

Woodsboro - Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

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

MAY 2025

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Contested election set for Burgess and Town Council

For the first time in recent memory, Woodsboro residents will have a choice to choose from for both Burgess and Commissioner for its Town Council in the May 10th election.

At the April Town nominating convention, current Burgess Heath Barnes was nominated for a second term by Commissioner Bud Eckenrode. Betty Younkins seconded Eckenrode's nomination of Barnes.

The following week, David Williams, who was nominated to run for the Town Council, announced that he will also be running for Burgess as a write in candidate.

Williams has been encouraging residents at Town meetings to do their own math on how proposed Town expenses will cost each resident, and is an advocate for exploring options to right sizing the Town's budget going forward.

Williams told the News-Journal he was "running for Burgess to give Woodsboro an option between historically high property taxes and Water/Sewer fees which only increase our already high cost of living, or cutting our taxes to make living in our small town a more enjoyable experience. Woodsboro deserves a choice for Burgess on May 10th."

While it is unusual for a candidate to run for both Burgess and Commissioner, it is allowed. Residents will be able to vote for him twice on the same ballot, once by writing in his name for Burgess, and a second time by checking the box by his name on the printed ballot.

If Williams is elected Burgess and Commissioner, he said he would accept the Burgess role. It will then be up to the Council to select his replacement on the Council.

Commissioner Jessie Case was nominated by fellow Commissioner John Cutshall, with Commissioner Bill Rittelmeyer seconding Case's nomination.

All attention then shifted to who would be throwing their hat into the ring for Commissioner Bud Eckenrode's seat, who will be stepping down at the end of this term.

Denise Hahn was nominated by Michele Barnes, with Suzanne Yasko seconding her nomination. Hahn is the daughter of former 16-year Town Commissioner Dennis Kline.

David Williams was nominated by Mitzi Smith, with Ken Stitely seconding his nomination.



David Williams is running as a write-in candidate for Woodsboro Burgess, and if elected, plans to address the Town's financial situation.

For both Hahn and Williams, this will be their first time running for an elected office. Commissioner Jessie Case was first elected in 2021 and serves as the Council Liaison to the Planning Commission.

As in prior years, this newspaper has provided all the candidates free space in this edition to communicate with the residents on their goals, objectives and hopes for the Town.

The Town's election will take place on May 10th. Residents can cast their ballots in the meeting hall of St. Johns United Church of Christ, located at 8 North 2nd

Street, from eight in the morning until two in the afternoon. The newly elected Burgess and Commissioners will be sworn in on May 13th.

To vote in the election, residents must be residents of the Town and must be registered to vote in Frederick County. Any qualified voter, who is unable to vote in person, may cast their vote using an absentee ballot. Those seeking an absentee ballot must apply in writing no later than seven days prior to the election.

See page 6 & 7 for campaign articles by candidates.

Walkersville readies for second Pop Up on Penn

On Saturday, May 3rd the Walkersville Economic Development Commission in conjunction with the Walkersville Southern Railroad (WSRR), will host the second annual Pop Up on Penn event from 10 to 4.

This year visitors can expect to browse over two dozen vendors from the local area in the WSRR station parking lot. Delicious baked goods from Walkersville's own Rachel's Cakery and Brick Block Cakes will be returning this year. There will also be a wide variety of cottage food goods to appreciate from lemonade to spices, honey to sourdough breads.

For guests craving a comforting meal while they shop, Savage Eatery food truck will be cooking up hotdogs and their famous Sunrise Goblets. Those that prefer a lighter fare can choose to build their own Acai bowl from Acai For Me. Both food trucks will be joining the event in 2025. A returning local favorite, Snowball Waterfalls offers sweet refreshing treats to round out enjoying a warm spring day.

While shopping for Mother's Day gifts of the nourishing kind, there will be plenty of unique hand crafted items that will im-

press anyone on a gift list. Discover handcrafted sewn accessories, local beeswax products and tallow soaps, unique jewelry pieces, clay pottery, and more.

In addition to shopping for one of a kind products, patrons can visit a variety of other businesses showcasing their goods and services. From a travel agent to plan the next vacation, to real estate groups assisting with future buying or selling opportunities, there are plenty more tents to stop by.

In true Walkersville fashion, there will be local non profits on site to encourage education and participation in programs such as the Walkersville Business Professional Association which is dedicated to helping promote local businesses in the area, the Walkersville Historical Society, the Frederick County Public Library, and of course the Walkersville Economic Development Commission.

The celebration of the WSRR's opening day for the season is the perfect venue for the Pop Up on Penn event. The WSRR brings in thousands of visitors to the town of Walkersville every year. As a large business that is central to the history of the town, they continue



Pop Up on Penn will take place in conjunction with the opening of the Walkersville Southern Railroad.

to be partners in the community by hosting the location for Walkersville's first coffee shop.

Whistle Stop Coffee got its start back in 2023, opening alongside train excursions at the WSRR. They debuted the classic hometown-charming trailer in 2024 and can be seen not only around town, but all over Frederick County. What better way to honor Whistle Stop than to hold the ribbon cutting ceremony on May 3rd at 10:30 as the Pop Up

on Penn gets underway and the first Opening Day Excursion train kicks off shortly after at 11.

All guests are welcome to join a support local Saturday: shop, delight in fresh local eats, and be a part of what this community has to offer. Entry and parking for the Pop Up on Penn is free. Tickets to enjoy a leisurely train ride over the Monocacy River can be purchased in advance online at wsrr.org, and on site based on availability.

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WOODSBORO NEWS

Proposed FY-26 Town budget

Water and Sewer Budget

Principle projected FY-26 water and sewer revenues include \$312,000 for sewer use, an increase of \$19,000 over FY-25; and \$158,000 for water use, an increase of \$22,000 over FY-25. [Note, these revenue projections do not reflect the recently approved 5% water & sewer rate increase.]

Total projected FY-26 revenue for the Town's water and sewer services is \$592,568, a decrease of \$26,015 over FY-25's revenue. The bulk of the decrease is a result of the lack of income from new hookups to the water and sewer systems, which last year added \$112,500 to the fund's balance. This year, the Town is anticipating only \$15,000 in revenue from new hookups. When this year's hookups are removed from the equation, projected actual revenues for FY-25 are on target to be \$562,126, \$30,442 less than what the Town has budgeted for in FY-26.

A key revenue source for the Town's water and sewer fund is income from leasing space on the water tower to cellular companies, with T-Mobile paying the Town \$33,802, Verizon \$24,000 and AT&T \$44,124, for a total of \$101,926 for all intents and purposes for doing nothing.

On the expense side of the equation, one of the principle drivers is the cost of ProStart – the company hired last year to run the water and sewer facilities at \$163,364. This is an increase of \$88,364 compared to

the cost of the Town's prior sole operator who retired in September of last year.

Electricity, as Commissioner Bill Rittlemeyer frequently notes, is one of the largest expenses in the operation of both facilities- \$92,000 for the waste water treatment plant and \$27,700 for the water plant, the FY-26 budget for electricity represents a \$11,700 increase over FY-25.

\$58,604 is budgeted in FY-26 for repair and maintenance tasks, a drop of \$45,604 from the FY-25 budget. Likewise, supplies and expenses projected for FY-26 for both facilities have dropped from \$54,000 in FY-25 to \$20,000 in the proposed FY-26 budget. However, while the proposed budget for these items have dropped, the actual expense for this year's sewer costs are well above the FY-25 budget, running to date at \$205,584 against the projected FY-25 budget of \$32,000.

On a high note, Barnes pointed out that thanks to Prostart, who is now dewatering sludge from the wastewater treatment facility prior to its disposal, the cost of disposal, which is based upon weight, has dropped dramatically. While the Town budgeted \$51,700 for sludge removal and disposal in FY-25, so far it has only incurred \$18,740, allowing the budget for this line item to be reduced to \$30,800 for FY-26, a cost savings of \$20,900.

Total projected FY-26 cost of operating the Town's water and sewer services is \$592,568, a decrease of \$26,015 over FY-25's projected cost. However, the projected FY-26 budget is \$374,009 less than current actuals for the year-to-date of \$644,386 as of the end of February.

General Operating Budget

On the general operating side of running the Town, the principle projected sources of income for the Town for FY-26 include \$28,860 from real estate taxes, an increase of \$17,860 over FY-25; \$190,000 from income taxes, a decrease of \$10,000 from FY-25; \$137,500 from the County revenue sharing, a \$2,500 increase over FY-25; and, \$119,827 from state highway taxes, a increase of \$26,543 over FY-25, for a total projected revenue of \$781,127, an increase of \$47,840 from the FY-25 budget.

On the expense side of the equation, the principle drivers in next year's budget are \$148,000 for salaries, a \$25,097 increase over FY-25; \$76,500 for garbage collection & disposal, roughly in line with FY-25; \$80,000 in new town hall expenses, down from \$150,000 in FY-25; \$173,585 for street upkeep and repair, \$68,177 over FY-25 [most of this will be spent on repaving 2nd street]; \$69,420 on parks, a \$18,290 decrease from FY-25; and,

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\$55,000 for the purchase of a new truck for the town.

Total projected cost of running the Town, absent the water and sewer

systems, is projected to be \$781,127 in FY-26, which represents a 50% increase over the FY-24 budget of \$521,116.

Town raises water rates 5%

In a remarkable turn of roles at its April monthly meeting, the Town Council found itself pushing back on calls by residents to raise the water and sewer rates. The Council finally relented and agreed to a 5% across the board rate-increase in both water and sewer rates.

The call from residents came just after a close too forty-five-minute line-by-line review of the water and sewer finances as part of the long anticipated citizen's budget workshop.

As Burgess Barnes walked the residents through all the expenses the Town incurs while running its water and sewer facilities, and the corresponding income that is generated by those services, con-

cerns that many residents brought into the workshop morphed into desires to find viable, long-term solutions.

Commissioner Rittlemeyer picked up where he left off at the March meeting, re-enforcing his belief that operations of the water and sewer systems were better than ever, but conceded that under the old operator, the system was run under a "run until it breaks, then fix it," philosophy.

Under the new operating company, he said, "they are doing more preventive maintenance, which in the long run will help prevent equipment from failing." While Rittlemeyer lauded the new way the facilities are being run,

he cautioned that initially it was going to cost the Town more money.

In response to Barnes' statement that the water fund was good for next year, but the year after was questionable, former Commissioner Dennis Kline called for the Council to "stop kicking the can down the road and raise the water rates high enough to get ahead and stay ahead of all current and future repair needs." Kline's calls were greeted by almost universal affirmative head nods from the audience, who then chimed in with suggested increases.

As numbers were suggested by residents, Commissioner Rittlemeyer did the math, reminding every-

one that with only 467 hook-ups, that it would require a significant rate increase to make a meaningful dent in the expected shortfalls resulting from increased preventative maintenance costs.

While Barnes was supportive of a rate increase, he resisted calls for a 10% increase, noting that while "that doesn't sound like a lot, it's a lot for someone on a fixed budget."

Looking to bring the discussion to some sort of compromise, Commissioner Cutshall recommended that the Town increase both water and sewer rates 5% across the board, every year for five years. While the 5% recommendation met with the approval of Barnes and Rittlemeyer, both

pushed back on the need to lock in the 5% increase every year.

"Part of doing each year's budget is to revisit the water and sewer revenue and expenses every year and make adjustments as necessary, so I don't see any reason to lock in a 5-year series of increases," said Barnes.

With a head nodding audience looking on, the Council unanimously approved Cutshall's recommended 5% rate increase, but for only one year.

Under the approved rates, residents will now pay a flat rate of \$21/quarter for a "connection fee" for water, and \$6.04 for every 1,000 gallons of water used. The sewer fee will be \$147/quarter for the first 10,000 gallons, and an extra \$14.70 for every 1,000 gallons after that.



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Workshop hailed a success

The much-anticipated Citizens' Budget Workshop, which many headed into prepared for battle, quickly devolved into a town team building exercise under the tutelage of Burgess Heath Barnes.

After the customary commissioners' reports, and unfinished business from last month's meeting, Barnes looked at the packed room of residents, the most anyone could recall attending a Town meeting, and announced the start of the budget workshop.

True to his commitment, Barnes came with a projector to display the proposed FY-26 budget onto a screen behind him. Unfortunately, the projector had

a mind of its own, and failed to start, but after a little fiddling, Barnes got it working and from then on it was all smooth sailing.

Barnes stepped the residents through every line of the budget, starting with the Town's water and sewer system's income sources and expenses, followed by the income and expenses of the Town General Operating Fund.

Throughout the nearly one-and-a-half-hour workshop, Barnes frequently stopped to answer questions and/or to clarify points. Twenty minutes into the workshop, hard-hitting questions were replaced with thoughtful suggestions from residents on how things could be improved.

Dorothea Mordan complemented

the Council on the transparency they were showing, saying, "This is exactly what we hoped for. I appreciate being part of the solution."

By the end of the evening, laughter permeated the room, as residents increasingly became convinced that they were in fact being solicited for their insights, and more importantly, were being listened to.

The status of the Town's water and sewer budget was the principle focus of many residents. As a result of the presentation, residents proposed increasing the fees charged for water and sewer usage, resulting in the Council approving a 5% increase in both water and sewer fees effective the start of the new budget year.

WALKERSVILLE NEWS

May water bills to include 20% rate increase

Last year, the Burgess and Town Council discussed raising the Town's water rates for residents alongside the semi-annual water special assessment fee of \$100 – two payments of \$50 that was extended earlier last year. The new rate increase of 20% (with an additional 3% each year for the next four years) went into effect in October 2024, however, residents will see the effects of the increase in May when their water bills arrive. This increase is still one of the lowest water rate increases in the area, especially compared to Emmitsburg which has increased their rates by 36%.

This increase is the first one

since 2016, with “the hunt for saving dollars” as the reason why the Council delayed any increases for years. Last year, Burgess Chad Weddle laid out the history of the Town's water rates beginning in 1995 when the base rate was \$10. In 1998 the base rate was increased to \$35, and the Town had an additional three 15% raises over 18 months. The next increase was in 2006 when the base fee was raised to \$40. In 2015 it increased to \$60 plus an additional 10% to each tier. A year later in 2016, the base fee was increased to \$72 and that was the last time the rates were raised.

The goal for such a drastic increase is to account for the deficit

in the Water Fund and to cover the operating expenses of the plant. The revenue from the assessment fee is used to pay down the principle of the 30-year loan of \$7.3 million that the Town received from the State for the plant's construction.

At prior meetings, Commissioners have discussed the implications of raising the water rates on residents; specifically, those with lower incomes and seniors on fixed incomes. Although Commissioners were reluctant to raise the rates, Town staff stressed the implications of not ensuring the water rates cover actual costs. Town Planner Sean Williams has

referenced the recent public uproar in Emmitsburg when the Town was forced to implement a series of yearly 36% rate increases after failing to ensure that water rates cover the actual costs of water for years. Thurmont has also recently raised their water rates by 15%.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert has been an avid supporter of increasing the water rates and shared that the projected income with the 20% increase and assessment fee would increase the budget from \$1.547 million to \$1.752 million, a little over \$200,000.

Even with the Water Fund in the red, residents present at last

year's public workshop were very vocal in their disapproval of the increase in rates. Homeowners in Discovery were especially concerned about the increases as the nine-million-dollar price tag of the Discovery water main replacement will also need funding.

The Council did discuss other options for future consideration to include

revoking the assessment fee entirely and rolling it into general fees, as well as changing billing from semi-annual to quarterly in order to lessen the financial impact on residents.

Bills are expected in early May but payments won't be due until June.

Residents concerned over development on Goldsboro Place

The Planning Commission met with Jim Thuman, the Housing Project Coordinator from the Frederick County Students Construction Trades Foundation, to discuss the concept plan for a four-home subdivision on George Street and Goldsboro Place.

The Program provides high school students an in-field learning experience in construction-based programs where they build a home with their own hands. The student housing projects include skills in carpentry, computer aided design, construction, electricity, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, plumbing, landscaping, masonry, and cabinet making.

The homes that are built by the students are eventually put on the market to be sold. The proceeds are reinvested into the Program to be used for future projects.

For residents present at the meeting, the issue is the time it will take for the four homes to be finished. “Our students build on a two-year schedule,” said Thuman. This means that the four homes could take eight years from the start of construction to finish. He also said they do not work over the summer and have much shorter days, averaging about four hours a day on site.

Emily Kilmon, who lives across the street to the potential site, raised concerns over the size of

Goldsboro Place and its ability to manage more traffic. “Goldsboro Place is not wide, it's roads are two cars wide, that's it,” she said. “You can't widen Goldsboro so how are you going to get two more houses worth of traffic coming and going on what is essentially a driveway.” She also was concerned over the noise that eight years of construction would bring to the neighborhood. Thuman assured everyone that everything is done “by hand” or at the school, if possible, which means no loud tools, such as nail guns or pneumatic tools, are necessary.

Brittany Eger who lives directly next to the proposed lots, was concerned about the security

of the properties during closed hours. “We are right behind the train station and the train station has a lot of vandalism,” she said. She questioned what security measures Thuman would take to keep the site, as well as the closest residences, safe when the site was closed for the night. Thuman said he has security cameras at all of his sites and has never had a problem with security at his other projects. He also pointed out that once the exterior is finished, the landscaping portion will be done so it will at least look finished on the outside and less likely to have security issues.

To mitigate the long build timeframe, Member Russell Winch

asked if the projects could be accelerated to reduce the impact on the neighbors. Thuman replied that he would have to discuss it with his board. In the past they used to do a house a year, but back then there was less hands-on experience and more of just watching from the students. “Now students do 80-85% of all the work, that's why we switched to a two-year schedule,” he said. Because the Program is a non-profit, they also have to be sure the finances are in order before they start building.

Thuman will be taking the Commissions comments and the residents' concerns into consideration and return with a fully laid out plan when ready.

Parks Commission considers changing park hours

The decision to change park hours has risen before the Parks Commission for years, and just recently resurfaced again. A representative of Glade Valley Athletic Association Lacrosse requested an exception to Heritage Farm Park hours to allow GVAA lacrosse to hold practice until 6:30. Currently, the Park closes at 5 in the off-season (November 15-March 14) and at 9 from March 15 - November 14. In previous years, GVAA has asked for changes to include closing the park at 6:30 in the off-season and changing the start date of summer hours from March 15th to March 1st.

The Parks Commission was asked by the Council to further discuss whether it was worth changing the hours or changing when the park closes permanently. Concerns over safety were the primary consideration because if hours are lengthened in the off-season, the Park would be open in the dark. “It gets dark much sooner and extending the hours further into February results in perhaps people being in the park after dark,” said Commissioner Chris Ragen. He further pointed out the sparse lighting in the back of the Park, thus the concerns from Town staff and Council over the safety of kids running across

roads in the dark, along with other lighting concerns.

When asked about how a later closing time might impact Town staff, Director of Public Works Joseph Birch said it would be applied to all the Town's parks, not just Heritage Farm Park, that way the staff could do all closings consecutively. He also pointed out that new signage would need to be purchased for \$591 to reflect the hours changing and he asked who was responsible for paying the cost. “I'd pay for that sign and not even blink,” said Member Kevin Conley, who is involved with GVAA soccer. He explained that the Club

rents the high schools lighted fields at \$100 an hour until the park changes to summer hours. “We rented time over at the high school because we knew we couldn't get access until the 15th,” he said. “I would absolutely say soccer would be in support of making it a March 1st date if that's a reasonable request. Not to mention, if it is to that 6 time, it would help us immensely.”

The Burgess and Council compromised by voting to close the park at 6 instead of 5, but to keep the March 15th start date for when summer hours start. With the Parks Commission unable to decide

whether to make the changes permanent, they asked Ragen to confer

with the Burgess and Town Council for their advice at the next meeting.



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WALKERSVILLE INFO

Sat., May 3 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Pop Up On Penn
Wed., May 7 - 7 p.m. - Parks Meeting
Tues., May 13 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Workshop
Wed., May 14 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting
Mon., May 26 - Closed for Memorial Day
Tues., May 27 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting
Wed., May 28 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

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 Walkersville: Our Town

UNION BRIDGE NEWS

FY-26 budget introduced

Every spring, municipalities across the State discuss their upcoming Fiscal Year budget. Union Bridge Commissioners introduced the proposed budget of \$1,242,544 for the Town's expenses and revenues at the April meeting. The Town's tax rate

will remain at .35 per \$100 of assessed property value and the personal property tax rate will remain at .75 per \$100 of assessed value.

The Capital Improvement Program is also part of the annual budget, and the upcoming

year will greatly impact the future of the Town's wastewater treatment plant. Town Attorney Mandi Porter said the 25/26 budget should be similar to the 24/25 budget, however, with the Town's current wastewater treatment plant needing repairs, plans for building a new plant and PFSA remediation, the Capital Improvement budget doesn't have a lot of room for additional projects.

Porter pointed out that the Town will need to apply for grants and loans to fund repairs on the plant. "There is essentially more studies and more needed repairs for the current wastewa-

ter treatment plant which, again the Town doesn't have the budget to go forward with," said Porter. "We are relying on grants and forgiveness loans, not just straight loans which the Town is having problems with at this point."

The Council also discussed purchasing a parcel of roughly 12 acres to accommodate a new wastewater treatment plant that will alleviate the stress on the current plant and allow the Town the infrastructure capacity to promote future development. The Council approved Councilmember Brett Grossnickle's request for the \$54,000 to purchase the property in the next Fiscal Year beginning in July.

"Five acres of that is earmarked for the wastewater plant that I've been pushing. We need to get this plant built," he said. "I'm not worried about development anymore; we need to take care of us."

Farmers market proposed for summer months

Kim White, a representative of the St. James Lutheran Church Food Pantry, presented a partnership with "Dream Big Union Bridge" to establish a farmers' market centrally located along Main Street. The market would hopefully be launched by early summer and continue through early November. "The farmers market is anticipated to be centrally located along Main Street benefiting residents and local businesses while also attracting the attention of passing motorists," said White.

White said vendors would be required to have permits from the Health Department and certificates of insurance in order to participate in the market. The Church would also like to work with the Union Bridge business association to explore a partnership. "We intend to engage with the Union Bridge Business Association to explore the potential for their partnership which could facilitate mutual support in attracting future development for the vacant storefronts along Main Street," said White.

White foresees the market starting off slowly and gaining in size as it matures. She sees the market as another opportunity for community outreach and a way to bring some excitement to Union Bridge in the summer months.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

County Council President Brad Young

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

This year's budget is especially challenging due to both federal and state budgetary actions. The State of Maryland faced a \$3 billion structural deficit at the start of the 2025 General Assembly Session in January. Through tax increases and budget cuts the Assembly adopted a mandated balanced state budget when they adjourned on Monday, April 7th. However, their actions resulted in significant unanticipated shifts of expenses to local governments totaling around \$8 million dollars in new expenses to Frederick County.

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

On April 23rd and 24th, the council held budget workshops to hear department presentations and review any budget appeals (new additions to the budget). These public meetings were televised on FCG-TV and can be viewed at any time. I encourage every Frederick County taxpayer to pay close attention to the entire budget process and make sure you voice any concerns or recommendations to the Council.

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

On April 15th the Council discussed the recommendations made by the Compensation Review Committee. The County

Charter mandates the Council appoint a Commission every four years to review the salaries of the County Executive and the County Council. The Commission recommend raising the CE's salary from \$137,000 to \$163,000 and the Council's salary from \$35,000 to \$42,000 per year. After discussion, a motion was made to raise the CE's salary to \$143,500 for the years 2027-28 and \$150,000 for the years 2029-2030. It passed 5-2 with me and District 5 Council Member Mason Carter opposed. After additional discussion, a motion was made to raise the Council's salary to \$36,500 for the years 2027-28 and \$38,000 for the years

2029-2030. It passed 4-3 with me, District 5 Council Member Mason Carter, and District 2 Member Steve McKay opposed. I felt given the state of the budget and the economy that it was not the right time to give ourselves raises.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. We welcome public comment at every Council meeting on Tuesday evenings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comment in person, leave a voice-mail to be forwarded to each Council Member, or email us

any time at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov. Please visit our website at <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/county-council> to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

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

And as always, if there is ever anything I can do for you, please feel free to reach out to me and my office. You can contact me via email at: BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov, or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

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Drawings begin at noon
Tickets can be purchased at the Vigilant Hose Co.

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1 - \$500	17 - \$500	33 - \$500	49 - \$500
2 - \$500	18 - \$500	34 - \$500	50 - \$500
3 - \$500	19 - \$500	35 - \$500	51 - \$2000
4 - \$500	20 - \$1000	36 - \$500	52 - \$500
5 - \$500	21 - \$2000	37 - \$500	53 - \$500
6 - \$500	22 - \$500	38 - \$500	54 - \$500
7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$500
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$500	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$500	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$500
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$500	61 - \$1000
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FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

Burgess & Commissioner - David Williams

My name is David Franklin Williams, and I am running as a write-in candidate for Burgess so that you all have a choice on May 10th.

To make it easier to remember my name, and know exactly how to spell it, it is listed as one of three candidates for Commissioner - David Franklin Williams.

I would appreciate your vote for both offices so we can make it abundantly clear to the Town Council that both the town's property taxes, and water/sewer rates have risen to an unacceptable level.

I have been a resident of Woodsboro since moving from Walkersville in 1994. My wife, Judy, and I raised our four children here (girl/boy/girl/boy), our youngest born in our home on Adams Street.

For 31 years, we've enjoyed small town American life at its best. Our family memories fill our hearts, strolling our babies in the park, getting to know our neighbors through our children's best friends, setting our clocks to heavenly music played at noon and six without fail, walking the kids to Woodsboro Elementary School, teacher conferences and music concerts, little league baseball and fast-pitch softball teams with fantastic parent-coaches, neighbor-friends leading the Girl Scout troop together, marching bands playing in Memorial Day parades, catching candy thrown by politicians to our grandchildren, Halloween—the best trick-or-treating town on Earth, running down to the street to visit Santa Claus on a fire engine with all the red lights

flashing in mid-December. These are but a sampling of the joyous memories that Judy and I have shared with our extended Woodsboro family community.

As we enter our retirement years the joyous encounters that we will spend with our neighbors, who have raised their families alongside our own, will continue to be numbered and cherished. However, the one looming concern that we all share as a community, young and old families alike, is the encroachment of inflation and an unaffordable cost of living coming not so slowly to Woodsboro, especially for the fixed income property owners, which Judy and I will soon become.

Historically, and what I mean is in my personal 31-years of living in Woodsboro, our municipal property tax rate has never been higher than Walkersville's. There has never been a reason for it to be, Woodsboro only has 440 homes, compared to 2,400 in Walkersville, our infrastructure doesn't even compare to our neighbors to the South, and yet now we pay 29% more than our friends five minutes down Rt. 194.

And of course, we all know the reason why—our over-priced, spanking new Town Hall that our Burgess/Mayor prides himself on breaking the tie vote to build. That vote, and his decision to sign a mortgage that doubled the price of construction with interest payments to the bank, put us all into debt for the next 25 years.

The Woodsboro Town Hall Tax, in 2025, levies over \$63,000 from

Total Town Hall Tax Burden				
YEAR	Woodsboro Town Hall Tax	Sub-Total Loss to Taxpayers	Retirement Plan 8% Yield Loss	Total Loss to Taxpayers
2025	\$63,080	\$63,080	\$5,046	\$68,126
2026	\$66,865	\$134,991	\$10,799	\$145,790
2027	\$70,877	\$216,667	\$17,333	\$234,000
2028	\$75,129	\$309,130	\$24,730	\$333,860
2029	\$79,637	\$413,497	\$33,080	\$446,577
2030	\$84,415	\$530,992	\$42,479	\$573,471
2031	\$89,480	\$662,951	\$53,036	\$715,987
2032	\$94,849	\$810,836	\$64,867	\$875,703
2033	\$100,540	\$976,243	\$78,099	\$1,054,342
2034	\$106,572	\$1,160,914	\$92,873	\$1,253,787
2035	\$112,966	\$1,366,753	\$109,340	\$1,476,093
2036	\$119,744	\$1,595,837	\$127,667	\$1,723,504
2037	\$126,929	\$1,850,433	\$148,035	\$1,998,468
2038	\$134,545	\$2,133,013	\$170,641	\$2,303,654
2039	\$142,618	\$2,446,272	\$195,702	\$2,641,974
2040	\$151,175	\$2,793,149	\$223,452	\$3,016,601
2041	\$160,246	\$3,176,847	\$254,148	\$3,430,995
2042	\$169,861	\$3,600,856	\$288,068	\$3,888,924
2043	\$180,053	\$4,068,977	\$325,518	\$4,394,495
2044	\$190,856	\$4,585,351	\$366,828	\$4,952,179
2045	\$202,307	\$5,154,486	\$412,359	\$5,566,845
2046	\$214,445	\$5,781,290	\$462,503	\$6,243,793
2047	\$227,312	\$6,471,105	\$517,688	\$6,988,793
2048	\$240,951	\$7,229,744	\$578,379	\$7,808,124
2049	\$255,408	\$8,063,532	\$645,083	\$8,708,615

the property owners in the town. It is derived from subtracting the property tax revenue collected at the current tax rate (0.18 x \$100 of assessed property value) from our previous tax rate (0.1389 x \$100 of

assessed property value) before the purchase of the land on which the town hall now stands.

The table above will show you the full extent of the financial burden that the Burgess/Mayor's vote is destined to bring upon all of us should the tax rate remain at the present historically high level. The table shows the Town Hall Tax increasing every year due to a 6% average annual property assessment increase on all our properties and an average 8% retirement fund loss that most of us will experience over the next 25 years due to the burden of paying the Town Hall Tax. Including all our lost income, our new Town Hall will cost us over \$8.7 million dollars.

Admittedly, the current office situation that our single part-time employee has stoically and good-naturedly endured for eight long years is absolutely unacceptable. It is unfortunate that our

Burgess/Mayor voted to burden us all for the next 25 years because he wouldn't listen to the alternative, much less costly, solutions to the town's office location.

All that said, the fact is all our personal financial losses disappear when the Town Hall mortgage is paid in full and the Woodsboro Tax rate is returned to its previous low level, below Walkersville's where it belongs.

When I am your Burgess, I will have full knowledge of all the town's financial assets and promise to make our town debt load the primary target of my due diligence. We must succeed in removing the Town Hall financial burden.

To be successful, my neighbor-friends, all I need is BOTH your vote for Commissioner and your write-in vote for Burgess of Woodsboro.

It is a new day, Woodsboro! You have a choice to make on May 10th.

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FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

Burgess - Heath Barnes

As it came time for elections, I pondered on running for the Burgess seat again and decided to. Surprisingly, after last month's water emergency (which was probably the most stressful yet rewarding 36 hours of my time as Burgess), I knew I had made the right decision to run again. The way most of the town people reacted and the thanks received for just simply doing what I was elected to do to help turn a bad situation around solidified my decision and let me know I was doing the right thing by running to lead our wonderful town for another four years.

This year's budget was able to be met without any tax increases, as we have been very frugal as to not put any more burden on the town's residents either and we still have the funds available to comfortably run the town's finances and upgrade some things that we need such as some road work, new street lighting in a neighborhood that needs it, and new equipment that the town needs. As far as the water and sewer budget I presented a budget to the council without any increases, however at the budget hearing the council along with voices from the residents in attendance decid-

ed to increase rates by 5% (which will equal about 34 dollars per year per household) due to some repairs that are needed. The way our budget works is I present a budget, and the four commissioners make changes with a vote etc.

In my first four years I was able to secure more town grants than were received in possibly the history of the town. I have secured between \$1.5 and 2 million in grants for the town and that's not including a few more I have applied for that we will know about soon. This number is very hard to do as a small town as we are often overlooked, and I have had to fight for every penny of it. These grants included \$400,000 toward the town hall. A grant to build a stage in the park that has allowed us to have a wonderful 3 years of Woodsboro Days music festivals that I have coordinated each year, and I am looking forward to this year with even more family activities and more bands for a day of fun for our community. Grants to completely rebuild and expand our walking bridges to be ADA accessible, to build one of if not the best skate-parks in the county, electricity, and water on the east side of the park (

that many said could not be done because of the creek), a new pavilion, bathroom that's in progress to be built on the east side of the park, new playground equipment, and a few other small ones.

As for community events since I have been Burgess I have coordinated and worked directly with our local fire department building a cohesive relationship to have an annual Easter Egg Hunt where up until this year I have been the Easter Bunny but unfortunately, the costume has shrunk or something like that ha-ha so I have delegated the bunny duties to commissioner Eckenrode for this year.

Beyond just being the Burgess I am heavily involved with the Woodsboro and New Midway Volunteer Fire Departments and assist with many activities for them both. Up until recently, I was also with the Lions Club, but with a full-time job and Burgess and Fire Department duties could not continue all of it. As you can see, I am actively involved in the community in many ways and take the duties of being Burgess of the wonderful town of Woodsboro seriously and ask for your vote on May 10th to serve another term.

My promise to you is I will continue to work hard and secure every resource possible to continue making Woodsboro one of the best places to

live. I firmly believe that as Burgess you should also be involved in your community and to be available and transparent to all constituents.

Re-elect
Heath Barnes
for Burgess
May 10th - 8 to 2
Voting at 8 N. 2nd St.
Early voting at town office
through May 2nd



Promises made promise kept

Commissioner - Denies Hahn

Please allow me to introduce myself. I have been nominated for the position of town commissioner for the town of Woodsboro. My focus for the town is to maintain our small town charm, continuing and possible expansion of community events as well as keeping taxes as low as possible for our residents.

I have been a resident of Woodsboro for almost 50 years and have a fond appreciation for the quality of life in the town. I am a research remediation analyst and have almost 30 years of experience in the mortgage banking industry with a focus on risk. I also assisted my father with accounting at his tax-consulting firm which has been located on Main Street for over 50 years. My husband and I also own a small engine repair business at our residence for almost 20 years.

Our family has resided on Main Street for 5 generations. My great grandfather was Justice of the Peace and my father was a commissioner for our town for 16 years. Both of my sons were also raised here in Woodsboro. The oldest recently retired from the United States Marine Corps and my youngest is a volunteer firefighter with Woodsboro Fire Company and a Lieutenant with Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company. He is also an Emergency Communications Specialist for Frederick County 911. My family roots run deep in our beloved town.

I look forward to the honor of serving our community and politely ask for your vote on Saturday May 10th.

May 26
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ALL WHO SERVED
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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Change

Shannon Bohrer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Bulwark

The American age is over

Jonathan Last

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

with the support of a plurality of American voters.

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

Understand this: There is no going back.

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

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

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

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

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

of voters in Wisconsin every four years." He was right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

we have understood it for the entirety of our lifetimes will no longer include America.

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

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

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

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

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

And the American response to this has been to cry foul.

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

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

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

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

But also, we have the government we deserve.

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

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

The Liberal Patriot

The sociology of party decline

John Halpin

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

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

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

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

A fourth, and unfortunately more overlooked, approach to politics is occupational analysis. This research examines political patterns based on what people do for a living—the

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

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

Occupational analysis is highly relevant to Democrats trying to under-

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

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

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

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

You can see the problem for Democrats. Their party clearly is not run mainly by or for people without four-year degrees, who live outside major urban centers, and who are employed in more traditional working-class jobs, the military, or small business professions. Since working-class voters (defined as non-college) still comprise the bulk of the U.S. electorate—58 percent of 2024 voters were

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

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

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

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

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

Good Day Neighbor

They take what we build

Dorothea Mordan

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

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

From Ben Franklin’s autobiography:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They are taking what we built for our kids.

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

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

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

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

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

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

They are taking what we built for our kids.

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

PASTOR'S DESK

The spirit in which it is given

Pastor Jay Petrella
Graceham Moravian Church

A few weeks ago, I was rereading a non-canonical text from the early church period called The Shepherd of Hermas. It's named that because an angel, appearing in the form of a shepherd, visits a man named Hermas and delivers teachings and commands from God meant for him. This book seems to have been fairly popular somewhere around the late first century and into the fourth century. There's even record of some early church leaders and theologians advocating for its inclusion in the Bible, though it ultimately didn't make the cut—for reasons I don't need to get into here. But just because it doesn't rise to the level of sacred scripture doesn't mean it lacks insight or depth. Sometimes non-canonical works can give us a window into how early Christians understood their faith, the nature of God, and what it meant to live a faithful life. Sometimes, their perspective on things still rings true today and is therefore worthy of our reflection in these our modern times.

Case in point. There is a section of text that talks about how God has placed with-

in us a spirit of truth. The writer argues this spirit of truth is on loan to us from God. Because it is on loan we need to treat it as respectfully as one might treat anyone else's property. Even more so because this is God's property. Therefore, the angelic shepherd teaches that we (Hermas) need to go to great lengths to not pollute that spirit of truth with lies and other falsehoods. We must keep it as pure as when it was first given to us. Otherwise, when we enter the throne room of Heaven at the end of our lives and return to God that spirit of truth that was on loan to us, we'll be handing over a broken, abused spirit of truth, now polluted by our lies and misuse of it. The text of course urges Hermas to avoid that scenario entirely. Because we possess the spirit of truth we ought to commit ourselves to speaking the truth in small things, and great, out of respect for God and the truth entrusted to us.

The text then builds on this theme of Divine loans and the proper stewardship of all God has given to us. The Shepherd argues all we possess in fact has been given to us by God. And God has given us all that we possess not for the purposes of enriching ourselves personally but as a means

to do God's work here on earth. If that sounds familiar it means you were paying attention last month as Paul talked about how Jesus was God but did not consider it a means to enrich himself. Instead Jesus took the form of a servant and used his godliness to teach, heal, help, feed and save all of us. As Jesus' disciples we are called to live by the same standard.

So God gives us a spirit of truth so that we can know the truth and speak the truth. But if we use that spirit of truth to work against the truth, or just outright disregard the truth, that is a corruption of God's original gift to us. The same idea applies to all God has given to us.

Let's say you have a car for instance. One can extrapolate from the Shepherd of Hermas, that God has given you a car along with the means to pay for it and operate it. Not for the purpose of your own enjoyment because you're such a great person. It is on loan from God as a tool to be used to be a blessing to others. Perhaps to help see to it someone can get to work who doesn't have a reliable means of transportation. Or to help them get to the doctor's office, or the grocery store, or the bank.



It's kind of like being given a company car. It's not technically yours. You are loaned a company car to enable you to do company work more quickly and efficiently. But if you take the the company car on cross country road trips with your family, to the drag strip on weekends, and affix a tow hitch to haul your junk and yard waste to the dump on your days off, you're probably not going to have the company car for very long, or a job for that matter.

According to the Shepherd of Hermas, if God has given you money, that money is not intended to be hoarded like a dragon on a pile of gold. The money is merely a tool entrusted to you, God's faithful servant, to be used for the

building of God's kingdom, sharing the gospel and helping the poor.

If we take seriously what the Bible says about being ambassadors for Christ, about the greatest commandments being to love God and love others, about humanity bearing the image of a gracious, loving, kind, forgiving, and selfless God—then we can reasonably argue that our possessions, wealth, experiences, and circumstances have been loaned to us for the express purpose of loving God and each other.

For those who follow the church calendar, we are now beyond the season of Lent. Still, it's always good to reflect throughout the year on our choices. Lent may be over, but the call to examine ourselves never really ends. The questions remain:

What have we done with the time God has given us? What have we done with the wealth God has entrusted to us? What have we done with the opportunities—both welcomed and unwanted—that have come our way? What have we done with the trials and temptations that have tested us? Do we live in harmony with creation as Adam and Eve initially did back in the Garden, or do we loot and pillage creation for all it's worth for our own personal gain and comfort? Have we been faithful stewards of these and other divine loans?

So again, the Shepherd of Hermas is not a text from our scriptures. In part I think that's because it has an air of gnosticism about it. But it is nevertheless a text that many of our forebears in the faith nearly two thousand years ago would have read. And like them, we even in our modern age might benefit from reflecting upon this particular lesson. All we have is given to us from God. So the question is, what will we do with the wealth, power, and the time that is given to us? Will we use it to enrich ourselves and disregard/harm others or will we use God's blessings for God's purposes? To welcome, to heal, to forgive and love?

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

The last of the Alchemists



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

The experiments, seven in number, commenced, as already observed, on the 6th of May, and ended on the twenty-fifth of the same month. They were witnessed by peers, baronets, clergymen, lawyers, and chemists, and in all of them gold and silver, in greater or less quantities, were apparently produced

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

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

ily, and corresponding position in society. As a scientific man, he had already distinguished himself in chemistry, the study of which he pursued from a pure love of science; and in private life his amiability of character had insured many worthy and influential friends.

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

These excuses were taken for what they were worth; Sir Joseph Banks, the president of the society, reminding Price

that not only his own honour, but the honour of the first scientific body in the world, was implicated in the affair. Price replied that the experiments had already been conducted in the presence of honourable and competent witnesses, and no advantage whatever could be gained by repeating them.

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

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

One, two, three—six months passed, but nothing being heard of Price, even his most attached friends reluctantly con-

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

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

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

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ECOLOGY

Beyond spiders: other silk insects

Anne Gageby
Director of Environmental Education
Strawberry Hill Foundation

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

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

Spider mites, for example, produce webs used for transportation between plants. Their silk is especially fascinating in that it's known as the thinnest natural silk fiber produced by silk spinning arthropods. That's a blessing for them as spider mites can

avoid detection until it's too late and they've colonized an area, but a major problem for gardeners for the very same reason. And spider mites aren't the only creature in a garden spinning webs. Even the often-pesky symphylans, sometimes called garden centipedes, use their silk to build nests and for defense.

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

One of our most popular programs at Strawberry Hill is Aquatic Communities. In this program we teach kids of all ages about aquatic macroinvertebrates such as water skippers, water pennies, and gilled snails. We also dive into the world of aquatic insects since many of the insects kids interact with spend their early lives



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

in water. Damselflies, dragonflies, mayflies, etc. all begin as aquatic insects. But the one that piques kids' interest is the caddisfly.

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

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

caddisfly can find. Their cases look like teeny tiny, decorated cones that are mobile.

One child commented recently that they reminded her of Tamao, the crab from Disney's Moana. That was a fair assessment, in my opinion. Caddisflies aren't gathering gemstones or collection ancient artifacts for the pageantry, but they are definitely building something beautiful. Interestingly, caddisfly casing jewelry is apparently a thing. Jewelry makers sometimes raise caddisflies and provide crushed gemstones and jewels for the caddisflies to use as building materials. When the caddisflies grow and move on, their glittering cases are abandoned and repurposed into earrings, necklaces, and so on.

All of the drama and sparkle aside, none of this would be possible without that fundamental building block, silk. Caddisfly silk is particularly unique in the world of arthropods due to its ability to remain sticky underwater. Caddisflies are related to Lepidoptera, the order that includes butterflies and moths and yet both of those insects produce dry silk. Silk is produced by a few other aquatic in-

sects, but most silk-producers are terrestrial, so their silk does best outside of water. But not caddisflies' silk. Theirs are designed to be sticky while entirely submerged. This has led some researchers to study caddisfly silk for its potential biomedical applications.

This can be confusing, however, because the word 'silk' is broadly applied to a variety of substances with vastly different chemical makeup. For example, fan mussels use a byssus, a bundle of filaments with silk-like threads to attach themselves to rocks under the sea. The byssus isn't made of the same material as spider silk though it has similar properties. Carp use fibroin, a protein found in silkworm silk, to attach their egg clutches to rocks. Spider silk contains spidroin proteins, not fibroin. So, while they have similar properties and are used in similar ways, all silks are not the same.

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

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THE RETIRED ECOLOGIST

Learning

Bill Meredith

"We find ourselves in a bewildering world."

—...Stephen Hawking, *A Short History of Time*, 1996.

"Young children have no sense of wonder. They bewilder well, but few things surprise them." Annie Dillard, *An American Childhood*, 1987.

Recently I saw an interview in which the writer, E. L. Doctorow, was asked how he was able to think up new ideas for his novels. His reply was, "How can I think about my brain when it's my brain that's doing the thinking?" It was a clever response, and it ducked the question neatly. I'm sure Doctorow knew at least part of the answer, but I suspect he also knew that it involved technicalities that would quickly become boring to his audience.

Questions about how the brain works are often called the last frontier of science, partly because of Doctorow's observation... it took a long time for us to figure out how to study it. Only a few centuries ago, many things were like that; they were unanswerable with the techniques that existed, so they were simply called miracles. How does a seed grow into a beanstalk or an oak tree? Why do broken bones heal sometimes but not others? Why did the girls who milked cows rarely get smallpox back in the 1600s? Nowadays, most students have been exposed to the answers of these questions by the time they finish high school (although they may not be able to recite them on SAT tests). The answers are known, at least by somebody, so we don't call them miracles any more.

If all goes well, in a few weeks I will watch the month of May slip from the future into the past for the 82nd time. You might think that, having done it so many times, I should know how to go about it by now... but, like Dr. Hawking, I find myself in a bewildering world, and the longer I'm in it, the more bewildering it becomes. Throughout my early years, I was learning more than I forgot; but somewhere along the line the balance began to shift toward forgetting. It has reached a stage now where my mind feels like it has begun to leak; I still learn things, but I don't retain them like I used to. The people who study brain science say they expect to figure out how this works within the next ten years, but then

it will probably be at least another decade before they are able to cure it. For those of us who have already started our 90th decade, this timeline gives little comfort.

Perhaps my mind dwells on such things because I have recently met a new friend. His name is Declan, and I met him about four months ago. The first time he saw me, he cried. I knew there was nothing wrong because a minute earlier his brother had been kissing him and shaking a toy for him; he cried because I was an unfamiliar face, and at that age his brain was pre-wired to interpret any unfamiliar face as a potential threat. I knew that, so I smiled, avoided sudden movements, and spoke very softly to him; and soon he allowed me to hold him, as long as I kept him in a position where his mother was visible. He could not control his arms well enough to reach for me, but he could grasp my finger if I placed it in his hand. Since then he has grown, and has developed connections between neurons in his brain which are beginning to coordinate the control of his arms and hands. The last time I saw him, he reached out and pulled my beard, and smiled... not because he had learned to recognize me as an individual, but because his brain cells are making normal connections, following the genetic patterns they inherited. As Annie Dillard observed, he is still too young to have a sense of wonder, because everything he sees is equally new to him. The actual learning will begin soon. Scholars agree on a broad outline of how it happens, but the actual details of the process are still unknown... and I find a peculiar pleasure in realizing that, for a little while yet, I can still classify Declan as a miracle.

In order to think seriously about anything, whether it be ecology, art, philosophy or economics, you must start by defining your topic. So I looked up "learning" in several references, and found general agreement that learning is "the process of gaining knowledge or skill by studying, practicing, being taught, or experiencing something." A slightly more technical reference added that learning does not include behavioral modifications that result from developmental changes, such as the normal growth of neuron connections like those Declan is undergoing. Because of the growing neural synapses, he is beginning to learn that differences exist. His 4-year-old brother and the family dog are both about the same size and both run around and make lots of noise, but they are not the same. That may sound trivial, but it is the beginning of a process by which he will learn to understand the world. He will have to learn that things differ: they

are hard or soft, big or little, round or square, red or blue... and then he will have to learn words for all those qualities. At the same time, he will have to learn names for the things that have those qualities: the kitten is soft, the table leg is hard, Daddy is big, the sky is blue. Simple? Try doing it yourself in Spanish or German... or Mandarin, if you really want a challenge. And remember that the neural connections that operate his tongue and vocal cords will not be completely developed until he is two years old.

There will come a time when Declan's sense of wonder will appear. It happens at different ages and occurs to varying degrees in all of us, and is easier to describe than to define; John Steinbeck's description of a flower, quoted above, captures it well. Declan's sister reacted with wonder the first time I showed her a tree frog; she was three, and when I placed the tiny creature in her hand, it disappeared. She looked at me with her mouth open in amazement, and then squealed with delight when the frog reappeared on her sleeve, where it had jumped. She now examines every new flower, bug or rock that she sees, and regularly brings new discoveries to share with me. She has become a learner, and will be so all her life.

Sometimes, of course, learning is painful; as Mark Twain once said, "A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn no other way." I don't recall carrying a cat that way, but I was stepped on by ponies, pecked by chickens, kicked by a cow, and bruised by various kinds of machinery in the process of learning to survive on a farm; and those experiences taught me a lot about how to survive at work and in a social setting. Learning, once you get into it, transfers from one activity to another. But there are limits to what can be learned, and they vary from one person to another. When I was six, my Dad showed me where to put my fingers on a guitar in order to play C, F and G7 chords; and soon I could play songs by ear. But learning to read music came very slowly to me; I had the desire to learn, but not the gift for it. Even if I had started serious lessons as a child, I never could have played like Andres Segovia, Django Reinhardt or Manitas de Plata. They had the gift.

Understanding learning is something we have yet to achieve as a nation, and it is sorely needed. Every day, both national and local media present articles about the failure of our schools to achieve uniform test scores and to raise graduation rates, and it will be



a topic of contention in the coming election cycle. Equal opportunity is a noble goal, promised by our Constitution; but even if we had opportunity, equal achievement is impossible, because every child is different. Some are gifted; some are more able to learn than others; some have what we euphemistically call "special needs." In my first month in school, I could see that some children learned faster than I did, and others more slowly; and I saw that occasionally the fastest learners were also the best athletes, but not

always. Each one of us is unique; and it is not possible to design an educational system that could bring all of the children in a nation of 300 million up to a single standard in a given amount of time. At heart, both we and our leaders know this. We keep trying for the worst of all reasons: a more effective system would cost more than we are willing to afford.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Flying high - America's eagle

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

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

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

Bald Eagles are only found in North America, which is why they're often called The American Eagle. Typically, they are found in wooded areas near

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

When you're the king of the skies you take what you want. Eagles notoriously rob other raptors of kills, and either eat the find themselves or return to their nest to feed their young. Benjamin Franklin was displeased when the eagle was elected to become our symbol. He commented, "For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labor of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish...the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him...Besides he is a rank Coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks

him boldly and drives him out of the District. He is therefore by no means a proper Emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our Country."

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

Their lives haven't always been easy ones. Population numbers dramatically declined in the mid 20th century, from a combination of factors. One leading cause was the widespread use of the pesticide DDT. DDT didn't necessarily harm healthy adult birds, but rather their ability to reproduce or produce healthy offspring. DDT occasionally made eagles sterile, but usually affected calcium production creating weak egg shells that failed to protect the eaglets within. It is estimated that in the 18th century populations were between 25,000 - 75,000 pairs, then approximately 10,000 pairs in the 1950's, and endangered levels of just 412 by the early 1960's.

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



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

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

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

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

Bald Eagles, locally and nationally, have faced a tumultuous past. They have come back leaps and bounds from their precarious situation of the 1960's. Raptors and other birds of prey are often attracted to road sides due to increased litter which attracts prey species scavenging for a meal. Motorist are encouraged to hang onto trash, including biodegradable things like apple cores and banana peels, until they can properly dispose of them to help reduce and prevent future injuries to hawks, eagles, owls, and all wildlife. While the Maryland Park Service offers this incredible program to Marylanders they prefer to let wildlife be wild, and don't have the capacity or ability to care for all animals that suffer this fate. You can be of most help to these birds and other wildlife by taking trash with you, animal adoptions and donations, or donating your time by volunteering at an aviary or park near you.

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The story of John Snow and the pump handle

Boyce Rensberger

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

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

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

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

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

Snow got the idea of plotting their locations on a map. Then he noticed that near the center

of the victims' homes was the Broad Street water pump where most people got their water. This, of course, was in the days before ordinary homes had running water.

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

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

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

Benjamin Disraeli, who would later become prime minister, along with other members of Parliament, created the Thames Authority. That river was the source of most of London's water, some pumps pulling water from within the city and others tapping farther upstream where the water was likely to be cleaner. Parliament passed legislation

forcing the overhaul of the city's water and sewage systems. Soon after that, there were no significant cholera outbreaks.

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

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

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

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

In the United States that movement eventually led the federal government to create what would eventually be called the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, known as the CDC. The agency's first mission in 1946 was to keep malaria from spreading across the country. Yes, we used to have malaria here, mainly in the deep south. That's why the CDC was stationed in Atlanta. If you



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

don't worry about catching malaria when you go to Florida or New Orleans, you can thank the CDC.

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

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

Not only have CDC employees been doing these things, but they have also been training others—70 to 80 each year, selected from more than 400 applicants—in the best methods for doing these things. State health departments send people for training. Other countries

send their top health workers. They spend one month at the headquarters in Atlanta and the next 23 months interning with trained disease detectives around the country or in their home country.

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

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

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

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EarthFest 2025, back with a purpose

Theresa Furnari
Frederick County Master Gardener

Join the Frederick County Master Gardeners on May 31 for EarthFest, an annual celebration of our relationship with the natural world and a day full of fun, family-friendly activities, and gardening inspiration.

This free open house will take place from 9:30 to 1:30, both inside the first-floor rooms of the University of Maryland Extension Building and outside on its grounds, located at 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, Maryland. Ample parking is available.

The history of EarthFest dates to 2020, as a result of COVID. Although Master Gardeners sought to continue their outreach work, due to the restrictions of COVID they were prohibited from having indoor activities. So, they came up with the idea to create an outdoor activity and voilà, EarthFest was

born. For the first year, EarthFest was held on the grounds of the Frederick News-Post at 351 Ballenger Center Drive, Frederick. This location was selected because of the beautiful, extensive community gardens and bee houses on the property, each of which continues to exist on the grounds. However, after that first year and due to construction work at FNP, the open house was moved to its present location at the University of Maryland Extension Building, where it has remained.

EarthFest's current location has many amenities, one of which continues to allow new attractions and participants. The current location also offers gardens but adds inside activities, to accommodate groups that could not set up a display outside. For example, the members of the 4H host an insect collection, which must be housed inside. You will find them inside one of those first-floor rooms at the Extension Building EarthFest.



One of the most popular Earthfest activities is painting rocks to resemble anything from a flower garden to ladybugs or bees. Just use your imagination!

EarthFest invites visitors to explore beautiful gardens, connect with nature, and gather tips for their own yards and planting projects. Special activities just for kids include finger puppet crafts and Storytime in the Children's Garden. Rock painting is also available throughout the day for the kid in all of us!

Alongside the fun, EarthFest offers a chance to learn how our everyday choices can help support a healthier environment. Visitors can explore exhibits from the Master Gardeners, 4-H, and a variety of local nonprofits and Frederick County departments that focus on sustainability and conservation.

The heart of EarthFest is the Demonstration Garden, located behind the Extension Building, where native plants and wild-

life thrive side-by-side. As you stroll through, enjoy the native plants in bloom and the pollinators—bees, butterflies, and birds. You can discover gardening techniques and plant choices that can work in your own space. Master Gardeners will be on hand throughout the garden to answer questions and offer advice about vegetable and flower gardening. For those of you interested in creating your own native pollinator garden, a display by the Master Gardeners will teach you how.

When EarthFest was canceled in 2024 due to extreme heat and out of concern for all participants and attendees, the situation was clear. Summers were getting hotter. Therefore, the date for EarthFest 2025 was moved to the earlier date of

May 31, with fingers crossed for milder spring weather. Although the earlier date means not as many flowers will be in bloom, beauty will still be all around and attendees will have opportunities to gather ideas for how to respond to climate change.

The garden also showcases the role native trees play in supporting our environment and regulating the climate. The trunks, branches, leaves, fruit, and nuts of trees provide habitat for many species of insects, birds, squirrels, and even deer. The shade such trees provide and their absorption of carbon dioxide while releasing oxygen into the atmosphere counters the increase in temperatures and greenhouse gases. Despite the increase in storm water, the root systems of trees and native plants stabilize the soil and decrease erosion.

The value of native trees is immeasurable. For example, according to the entomologist Dr. Douglas Tallamy, native oak trees support over 500 species of caterpillars, whereas a non-native tree from Asia, the ginkgo, hosts only five species of caterpillars. Because 96 percent of terrestrial songbirds rely on caterpillars to feed their babies, caterpillars are



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important for a healthy ecosystem. It's one of many fascinating examples of how thoughtful planting helps nature thrive.

Interactive exhibits that will entertain and educate continue throughout the event. Learn about fascinating insects from members of the 4-H. Get inspired by books of stories about our environment and its inhabitants, from the Frederick County Public Libraries. Chat with local experts at the Frederick County Beekeepers Association, Habitat Advisors, and Frederick Bird Club as to the identity and benefit of bees and birds that share our backyards and their importance in our environment, as well as the threats they face. Get active and motivated after visiting the table of the Sierra Club Catoctin Group, to learn about local environmental issues.

Stop by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin's table to see how stormwater affects the Potomac River's health. Although stormwater generally drains into the soil, when it cannot because of more intense and frequent storms, it may run along streets and parking lots picking up trash, oil, salt, and other pollutants. These flow into our rivers and streams, affecting drinking water and aquatic fish and plants. Near the ICPRB, Master Gardeners

will share tips for creating a yard that helps rainwater soak into the soil instead of washing pollution into waterways.

New this year are exhibits from Mobilize Frederick, which shares ideas for climate resilience; Wild Ones, a group focused on native plant landscaping; and the Frederick County Division of Energy & Environment, promoting sustainability practices.

EarthFest is a day to celebrate, connect, and come away with fresh ideas for living in harmony with the natural world. We hope to see you there!

Locally, Frederick County Master Gardeners are headquartered at the University of Maryland Extension Service, 330 Montevue Avenue, Frederick. Check our website at bit.ly/FCMG-Home-Gardening for upcoming free seminars, Master Gardener certification classes, gardening information, advice, and publications, as well as other announcements or call us at 301-600-1596. You'll be glad to see that some of the links to Frederick County Master Gardeners and the University of Maryland Extension Service pages have been changed for the better: the links are now much shorter than they used to be.

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

Small Town Gardener

The spring hangover is real, beat it with layered planting

Marianne Willburn

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

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

Look around you. The daffodils that were glorious are now suffering what a friend calls "a big, dumb, dramatic, B-Grade, Silent movie death." The early apricots

have dropped their delicate, highly anticipated flowers and their true nature as non-descript trees of awkward stature is on display (in that too-prominent place that was so fabulous four weeks before). Even the ubiquitous forsythia has gone from herald of spring to "that-massive-needs-pruning-but-I'll-do-it-next-year" blob at the top of the drive.

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

Are you ready for Part II?

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

Exhaustion – It's normal to experience a spring letdown. The run up to spring is quite literally that. From seed starting to pricking out, to cleaning up, pruning, digging, dividing, and planting

again, it feels like all your time, spare or otherwise, is spent on a treadmill set just above a comfortable pace.

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

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

Doing better, layer by layer

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

Start by getting nosy with your neighbors

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

Succession planting

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

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

- Anchor plants – these are your [hopefully interesting] permanent shrubs, small trees and grasses.

- Perennials – the plants that come back year after year (at least most of them), and tend to have 2-3 weeks of bloom. New breeding has pushed that time line in many perennials, but there is usually a strong initial flush, followed by the plant phoning in a flower or two to keep you guessing until September.

- Bulbs – there is more to bulb season than April daffodils. Look carefully at your options for early, mid, and late spring, and then head on over to catalogs for the summer blooming bulbs that are planted in spring.

- Temperennials – these are the plants hardy in some climates but not in yours. Not everyone has the patience to overwinter the tender, half-hardy annuals and tropicals that live in garages and greenhouses and come out to play again in the summer; but they add a huge amount to the late summer garden.

- Climbers – particularly for those with smaller gardens, the plants that go up, or like to scramble through, are a layer that should not be overlooked.

- Seeded Annuals – either you or your local nursery seed these indirectly or directly into the soil, though you'll find you need to do most of the work if you don't wish to bankrupt yourself. They will normally bloom at maturity until the last frost takes them. These are plants like larkspur, poppies, cornflower, lunaria, zinnia, cosmos and fennel.

- Volunteer seedlings – their children from previous seasons showing up in your soil, already sown, pricked out, and planted, and asking only one thing of the gardener – to be edited with a thumb and forefinger.

Succession, for success

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

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

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PETS

Bubba

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal
Shelter

The realization hits her on a random Tuesday night while she's binge watching Modern Family.

There wasn't anything really novel about the day. She went to work, came home, got dinner and fed Bubba, her rescued Maltese mix.

It was all part of her normal routine – or as normal as it's been since she adopted Bubba from the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter.

He'd been with her for about three months and in the beginning it was kind of touch and go. The shelter wasn't sure what Bubba's story was because he was brought in as a stray found running around the area.

It still makes her heart hurt to think about her little guy fending for himself outside. She couldn't imagine how he found anything to eat, let alone stayed warm.

Bubba took a while to trust her. He was so shy and seemed scared of everything. If the refrigerator door shut too hard, he would jump.

When she first considered adoption, she was looking for a pup to cuddle and snuggle with – she even bought a super fluffy blanket on Amazon to

share with her new four-legged friend.

The first few weeks with Bubba didn't have any snuggling, let alone did he use the blanket with her. In fact, it sometimes took all she had just to get him to eat something.

There were more than a few days in those early weeks that she had serious doubts that she'd made the right decision.

Two weeks later, she wasn't so sure.

But by that random Tuesday, something shifts. She's laughing at the antics of the Pritchett family and cooing at Phil's "Phil's-osophy" book for Haley and she's all wrapped up in the blanket.

During one of her funny, soft noises, she's surprised to find Bubba had walked up to the couch and is watching her from the floor.

She takes a sip of her after-dinner tea and makes a split second decision. Without changing the inflection in her voice and maintaining a quiet tone, she asks, "Do you want to come up? You can come up," and pats the blanket.

Bubba actually blinks at her from the floor and looks like he's trying to make a decision.

She chuckles a little. She can't help it. He's just so adorable.

He backs away an inch or two, only to step up to the couch again.

She whispers, "You really are fine, sweetheart. You can sit

with me if you want."

Bubba actually huffs a little and makes the jump to land in her lap on top of the blanket. He curls up immediately, seeming to really enjoy the fluffy material.

They stay in that position for four more episodes of Modern Family and by the time she figures she should turn in, she glances down at Bubba and finds him completely asleep, breathing deeply, utterly at peace.

The TV's forgotten and her breath catches in her throat as she realizes he's what she's been waiting for.

Her whole life, she's always felt there was something out there, something on the horizon, something on the way to her life.

The fact that this little dog trusts her enough to care for him, to sit with her while she watches her favorite show, to follow her around the house, it all hits her at the same time and her eyes water a bit.

Despite the rough start to their relationship, she knows they will be together for as long as they have and she will enjoy every minute of her life with him.

She doesn't push the start button for the next episode, but she also doesn't go to bed. She sits on the couch for a little while with Bubba, stroking his white fur and feeling that instinctive sensation that pet owners experience of faith and security and connection.

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



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



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



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



Rodeo Joe is a lovable, happy guy that really enjoys attention and snuggles. He is one of our long-term residents and has been with us since June 2024. He loves to go out to the play yard! Rodeo Joe can be shy with some men, but once he knows them, he does seem to accept them. He did well with our tester cat here at the shelter, but we do recommend supervision with cats until they are acclimated to each other. Rodeo Joe may be too much for small children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Could this sweet fellow be your new best four-legged friend?



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

For more information about Nimble, Ophelia, Ted E Bear, Rodeo Joe, or Phoebe, call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org. Better yet, visit them in person at the shelter!



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To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown



Save a life, foster a homeless pet

Shawn Snyder
Frederick County Animal Shelter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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



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



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



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

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

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Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

SECTION 2

The mission of Hearty House

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

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

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

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

That is why we refer to the victimizations we serve as power-based violence because we want to focus on changing that power dynamic,” she says. “Here

at Hearty House, we see all kinds of abuse occurring such as emotional, financial, sexual, cultural, and religious abuse. By expanding our definition, we can also better understand that power dynamic better.” Understanding the differences in abuse allows Hearty House to not only tailor their services, but also empathize as best they can with survivors of certain situations.

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

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

Hearty House also provides individual and group counseling from phenomenal, licensed therapists. Different groups are offered, including

groups for male sexual abuse survivors, Spanish-speaking survivors, a parent group for survivors of trafficking, and an LGBTQIA+ group. Hearty House also has specific child counselors who work with child abuse survivors. The therapists use trauma-informed practices to support survivors at any stage.

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

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

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

Hearty House conducts a Take Back the Night event every April, where survivor speakers share their stories and attendees can participate in a walk for awareness around Hood College’s campus. Also in this department, Hearty House’s Youth



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

Prevention Services make an appearance at Frederick County Public Schools to discuss healthy relationships and resources to prevent abuse before it occurs.

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

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

One final—and significant—way to support Hearty House is to support the survivors in your lives. “When someone shares they are a survivor, believe them,” urges Dato. “Be a safe person for them to talk to. This includes being careful of how you respond to other survivors in our culture.” Dato explains how our perspective of celebrities coming out as survivors is an example of this. “Start by believing and caring for others, and people will feel more comfortable leaning

on you for support.”

To learn more about Hearty House, including services offered and how to help, visit their website at heartyhouse.org. The Hearty House 24-Hour hotline is 301-662-8800, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline is 800-799-7233.

“As a survivor of intimate partner violence myself, I know how difficult it can be to leave an abusive situation. Being stuck in that cycle of abuse seems endless,” says Dato. “What keeps me going is working with the Survivor Speakers. Every single one of them are absolutely amazing. They are the strongest people I know, who have been doubted, called liars, and have been shamed. Despite this, they keep going and keep sharing their stories in the hopes to end abuse for others.”

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

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Call 410-751-1100 Ext. 106 or visit www.taneytownmd.gov for more information.



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HISTORY

Williams History of Frederick County

Continued from last month

Thomas M. Stoner

Thomas Stoner is the owner of Mapleton, a farm midway between Ladiesburg and Union Bridge, in the Johnsville District, which contains 57 acres of finally improve land. All the improvements have been made by Mr. Stoner. He began farming here when this property was yet woods. His first purchase was 18 1/2 acres, any attitude this from time to time until now it has 57 acres. He was born at Johnsville, July 10, 1847, and is the son Augustus and Ann Stoner.

Augusta Stoner was born in Middleburg, Frederick, now Carol County, June 18, 1816, and died on his farm in Frederick County in 1896. He was educated in the common school at Johnsville. He first followed the business of a huckster, afterwards he turned his attention to farming, which he ever after engaged in. He succeeded to the Hammond farm, through his wife. This track contained 86 acres, but when his children grew up, it was too small, and he traded with John Hartsock for a farm of 135 acres, near Middleburg. He is buried at Beaver Dam Churchyard. Mr. Stoner was three times married. His first wife was Hannah Stoner, his

secondly wife was Anne, Hammond, daughter of Denton Hammond, who was a Weaver at Johnsville. She died in 1852 and is laid to rest at Beaver Dam. Mr. Stone was married thirdly to Elizabeth, Kung, sister, of John Kung, Woodsboro, she is living at the age of 83 years old.

Thomas Stoner, son of Augustus and Anne Stoner, lived at Johnsville, until he was 14 years old, when his father removed to Good Intent. At these two places, he secured his learning in the public schools. When a boy of 11 years, he began work on the home farm, and as followed agriculture pursuits to this day, save two years.

He was for one year a clerk in the store of Anders and Lighter before his marriage in Union Bridge, and for a similar period in a light capacity in the Mercantile establishment of George Buckey for one year after his marriage. For the next six years, he ran the home farm. He then purchased his present place in that manner before stated. He was a member of the Beaver Dam church.

Mr. Stoner was married February 17, 1872. Laura Bowman, of Good Intent. She is the daughter of William and Mary Ann Bowman. She was born at Ladiesburg, February 25, 1849, and was educated at the good

intense school. She holds membership in the Methodist Protestant Church at Johnsville. Mr. and Mrs. Stoner have no children.

William Bowman, Mrs. Stoner's father, was a merchant at Ladiesburg for many years. He removed to Good Intent and kept a small country store. He died at that place in 1890, age 74 years, his death occurring on his birthday. He was a Methodist in religion. Mr. Bowman was married to Mary Ann Hyder, she was connected with the Lutheran Church. She died April 17, 1896, at the age of 67 years. They are both interned in the Beaver Dam Church yard.

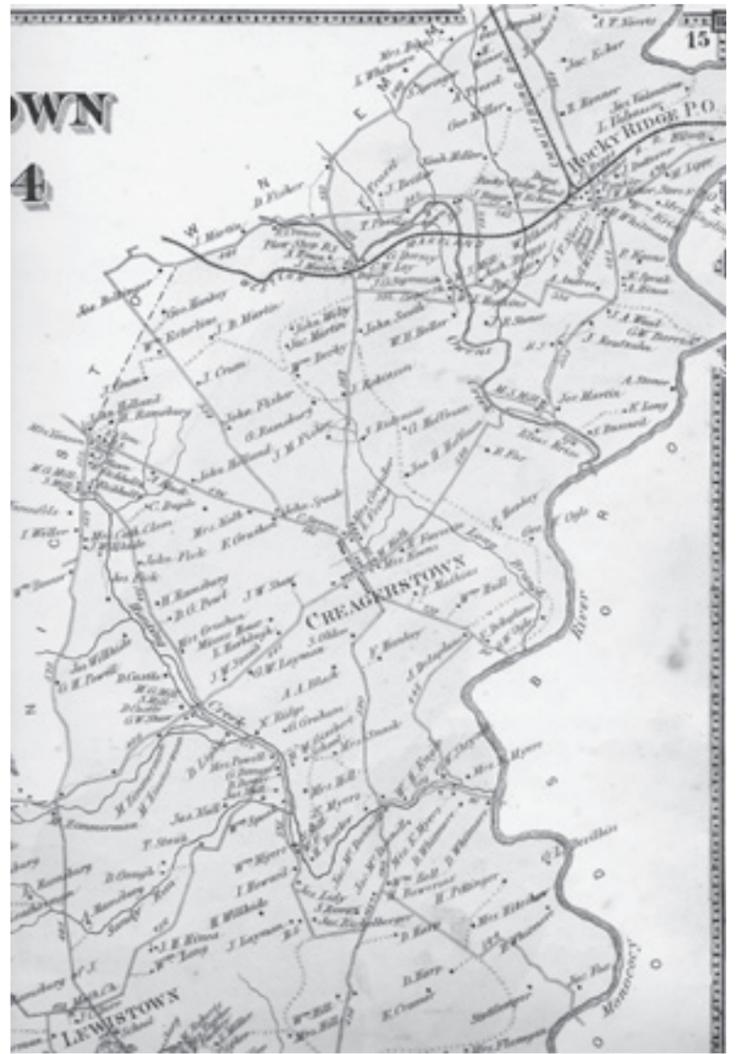
Jacob Watcher Hyder

Jacob Hyder is the owner of a fine 40-acre farm, which is a well improved with a beautiful house, and an outstanding buildings. His home is situated in Pleasant Valley, near Good Intent, in the Johnsville District. Mr. Hyder was born in Woodsboro, on the farm of his father, in December 1833. He's a son of Jacob and Sarah Hyder.

John Hyder, the grandfather of Jacob Hyder, follow the profession of a schoolteacher. He died, suddenly, engaged in instructing at school. The name of his wife was Elizabeth Stitely. They had a son, Jacob.

Jacob Hyder, was a farmer, and also taught the schools of Frederick County. He was a prominent citizen in the county, and was at one time, Judge of the Orphans' Court. And that office he discharged his duties with marked ability infidelity. He died on his farm at Pleasant Hill and his buried at Rock Hill Cemetery. He was a man of brilliant, natural talents. He possessed many good traits of character, and had high standing in the community which she lived. Mr. Hyder was married to Sarah Lightner, they were the parents of 14 children. Two of the sons, Theodore and Amos, fought in the Civil War. The former was killed in the service, and the latter is living in the state of Missouri.

Jacob Watcher Hyder acquired his schooling at the Pleasant Hill school. He was reared in the usual routine of a farmer, son. He later learned the trade of a carpenter with Upton Waltz and Joseph Wolf. This occupation he followed for a period of 15 years. At the time of his first marriage, he was living on his farm of 120 acres in Pleasant Hill. He continued to engage in farming until



1858 map of the Creagerstown District drawn by Isaac Bond.

his wife died, after what he made sale and return to the carpenter trade.

Mr. Hyder, in 1886, bought his present home, which contains 40 acres, and lies in Pleasant Valley in the Johnsville District. This is a magnificent estate. Frederick County boasts many beautiful country homes, and the home of Mr. Hyder takes a high rank. Great care is taken in the care of the place and it shows the effort taken to preserve it excellent condition. Mr. Hyder is one of the representative citizens of his District and has been very successful in life. He has recently retired from active work. He uses his right of franchise in favor of the candidates of the Republican Party. In religion, he is a member of Haugh's Lutheran Church, to which he is a liberal contributor.

Mr. Hyder has been married. His first wife was Sophia Stull, daughter, of Louis and Anne Stull. She died about the end of the Civil War. Mr. Hyder was married. Secondly, to Susan Snook, daughter of William Snook. There was one child from this later marriage.

John H. Whitmore

John Whitmore, a prosperous and prominent farmer of the Lewistown District, was born June 7, 1855, on the Whitmore Homestead in Creagerstown District. He is a sign of David and Martha Whitmore.

The grandfather of John Whitmore was Henry Whitmore. He removed from Pennsylvania to Frederick County where he bought a track of 100 acres a farm in timber land in the Creagerstown District. On this place, he lived until his death. He was one of the early settlers of that section and was a prominent man in his day. Mr. Whitmore was married to Solomo Fundeburg. They were the parents of two children, one of which died young and the other was named David.

David Whitmore was born on the farm of his father, February 16, 1812 and died in 1877. In the public schools of the county, he received his education. He lived at home and assisted his father in the work of the place until the latter retired. Mr. Whitmore then cultivated the farm for his parents until they died. He

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HISTORY

inherited the estate, being the only living child, and he was engaged farming here, the remainder of his days. He improved the place and was highly successful at agriculture, owning another track besides his homeplace. He was a man of excellent character. In politics, Mr. Whitmore was allied with the Democratic Party. He held a membership in the German Baptist Church at Rocky Ridge. Mr. Whitmore was married to Martha Horn. They were the parents of four children, John, our subject; Daniel of Johnsville, Mary of Creagerstown, and Phoebe, the wife of George Stotemyer, who resides on the old Homestead in Creagerstown.

John Whitmore was the recipient of a public school education and has followed, agriculture, pursuits his entire life. He was reared on the farm on which he was born. After his father's death in 1877, he cultivated the place for his mother for four years. In 1882, he removed to another farm his father had owned, consisting of 100 acres in the Lewistown District. He farmed this on shares until 1890, when he purchased it. There was a substantial Stone house on the track, which Mr. Whitmore, remodeled, and a bank barn. It is one of the most fertile farms in the District and yields large crops annually. The dwelling house was erected in 1826, and is in excellent condition. Mr. Whitmore is also the owner of another farm, joining the one on which she resides.

In politics, Mr. Whitmore supports the politics of the Democratic Party. He is a stockholder in the Woodsboro canning factory. In religion, he is a member of the German Baptist Church. Mr. Whitmore was married to Sarah Smith who holds membership in the Rocky Ridge Baptist Church.

Benjamin William Saxton

Benjamin Saxten, assistant cashier of the Woodsboro Savings Bank is a well-known citizen of that place. He

was born on a farm a half-mile from Woodsboro, September 16, 1879, and is the son of Reverend John and Josephine Saxten.

Reverend John Saxten resides near Woodsboro, and is a prominent minister of the Church of God. Reverend Saxten is a native of Pennsylvania, and is the son of William and Mary Saxten, who immigrated from Pennsylvania and settled in near Woodsboro in 1866 where he lived until he died. William Saxten was for many years a farmer and agent for the celebrated Saxten Spring Tooth Harrow. The Saxten family is one of the early settlers of Pennsylvania, and belongs to the same family, of which Mrs. Kingsley was a member.

Benjamin W Saxten was sent to the public schools when he was six years old, and he stayed there until he was 17, when he entered the Walkersville high school, the principal of which was Franklin Harsherman. He completed the courses offered there, and then took the teachers examination, which he passed. He then taught public school for one year.

On April 1, 1900, he entered the employee of the Woodsboro Savings Bank at the bookkeeper, and held that position until June 1, 1906. He then went to Washington to accept a position as bookkeeper in the Commercial National Bank. This position he filled for 13 months. He returned home, December 1, 1907, and since filled the office of assistant cashier of the Woodsboro Savings Bank. He has ably attended to the duties of this position, and as well known in county financial circles.

In politics, he is a Prohibitionist. He is a charter member of the Woodsboro Cornet Band. Religiously, he is connected to the church of God at Woodsboro, in the work of which he is much interested. He is one of the best-known citizens of Woodsboro, and highly respected.

Mr. Saxton was married June 1, 1907, to Mary Shank. The family is one in Frederick County.

Jeremiah Washington Whitmore

Jeremiah Whitmore, owner of "Whiskey Springs" farm of 72 acres, situated on the Coppermine Road, 3 miles from Woodsboro, was born on the old Doris Groff farm, on the road leading from Keysville to Double Pike Creek in Carroll County, August 25, 1859. His present farm takes its name from a fine spring that used to furnish water for distillery that was connected on the place some years ago. He is the son of William and Sabrina Whitmore, the former deceased.

The great grandfather of Jeremiah Whitmore came to America from Germany and it is suppose that he settled in Carroll County. Jacob Whitmore, son of the immigrant, was a native of Carroll County. He was a day labor and worked on farms, chopping wood. He also put up fences. He was married to Susan Kuntz. He resided at Graceham, where he died, aged 80 years old.

William Whitmore, son of Jacob and Susan Whitmore, was born in Carroll County. February 14, 1834. He was quite young when his father moved to Frederick County. He received a good education in the county schools of his day. He began life by working by the year. After his marriage, he located near Detour. For 19 years he work for John Stoner. His death occurred September 5, 1894. He was a supporter of the Republican principles. Mr. Whitmore was married near what is now Detour, about 1857, to Sabrina Pittenger.

Jeremiah Washington Whitmore, son of William and Sabrina Whitmore, grew up to manhood, near Thurmont, attending the public schools, part of each winter until he was 14 years old.

The first work which he did was chopping wood, for use at home. When he was 12 years old, he worked two summers for Jesse Bitler, at four dollars per month. He spent one summer with Samuel Favorite, at six dollars a month. He then worked a year for William Martin, and his next employer was John Bell. The following two years he was under James Orndoff and one year with David Fisher. He received \$10 a month the year around. For 10 years he hired out out to John Stoner, receiving \$10 above for three years and \$12 the rest of his time. Mr. Whitmore was next engaged at work on a thrush machine and sawmill for two years. For the next two years he labor

for Charles Dorsey at \$120 per year. He next four years on the Jarboe farm below Frederick on the Buckystown Pike. While attending his father's funeral, he received word that Mr. Jarboe had dropped dead. On September 25, 1894, Mr. Whitmore brought his present and removed their arm. Since getting possession of this place, he has greatly improved it by the direction of other buildings. Mr. Whitmore is thoroughly versed with all phases of agriculture, and is meant with much success. He has made his own way in life and began at the bottom of the latter.

Mr. Whitmore was raised a republican and politics, but voted for Cleveland for president and it's ever since advocated Democratic principles. He is a member of the reform church at Woodsboro. He acted as a deacon for five years, and a served as an Elder for the past four years. Mr. Whitmore was married December 25, 1852, to Kathryn, Fox, daughter of Joseph and Charlotte Fox. Mrs. Whitmore also host membership in the Reform church and is a most esteemed woman.

continued next month

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

May 1

The Lincoln Gettysburg Car

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

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

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

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

Burn Old Lead Batteries

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

W. C. T. U. Holds Annual Meeting At Walkersville

The 39th annual convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Frederick County was held in the Lutheran Church, Walkersville, on Thursday. The church was beautifully decorated with mock oranges and wild cherry blossoms, and ferns, the tables with regalia.

The executive session was open by Miss Nora McInney, vice president, with a short devotional service.

The convention opened with a devotional service, and greetings by Reverend Shlike of the Lutheran Church. The business section consisted of reports of secretaries and treasurers and superintendents, interspersed with music.

The convention's speeches all dealt with the need for Temperance Union women not to grow impatient, "the message we white ribbon are carrying into the world is worth repetition, and we must drive to cultivate faith in our sincerity in the nations that are watching America in her ability to do what has been promised. May we show to the world we are law abiding, not, a law violating nation."

A pleasant luncheon hour was enjoyed. Delegates and friends, partook of a box luncheon supplemented with coffee, iced tea, cake and ice cream, furnish by the Walkersville Union.

The most credible demonstration was presented by 50 or more children of the Walkersville schools, under the instruction of Mrs. Raddock. The program included a reading by Alice Erzler; "We're Coming For Grandpa's Still"; A short play by Mabel Fox, Mary Stouffer, and Ethel Fraser titled: "Prohibition Guards, How To Follow Your Father to His still"; an exercise by six boys depicting being forced to tear apart a still, while being encouraged on by 12 girls pretending to hold shotguns, who sang "enough with deadbeat husbands." The women in the audience clearly enjoyed the children's presentation.

The report from the 17 departments indicate increasing interest in the Temperance Union and evidence. Most interesting was the report on how to disable a husband's automobile to prevent them going to boozers' meetings.

The meeting however did not go over well with husbands of those in attendance in the hall. The husbands demonstrated outside the church demanding that the women stop demeaning their

sons by forcing them to participate in the plays. To protect their ears from the screeching of the women in the church, the men frequently broke out into drinking songs like: "Go Away Nagging Woman" and "Were Are My Vittles," while they openly passed around bottles of Woodsboro's finest hooch.

The men's demonstration broke up after the boys were released. The men, who by that time were considerably soused, headed off the Walkersville Boozers' super secret still in the main barn on the old Oyster Farm in Glade Valley to sleep the rest of the day away in peace and quite.

May 8

Weather

The Almanac, or the weather, has been wabbly, so far in May. We have been having April showers, and cold ones at that, for the past two weeks, following summer heat about the middle of April.

Presented Flowers

Mrs. Andrew J. Ohler and Mrs. Amanda Wolf, aged respectively 87 and 89 years, of Fairfield, were each presented with bouquets of carnations, at the Lutheran Church, last Sunday morning, as being the oldest women present at the services.

Young Couple Weds

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

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

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

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

State Police Enforcing Traffic Laws

Two state "Cops" pulled a lot of auto law violators here, Saturday night and Sunday. We do not know anything about these cases, but we do know that the speed laws are commonly violated here, and it is very dangerous business. We also know that there is a growing local sentiment against such arrests, and that is a dangerous business too. There should be only one sentiment, and that is, obedience to, and respect for, the laws. Guying the cops, or interfering in their business, should not be indulged in.

The Bridgeport Bridge

The lowest bidder for the new concrete bridge over the Monocacy, at Bridgeport, is the Concrete Steel Bridge Company, at \$31,345. The specifications call



Wrigley's gives the penny a bigger value in delightful, long-lasting and beneficial refreshment.

Coming home on the train or in the car - It's so cool and sweet after smoking. And then when you get home how eager the little folks are for their Wrigley's! How good it is for them!



for two arch spans of 50 feet, and one of 56 feet, with a clear roadway of 24 feet.

May 15

Woman, Burned At Brooder, Dies.

Bethel May Mlelke, about 25 years old, wife of Edward Mlelke, of near Loy's Station, was fatally burned shortly after 10 o'clock, Thursday morning, and died at the Frederick City hospital, about six hours later. Practically all of her clothing was consumed by the flames and her body, from her feet to her neck, was burned to a crisp.

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

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

she arrived at the hospital, and remained conscious until she died.

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

Decoration Day

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

Uniontown's Decoration Day will be observed by the children strewing flowers on the graves of the fallen heroes, Saturday evening, meeting at the Bethel Brethren Church at 6, bring flowers. We would like to see more of the older folks take interest.

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

The Dictionary

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

most neglected book published; and next to the Bible, the dictionary is the most valuable and helpful book in existence, yet at the same time is almost completely ignored in the curriculum of our Colleges and schools. It is shelved as a "work of reference," is not regarded as an essential textbook, and the finished product of our schools, in the crop of educated (?) poor spellers, shows the result.

When the "spelling bee" of the old-fashioned school was tabooed, and the time given to more "modern" accomplishments, education received a hard blow. Spelling contests meant a study of the dictionary, and this study in turn meant a study of the derivation, definition, pronunciation and proper application of words; it meant sentence forming, an extended vocabulary, and general preparation for many kinds of work, such as no other study can give.

Students, nowadays, are started in Latin, Greek, French and German before they know how to spell and pronounce English, or have any sound foundation in the etymological construction of words. The study of the dictionary is a liberal education in itself, and it is largely neglected as an out-of-date factor in schoolwork.

"Walking dictionaries" are less in evidence now than forty or fifty years ago and this is regrettable, for the information secured in youth, on account of being a "good speller," is an accomplishment that is apt to "stick," through life, and to mean that along with good spelling there are a lot of accompanying good qualities. There is no greater "give away" than a misspelled word or two, in common use, in a letter or newspaper article, and especially when they come from a "graduate" of college or high school.

State Police Enforcing Traffic Laws

Two state "Cops" pulled a lot of auto law violators here, Saturday night and Sunday. We do not know anything about these cases, but we do know that the speed laws are commonly violated here, and it is very dangerous business. We also know that there is a growing local sentiment against such arrests, and that is a dangerous business too. There should be only one sentiment, and that is, obedience to, and respect for, the laws. Guying the cops, or interfering in their business, should not be indulged.

May 22

Refuse To Pay Fine Is Jailed

Phillip Wolf, of near Libertytown, learned how rapidly justice can be disposed, when he was arrested by Corporal McCauley, of the state police, on a charge of driving a car while under the influence of liquor Sunday afternoon. Taken before Justice Dorcus at Woodsboro, he was fine \$100 in cost or a jail alternative of 30 days.

Wolf was driving a car in a reckless manner along the Woodsboro Road, it was said, and the condition of the man was reported to McCauley, who was patrolling that section at that time. The state officer located Wolf along the road, and obtain several witnesses to show that the driver was in an intoxicated condition. Several persons who saw wolf operating the car, stated that he was driving in a very dangerous manner.

Wolf was taken before Justice Dorcas for trial. After hearing the testimo-

ny, Dorcas pronounce Wolf guilty and gave him a choice between a 30-day jail sentence and the payment of \$100 and cost. Wolf stated that while he had the money, he preferred the jail term. He was brought to the Frederick jail where he's confined.

It is understood that members of the Libertytown Boozers Association is taking up a collection to pay his fine to get him released as Wolf recently moved the group's still and is the only person who now knows where it is.

Uniontown Parents-Teacher's Association Meet

The Uniontown Parents-Teacher's Association held their last meeting, for the summer, last Friday evening. After a business session, the children gave several "folks games," and Miss Grim gave a talk on school work, and some of the first grade pupils gave an illustration of the proper way of making purchases at the store, counting up bills and making change; Stewart Segafoose as merchant made a very good salesman.

An auction of pies followed and a large number was disposed of, many cutting their pies and passing to those about them, to test the abilities of the Uniontown and neighborhood ladies as pie makers.

Scouts Enthused Over Contest

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

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

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

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

A Motor Cycle Accident

John Sharrer, his sister Bertha, and Bernard Gilbert, of Woodsboro met with a motorcycle accident at the Frederick County approach to the Monocacy bridge, at Bridgeport, last Saturday night, about 9:30. When their machine struck the rough approach, it became uncontrollable, turned over, and threw the three occupants down the embankment.

Sharrer was rendered unconscious and was brought to Taneytown for treatment, and was still unconscious when friends took the parties back to Frederick. The girl was only slightly injured. Sharrer and his sister were brought to town by Dr. Hitchcock and Harry Anders.

May 29

Decoration Day

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

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

Surely, it is little for us to do, to follow the children with flowers to the ceme-

teries, and to spend a little time hearing brief addresses in honor of our country's dead. It requires only an hour or two of our time, but it represents much more than that in sentiment—a sentiment that is worthwhile keeping alive, though the objects of it sleep.

Receivers For Cement Plant

A receivership for the Tidewater Portland Cement Company of Delaware, a \$4,000,000 corporation, which has a large plant in Union Bridge, was asked today by W. A. Spurrier, of Baltimore and the Farrell Fuel Corporation of Pennsylvania. The company is alleged to be insolvent.

In an answer to the petition filed in United States Court the Tidewater Company admits the allegation and consents to the appointment of receivers. Spurrier is a stockholder and the Farrell Fuel Corporation is a creditor of the Tidewater Company.

There is a mortgage covering the Company's property at Union Bridge, to secure a bond issue of \$1,750,000, all of the bonds being outstanding. In 1913-15 the Company borrowed large sums from Wilson Shaw, of Pittsburgh; and Oliver Foster, of Buffalo. Shaw and Foster being bondholders. The Company gave Demand Notes for the money borrowed, the Notes aggregating \$523,000. Last month Shaw brought suit against the Company in the Superior Court on the Demand Notes held by him, claiming \$245,000 principal and interest. Foster at the same time brought suit for \$434,000 principal and interest on the Demand Notes he held.

The Tidewater Company has been engaged in the business of manufacturing lime and cement since 1912. Judgments by default against the Tidewater Portland Cement Company were obtained yesterday in the Superior Court by Foster for \$434,663 and by Shaw for \$245,763. Both judgments were given on demand promissory notes, suits on which recently were instituted.

Receivers for the company were appointed Tuesday by consent in the United States District Court. It was said that the action of Shaw and Foster made it impossible for the company to continue business.

Middleburg Boy Killed

Injuries sustained when kicked by a horse in the stable on his father's farm, proved fatal to Arthur Bittinger, 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bittinger, near Middleburg, Friday morning, last week. He died at the Frederick City Hospital where he was brought on Thursday, following the accident. Fracture of the skull was the cause of the youth's death.

Young Bittinger was in the stable, and it is thought that in walking behind one of the horses he was kicked in the head and knocked to the floor. He was able to regain his feet and summon aid. He was taken to the house and a physician called. After an examination he was brought to the hospital and an operation performed. He failed to improve and he died on Friday morning.

The funeral was held on Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock, with services conducted by Rev. Mowbray, pastor of the United Brethren Church of Walkersville, at the home of his parents.

Anti-Fly Drive Underway Early

The first fly of the season buzzed through the open window in the recording room of the Bureau Of Communicable Diseases of the State Department Of Health, the other day.

Automatically, the office force rose as one individual to swat at it. "Getting rid of one fly" summarized one of the combatants, "means the potential loss of many millions by August."

To verify the statement, the status looked up the records for five families and this is what the book said.

April (wintered over female) — 1
May 1 — 120
May 20 — 7,200
June 20 — 432,000
July 10 — 25,920,000
July 29 — 1,555,209,000
August 18 — 93,312,000,000
September 10th — 5,596,720,000,000

These flies placed end-to-end with circle the world 352 times.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago This Month, visit the history section of Walkersville.net.

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LIBRARY NEWS

May at the library

If you're reading this section, you're probably a fan of the public library! Did you know the library is looking for people like you? Friends of the Walkersville Library, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to developing and enhancing library services for the community. The Friends help support a variety of programs, including the Summer Reading Challenge (which starts June 1!) and has a direct impact in making your library a special place in the community. Stop by the Walkersville Branch Library to learn how you can be a Friend of the library this year!

Please note that all Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed May 25-26 in observance of Memorial Day.

Aye mates! Join swashbuckler Eliza Blackheart as she regales you with tales of piracy on the high seas! Learn pirate lore and some surprising stories about female pirates in this engaging presentation on Sunday, May 4 at 1:30pm.

If you're expecting a little one soon, consider joining Erica Chesnik from Family Connects for a free prenatal yoga and exercise session! This gentle movement program will take place at the Walkersville Branch Library on Tuesday, May 6 at 6:30pm.

All ages and abilities are welcome to wind down the day with a 1-hour, free yoga class offered by Sol Yoga. It will be held on Monday, May 12 at 6pm. If you're looking for an exercise class that will invigorate your morning, try out Freedom BANG Fitness class every Saturday at 10am.

The Walkersville Branch Library has programs designed for adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers. Come enjoy the music and learn more about instruments from the Brass Quartet on May 7 and stay limber by doing chair yoga on May 14. Both programs begin at 10:15am.

We have a retirement plan in place; why not consider a transportation plan as well? Join us to learn more about traffic trends, advancements

in car technology, age-related risks, safety recalls, and additional relevant topics at Senior Cafe on Thursday, May 8 at 10am. Learn from the '2024 Sass Choice Award for Best Caterer', Box Theory, to make beautiful charcuterie boards on Thursday, May 22 at 10am. As Box Theory suggests, eat pretty food!

Need help expunging your record from a past conviction? Meet with an attorney from Maryland Legal Aid to discuss your options and begin the process, for free! Thursday, May 22 from 4:00-7:00pm.

Minecraft Monday at 6pm on May 5 is a great opportunity for your tweens to explore the world of Minecraft and connect with new friends. Learn how to make the coveted friendship bracelet on May 14 at 4pm and upcycle CDs into art on May 28 at 4pm. Both programs are perfect for 8-13 years old who want to see what kids did for fun in the 1990s! If your child is more interested in tech than crafting, then get ready for an exhilarating adventure as you take the pilot's seat with our indoor drones! Master exciting challenges, then dive into coding to program your drone for even more high-flying fun on Monday, May 19 at 6pm.

Teen Tuesdays at 3:30pm are the perfect time to decompress after school, get crafty, and have fun with friends! Get messy on May 6 with paper mâché; come back the following week to paint your now-dry sculptures. Think you can power a car with just a rubber band? Put your engineering hats on to tinker, design, and see how far you can go with everyday materials on May 20.

Teens! Make the Loft at the Walkersville Branch Library reflect your personality! Join the librarians on May 27 from 3:30-4:30pm and bring summer indoors with bright window paintings.

No matter your age, it's fun to read, especially when your audience is a cute doggie! On Thursday, May 8 from 6:30-7:30pm, the Go Team Therapy Dogs will be more than happy to sit and listen to you read a story!

If you're looking for a hands-on and educational activity for your toddler or kindergartener, stop by the Walkersville Library for a Fri-YAY! On May 2, we'll get messy and paint rocks. Take home the perfect pet—no care required! Explore the colorful



There is no better way to learn to read than with a dog...although, this boy and dog seem to have forgotten the reading part of "Paws to Read".

world of birds on May 9, wear your hard hat and jump into the construction zone on May 16, step right up to the carnival and try your hand at the games on May 23, and explore various forms of art on May 30!

The Walkersville Branch Library schedule for storytimes is as follows:

- Monday: Infants 10am; Baby Steps Skill Building 10:30am; Babies 11am
- Tuesday: Toddlers 11am

- Wednesday: Family 6pm
- Thursday: Preschool 11am

Bilingual Storytime at the Walkersville Branch Library will be on Wednesday, May 7 and 21 at 6pm. Storytime will be presented primarily in English, while introducing basic words and concepts in Spanish, French, ASL and other world languages!

HUGE YARD SALE

St Timothy Catholic Church

8651 Biggs Ford Rd. Walkersville

Preview Sale: Friday, May 16, 6 to 8

Walkersville Day, Saturday, May 17 8 to 2

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Saturday, May 10

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Trade/Technical scholarship offered!

The Peg and Orley Bourland Educational Assistance Fund is awarded year-round through Glade Valley Community Services and The Community Foundation of Frederick.

This "scholarship" is to provide need-based funds for educational purposes in trade or technical fields (such as nursing, HVAC, CDL training, cosmetology, driver's education, GED, &c.) to help defray the costs associated with tuition, fees, testing, tutoring, trade tools, supplies, etc. Applicants' eligibility requirements are:

- Must be a resident of Walkersville feeder school pattern area.
- Must describe financial need, career goals and specify how the funds will be used.

The award is given to applicants

who are pursuing technical and skilled trade fields (not 4 year degrees), including previous recipients. The award(s) can be up to approximately \$1,200, based on applicant's needs. Applications are due a minimum of 60 days prior to when funds are needed.

Applications are available at: Glade Valley Food Bank, Walkersville High School, Career and Technology Center (CTC), Walkersville Public Library, Walkersville Town Hall, Woodsboro Town Hall, FCC and The Community Foundation of Frederick.

They are also available online at Naviance (WHS) and for printing online at www.GladeValley.org. The application can be emailed back to gladevalley.org@gmail.com. For more information, call the GVCS Office at 301-845-0213.

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Wednesday - May 28th: Tommy Can't Count

Thursday - May 29th: Tune Shifter

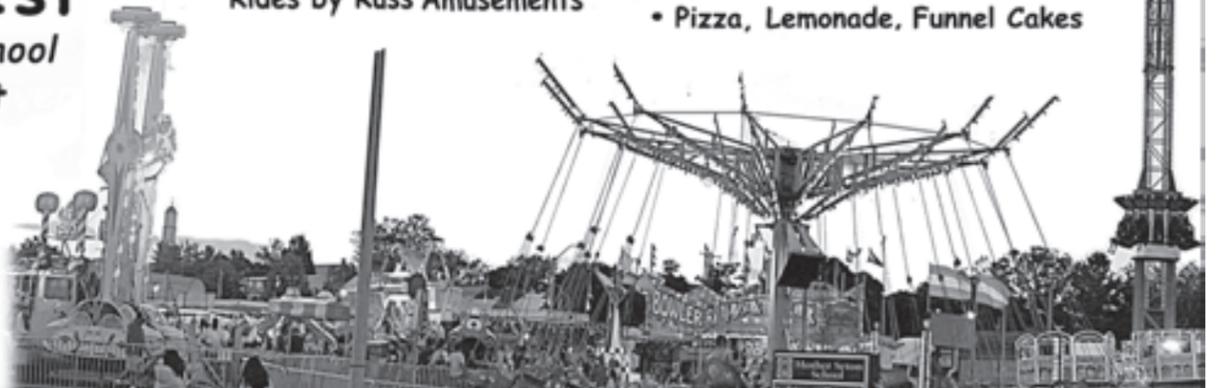
Friday - May 30th: Dixie HiWay Band

Saturday - May 31st: C.B. Pickers

Cash Raffle & Tip Jars

Rides by Russ Amusements

- Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Italian Sausage
- French Fries, Pit Beef
- Pizza, Lemonade, Funnel Cakes



SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Public Schools

Janie Monier
Frederick County School Board

As Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) prepares for the 2025-2026 academic year, our district faces significant challenges alongside opportunities that will shape the educational experience for its students.

FCPS is currently grappling with a \$21,682,491 million budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year. This financial strain is exacerbated by the loss of federal grants, including USDA grants, which have historically supported food service programs that provide fresh, locally sourced meals to students. In our county, schools partner with local farms and nonprofits such as Farm to School Frederick to provide fresh and local ingredients to our students, such as apples from Cactoin Mountain Orchard.

While FCPS has secured \$10 million in additional funding over the Maintenance of Effort, this amount is insufficient to meet the comprehensive needs of the district, including continued enrollment growth, inflation and cost of living, staff compensation, and program support mandated under the Blueprint for Maryland. What is left to analyze after taking care of restricted and mandated funding items are the following proposed areas and programs for budget adjustments:

- 1:1 technology (3rd to 12th grade): \$3.2 million
- Arts & Music Programs: \$32.3 million
- Athletics: \$5.0 million
- World Languages: \$9.1 million
- Co-curricular Activities: \$2.6 million
- Excess Transportation Expense: \$18.7 million
- Career & Technology Center: \$6.6 million
- Excess Special Education Expenses: \$71.9 million
- Safety & Security: \$2.3 million

Public education in Maryland has been chronically underfunded. A 2016 study in Maryland concluded that public schools were being underfunded by \$2.9 billion annually statewide. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future introduced a funding formula meant to determine state allocation of education funds by ranking the wealth and poverty of a county's population against other counties in Maryland with the number of students enrolled in the school year by September 30th of the previous school year. This formula has not kept up with the nearly 1,000 new students coming into FCPS year after year since 2020. This has caused financial stress on all essential services of the county, including our public schools, which were already underfunded, understaffed, and dealing with an aging infrastructure.

With increasing enrollment numbers comes the need for increased staffing. This is against a backdrop of required funding for Blueprint mandates such as \$60,000 minimum salary for new, master's degree teachers to be reached in the next two years. Between mandated funding on a timeline being outpaced by rising enrollment and chronic understaffing

while working to renovate, replace, and build new schools to meet population demands, it is no surprise that our county finds ourselves having to make difficult budget decisions again. Despite this challenge, we do have new programs and curriculum to look forward to in the upcoming 2025-26 school year.

Curriculum Innovations

While the Board of Education tackles the budget, our educators and staff at FCPS are busy with rolling out new curriculum and pilot programs. One of the most exciting additions to FCPS's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs is the introduction of Agribusiness, a new pathway that reflects the vital role of agriculture in Frederick County. As home to one of the most vibrant farming communities in Maryland, the county recognizes the importance of equipping students with the skills needed to sustain family farms and support emerging agribusiness industries.

The Agribusiness program will prepare students for careers in agricultural management, marketing, and technology. Students will explore

areas such as sustainable farming practices, agricultural economics, and food production systems. By connecting students to Frederick's agricultural heritage and providing them with modern, industry-relevant skills, this program will ensure the long-term viability of local farms and agribusiness enterprises.

The new PreK-12 Mathematics Policy introduced by MSDE aims to align math instruction with college readiness standards and will be implemented over the next 3 years across K-12. The policy includes a two-year Integrated Algebra Pathway, which folds major Geometry concepts into Algebra I and follows with Algebra II in the second year. The science behind the curriculum changes follows research in childhood development and neuroscience to understand how our youngest learners integrate new knowledge for long term memory. This means that parents will see more pictures and drawings used to explain new math concepts alongside the traditional numeracy and word problems. Math is a language of proportion and ration that is most easily learned through images to grasp the concepts foundational to higher math.

As an individual board member, I have submitted public comment to the Maryland State Department of Education advocating for a Data and Statistics Pathway alongside Algebraic Foundations to balance the deductive and inductive reasoning necessary for critical thinking and problem solving. As well as data science and statistics has become one of the most sought-after skill sets across a wide spectrum of careers.

Imagine two bulls yoked to plough the field. One has been well fed and is ready. The other undernourished and lame. Without nourishing both equally, they are unable to efficiently do the job to make the field ready for planting. This is essentially how we have treated these two essential math pathways in primary and secondary education. In a world that bombards people with information, data, and ideas; it is essential to prepare our students to be ready to ask the questions that are not obvious, to question the information they read and hear, and discern the veracity of the data and information they will use to make important decisions for themselves and their family, at work, and as citizens.

Community Engagement

There are many tough decisions ahead

to balance the budget while ensuring our students continue to receive an education that prepares them for independence as an adult. The Board will need input from our community as we discuss and decide how to close the budget deficit. Please consider submitting or presenting a public comment. Upcoming Board of Education meetings are scheduled for May 7 and May 21, with public comment beginning at 6. These meetings will be recorded and live-streamed, allowing for broader community participation. Upcoming meetings, agendas, and recordings of past meetings can be found on the FCPS website (www.fcps.org).

As Frederick County Public Schools navigates fiscal challenges, we remain committed to providing a robust education to meet the needs of our diverse county and to coordinating with our amazing community partners, from multi-generational farming communities to our visionary artists to our small businesses providing essential services, entertainment, and pushing the edges of innovation into the future. Our students are homegrown Frederick County Public School hearts, minds, and hands that we invest in every day to ensure the future success of our county, communities, and families.




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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

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

Freshman

The best way to break a fast

Cameron Madden
MSMU Class of 2028

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Next, take a couple of large baguettes and split them down the

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

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

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

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

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

Sophomore

"The sauce"

Gracie Smith
Class of 2027

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

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

My obsession with the sauce began when I was in grade school. For a few of my birthdays, I requested that my mom

make spaghetti with "me-mom's" sauce. I always enjoyed an old-fashioned family dinner where I got to dress up and eat with my family. The sauce was always the first thing to be complimented of course, because my mother is the one who makes it the best.

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

Growing up, the sauce became more and more of a family icon. That is, everyone cherished it and longed for the taste of me-mom's cooking. For instance, when my family of four would travel to Florida to visit my Aunt Mary and Uncle Ted, we'd always dedicate a day to make "the sauce," as it quickly

became referred to. I remember my Aunt Mary being blown away when she tasted her mother's sauce for the first time in years. I could see the memories flooding back to her, her eyes lost in nostalgia. It was then that I realized how much this recipe actually meant to my family.

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

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

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

of recently, I realized how true her statement was.

The day that I'm writing this article to you, my father took a very heavy fall and ended up having to go to the hospital. After leaving in somewhat of a rush, my brother and I were left to tackle the home front. I knew right away that my mother was distraught, and there was only so much I could do to help her at that time. Then, almost instantly, I knew exactly what to do. After calling my grandparents to come and stay with us for the day, I whipped out my mother's sauce pot and got to cooking. It felt as if I had made "the sauce" about 100 times; I knew exactly what to do. My grandmother, who knows the recipe like the back of her hand, just watched. Pretty immediately, the whole house began to smell like home.

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

I heard the garage door open, and I knew that mom and dad were home. I took one last look at the house. While still a little cluttered, the blankets were washed and dried, the lawn

was cut, and dinner was on the stove. I cleared the pathway for my dad and mom opened the door to come in. The immediate smile on her face upon her smelling "the sauce" told me everything I needed to know.

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

For the sake of tradition, and for the sake of my family, this recipe will remain close to our hearts and to our blood. That said, I will not share this recipe but rather encourage all families to think about a meal or a recipe that they cherish. What does it mean to you? What does it mean to others? Why is it so important to you and to your family? Everyone is comforted by food, and every family has one recipe that means the world to them. What's yours?

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



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RECIPES THAT BRING BACK MEMORIES

Junior Raspberry turnovers

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ingredients:
2 sheets of Puff Pastry (makes 8 large pastries)
1 pack of raspberries
1 cup white sugar
2 tablespoons water
1 egg white
Confectioner sugar
Milk
Vanilla extract
Directions:
Heat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.

In a saucepan, on medium heat, mix together raspberries, sugar and water until a sort of jelly consistency is formed. Once formed, take off heat and let cool. While the raspberry puree is cooling (which makes it thicker as well), roll out your sheets of pastry and cut into four squares. Add the puree to the middle of each square and then fold into a triangle. Seal the edges with the tip of a fork or your fingers. Then, with the egg white, lightly coat the top of the pastry and add a sprinkle of sugar. Bake pastries for 20-24 minutes or until golden.

For the icing I use no exact measurements. Take a small bowl and mix together confectioner sugar, milk and a splash of vanilla until a creamy consistency and desired sweetness is reached. Drizzle over pastries when cooled.

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

Senior Grandma Lynn's mac & cheese

Dolores Hans
MSMU Class of 2025

For this recipe you'll need a box of Cavatappi pasta, 2 cups of shredded Colby Jack cheese, 2 cups of shredded mild cheddar cheese, 1/3 cup of milk, squeezable butter, and a bunch of different seasonings including chili powder, garlic salt, and regular table salt.

First, boil a box of cavatappi pasta, and before you ask, yes it has to be cavatappi, it holds the cheese the best. Make sure you generously salt your pasta water. After your pasta is boiled, drain the water but leave 1/4 cup of the pasta water. In the pot with the pasta and remaining pasta water, add 1/3 cup of milk, 1 cup shredded colby jack cheese, and 1 cup shredded mild cheddar cheese. Then, add a little chili powder and garlic salt. Mix to combine. In a baking dish, layer some of the pasta, then some of the leftover shredded cheese, followed by a drizzle of squeezable butter. Repeat the pattern of pasta and cheese, but this time put a layer of panko breadcrumbs and then the butter. Make sure whatever milk is left in the pot gets dumped into the dish. Cover with tin foil and bake in the oven at 350 degrees for an hour. In the last 20 minutes remove the tin foil to add a nice crisp on top.

This mac & cheese recipe is inspired by my Grandma Lynn, who has been making it for as long as I can remember. Every Easter and Christmas when we would go to visit her there would always be her famous mac & cheese. Each year my Grandma Lynn and Grandpa

George would take each of my siblings and I (separately) to their house for a special weekend filled with stuff we want to do and foods we want to eat. Every year I request this dish. Her recipe is a little different than the one I've given you; this one is adapted a little to be more of my own.

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

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

My Grandma Lynn and Grandpa George have a special place in my life. They are incredibly generous

and supportive people, and are always interested in what's going on in your life, what makes you happy, and especially the other people in your life. When they met my boyfriend the first time, they had invited us for a trip to Longwood Gardens, a place that is very special to us. They loved getting to know him and showing him around, and ever since then they have planned trips to see us or for us to see them. Together we have all gone to Longwood Gardens a few times, as well as the Renaissance Fair, and, my favorite, the Thurmont Color Fest.

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

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

This mac and cheese is a staple in my house and will be in my future home. My grandkids will come over and they'll want "Grandma Lynn's mac and cheese". What I love most about this recipe is that it's more than just macaroni smothered in cheese sauce; it's lighter and more satisfying because the milk and butter make it creamy while the cheese melts perfectly to make the dish cohesive, but

it's not a basic cheese sauce. The absolute best part though, is the breadcrumbs on top; golden brown and a little crispy, a good texture and flavor added to the otherwise soft meal.

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

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



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ARTS

WOB's mystery play on the Walkersville Southern Railroad

Justin Kiska

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre has become known for not only its Mainstage productions that include classic musicals, as well as regional and area premieres of Broadway's latest titles, but also for its wildly popular interactive murder mystery series. Launched in 2005, Marquee Mysteries has grown from producing mystery events solely at the theatre to include venues around the area. 2025 will mark the 15th year Marquee Mysteries has partnered with the Walkersville Southern Railroad to produce these live, interactive events.

Ever since Edgar Allan Poe wrote The Murders in the Rue Morgue, mysteries have been a part of our entertainment culture. From the cases of Sherlock Holmes and Miss Marple to those of Richard Castle and Gil Grissom, everyone loves a good who dunnit? And deep down, everyone thinks they have what it takes to be the next great sleuth. Marquee Mysteries give audience members the chance to play detective and help solve the case.

Since the first Marquee Mystery was presented on the Walkersville Southern Railroad in 2011, the number of regularly scheduled

mystery trains has more than doubled, with one or two (or sometimes more) mystery trains held each month from May through November. So popular are these mystery trains, tickets sell out months in advance, leaving a long waiting list by the time of the final train in November.

"When you think about it, isn't a train a great place to have an interactive mystery?" asks Justin M. Kiska, the 'mastermind' behind the series and its Executive Producer. "The idea just takes you back to Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express."

One of Way Off Broadway's owners, Kiska has now written over fifty different interactive mysteries that have been "solved" at Way Off Broadway, Nora Robert's Inn BoonsBoro, the Carriage House Inn Restaurant, and on the Walkersville Southern Railroad, as well as a number of private corporate events over the years. Kiska is also the award-nominated author of the Parker City Mysteries book series from Level best Books.

To learn more about Way Off Broadway or any of its productions, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com. To learn more about the interactive train mysteries this year, visit www.wsrr.org.

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, under the direction of the Kiska family since 2002, celebrated its 30th anniversary of bringing live theater to the stage during the 2024 Season. Since it first opened in 1995, the theatre has been a leader in the area's theatre community; proudly bringing both classic musicals, as well as regional and area premieres to the Frederick stage.

In addition to its regular Mainstage season, Way Off Broadway produces a number of special events throughout the year, including family theatre productions and an annual Breakfast with Santa (and Mrs. Claus). Through its outside producing brand, WOB LIVE! Entertainment, Way Off Broadway also presents Marquee Mysteries - an interactive murder mystery series where the audience helps solve the case - not only at the theatre, but regularly on the Walkersville Southern Railroad and other venues through the area for private functions.

For more information of Way Off Broadway visit them on-line at www.wayoffbroadway.com.



Frederick Flute Choir concert

The Frederick Flute Choir will present their Spring Concert at historic St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Creagerstown, on Sunday, May 4, at 3.

The program will feature classical favorites including selections from Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, a movement from J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3; Hymnsong of Phillip Bliss (It Is Well With My Soul);

the folk song Cindy; Scott Joplin's Cascades; an arrangement of the jazz standard Blue Bossa; and Dance of the Sagin' Cajun, an exciting and joyful original composition for flute choir.

The Choir plays with several members of the "flute family" including piccolo, standard C flute, and alto, bass, and contrabass flutes, and the audience will meet and hear all the flutes individual-

ly. We are grateful to St. John's for hosting The Choir and we look forward to sharing the unique sound of a flute choir with the community.

The Frederick Flute Choir is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide cultural enrichment for the Frederick community. We are the oldest flute choir in the mid-Atlantic region, founded in 1989 by Jennings Glenn with six teachers from Frederick County Schools. Four of the six founding members are still with The Choir. We come from all walks of life and share a love of playing the flute and for making beautiful music together.

Our library includes close to 400 pieces including classical transcriptions, folk songs, patriotic songs, sacred music, popular standards, Broadway and movie show tunes, jazz, holiday music and original compositions for flute choir. We typically perform 5-7 programs in a season at churches, retirement communities, civic groups and flute choir festivals. Recent performances include the Columbia Flute Choir Festival, the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Frederick Church of the Brethren, BachtoberFest at Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the downtown Frederick Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship.

The Choir is directed by Vicki Crum, a retired Frederick County middle school and elementary band teacher, and assisted for low flutes and jazz by Donna Sevcovic, a retired middle school jazz band teacher and active jazz flute performer. Jennings Glenn continues to serve as conductor emeritus.

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SPRING CONCERT SERIES
Frederick Flute Choir - May 4 at 3 p.m.
 Join us for a concert by the Frederick Flute Choir in its 32nd season bringing music to Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania & Washington D.C. The choir is made up of semiprofessional musicians whose mission is to present highest quality musical performances providing arts, educational & cultural enrichment for the local communities & region.
Mother's Day - May 10 at 3 p.m.
 Celebrate Mother's Day with the gift of music featuring harpist Anna Smith. Anna is an accomplished harpist and pianist and will be performing many pieces for solo harp as well as playing two harp pieces with a colleague. Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music!
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COOKING

Mother's Day brunch

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

1/4 cup chopped pecans (optional)

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

Blueberry Banana French Toast Bake

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

Ingredients

For the French toast casserole

- 8 cups good quality sourdough bread cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 medium overripe bananas
- 5 large eggs
- 1 1/4 cups milk (or milk alternative)
- 2 tsps vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup maple syrup (optional)
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries

For the topping

- 4 tbss coconut oil or unsalted butter melted
- 3 tbss coconut sugar packed
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- Pinch of salt

Preparation : Preheat the oven to 375°F. Place an oven rack in the centre position. Slice the bread into 1-inch slices and then cut then slices into 1-inch cubes. You can also tear the bread apart with your hands. Leave the crusts on. Lightly grease a 7x11 inch (if you want thicker slices) or 9x13 inch-baking dish (if you want thinner slices) with cooking spray. Add enough bread cubes to cover the bottom of the dish. Sprinkle half the blueberries on top. Repeat again, layering the bread chunks and blueberries. In a medium bowl or measuring cup, mash the bananas. Whisk in the eggs, milk, vanilla, 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon, and salt; mix well. Pour the egg and milk mixture evenly over all the bread chunks. At this point, the casserole can be baked right away, or covered and refrigerated overnight. When you are ready to bake, mix in another small bowl, mix together the melted coconut oil or butter with the coconut sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and pinch of salt. Using a spoon, drizzle the mixture evenly over all the bread chunks and blueberries. Bake the casserole, uncovered, for 35 to 45 minutes. I baked mine for about 40 minutes. Leave the casserole in the oven longer if you want the chunks of bread on the top to be more brown and crispy.

Let the casserole cool for about 10 minutes before serving. Serve with maple syrup, if desired.

Eggs Benedict Casserole

I love eggs Benedict, it might be the one "special" thing I order for breakfast if we are out. Mainly because I don't really poach eggs very

well? This casserole does need to be made the night before, so the English muffins soften some.

Ingredients

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

Preparation : Cook bacon and toast English muffins: Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high. Add bacon. Cook, stirring often, until lightly browned, about 4 minutes. Remove bacon with a slotted spoon to a paper towel-lined plate, reserving drippings in skillet.

Return skillet to medium-high. Working in batches, add English muffin halves, cut sides down, to hot drippings in skillet. Cook until toasted, about 1 minute. Let muffin halves cool slightly. Chop English muffin halves into bite-size pieces. Place on bottom of a lightly greased (with cooking spray) 13- x 9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with cooked bacon. Finely chop white parts of scallions, and sprinkle over mixture in dish. (Wrap green parts of scallions in a damp paper towel; chill until ready to use.) Whisk together whole eggs, milk, pepper, and 1 teaspoon of the salt in a large bowl. Pour over mixture in bak-



Blueberry Banana French Toast Bake

ing dish. Cover with plastic wrap. Chill at least 8 hours or up to 16 hours. Preheat oven to 350°F. Let casserole stand at room temperature while oven preheats. Bake until top is browned and casserole is set, about 40 minutes. Melt butter in a small skillet over medium-low. Keep butter hot over lowest heat (do not let it brown). Process egg yolks, lemon juice, mustard, paprika, and remaining 1 teaspoon salt in a blender on medium just to combine, about

5 seconds. With blender running on medium speed, slowly pour hot, melted butter through center opening in blender lid. Process until mixture is smooth and thick, about 1 minute. Drizzle about 1/2 cup hollandaise over warm casserole. Finely chop reserved green scallion parts, and sprinkle over top. Sprinkle with paprika; serve with remaining hollandaise.

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



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of May

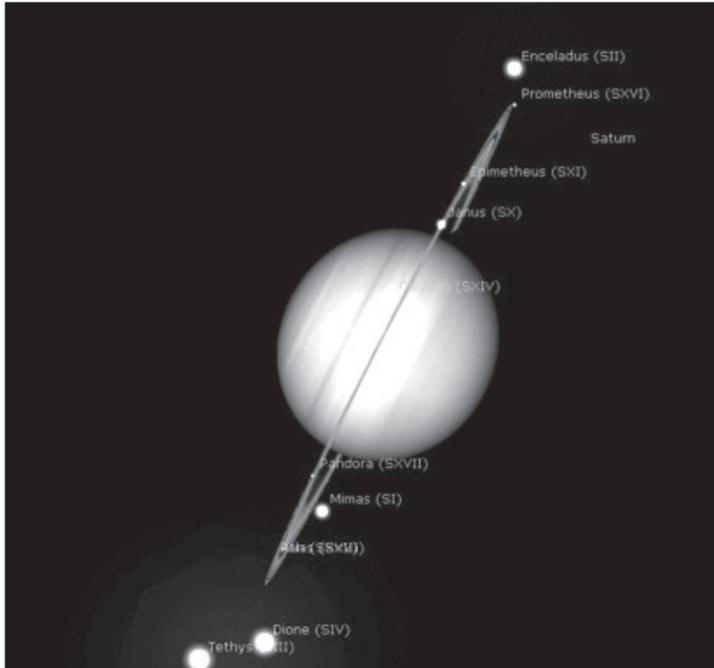
Professor Wayne Wooten

For May, the moon passes 2 degrees north of Mars in the western evening sky on May 3rd. It is first quarter moon on May 4th. Setting at midnight, it will not interfere with the peak of the eta Aquarid meteor shower the next morning. These bits of Comet Halley debris will give us a meteor about every five minutes, coming out of the SE sky. The comet itself is on the far edge of its 76 year orbit, and will not be coming back until 2061, but its many trips around the sun have distributed its dust all around its very oval orbit by now. This debris is outbound; the incoming dust arrives as the Orionid meteors in October.

The Full or Flower Moon is on May 12th. The Moon is Last Quarter, rising at midnight, on May 20th. On the 22nd, the waning crescent moon passes three degrees north of Saturn in the dawn. The following dawn it is four degrees north of brilliant Venus. It is new moon on May 26, but no eclipses until the next eclipse season in September. Low in the NW, the thin waxing crescent moon passes five degrees north of Jupiter on May 28th.

Mercury is low in the dawn as May begins, and passes into its glare by mid month. Venus, by contrast, dominates the dawn, pulling away from the Sun day by day, to reach its greatest western elongation of 46 degrees on May 31. Until then, it is a crescent, getting smaller but thicker daily, but on the edge of its orbit at month's end, it will appear exactly half lit from earth.

Mars is high overhead in Gemini as May begins, but gets lower each evening. Jupiter is already low in the NW as May begins, and by May's end, is also disappearing into the glare of the Sun.



Saturn makes an interesting target for telescopic observers. At the month's start, we can see beneath the ring plane at the dark underside of the rings, but on May 6th, Saturn is at equinox, with its equator and rings facing the sun directly. The rings will very briefly cast only a thin shadow on the disk and will probably disappear for almost all telescopes on Earth.

But low in the dawn, Saturn makes an interesting target for telescopic observers. At month's start, we can see beneath the ring plane at the dark underside of the rings, but on May 6th, Saturn is at equinox, with its equator and rings facing the sun directly. The rings will very briefly cast only a thin shadow on the disk, and will probably disappear for almost all telescopes on earth. After that, for the next seven years, the rings open more as seen from earth, to be tilted 27 degrees open at its next solstice in 2032.

The winter constellations will soon be swallowed up in the Sun's glare, but Orion is still visible, with its famed Orion Nebula, M-42, seen below the three stars marking his famed belt. Dominating the southwest is the Dog Star, Sirius, brightest star of the night sky. When Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare in two months, this sets the period as "Dog Days".

The brightest star in the NW is Capella, distinctively yellow in

color. It is a giant star, almost exactly the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with Castor closer to Capella, and Pollux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west. If you look just east of the bottom of the two stars in the pointers of the Big

Dipper, you find a pair of very different deep sky objects in the same field of view with my new See Star S 30.

The bright star is beta Ursa majors, the pointer farther away from Polaris. Below it is the Owl Nebula. With larger scopes, it appears to have two "eyes" around its white dwarf central star. This planetary nebula is the likely fate of our solar system in about six billion years. But at top left is the far more distant galaxy M 108. While they appear in the same binocular field as seen by us, the bluish nebula is only 2,600 light years away, and only created by the collapse of the red giant 8,000 years ago. The galaxy M 108, known as the "Surfboard", is 46 million light years away, and larger than our own Milky Way. It too is a barred spiral galaxy like ours.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. The "regal" star Regulus marks the heart of the celestial lion. Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its

proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the "northern crown", a shapely Coronet that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations that look like their name

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four-sided grouping. The arms of Virgo harbor the Virgo Supercluster of Galaxies, with thousands of "island universes" in the Spring sky. We are looking away from the place of thickly populated Milky Way, now on the southern horizon, toward the depths of intergalactic space. Just SW of Spica is one of most famous, the Sombrero, M-104.

Farther south than most Americans, we get a fine view of the closest and brightest globular star clusters, Omega Centauri, on May evenings. From a dark sky site, you can spot it with your naked eyes about 12 degrees above the southern horizon when it is at its highest in the south, about 10 at the end of the month. Ideally, observe it at the beach, where the Gulf is your southern horizon. It is fine in binoculars, and resolves beautifully into about a million sun with larger scopes.

To the northeast Hercules rises, with his body looking like a butterfly. It contains one of the sky's showpieces, M-13, the globular cluster faintly visible with the naked eye. It is much more conveniently placed for observing all night, and is a real showpiece in any big scope.

Farmers' Almanac

"Motherhood: All love begins and ends there"

—Robert Browning
(1812—1889)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: rain and thunderstorms, then cooler and dry followed by more seasonable temperatures (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); very warm and dry, then heavy rain and turning cooler (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); very warm and dry at first, then rain and thunderstorms, followed by much cooler weather (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); seasonably warm with occasional rain, then dry and pleasant (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); dry and turning hot, then showers and cooler (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); dry and turning warmer, then periodic downpours followed by dry and cooler weather (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Extreme Weather Watch: The Almanac sees heavy rains (1, 2, 10, 26, 27, 28, 29) and severe thunderstorms (14, 15, 16).

Full Moon: May's Full Moon occurs on Monday, May 12th. Its name depends upon who you're talking to. To many Native American tribes, it was called Flower Moon, due to the many flowers starting to blossom during this month while the Hu-

ron tribes specifically chose to call it Budding Moon for the very same reasons! But if you asked a colonial farmer, he would say it was Mike Moon because of the noticeable increase in milk produced by his dairy cows in the month of May.

Holidays: Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Monday, May 5th. Mothers are honored on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11th. That "very special lady" needs to be treated like royalty today, so plan a nice dinner out, send her a sentimental card with a nice arrangement of flowers, or just give her a telephone call to say, "I love you"! Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 26th. On this day, we honor those who have died in defense of our freedoms. Their unyielding service and sacrifice protect our way of life every single day!

The Garden: Early flowering deciduous shrubs such as Forsythias, Weigela, and Spirea should be pruned back when they have finished blooming. Cut back a third of the oldest canes to ground level, then cut back one third of the remaining branches by one third of their height.

Work lime in the soil around your Hydrangeas to produce pink flowers or Aluminum Sulphate for

blue blooms. May is a good month to repair your lawn. Fill in the bare spots by slightly loosening surface of the soil and sow a good quality lawn seed over the area evenly. Tamp the seed in gently and water. Keep the patch moist by covering with light mulch of lawn clippings. Also, this is the time to eliminate lawn weeds by hand pulling, or the application of a 'weed and feed' fertilizer... before they go to seed! Setting your mower for a higher cut during the spring months will help the grass to grow in fuller and help choke out the weeds

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

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living:

"While the truth may be painful to hear today, the wise man will benefit from it tomorrow".



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WALKERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

The time to appreciate teachers is now

Celia Alspaugh
WHS Class of 2028

In the United States, the first full week of May is entirely dedicated to the people in our communities that work for others. The people that spend each and every day planning, formatting, and preparing to spread their knowledge amongst the young minds of today. Teachers. These individuals have made it their lives' work to teach students, educating the next generations. It's only fair that they receive the appreciation they deserve. Here's how Teacher Appreciation Week is done at Walkersville High School.

This year, Teacher Appreciation Week at WHS is taking on the theme of Wicked! The PTSA and their Teacher Appreciation Chair, Cara Boledovic, along with WHS Principal Dr. Ware have worked together to make a special treat for teachers each day for the week. On Monday teachers are treated to "witch's brew and munchkins" or in regular terms, coffee and donuts. Tuesday is "POPular day", with popcorn and soda-pop for the staff. Wednesday will be classic pink and green treats, and the teachers will be given candy bars for "Wicked Sweet Day" on Thursday. To finish out the week, Friday will have "Flying Monkeys" banana splits as its sweet treat. The fun theme and delicious snacks show just how much thought and preparation is put into this week for WHS staff, displaying the appreciation everyone truly has for them.

Why is this week of appreciation so important? Approximately 4 million teachers across the entirety of the US, from both public and private schools, work around the dock for their students. It is the dedication of these educators that truly impact the lives of children and teenagers around

the world daily. It is important that these individuals are recognized for the incredible work they do, not just as teachers in the classroom, but as mentors and guides to those finding their paths in life. Their friendly smiles, reassuring words and encouraging acknowledgments can brighten the days and experiences students have at school every day throughout their educational careers.

Heartfelt accounts of experiences with educators can further accentuate the truth that teachers are incredibly impactful to students; take as one example the statement from WHS freshman Bella Altman, "Ms. Blakeslee is the teacher that has impacted me the most." Altman's friendship with this middle school history teacher is very meaningful to her, "She was always there for me whether it was for my schoolwork or personal issues. I knew she was someone I could go to without any judgement." Another student, senior Andrew Bowser, recounts one of his favorite WHS teachers, "Mr. Owen, he always made me laugh and he taught me the importance of different cultures." Bowser was not the only student who was impacted by Mr. Owen. Sophomore Annalyse Miranda-Ramos shares her experience with Owen stating, "Mr. Owen was my 9th grade history teacher, and he truly made me feel like I belonged. During the time he was my teacher I got surgery and was out for over a month, and when I came back, I felt very out of place. Mr. Owen went out of his way to ensure that I could pass my grade. He always has a smile on his face and knows how to make anyone's day better." Both Bowser's and Miranda-Ramos' experiences show just how important and impactful it is for students to have teachers who are both good at

teaching and at interacting with children. Teachers who light up the room and give kids a safe environment are very special, more special than anyone can even begin to comprehend.

If you don't mind me fully breaking down the fourth wall here, I'd like to tell you about how teachers have personally impacted my life. I have known the importance of teaching and learning from a young age. Both of my parents work in educational fields. My grandmother was Teacher of The Year in 2009, and I've had various aunts and uncles who have taught at public, private, and college level schools. They are the reason why when I met a teacher who really brought out the best in me, I knew it was valuable. Mathematics and I go head-to-head quite often, but somehow one of the most important teachers to me was my 8th grade Algebra teacher. Ms. Hall's class was hard, especially because I don't like math, but she pushed me past what I thought were my limits. She consistently encouraged me to do more and was supportive in that way that only tough teachers can be. Her and her teaching methods helped me pass both her class and my standardized tests. Even now in high school she still teaches me. She is the Assistant Director for the WHS Theatre Department, so instead of learning how to factor polynomials, she's teaching me the ins and outs of the backstage theatrical world. She has, and still continues to, motivate me to learn new things and follow my dreams, and for that I am forever grateful.

In some cases, students can form such strong bonds with teachers growing up that it inspires them to join the profession as well. Jamie Skena, a government teacher at WHS, talks about how she was motivated to become a teacher. "My 8th



grade civics teacher, Mr. Karper, is the reason I'm a government teacher today. He made class so fun, and he saw that I had a passion for the content and encouraged me in it." Sometimes the right teacher and environment can help people find what their passion is and encourage them to fight for that dream. Many other educators around the world have experienced similar things to Skena, and who knows, there may be some future teachers sitting in the classroom right now going through the exact same thing.

So, what can YOU do for Teacher Appreciation Week? It can be hard for students and parents to find time to think of something special for these hardworking instructors, so here are some simple ideas. Cards are an easy and efficient way to show your appreciation for your mentors, and remind them that they've made an impact on your education and life. This simple idea is easily elevated by including a gift card, especially if it's to their favorite coffee place. If baking is more your style, simple sweet treats are a great way to spread kindness and brighten the days of your teachers. Leftover Easter candy can

even be transformed into goodie bags! Don't forget to ask about allergies or intolerances if planning to use these routes! If you happen to see your teachers' dry-erase markers all seem to be dead, replacing those can be a very thoughtful gift. If you'd prefer to work with others, getting together with your friends to plan something like a heartfelt thank-you video can be very touching. If none of these appeal to you, there is one last very simple idea. Give your teachers a break. This strategy can be used to show your respect during Teacher Appreciation Week, but it can also be used throughout the entirety of the school year. Whether this means actually picking up your instrument and practicing over the weekend, finishing that overdue assignment, or just paying attention in class, your teachers will notice and appreciate it. Remember to thank your teachers for all that they do; show them appreciation not just for the week, but always. The time to appreciate teachers is now.

To read other articles by Celia Alspaugh, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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HEALTH

Planning for end-of-life care

Joshua Faust
Frederick Health

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

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

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

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

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

“We believe that all patients deserve to live their final days with comfort, dignity, and the highest quality of life possible,” said Dawn Bolton, Community Service Liaison with Frederick Health Hospice. “That’s where our specialized team comes in. We provide comprehensive care plans that include medical, emotional, and environmental support.”

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

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

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

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

These documents may also address the type of life-sustaining treatments a patient may or may not want, such as mechanical ventilation, feeding tubes, or CPR. Different states have different requirements for Advanced Directives, but in Maryland, patients need to complete a written form, sign it in front of

two witnesses or a notary public, and then share copies with your healthcare insurance company or agent, family, and their primary care provider.

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

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

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

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

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

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

You can learn more about Frederick Health Hospice or Advanced Directives by calling 240-566-3030 or visiting frederickhealth.org/advancedirectives.



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