website that recommends books based on several categories including age, genre, and mood. It can also build recommendations based on what you have read and what you are interested in. And this is offered to you for free with your library card! Want a more human touch? You can get books picked specifically for you by one of our librarians!

Through our Personalized Picks

2023 Walkersville High School Alumni Association Scholarship

The Walkersville High School Alumni Association Inc. will award 14 scholarships.

The scholarships, except one for a prior W.H.S. Alumni scholarship winner, are available to all 2023 graduates from Walkersville High School who will be continuing their education in a trade, vocational school or college.

Applicants must be able to attend the W.H.S. Alumni Banquet on Saturday, June 24th or the scholarship may be forfeited. For an application go to the WHS Naviance site or email sandyzimm528@gmail.com.

The completed application packet must be submitted to the W.H.S. Guidance Office by March 31st.

Glade Valley Lions Club career and technology scholarships

At the Feb. 2nd, Glade Valley Lions Club meeting, members met with Karla Eshelman, Administrative Secretary at the Career and Technology Center. The GVLC will be offering two \$1,000 scholarships to Walkersville High School seniors who have completed their program at the Career and Technology Center. The GVLC will donate \$2,000 to the CTC.

The scholarship committee at CTC will then select two seniors from Walkersville High School for a \$1,000 scholarship. Recipients must attend FCC or a Trade School. The Glade Valley Lions Club will also be offering 3 \$1,000 scholarships for seniors planning to attend FCC or a 4-year college. All scholarship information can

be found through FCPS School-ology program which all students have access to.

The Glade Valley Lions is looking for new members who want to be involved in service organization. Meetings are held the first and 3rd. Thursdays at St. John's UCC Church in Woodsboro. Meetings begin at 6:30. We will have a Friendship on Thursday, April 20th. If interested in learning about the Glade Valley Lions Club contact Rich Yankosky, Membership Chairperson at ryankosky2@gmail.com

Standing L. to R. Rich Yankosky GVLC scholarship committee member, Karla Eshelman Administrative Secretary at Career and Technology Center, Marty Potash president GVLC.

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WALKERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

A battle of brains vs. brains

Audrey Shabelski
WHS Class of 2024

There are more ways that students can represent their Lions pride than shooting a basket or landing a field goal. Sometimes they fight using book smarts, as shown by the High School Academic Team who has ranked third among ten schools in the FCPS It's Academic! Tournaments.

The WHS Academic Team competes in one to two matches every Friday night, with each match consisting of four rounds. The first is a lightning round, which consists of ten questions about a relative subject that no team is aware of prior to the round. The second round is a team round where the members can work together to give an answer as one team goes at a time. The third round is math, with five questions related to math and five related to other trivia, and the fourth is the specialty category, which is based on a topic that teams are allowed to study for prior to the match. The last round is made up of 20 questions about any subject matter. This format allows for team members to be well rounded in all areas of knowledge as they compete against two other schools.

The season started in January, where Walkersville took first against Middletown and Brunswick, scoring a total of 21 points against the others 8 and 18. The following week they participated in two matches, coming in second place to Linganore in the first match but winning first place in the second match against Frederick and Oakdale. The team has consistently placed first and second. But for team members,

it's not all about winning.

"I enjoy it because of the group atmosphere and dynamic and because I like trivia in general," said senior team member Ruth Whitehouse. "I enjoyed the first specialty topic the most personally, as the topic was astronomy and I am a huge space nerd. I'm also excited for the final night topic, Greek mythology, as I have read a lot of books on the topic and find it very fascinating."

Junior team member Stella Franklin has her own reasons for enjoying the tournaments, too. "I like going to the dinners after the matches, getting all dressed up for the tournament, and seeing my friends so often during the week," said Franklin. "The matches go by pretty quickly when we're answering questions. It's also fun to try and figure out the answers yourself if you're not on a buzzer. While some of the questions are very academically-inclined, there are a lot of pop culture ones too. It's essentially Jeopardy."

On Feb. 10th, the game really was on as Walkersville fought against the other top teams at the time: Urbana and Governor Thomas Johnson. The match was off to a tense start, with Walkersville placing last at the end of the third round, but the mighty Lions are not known for staying down. In rounds four and five, the Walkersville team climbed the ranks until they were able to tie for first place.

In addition to winning celebrations, all members have favorite memories from their matches. Said Whitehouse, "The best story I have from the season was during one round asking questions about soda. Someone on

another team answered Dr Pepper, but the actual answer was Pepsi; however, later in the round he redeemed himself during the last question when he got Dr. Pepper correct. It only made it better when he was team captain for the second round and, after introducing his teammates, he thanked Dr. Pepper."

Afinan Shure, a senior member of the team, recalled, "In my very first match, I buzzed in on a question which I had no idea the answer to. I just blurted out 'State Farm' since the category was slogans and jingles, and apparently it was right!"

Many memories are made simply through uplifting other teammates. Said Franklin, "Typically during official matches, the team captain will give the players' introductions and thank people. My favorite moment this season was when another school's team captain mentioned a girl who got into Harvard as a shout out. When the introductions reached us, our team captain proceeded to mention one of our own members who had gotten into Yale on a full ride. It was really unexpected but also quite funny."

Although the student academics themselves deserve plenty of attention, their coaches also deserve high praise. For the Academic Team, all the coaches are WHS teachers who volunteer their time to write practice questions and hold practices for the teams. This year, the coaches are math teachers Darrin Drum and Colin Williams, science teacher Katherine Boller, and English teacher Bryan Stillman. Each of them works hard to ensure their students' success, sitting through



The Walkersville High School Academic Team took third place at the County's Academic Tournament.

matches and cheering them on, and even bringing newspapers on match days so the team is up to date on current events. They really care about the team and how much knowledge they can learn.

"The matches are a replica of our practices, which are filled with laughs, and numerous 'I should've buzzed on that one' coupled with amazing coaches and their advice," noted Shure. "No matter the result of the final match, I hope everyone feels accomplished for contributing to the success of Walkersville's academic team. Every week we have played better, adapted to the questions, and made adjustments to our techniques."

The Academic Team has spent February continuing to rank high as they have prepared for their final match.

"Of course I want Walkersville to win or at least get to the final match. Greek mythology is the special topic we've all been waiting for, so I hope the stars align. Every team will be super competitive for a spot in the final game, so no matter what it'll be a fun night to both watch and play. I really enjoyed the specialty topics this year... Greek mythology was one I had been waiting and hoping for... it's nice to have one round that you can really prepare for."

The finals night was one to remember. In the first match Walkersville won with an impressive 20 points, the highest score of the night, which secured their place in the finals. In the final match Walkersville played valiantly almost tying for first, but they resulted in second place with 11 points compared to Linganore's 12.

Frederick County School System

Karen Yoho
Frederick County School Board

If you have a student in grades 5-11, you may have seen a notice about your student taking the Maryland School Survey sometime this spring. This survey contains four areas: safety, community, environment, and relationships. Once the results are compiled, they are reported for schools and on the Maryland Report Card website, MDReportCard.org.

MSDE conducts a survey for all parents/guardians with students ages 3-21 who are receiving special education and related services through your local school. All are encouraged to participate. The survey must be completed by May 19. Please check with your local school for details.

Our legislators are hard at work in Annapolis. March 20 is the legislative crossover date this year. A bill that does not cross over to the opposite chamber faces high procedural hurdles in order to be considered this year. Bill introduction dates were earlier in February, so anyone following the progress of legislation has some idea of what bills have been proposed. Currently, those in the education world are following over 350 bills. The mgaleg.maryland.gov website has a feature that allows the public to be notified about the path of any selected bills. You create a list and then click on the thumbtack on the bill synopsis page. Each day, an email is delivered that lists

the chosen bills and their progress.

Superintendent Dyson and the Frederick County BoE are working hard to improve communication with our stakeholders. Our Public Affairs Department will be the centralized location for system communications. If you are not already familiar with signing up for Find Out First, that would be a good first step to receiving email notifications. If you are currently receiving FoFs, remember to update your settings as your student changes levels, interests, etc.

FCPS students elected UHS sophomore Brooke Lieberman to be the next Student Member of the Board (SMOB). She will officially begin on July 1. Brooke will have the opportunity to shadow current SMOB Lucas Tessarollo from Gov. TJ High School.

Heather Quill, guidance coun-

selor at Lincoln Elementary, has been named the 2023 School Counselor of the Year by the Maryland School Counselor Association. She will represent Maryland later this year at the national level. We are proud of the fact that FCPS is getting close the recommended ratio of 1 counselor to every 250 students. According to Principal Eric Rhodes, "Mrs. Quill is a constant cheerleader to build the culture that surrounds her to reassure that each person feels heard and supported." Congratulations Mrs. Quill! We know you will represent us well.

A reminder that the county Science and Social Studies Fairs are returning on Saturday, March 25 at Tuscarora High School. Registration is open till March 5 for secondary science, and March 20 for elementary science and

social studies. The forms are online on the FCPS website. We look forward to this display of student creativity, problem-solving, and hard work.

The school system is seeking nominations for the 2023 Charles Tressler Distinguished Teacher Award. According to the FCPS website, "Named for a former Hood College faculty member who encouraged students to enter teaching profession, this award recognizes an FCPS teacher who has had a significant posi-

itive impact on young people." For eligibility and other information, go to www.fcps.org/awards. Nomination packets are due to the FCPS Public Affairs Department at the Central Office by Friday, March 17.

And last but not least, FCPS is holding its Annual Job Fair on Tuesday, March 14 from 3 to 7 pm at Hood College in the Whitaker Campus Center. Applicants are encouraged to pre-register for the Job Fair. For more information, go to the FCPS website.

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March is a perfect time to dig into our gardens and landscapes!

How are our “gardens” and “landscapes” related? Both involve soil, water, and plants. Both support the biodiversity of insects and wildlife. Both can benefit from our stewardship.

We commonly think of gardens as planned and tended areas to grow vegetables, flowers, shrubs, and trees. Landscapes, on the other hand, may be larger natural areas and viewscapes that are planned and unplanned, private and public, tended and untended.

So gardens are small-scale landscapes.

What does the word “treasure” mean to you? Something that you value? Actions that you take to protect that valued something—how you “treasure” your “treasure”?

“Treasure” suggests the idea of riches. Gardens and landscapes are a kind of riches, a different kind of “green” that’s not bought and sold for profit, stored in a bank

or jewelry box, or used to buy things. You can treasure gardens and landscapes beyond their monetary value, for their importance to your personal health and quality of life and to your community’s well-being and sustainability.

Frederick County is fortunate to be home to many gardens and treasured landscapes, “places that stand out...with many inspiring, productive, and naturally diverse lands,” according to the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan. These landscapes “enhance, and in some cases protect, the natural, cultural, and historical characteristics” of our home county and link our communities together.

In fact, county land use planners have identified several areas that can benefit from “focused attention,” including the Sugarloaf Mountain region, the Middletown Valley, and the Catoctin Creek area. And climate change is adding urgency to these county efforts to protect and sustain these and other local and regional landscapes, productive lands, and natural resources.

Undoubtedly, you know of some gardens and landscapes that

can benefit from your personal “focused attention.” Early spring is a great time to dig in!

Growing Opportunities

At home: If you have outdoor space with some soil and sunshine, whether a balcony or yard, you can plant and sustain your own garden—your own treasured landscape—in pots, planters, borders and raised beds.

Farther afield: If you have space in a community garden, or others need help with theirs, you can extend your treasured landscape efforts to include those gardens, too.

Community: If your neighborhood, school, church, or local park has a Green Team, pollinator garden, or tree planting project, you can work with other volunteers to plant and care for those shared landscapes.

You might be interested to know that in support of these treasured landscapes and gardens, last April the Maryland “senate passed House Bill 322, which compels homeowners’ associations (HOAs) and other organizations to allow ‘low-impact landscaping,’ such as rain gardens, native plant gardens, pollinator gardens, and xeriscaping in subdivisions. The law specifically forbids HOAs to require that ‘cultivated vegetation [in gardens] consist in whole or in part of turf grass,’ according to an article posted on the Native Plant Society’s website (Laws Promoting Native Plants—Native Plant Conservation Campaign [nativeplantsocietyofus.org]).

The following links are just a few examples of local growing opportunities and information sources to help you enjoy and promote gardens and treasured landscapes in your home, your community, and Frederick County.

You can consult the websites of several community gardens throughout Frederick County, including, www.recreater.com/196/Community-Gardens; www.cityoffrederickmd.gov/1059/Garden-Plots; and fnp-communitygarden12@gmail.com.



Late summer harvest from 2022: Marigolds and sunflowers not only help to attract pollinators such as bees and birds, but also protect many vegetables from pests like aphids.

Green Teams: These grassroots groups, growing sustainability of their schools, communities, and workplaces, have been in place at least since 2012. They include Green Team Urbana, www.greenteamurbana.com; Middletown Green Team, cunangst@ci.middletown.md.us; and Thurmont Green Team, ThurmontGreen@gmail.com. In addition, there are Sustainability offices in New Market, Thurmont, Emmitsburg, and the City of Frederick.

Green Schools: Students at these schools focus on growing learning activities engaged with environmental stewardship. The schools include Centerville, Myersville, and Yellow Springs Elementary Schools; Frederick, Oakdale, and Urbana High Schools, as well as the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, www.maeoe.org.

Read about Frederick County’s land use plans, including the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan at frederickcountymd.gov/8046/Sugarloaf-Area-Plan, and the Livable Frederick Master Plan October 2019 Implementation Program, www.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/324268/Sugarloaf-Implementation-Plan.

Homegrown National Park: Regenerate biodiversity one garden at a time. [\[nationalpark.org\]\(http://nationalpark.org\).](http://www.homegrown-</p>
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Landscape America: A collaboration of NatureServe and the National Geographic Society, Landscape America is an online resource of maps, data, photos, and stories about America’s natural places and open spaces to inform and inspire conservation of our lands and waters. www.landscape.org.

Maryland Green Infrastructure, Department of Natural Resources www.dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Green-Infrastructure.aspx

Maryland Rural Legacy Areas - www.dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/RuralLegacy/All-Rural-Legacy-Areas.aspx

National Forests Foundation: Restore landscapes and connect communities.

www.nationalforests.org/who-we-are/treasured-landscapes-unforgettable-experiences

The Frederick County Master Gardeners University of Maryland Extension Office is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We provide free Saturday morning seminars, operate a Demonstration Garden, and provide other resources to help you build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities.

To read other gardening articles, visit the Gardening section of Walkersville.ne.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Master Gardener Seminars

Frederick County

March 4: "Composting & Garden Soil Preparation" - From composting to recycling, learn ways to benefit the environment and your garden. We also will offer tips and techniques for using worms to transform your kitchen scraps into nutrition-rich plant fertilizer in a small space inside your home.

March 11: "Planting the Spring Vegetable Garden" - Growing potatoes, broccoli, onions, and peas requires early planning. Learn what to plant and when to start planting spring vegetables. Find out how row covers and mulching can increase your success.

March 18: "Pull This, Plant That: Invasive Plants & Native Plant Alternatives" - Find out why and how to replace non-native plants—

especially invasive—with natives that help our native birds, butterflies and other pollinators. You will learn to accurately identify and control invasive plants and discover native alternatives that are beneficial and beautiful.

March 25: "Creating a Flower Cutting Garden & Arrangements" - Learn how to design, plant and harvest flowers from your own cutting garden. Discover the best sun and shade annuals for cutting and how to maintain the garden for maximum production. We also will demonstrate techniques for creating arrangements.

All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick, from 10AM-12PM.

Small Town Gardener

'Easy' is a matter of opinion

Marianne Willburn

With millions of innovative gardeners on this planet, differences of opinion and horticultural hair-pulling sessions are bound to erupt. Most of us look forward to a little good-natured thrust and parry – particularly in March when we're all getting tired of endless conversations about how this winter stacked up to the last.

There is more than one way to do most things, and I rarely take issue with what works for another gardener. But something that does set my teeth on edge is the tendency in a media-saturated world to carelessly label too many techniques and plants with "easy" in an effort to sell copy or attract clicks. Normally I breeze by them, but the winter months can make me cranky.

The target of my ire this time: A sexy little picture of a maidenhair fern (*Adiantum*) in a natural fiber pot captioned with a quick, breezy proclamation stating that they, along with Boston ferns, were easy to grow for the indoor gardener: "read: hard to kill." An even breezier comment told the reader to try "white allium" for something even daintier.

I took a double take. When you see something definitively stated in a glossy magazine, the first thing you do is question your own knowledge and experience. The second thing you do is question why it's

bothering you so much. Then you text a greenhouse grower friend to ascertain if you, are indeed, completely insane.

If you come out of that conversation fully vindicated, you must then decide if it's time for one of those thinly veiled "I-know-more-than-you-do" letters to the editor that begin pompously with "Dear Editor, I was concerned to read in your last issue that..." and end with an editorial intern falling asleep over your encyclopedic use of botanical terms.

Luckily in these days of social media I could simply take the low road and vent my spleen on Facebook.

Not that I don't love the many species of *Adiantum*. Airy, delicately cut, and sporting filament-thin black stripes that contrast strikingly with bright green foliage, they are plants that inspire lust the moment you set eyes upon them. My latest garden impulse purchase in this genus is *Adiantum venustum*, commonly called the Himalayan maidenhair. I've killed it once before, but a better placement has made all the difference.

Maidenhair ferns love high humidity, and just enough water to keep them moist but not wet (which by the way describes the watering style of a very small percentage of houseplant owners). They can be adapted to low-humidity levels inside through a process of slow acclimatization, but I don't feel that such a process can be termed "easy" with a straight

face. 'Easy' is a philodendron and a rubber plant that you bought at a garage sale in 1992.

"Easy!?" ranted I, and followed up with a paragraph of low-level vitriol on how tired I am of non- and novice gardeners being led up the garden path by 'expert' information that will lead to them feeling like failures when things go pear-shaped.

If I had a dollar for every person I've ever talked to who said "Oh, I tried houseplants – I just kill them, so I don't bother anymore." I'd be writing this column from the Amalfi Coast.

Then I waited for the backlash.

John Boggan, who blogs at DC Tropics and is a horticulturalist friend and plant breeder from Washington, lobbed the ball back in my court, saying he had found *Adiantum* to be "quite easy" – though he did agree with me on the ridiculousness of naming "white allium" as a dainty option (the genus is so broad, and in some cases, the foliage so coarse, that this made sense to neither of us).

I pointed out he was a plant breeder with years of experience. (15-love.)

He pointed out it was okay to kill a plant. (15-all.)

I ruminated on the truth in this statement but still felt that the main point is not to put people off from the very beginning by setting them up for failure. John and I both love plants – he's a botanist by profession, I'm a garden writer – we're willing to try again. But there are many others who just...won't. It was on their behalf that my righteous morning anger sprung.

Regulating humidity and dialing it back can be tricky. I use a Wardian case to "harden off" certain plants to indoor conditions over time. There are other ways to regulate humidity, but that's the easiest for me.

Call me cynical, but I just don't think most people think along those lines when they see a lusty little plant and are told "Easy!" Better they are given realistic expectations so they know where to start looking when the plant dies – and hopefully, try again.

In the end, I wrote that letter to the editor too. For all my raging, I'm more old school than new.

Marianne is the author of Big Dreams Small Garden and Tropical Plants and How To Love Them. She writes from her home in Virginia. IG @marianne.willburn.



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ARTS

Weinberg Center presents the U.S. Army Concert Band

The U.S. Army Concert Band, an ensemble of the U.S. Army Band Pershing's Own, will hold a free concert at the Weinberg Center of the Arts in Frederick Maryland on Sunday, March 19.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, The U.S. Army Concert Band has performed in concert venues such as Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Hollywood Bowl—connecting the Army with the American people.

The ensemble participates in ongoing, educational outreach and often appears at national and international music events, including the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Music Edu-

cators National Convention, the Texas Bandmasters Association, and the American Bandmasters Association.

To promote international goodwill, the 65-piece, traditional concert band has performed joint concerts with the Soviet Army, the Russian Navy, and the Ukrainian Navy bands, and has appeared in military tattoos in Scotland, Sweden, Holland, Norway, Australia, and Japan.

The Soldiers in this ensemble have been trained at some of the most prestigious music conservatories and universities in the country. Displaying their versatility, the Concert Band members perform a variety of styles, ranging from classical to popular.

This is a Free Event, but tickets are required and can be found online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street.

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2022-23 season can be found at WeinbergCenter.org.

The Weinberg Center for the Arts is one of the region's premier performing arts presenters, offering film, music, dance, theater, and family-focused programming. Located in downtown Frederick Maryland, the Weinberg Center strives to ensure that the arts remain accessible and affordable to local and regional audiences alike.



The Soldiers in this ensemble have been trained at some of the most prestigious music conservatories and universities in the country and perform a variety of styles, ranging from classical to popular.

Lions of Blue to host jazz festival

The Walkersville High School Music Department and The Lions of Blue Jazz Ensemble invite you to an exciting evening filled with beautiful sounds of jazz music, dancing, food trucks and a social atmosphere like no other! Join us on Friday, March 10, at the Walkersville High School.

WHS Band Director and Music Teacher Alexander Loy said, "We are excited to bring back the Jazz Festival to Walkersville High School after a two year hiatus! There are limited performance

opportunities for high school jazz bands, so this festival provides a unique opportunity for hard working student musicians to not only perform for an energetic audience, but receive feedback on their performance."

You will hear not one, or two, but eight jazz bands from our local area! They will bring their best tunes to keep your ears and your soul entertained all night long. Relax with us and enjoy your jazzy favorites, as performed by the ensembles of: the Catocin, Oak-

dale, Liganore, Rockville, Tuscarora, Urbana, and Westminster High Schools and your host, The Walkersville High's Lions of Blue.

WHS Junior and Trumpetist Zachary Clemence said, "Jazz has allowed me to express myself in a way I haven't been able to before. I was able to make friends, and have fun."

WHS Junior and Saxophone Soloist Kai Kamakaris says, "People should come to see the festival because we have been excited and preparing for it for a while. We are all very happy and want to see you there to enjoy jazz."

In10se BBQ and Happy Cow Creamery food trucks will be on site, so you don't have to worry about planning dinner. Concessions and other merchandise will also be available for sale throughout the evening.

Festival opens at 4:30pm with the first ensemble playing at 5 p.m.. General Admission tickets are \$10 at the door. Students, Seniors and FCPS Employees are only \$5. All proceeds from the evening support the Walkersville High School Music Programs.

Walkersville High School Music Boosters exists to promote and support the interests and activities of the Walkersville High School Music Department, to provide moral and financial support to all Walkersville High School music programs, and to support the artistic vision of the Music Director.

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Lucky in food

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

Growing up I never liked Irish food, mainly because I think my mom would make cabbage and very dry corned beef on St. Patrick's Day. She was a good cook and learned all my father's family's Italian recipes and I think probably homemade "macaroni and gravy" (if you know, you know) tended to beat out cabbage for kids. Although still not always at the top of my list for foods, I do feel some obligation to honor my red haired, green-eyed mother in March, perhaps not with boiled cabbage though.

Shepherd's Pie

My husband freakishly loves shepherd's pie. He's always very excited when its offered at a restaurant, especially if it's "Guinness" Shepherd's Pie. I should probably make it more often to insure a happy marriage. This recipe also freezes well, so you could make it and put in two smaller pans to serve half and freeze half as well to reheat at another time.

Mashed Potato Topping

I have made this in the past with mashed sweet potato topping as well, which is also a hit. If you put your mashed topping of choice in a piping bag and an icing tip you can make your pie look very fancy and everyone will be amazed.

Ingredients

- 2 pounds potatoes, peeled and cut into big chunks
- 4 tbs butter
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ¼ to ½ cup milk
- salt and pepper, to taste

Meat Filling

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups frozen peas, carrots, and corn medley
- 2 tbs. flour

- ½ cup beef broth
- 1 tbs. tomato paste
- 1 tbs. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tps. rosemary
- ½ tps thyme
- 1 bay leaf

Cooking Instructions: Preheat oven to 350°F. Boil the potatoes in water to cover until fork tender and then drain the water. Add the butter, sour cream, milk, salt, and pepper to taste and mash the potatoes with a hand masher or mixer until you reach your favorite mashed potato consistency. Set aside. In a large skillet brown the ground beef along with the onions and garlic. Drain any excess grease.

To the same skillet add 2 cups of the frozen vegetables. Cook for about 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle the flour over the meat and veggies and stir to mix. Add the tomato paste and stir to mix it in. Add the beef broth, Worcestershire sauce, rosemary, thyme, and bay leaf. Bring to a simmer and then reduce heat to low. Cook uncovered for 10 minutes, adding additional broth if necessary to prevent the meat from drying out. Remove from heat. Spread the meat mixture in an even layer in a 9x13 dish that has been sprayed with non-stick spray.

Make sure to remove the bay leaf before adding the mixture to the 9x13 dish. Top the meat with the mashed potatoes making an even layer of potatoes. You can get all fancy and pipe the potatoes onto the meat or you can use a spoon and spread the potatoes evenly and then use a fork to make designs and ridges in the potatoes. These little ridges will brown nicely! Place the dish in the oven and bake for 30 minutes until brown and bubbly. You can place it under the broiler for a few minutes to brown the potatoes more if necessary.

Irish Soda Bread

This is a great, easy bread that uses baking soda as its leavener so you are not waiting for it to rise and then proof before baking. You can just mix

it together and put it in the oven. I love soda bread for its ease, crispy and crumbly crust and the biscuit like texture of the crumb. The great debate in soda bread is whether it is traditional to put dried fruit, like currants or raisins in it. Try it both ways and see what you decide.

This is an easy recipe that even the littlest sous chefs can help with. While it bakes you can also make a compound butter to go the extra mile.

Ingredients

- 4 cups of flour
- 1 and 1/4 cups buttermilk
- 4 tbs. sugar
- 1 tbs. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup softened butter (one stick)
- 1 egg

Glaze

- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1/4 cup buttermilk

Cooking Instructions: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Mix together the dry ingredients: Flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Use a whisk to make sure it is well combined. Add in the wet ingredients: buttermilk, butter, egg and use a hand mixer to help combine everything. Turn out the dough on a floured surface and kneed it for about 10 minutes. Dust it with flour as needed. It's done when it is about the consistency of Playdough.

Form dough into a loaf and put it on a cookie sheet with parchment paper. The parchment paper is going to be important to keep the bottom of the bread from over cooking. Cut a large X in to the top of the dough. This is very important to help the dough cook through. Add the dough to the oven for 15 minutes.

While the bread is cooking, make



Who doesn't love Shepherd's Pie?

the glaze by melting butter (microwave or stovetop) over a low flame and let it rest for a few minutes. Continue to mix it on the stove top to keep it from burning. Add the buttermilk to the butter and mix well. Continue to mix occasionally.

When the 15 minutes are done, take the bread out of the oven and brush the glaze over the top of it. Then do this intermittently as the bread bakes for about 1h15min. Bread is done when an thermometer reads 190F, or if a toothpick comes out clean. When done, let the bread rest for 20 minutes.

How to make a compound butter

A compound butter is just a butter with something added to it, like honey or cinnamon, or can be savory like

garlic or herbs. Start with one stick of butter at room temperature, softened and place it in a bowl and mix in your additions.

Maple Cinnamon: 1 TBS maple syrup, 1 tsp ground cinnamon, pinch of salt

Honey Orange: 1 TBS honey, 1 tsp finely grated orange zest, pinch of salt

Herb Butter: 2 TBS fresh chopped herbs (dill, parsley, thyme), pinch of salt and pepper

These can be served with bread soft, or you can roll them in plastic wrap and chill them for future use. Chilling the butter is great for savory flavors, if you want to use them to top proteins like fish or steak.

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



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of March

Professor Wayne Wooten

For March, the Full Moon, the Worm Moon, is on March 7th. Last quarter is on March 14th. The Vernal Equinox begins spring on March 20th at 3:24 p.m.. The new moon is on March 21st. The waxing crescent moon marking the beginning of Ramadan passes Jupiter on March 22nd, and passes Venus the following two evenings. It passes Mars on March 27th, and is first quarter the following evening.

Mercury has a close conjunction (1.3 degrees) to the right of Jupiter in twilight on March 27th. Jupiter will be lost in the Sun's glare by April, but Mercury rising higher in the SW for the first week of April. Bright Venus passes just .5 degrees (the diameter of the full moon) to the right of Jupiter as the month begins, a spectacular conjunction for the naked eyes, binocs, and small scopes. By month's end, Venus will be 30 degrees higher as we lose Jupiter into the Sun's glare. Venus dominates the western sky for the next several months. Mars is overhead as March begins, but losing ground to the Sun. Saturn reappears low in the dawn by month's end, and will be close to the waning crescent in the dawn on March 19th; you will probably need binocs to spot both.

February skies were blessed with beautifully photogenic Comet 2022 E3 (ZTF), passing overhead at mid-month. Alas, it has headed far south and is now just a telescopic object after passing closest to us on February 1st. The comet was then closer to us than any planet ever gets, but still



February was blessed with beautifully photogenic Comet 2022 E3, making its closest approach to Earth on February 1st. If you missed it - this is what you missed seeing.

more than 100X more distant than our own Moon.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. South of Cassiopeia is Andromeda's hero, Perseus. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

At Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half

their distance. Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky in the northwest. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here.

East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini; it is directly above us as darkness falls in early March. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the southern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. How bright does Betelgeuse appear to you tonight? In 2019-20, this famed supergiant had expanded and cooled, forming a dust envelope that has darkened much of its southern hemisphere it to less than a quar-

ter its normal brightness in visible light. Now the dust has dissipated, and it is back close to its normal brightness as the alpha star of Orion again.

Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope and among the youngest known stars.

In the east are the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky as darkness falls. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. When Sirius is highest, along our southern horizon look for the second brightest star, Canopus, getting just above the horizon and sparkling like an exquisite diamond as the turbulent winter air twists and turns this shaft of starlight, after a trip of about 200 years!

To the northeast, look for the bowl of the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Here it sits unmoving 30 degrees high in on our northern sky locally.

If you take the pointers of the Big Dipper's bowl to the south, you are guided instead to the head of Leo the Lion rising in the east, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". The folk wisdom that "March comes in like a Lion" probably refers to the head of Leo rising just after sunset in early March below it.

The constellation Cancer lies midway between the Gemini to the west

and Regulus east of it. Almost directly overhead when darkness falls at month's end, look under dark skies for a faint blur of light in the middle of the four stars that make up the crab's body. This is the Praesepe, or Beehive, cluster, M-44, familiar to the ancients. Its blurry appearance lead Charles Messier to include it in his catalog of things that look at first like comets, but do not move and are far away among the stars and galaxies. Now check it out with binoculars, and resolve it into dozens of stars, hence the "Beehive"!

If you follow the handle of the Big Dipper to the south, by 9 p.m. you will be able to "arc to Arcturus", the brightest star of Spring and distinctly orange in color. Its color is an indication of its uniqueness. Its large speed and direction through the Milky Way suggests it was not formed with our Galaxy, but is a recent capture from the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a smaller satellite galaxy now being assimilated by our huge spiral galaxy. Many of its lost stars, like Arcturus, follow a band across the sky at about a 70 degree angle to our galactic plane.

Arcturus is at the tail of kite shaped Bootes, the celestial bear driver chasing the two bears from his flocks. Spike south then to Spica in Virgo. Here appearance to the Greeks marked the time to plant, for they associated Virgo with Persephone, daughter of Ceres of the Harvest, returning from six months underground with Pluto to now bless the growth and greening of the upperworld. So when Spica rises now at sunset in the SE, it is time to plant your peas! Likewise, when Persephone goes back down to Hades and disappears in the sun's glare in September SW skies, it is time to get your corn in the crib! This cycle goes back to the birth of agriculture.



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Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Dry, then snow and ice north, rain east, followed by blustery conditions (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); dry, then a wintery mix followed by much milder conditions (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); sprinkles followed by gusty winds and turning much colder (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); warm, then rain, snow west, followed by breezy conditions (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); rain, then breezy, mild (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); 26-31 dry, then rain, staying mild (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Severe Weather Watch: The Almanack sees a wintery mix (3, 4, 5); high winds (12, 13 14); heavy snow (19, 20); heavy rain (28, 29, 30)

Full Moon: March's Full Moon for will occur on the 7th. It has been called Worm Moon by many Native Americans because of the abundance of earthworms that begin when the earth starts to soften due to the warming temperatures. It has also been called Sap Moon because sap would begin to rise and run during this time of year.

Special Notes: Daylight Saving Time (DST) begins on Sunday, March 13th in 2023. Don't forget to 'spring' ahead an hour at 2 a.m. EST. Day Light Savings Time will end on November 5th, unless the Sunshine Protection Act is signed into law. Passed by the Senate in March, the act is awaiting the President's signature after a final review by the House. The Vernal Equinox will occur Monday, March 20th which is considered the first day of Spring! The Almanack suggests that you "Go fly a kite" during this very windy month.

Holidays: In honor of St. Patrick on Friday, March 17th, be sure to wear something green and festive!

The Garden: March is prime time for feeding shrubs and perennials that bloom in the Summer months. Get the rake out and start clearing away old grass and debris from the lawn (that is, if the temperatures have warmed up and the snow has all gone!). Apply a pre-emergent fertilizer to the lawn during the month for healthier grass and there will fewer weeds to contend with later on in the Summer.

Don't feed azaleas or rhododendrons until after they bloom. Then, give them a fertilizer that is specially

formulated for plants that prefer acid soil. And don't forget to throw old coffee grounds around the base of these blooming beauties! As soon as your compost pile thaws, begin to turn it with a fork as best you can.

Start slow-growing and cool season seeds such as onions, leeks, parsley, celery, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, eggplant and peppers. Remember to plant peas around St. Patrick's Day (March 17th). Transplant and fertilize sprouting seedlings after a light rain when the ground is much easier to till. For plants that need protection from heat and wind, plan your planting on a cloudy day or late in the afternoon.

The Farm: Best days for planting root crops (9, 10); weeding and stirring the soil (26, 27, 31); planting above-ground crops (1, 2, 3, 28, 29, 30); harvesting all crops (13, 14, 15); setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 29, 30, 31); slaughtering/butchering meat (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27); transplanting (21, 22, 23, 23, 25, 26, 27); harvesting and storing grain (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); the weaning of small animals and livestock (13, 14, 5, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"It is often true that the more one learns, the more one realizes how little one knows"

FITNESS & HEALTH

Frederick Health launches home visiting service

Josh Faust
Public Relations & Communications Specialist
Frederick Health

Frederick Health is excited to announce that all Frederick County families that have delivered a baby at Frederick Health Hospital will be offered a home visit with a registered nurse approximately three weeks after their baby's arrival. This is provided at no cost under the new service called Family Connects Frederick County, which began serving families in January 2023.

"We make it easy for families with newborns to get support and care when and where they need it. Families can expect to schedule their visit before they leave the hospital. Then the nurse will visit the family at home to provide services and personalized resources," said Heather Kirby, Vice President, Integrated Care & Chief Population Health Officer, for Frederick Health.

The arrival of a new baby is a crucial time for families. The Family Connects Frederick County program offers support by providing each family with a 90-minute in-person visit. During the visit, the nurse will conduct a health and well-being assessment for both the baby and the parent. Additionally, the nurse will provide resources tailored to the family's specific needs,

including lactation, nutrition, childcare, and more.

"Babies thrive when families have support," said Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Health Officer for Frederick County. "Early support for all newborns and their families sets the foundation for a healthier community in the long run, especially when they are connected with community services in the first 12 months of life. Positive experiences right from birth lead to lifelong health and well-being."

To ensure that Family Connects Frederick County is tailored to the needs of local families, it is supported by two advisory committees: the Leadership Advisory Council and the Community Partner Council. These committees are composed of diverse community leaders and organizations, allowing the program to be responsive to the community's needs and fostering trust and engagement within Frederick County.

"I am hopeful the Family Connects program will help to improve the foundations of health and therefore alleviate the maternal and infant disparities in Frederick County. This service is another way of proving that we can be more creative and responsive to what the families from all parts of our community want and need," said Dr. Yewande Oladeinde, a member of the Family Connects Fred-

erick County Leadership Advisory Council.

Frederick Health has received grant funding for Family Connects through the Frederick County Government's allocation of federal American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds. Family Connects Frederick County is committed to maintaining the impact of this model in the community past 2025 and is currently developing a 10-year sustainability plan for this service.

To learn more about Frederick Health's new at-home visitation service, visit frederickhealth.org/NewbornVisit.

About Frederick Health

Frederick Health provides comprehensive healthcare services to the residents of Frederick County. The system includes Frederick Health Hospital, Frederick Health Medical Group, Frederick Health Employer Solutions, Frederick Health Home Care, and Frederick Health Hospice. Frederick Health Medical Group is a multi-specialty practice with more than 100 providers, 18 specialties, and 24 locations across the county. The system has several ambulatory care locations, the freestanding James M Stockman Cancer Institute, three urgent care locations, and the Frederick Health Village. With over 4,500 team members, Frederick Health pro-

vides a full spectrum of healthcare and wellness services to support its mission to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community. For more information on Frederick Health, visit www.frederickhealth.org.

About Family Connects International
Family Connects International

was established in 2008 through a partnership with Duke University Center for Child and Family Policy, the Center for Child and Family Policy, and the Durham County Health Department and is designed to support all families with newborns through integrative care and whole-person support.



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Emmitsburg Community Center 300 South Seton Avenue Monday-Friday, 8AM-4:30PM	Frederick County Law Enforcement Center 110 Airport Drive East 24 hours a day	Frederick Police Department 100 West Patrick Street 24 hours a day

Acceptable Items: prescription & over-the-counter medications (in pill form only), prescription patches (fentanyl & nicotine replacement), medication for pets (in pill form only)

Unacceptable Items: needles/sharps, inhalers, thermometers, aerosol cans, ointments, liquids, lotions, hydrogen peroxide, medicine from businesses or clinics

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A collaborative effort of local law enforcement, local government, and the Frederick County Health Department with funding from MDH and SAMHSA, 2022.




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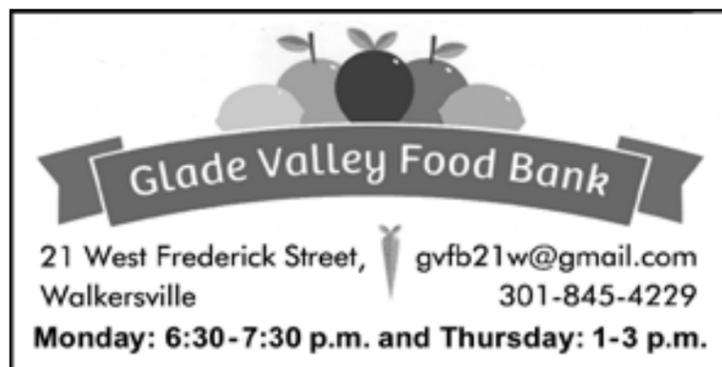
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HUMOR

Trivia Part Whatever

A "clue" originally meant a ball of thread. Hence, one "unravels" the clues of a mystery.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time. It is 1/100 of a second.

A fireplace is called a "mantelpiece" because at one time people hung their coats (or "mantles") over the fireplace to dry them.

The name of the Internet's most popular directory, is an acronym. According to the company, the name "Yahoo" stands for "Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle."

If you add together all the numbers on a roulette wheel (1 to 36) the total is the mystical number 666.

If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.

In Albania, nodding the head means "no" and shaking the head means "yes."

The original name for the butterfly was "flutterby."

The phrase "a red letter day" dates back to 1704, when holy days were marked in red letters in church calendars.

The pretzel is named from the Latin word "brachiatus" meaning "having branch-like arms."

In the Middle English the word "minister" meant "lowly person." It was originally adopted as a term of humility for men of the church.

Levan, Utah is "navel" spelled backwards. It is so named because it is in the middle of Utah.

The word "Checkmate" in chess comes from the Persian phrase "shah mat," which means "the king is dead."

The word "dreamt" is the only word in the English language that ends in "mt."

Honey is the only food that doesn't spoil.

Talmudists believe Adam and Eve resided in paradise a mere 12 hours before they were kicked out.

With few exceptions, birds do not sing while on the ground. They sing during flight or while sitting on an object off the ground.

Lewis Carroll wrote 98,721 letters in the last 37 years of his life.

Cinderella is known as "Tuna" in Finland.

A bear has 42 teeth.

Celery has negative calories. It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.

In eighteenth-century English gambling dens, there was an employee whose only job was to swallow the dice if there was a police raid.

The human tongue tastes bitter things with the taste buds toward the back. Salty and pungent flavors are tasted in the middle of the tongue, sweet flavors at the tip.

A sneeze can travel as fast as 100 miles per hour.

It is impossible to sneeze and keep one's eyes open at the same time.

In 1778, fashionable women of Paris never went out in blustery weather without a lightning rod attached to their hats.

In the Balanta tribe of Africa, a bride remained married until her wedding gown was worn out. If she wanted a divorce after 2 weeks, all she had to do was rip up her dress. This was the custom until about 20 years ago, anyway.

Marie de Medici, a member of that famous Italian family and a 17th-century queen of France, had expensive tastes in clothes. One special dress was outfitted with 39,000 tiny pearls and 3,000 diamonds, and cost the equivalent of \$20 million at the time it was made in 1606. She wore it once.

Here is the literal translation of one of the standard traffic signs in China. It reads: "Give large space to the festive dog that makes sport in the roadway."

In 1968, a convention of beggars in Dacca, India, passed a resolution demanding that "the minimum amount of alms be fixed at 15 paise (three cents)." The convention also demanded that the interval between when a person hears a knock at his front door and when he offers alms should not exceed 45 seconds.

A law passed in Nebraska in 1912 really set down some hard rules of the road. Drivers in the country at night were required to stop every 150 yards, send up a skyrocket, then wait eight minutes for the road to clear before proceeding



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HUMOR

cautiously, all the while blowing their horn and shooting off flares.

Crocodiles and alligators are surprisingly fast on land. Although they are rapid, they are not agile; so if you ever find yourself chased by one, run in a zigzag line. You'll lose him or her every time.

In 1500 B.C. in Egypt a shaved head was considered the ultimate in feminine beauty. Egyptian women removed every hair from their heads with special gold tweezers and polished their scalps to a high sheen with buffing cloths.

In ancient China and certain parts of India, mouse meat was considered a great delicacy.

In ancient Greece, where the mouse was sacred to Apollo, mice were sometimes devoured by temple priests.

In 1400 B.C. it was the fashion among rich Egyptian women to place a large cone of scented grease on top of their heads and keep it there all day. As the day wore on, the grease melted and dripped down over their bodies, cov-

ering their skin with an oily, glistening sheen and bathing their clothes in fragrance.

In the United States, a pound of potato chips cost two hundred times more than a pound of potatoes.

Half the foods eaten throughout the world today were developed by farmers in the Andes Mountains. Potatoes, maize, sweet potatoes, squash, all varieties of beans, peanuts, manioc, papayas, strawberries, mulberries and many other foods were first grown in this region.

Blue whales weigh as much as 30 elephants and are as long as three Greyhound buses.

According to tests made at the Institute for the Study of Animal Problems in Washington, D.C., dogs and cats, like people, are either right-handed or left-handed--that is, they favor either their right or left paws.

A person cannot taste food unless it is mixed with saliva.

According to acupuncturists, there is a point on the head that you can press to control your appetite. It is located in the hollow just in front of the flap of the ear.

Tibetans, Mongolians, and people in parts of western China put salt in their tea instead of sugar.

In 1976, a Los Angeles secretary named Jannene Swift officially married a 50-pound rock. The ceremony was witnessed by more than 20 people.

In the early 19th century the words "trousers" and "pants" were considered obscene in England.

There is approximately one chicken for every human being in the world.

The first automobile race ever seen in the United States was held in Chicago in 1895. The track ran from Chicago to Evanston, Illinois. The winner was J. Frank Duryea, whose average speed was 7 miles per hour.

In the memoirs of Catherine II of Russia, it is recorded that any Russian aristocrat who displeased the queen was forced to squat in the great antechamber of the palace and to remain in that position for several days, mewing like a cat, clucking like a hen, and pecking his food from the floor.

The outdoor temperature can be estimated to within several degrees by timing the chirps of a cricket. It is done this way: count the number of chirps in a 15-second period, and add 37 to the total. The result will be very close to the

actual Fahrenheit temperature. This formula only works in warm weather.

During a severe windstorm or rainstorm the Empire State Building may sway several feet to either side.

In Elizabethan England the spoon was such a novelty, such a prized rarity, that people carried their own folding spoons to banquets.

In "Gulliver's Travels," Jonathan Swift described the two moons of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, giving their exact size and speeds of rotation. He did this more than 100 years before either moon was discovered.

It costs more to buy a new car today in the United States than it cost Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake three voyages to and from the New World.

One-fourth of the world's population lives on less than \$200 a year. Ninety million people survive on less than \$75 a year.

Butterflies taste with their hind feet.

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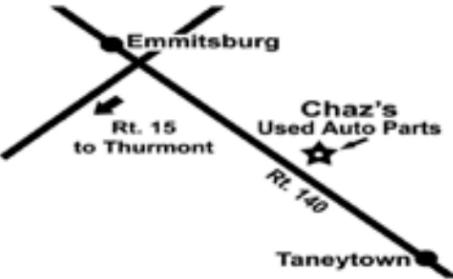
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