

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 6, NO. 4 • WWW.EMMITSBURG.NET • WWW.MYFAIRFIELD.NET • APRIL 2014

## NEWS

### Town Increases Utility Bill Late Fee

The late fee for delinquent utility customers will rise to 5 percent. **Page 2**

### Comprehensive Regional Growth Plan Released

The plan will replace local growth plans. **Page 3**

### Fire Company Award Banquets

Fairfield and Thurmont held their awards banquets, providing lots of great photo opportunities. **Page 38**

## COMMENTARY

### Words from Winterbilt

On the issue of redistribution of wealth—trickledown economics does work, if you are rich. **Page 12**

### Down Under

It's time for the malcontents to stop looking at themselves in the mirror. **Page 13**

## ARTICLES

### Book of Days

In the Middle Ages, groups of animals were distinguished by their own particular epithet. **Page 15**

### Retired Ecologist

The first day of spring was loudly applauded by birds of every shape and size. **Page 16**

### In The Country

A humorous look at animal myths you may have encountered and setting the record straight. **Page 17**

### Pets Large & Small

Adopting a pet from a shelter is a great way to participate in April's "Pay It Forward" initiative. **Page 20**

### Gardening

If you really want a spectacular garden, don't garden for color, but rather for bees and butterflies! **Page 22**

### History

Part 1 of the history of Catoctin National Park. **Page 24**

### Four Years at the Mount

Our four columnists reflect on the concept of "Paying It Forward" and what it means to them. **Page 32**

### Creative Writing

"Paying It Forward." What goes around comes around. **Page 35**

### Complementary Corner

This idea of "Paying It Forward" is a concept that many could say relates to the Golden Rule. **Page 42**

## Dollar General store plans unveiled

Representatives of a proposed Dollar General store to be located in Emmitsburg have submitted their initial plans to town staff.

If the project is approved by the town, the Dollar General would be located on East Main Street, on the lot presently occupied by East End Garage, a residential house, and several other buildings.

Plans for constructing the new Dollar General entail reconfiguring lot lines within the 501-503 East Main Street two-lot tract, the demolition of various structures, and the construction of a new building to house the proposed Dollar General.

Of the two existing lots, one is .66 acres in size and the other is .55 acres, town Planner Susan Ciperly stated. "After undergoing a subdivision and lot addition process, the resulting lots will be .97 acres and .23 acres," according to the project's subdivision plan.

"Dollar General plans to build on the larger one, and the (existing) Hobbs residence will remain on the smaller one," the town planner said.

Ciperly noted that many Dollar General stores are located in strip malls, rather than being located in free-standing structures, but that the one proposed for Emmitsburg "will be a free-standing (brick-faced) building."

The new store itself will be a 9,100 square foot building, of which 7,000

square feet will be retail space, with the remainder being used for storage. The proposed site plan also addresses proposed parking, landscaping, signage, and stormwater management.

These changes will necessitate that the developers acquire an approved subdivision plan and site plan approval, both of which will have to be ruled upon by the town Planning Commission.

The developer of the project is expected to make in initial appearance before the planning commission before the end of March (too late for inclusion in this issue of the News-Journal).

Ciperly said the plans will have to go through a battery of reviews, other than just before the town boards, in the process of seeking the necessary approvals.

"The subdivision and site plan applications require various reviews," Ciperly stated, "including (reviews) by the State Highway Administration, Frederick County Health Department, Frederick County Stormwater, and Soil Conservation Service, plus our forestry consultant."

Ciperly further stated, "We have submitted copies to all these agencies. However, their reviews may not be done by March 31 (the likely date the developers will present their plans to the town Planning Commission)."

"The March 31 meeting will provide the applicant an opportunity to present the two plans, and receive any



If plans are approved, the dilapidated East End Garage on East Main St. will be torn down and replaced by a Dollar General store.

questions from the planning commission (PC), but it does not mean that the PC will necessarily be able to approve the plans that night. Or it may be able to approve the subdivision, while the site plan will need to be on the April agenda, as well," the town planner said.

Dollar General is a food and general merchandise store. According to the company web site, the chain consists of "small neighborhood stores with carefully edited merchandise assortments to make shopping simpler."

The company describes its offerings as "focused on life's simple necessities: laundry detergent, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, socks and underwear...maybe a gadget or two that you just can't live without... We don't carry every brand and size, just the most

popular ones."

General categories of merchandise include food, health and beauty products, baby goods, apparel, home wares and goods, pet food and supplies, toys, and office and school supplies, as well as seasonal merchandise.

The first Dollar General store was established in 1955 when it was converted from a store in Springfield, Kentucky, that had operated under the business name of Turner's Department Store. The company opened its 10,000th store in 2010.

Dollar General (which started off as a 'dollar store') no longer limits its products to a dollar and under.

Presently, there are three Dollar General stores in the Emmitsburg area. One is located in Thurmont, one in Taneytown, one in Fairfield, and one in Gettysburg.

## Ski Liberty \$20 million upgrade begins

The \$20 million upgrade of Liberty Mountain Resort & Conference Center is set to commence, beginning with grading and the demolition of the existing club house.

Eric Flynn, general manager at Liberty Mountain Resort, briefed the Carroll Valley Borough Council at their March 11 meeting on the timeframes regarding the impending changes.

The council had previously granted conditional approval to "phase one" the proposed changes at their September 10 meeting. The conditions placed upon the approval by the council dealt primarily with stormwater-related issues.

"The project is scheduled to start pretty quick," Flynn told the council at their March meeting, the first phase of which will start-up in March and continuing through September.

The first phase will consist of demolishing the club house, grading relocating utilities and road work. Flynn previously told the News-Journal that the estimated cost of just phase one would be around \$20 million. Fayetteville (Pennsylvania) Contrac-

tors, Inc. will serve as the project contractor for most of the initial work.

Part two of the first phase will entail final landscaping, construction of a new "grand lodge," replacing the old club house, which will include a conference center, ballroom, two restaurants, an indoor pool, and the addition of 30 additional hotel rooms, and completing the roads impacted by the upgrade.

That work is projected to commence in June and be completed in May 2015.

Sandors Road will be realigned in conjunction with the resort improvements during phase one, Flynn noted, but that, "We will work hard not to have any inconveniences to the residents. There is a traffic planned being prepared," adding that the realignment will not entail any "anticipated" closings.

The complete upgrade and improvements proposed overall for Liberty Mountain Resort as set-forth in the company's a master plan could take from "five to six to ten years" to complete," Flynn previously said.



The first phase of a \$20 million upgrade to Ski Liberty facilities will begin with the demolition of the existing Club House building.

Some of the objectives of the plan, he said, were to produce a uniform look between the ski side and the golf side of the resort "to allow the golf to fit in with the rest of the resort," im-

prove pedestrian and traffic flow, and dealing with "an awful lot of maintenance we knew going into this."

We think it's going to be very attractive," he previously said.

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## NEWS

## Town staff duties reorganized

Due to the imminent retirement of the Emmitsburg town clerk/accountant, the board of commissioners voted at their March 5 meeting to approve staff recommended changes to administration structure.

Town clerk and accountant Donna DesPres was expected to retire March 1, but has stayed on temporarily as chief administrators search for a suitable replacement.

Effective March 5, a number of duties will be taken away from the position of town clerk and transferred the administrative assistant, and a newly created position of accountant.

DesPres was originally hired in 1994 as the town accountant. "Town clerk duties were subsequently added on," she stated.

"Way back in the day (1994) there was only two or three people in the office," she said. The position of accountant to town

clerk/accountant "just evolved."

Changes approved by the board of commissioners at their March 5 meeting included dissolving the title of town clerk, and transferring some of the duties, including: drafting grant and loan application; managing election responsibilities; tracking ordinances; ensuring legal notice timeframes have been met for proposed ordinance changes; and certifying approved ordinance changes, to the current town administrative assistant.

The board of commissioners approved the re-creation of the title of treasurer, who would manage grants and loans once their sources had approved them, oversee utility billing, managing town expenditures, and other accounting functions.

The changes will necessitate the hiring of an accountant, and the commissioners also approved a staff proposal to hire applicant Cole Tabler, a senior

accounting manager for a non-profit. Tabler had not officially accepted the offer as of the writing of this news story.

The new accountant's starting salary will be \$50,018. Tabler was selected from an array of 21 applications that had been received, according to town Administrative Assistant Cathy Willets.

DesPres said the interview process had been slowed due to the number of town office closures due to snow events, thus further delaying her retirement.

As far as municipalities reorganizing town staff structures as local governments grow, the current town clerk/treasurer stated that what Emmitsburg is doing just happened in Taneytown—they had a clerk/treasurer and split up their duties as well.

DesPres said she hopes to be able to actually retire in two or three weeks.

## Town increases utility late fees

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners voted unanimously at their March 5 meeting to increase the late fee for delinquent utility customers.

The recommendation to increase the fee was proposed by town staff and passed on a motion made by Commissioner Clifford Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Glenn Blanchard.

As a result of the action taken by the commissioners, the late fee for utility bills will go from two percent to five percent, effective the next billing period. In Emmitsburg, water, sewer and trash services are combined and sent out as one utility bill.

Soon-to-retire Town Clerk Donna DesPres told the board that she felt the increase would in-

spire more water and sewer bill customers to pay their bill in a more timely manner than has been the case in the past.

She said town staff recommended the late fee increase "in the hope of getting customers to pay their bills sooner."

DesPres said the town serves approximately 1,200 water, sewer and trash customers, and of those, around 20 percent, or 250, are generally late in paying their service bills. Customers have 30 days after receiving their bills to pay.

The town mailed-out 250 late notices during the last billing period, with 87 of those subsequently being sent service cut-off notices. Of the 87 cut-off notices sent, the utility services of 20

customers were ultimately shut off until their tab was paid.

The current late fee of two percent, DesPres said, "doesn't seem to be getting the job done."

During discussions leading up to the adoption of the increased late fee, the board asked if the reconnection fee could be increased instead.

Currently, customers pay a \$100 fee to the town to reconnect their services once they have been shut off.

Town Manager David Haller, also retiring from his position this year, noted that raising the reconnect fee was generally a more difficult process, as doing so has to be justified based on the costs incurred by the town in conducting a reconnect.

### Frederick County Senior Tax Credit Seminar

April 29, 1-2:30 pm at the Emmitsburg Community Center – Senior Center

The Frederick County Senior Tax Credit was enacted by the Board of County Commissioners in 2012, and is available to Frederick County Homeowners who meet the eligibility requirements. The amount of the Senior Tax Credit will be 20% of the net County real property taxes (up to zero) for qualifying homeowners. Some of the eligibility requirements include:

- Homeowners must be at least 65 years of age (if multiple home owners, then one of the homeowners applying must be 65 years of age.)
- Gross income of household must be \$60,000 or less

All other limitations and requirements of the state Homeowner Tax Credit apply. Some of the limitations and requirements are as follows:

- Applicant must own or have a legal interest in the property.
- Dwelling must be the principal resi-

dence of the applicant and applicant must live there at least six months of the year, including July 1, unless they are a recent home purchaser or the applicant is unable to do so because of health or need for special care.

- Applicant's net worth, not including the value of the property on which the credit is being sought or any qualified retirement savings or individual retirement accounts, must be less than \$200,000.
- Credit is only granted on the taxes resulting from the first \$300,000 of assessed value of the residence.

If you would like to attend the Senior Tax Credit Seminar and have additional questions, require more information or would like to make an appointment for application assistance please call the Frederick County Treasury at 301-600-1111 or the Frederick County Department of Aging at 301-600-3520

A representative from the Maryland Energy Assistance Program will be available to answer questions and assist with applications.

## Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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News, events, history, humor and culture for the Historic Toms Creek Hundred geographical area: Emmitsburg, Zora, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Greenmont, Harney, Rocky Ridge, Detour, St. Anthony's, Zentz Mill, and Thurmont. The Emmitsburg News-Journal is published the first day of every month by Toms Creek Hundred LLC.

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The new five percent late fee adopted is now among the highest of the several communities surveyed by town staff.

Of the seven municipalities

examined in Frederick County, only Smithsburg's late fee will be higher at 10 percent. Walkersville remains the lowest at one percent.

### Annual Lions Club Chicken Barbecue & Yard Sale Fundraiser!



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## Hamiltonban rejects recreational district plan

A second municipality has declined to becoming part of a proposed "southwestern Adams County joint recreational district," while a third approved "joining."

Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors voted down a motion to adopt an ordinance at their February 28 work session that would have allowed the municipality to enter into an agreement with other proposed member communities and the area school district to establish the pooled recreation resource proposal.

The proposed ordinance was

sacked in a 3-2 vote, with supervisors Robert Gordon and Coleen Reamer the only two members who voted to adopt the ordinance. Voting against were supervisors Lu-Ann Dille, Edward Deardorff, and Douglas Woerner.

Deardorff stated he felt the residents should have a right to vote on the proposal through a ballot referendum.

The Carroll Valley Borough Council failed to even obtain a motion at their February 11 meeting that would have enacted a similar ordinance that would have paved the

way for such an agreement to be established.

That the issue should be settled by having the residents vote on it as a referendum was also brought up at that council meeting, to which Councilman Neil Abrams pointed out in response that in a republic, elected officials are elected to make those kind of decision. "This is not a democracy," he noted.

In the meantime, Fairfield Borough approved an ordinance at their February 25 meeting to proceed with entering into a mutual agreement if and when such is formally

proposed.

In addition to the three municipalities noted above, the proposal also calls for the inclusion of the Fairfield Area School District, who has been supportive of the proposed "southwestern Adams County joint recreational district."

The school district has also approved the agreement and signed it, according to a district representative.

Liberty Township had been mentioned in the past as a possible partner, but had never formally adjoined the effort.

The proposed recreation district

was the product of a study conducted by representatives of Hamiltonban Township, Carroll Valley and Fairfield boroughs, and the Fairfield Area School District, which examined the recreational assets of the various governing bodies involved.

The purpose of the joint-study was to evaluate how the participating municipalities and school district could jointly share those assets in a regional manner, as well as the costs of maintaining such a district. The study listed a number of "needs" that the district, once established, could fulfill for area residents.

## Loan for new Hamiltonban pumping station approved

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors and the township Municipal Authority approved borrowing \$496,500 at the supervisors' March 4 meeting to construct a pumping station.

The pumping station has to be constructed in order to transport wastewater to a Franklin Township wastewater treatment plant as Hamiltonban turns over the Orrtanna treatment facility (pumping station and infrastructure) to its impending new owners.

Township Solicitor Matthew Battersby said the loan would be used

to purchase equipment needed to complete the pumping station, and would be fully refundable through the Commonwealth Financing Authority as a result of an approved H2O grant.

The money must essentially be spent before June to qualify for reimbursement.

The township's Orrtanna wastewater treatment plant is being acquired by the Hershey-based Pennsylvania American Water Company, the business that also acquired the Franklin Township facility.

The township supervisors voted unanimously at their August 6 meeting last year to sign a proposed state order to address the problematic Orrtanna treatment plant.

The treatment facility came under fire from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 2010, the state agency claiming that the plant was deficient and was too old, and that the facility had to be upgraded to current standards.

As the township reviewed its options after being contacted by DEP in 2010, Hamiltonban was approached

by Franklin Township, also seeking to dispose of their wastewater facility, to partner in the sale of both township plants, and to allow Hamiltonban to send its wastewater to a proposed new Franklin Township treatment plant.

The board then decided to dispose of the facility rather than invest in an upgrade and partner with Franklin to attempt to find a buyer for the facility.

Hamiltonban subsequently entered into an agreement with the DEP to dismantle the existing wastewater treatment plant, close existing

detention ponds, and end the spraying of wastewater, as well as to build a pumping station and transmission lines to connect to a facility in Franklin Township.

Ultimately, an offer was obtained from the Pennsylvania America Water Company to pay Hamiltonban more than \$339,000 for the existing facility and its associated infrastructure. The water company will continue to manage the processing of wastewater generated in Hamiltonban Township at their Franklin Township facility.

## Comprehensive regional growth plan released

The final draft of the proposed Southwest Adams Joint Comprehensive Plan has been distributed by the county to the several municipalities involved for further review by their respective planning commissions.

The plan, which focuses on future developmental growth, prepared by the Adams County Office of Planning and Development, would be intended to replace the comprehensive plans of all of the communities that became a party to the regional planning effort.

Municipalities that initially comprised those which the plan had been envisioned to encompass include Carroll Valley and Fairfield boroughs, and Hamiltonban, Highland, Liberty and Freedom townships.

Of those, Highland and Freedom

townships are regarded as "undecided" as to whether or not they want to continue with the regional planning process, it was noted at the March 10 meeting of the Fairfield Borough Planning Commission.

The development of regional comprehensive plan is funded through grants from the state departments of Community & Economic Development and Conservation and Natural Resources, matching funds, and local and county staff time expenditures.

In presenting the draft to the Fairfield Borough Planning Commission, county Planner Robert Thaeler stated that the process to move the plan towards adoption would be for the planning commissions to, first, "read it and make sure you're comfortable with it," then hold public meetings (possibly a joint public

meeting) to solicit comment "from interested members of the public."

After the public meetings, the planning commissions would consider comments received, and indicate to the county any changes they would like to see implemented into the draft.

At the conclusion of that process, Thaeler stated, the municipal planning commissions would then assimilate a recommendation regarding adoption of the plan to their respective governing bodies, who would then hold a joint public hearing to consider adoption following a final county review.

The Southwest Adams Joint Comprehensive Plan is not the only effort being undertaken in the county to "regionalize" multi-municipality planning.

Other county joint regional plans in various stages of work include Central Adams (Gettysburg Borough, and Straban and Cumberland townships), and Eastern (New Oxford and Abbottstown boroughs, and Reading, Hamilton and Oxford townships).

Joint regional plans which have been adopted include Northwest (Ardentsville, Bendersville, and Biglerville Boroughs, and, Butler, Franklin, and Menallen townships); Southeastern Adams (Littlestown Borough, and Germany and Union townships); and Bonneauville-Mt. Pleasant (including the two named municipalities).

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NEWS

# Moser Road Bridge to undergo improvements

Moser Road Bridge, located on Moser Road near the Thurmont Regional Library, has been found "deficient" according to a county inspection, and will be facing upcoming improvements.

Mayor John A. Kinnaird stated at the board of commissioners March 18 meeting that during a recent county inspection of the bridge, "They found some deficiencies with the understructure of the bridge, and they're recommending we replace some of the beams underneath of it."

The county is recommending that we close off a 22-inch section of the downstream side of the bridge until the beams designated for replacement can be dealt with.

Although the county inspects bridges within their jurisdiction, the bridge is regarded as belonging to Thurmont.

Neither the county nor the state have any upkeep responsibility, Kinnaird stated, "Because it's our bridge. That bridge was a county bridge and the Town of Thur-

mont took control of it many years ago."

When asked by Commissioner Bill Buehrer why the town took over the responsibility of maintaining the bridge, Kinnaird said, "I didn't do it so I couldn't tell you." The mayor said that it is the town's responsibility to get a contractor and take bids.

Buehrer suggested that since work must be done on the bridge, the town should consider widening the bridge and possibly adding a pedestrian walkway.

"The thing I would like to look into, if we have structure deficiencies, then rather than put a band-aid on it, we ought to fix the bridge, widen it and possibly straighten it, and obviously it will all be respect to the cost," he said.

"Here we got a library that sets about 100 yards from that. There is no safe walkway for children or adults, and they walk there every single day... You just sit back there and cross your fingers and hope to God that nothing happens," Buehrer stated.

In the meantime, while the town explores it's options regarding the bridge, Kinnaird said, "We're going to put barrels out there and cordon-off the very edge of the bridge as you go through and realign the centerlines on the bridge to accommodate that."

"I would request that everyone approaches the bridge slowly from both sides. If there is a vehicle coming across the bridge and you're not comfortable getting on the bridge with another vehicle let them go passed," he stated.

# Food bank moving to town office

Thurmont Commissioner Wes Hamrick briefed the board at their March 18 meeting regarding the use of the existing town office for the future location of the community food bank.

Hamrick stated, "Once we vacate the old town office location, the food bank is going to be taking over this part of the building, meaning...the meeting room and the administrative offices, which is basically everything in the front."

The food bank is currently located at St. John's Church at 15 West Church Street.

"For the folks who do not realize, the commissioner said, "Saint John's is crammed, and they've been asking that the food bank find a permanent home. This (vacating of the front of the existing town office) has been a perfect... opportunity (for the food bank)."

"They are planning on using the meet room as a waiting area,

and the office are as a prep area where they will have countless refrigerators, freezers and shelving," he stated.

Working out the details on the relocation for the food bank, he said, is a "work in progress. Once we vacate this location, hopefully in July or August, the food bank will follow right behind us."

Hamrick said that the town is still going to have operations in the back of the existing office,

"(but) there will be a clear delineation between us and the food bank."

"They will work out amongst themselves as to when they want to operate, what days, what times," the commissioner stated. "They will be an autonomous group and not part of the town. So all we are doing is facilitating a facility for them."

There's some physical changes that are going to be occurring (to

the current town office), but nothing major. I don't think it's going to really be a great, great effort on anyone's part" the commission stated. "I think the hardest part is going to be getting all the material moved from Saint John's down here, and getting those freezers in here."

The food bank will be renting the space they are to occupy from the town, and there will be a memorandum of agreement established between the food bank and the town regarding the use of the town property, Hamrick said.

# Thurmont Area News Briefs...

**Thurmont to hold Gallery Stroll**  
Thurmont Main Street will host a Gallery Stroll on May 2, 6 to 9 pm.

As part of the stroll, Rebecca Pearl will have a special showing at Timeless Trends Boutique. Pearl, who maintains the Rebecca Pearl Gallery in Emmitsburg, has been a member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society since the 1980s, and has drawings and paintings she has produced incorporated in the permanent collections of the University of Maryland and the Washington County Museum of Fine Art.

Children's author Lois Noffingsinger will be on hand for a book signing as well, and artist Yemi and local artist John Nickerson will be on hand too. Celebrations Catering, catering by Cozy, and The Silver Bakery will be in attendance for appetizer sampling. Music and much more.

Watch for all details in next month's edition of the News-Journal.

**At Home Primitives shop opens**  
The newly opened At Home Primitives shop specializes in country primitive style home décor, hand-crafted wood furniture, hand-sewn treasures, table-top arrangements, repurposed one-of-a-kinds, and much more.

Owners, John and Brenda Seiss of Graceham and long time members of the Thurmont community have been crafting gifts for family and friends, participating in craft shows, and consigning in various local shops for over 20 years. With these experiences under their belt and their 2 children making their way into adulthood, they have ventured on their own to open the shop which had a soft opening in December.

They thoroughly enjoy bringing

their customers something special. Their goal is to help you turn your place of dwelling into a warm and cozy home. Custom requests are especially welcome so they can provide what suits your needs and wants. Their genuine enjoyment of what they do will make you feel at home.

Along with offering their own crafted items their goal for the shop is to provide those hard to find craft supplies that are not available in big box chain stores. Also the shop will consign antiques of the primitive nature and other locally crafted items.

At Home Primitives is hosting an Official Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday April 5th from 11 am to 7 pm. Along with Gateway Candyland offering free food samplings and Gateway Liquor offering wine tasting, At Home Primitives will be launching new spring and Easter décor as well as

offering door prizes. Please stop by and join them in their celebration.

The shop is located in the Gateway Candyland shopping complex (on the left side when facing the building), 14802 N Franklinville Road, Thurmont 301-271-2524. Shop hours are: Mondays closed; Tuesdays - Thursdays 11 -5; Fridays and Saturdays 11-7; and Sunday noon-5.

Watch for details in next month's edition of the News-Journal on the Thurmont Gallery Stroll.

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**Miller Fortune**  
12 PK Bottles **\$13<sup>99</sup>** 6 Pk Bottles **\$7<sup>99</sup>**

**Miller High Life**  
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## April 1914

### Civic League Thanks Residents

The members of the Emmitsburg Civic League wish to express their great appreciation on the generous response that followed their appeal for financial and moral support. The result was far beyond their expectations. The money received will be used only for necessary repairs to the painting of the fountain. The flowers will be donated and cared for all season, by the members of the Civic League.

The question of the permanency of the fountain at the square was a serious one and the league is glad to know so surely that the majority wishes it to remain. To remove it would make corners already dangerous a very terrible and continual menace to life, especially when the automobile season begins.

Besides the removal of the fountain would destroy a landmark, which has been associated with the town for years. While those in autocars are too busy flying about town to appreciate the beauty of the fountain, those smart enough not to buy into the autocar fad still stop to water their trusty steeds at the fountain and enjoy the fellowship of their fellow man.

### Gypsies

A band of gypsies passed through Emmitsburg last week en route from Frederick, where they were fined for begging, to Gettysburg. In Emmitsburg however, the band was welcomed by the former members of the Former Boozer's Association, as the Gypsies distributed their particular brand of moonshine at a most reasonable price.

The following day, another band of Gypsies on their way to Taneytown, stopped in town evidently with the intention of camping here after word spread that residents were agreeable to their particular 'shine'. They remained only a short time however before they were ordered out of the borough by Deputy Sheriff Addlesburger and Constable Rowe, hen-pecked husbands of known Anti-Salon League members, before the former members of the

Former Boozer's Association arose from the prior night's John Barleycorn festivities and could resupply themselves.

### Grinding By Electric Power

Boyle's Brothers of the Emmitsburg Grain Elevator Co. have installed a 10 HP Westinghouse electric motor and are positioned to do grinding of all clients at short notice.

### Agent Wanted

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### Equal Suffrage League

The equal suffrage league will meet Friday, April 10, at 8 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Annan. Former members of the Former Boozer's Association have invited husbands of the women going to the meeting to join them at their meeting in the hotel Slagle's bar.

## April 10

### Purple Martins

Mr. John Gellwicks who is very fond of Purple Martins has doubled the number of his birdhouses in his very pretty garden. The birds began last week to explore their new quarters and arrange for the coming season.

### Thieves

Some of the light-fingered gentry were playing their trade in this vicinity last week. They entered the lower part of John Hollinger's property near town but were evidently frightened off before they could accomplish their purpose. From the home of Ivan Riley they carried off canned fruit, vegetables, pies, etc.

### Wanted To See daughter

A lot of excitement was raised Wednesday evening when Edward Lighter was brought before Squire Shuff. It was brought out at the

hearing that Lighter, who came from Carlisle, went to the home of Mr. Harry Stonesifer, of near town, and asked to see his 13-year-old daughter, who was sent to the Stonesifer home from the Hoffman orphanage, where she had been placed by her mother. It was alleged that Lighter and his wife were separated. Mr. and Mrs. Stonesifer objected to the man's presence and Deputy Sheriff Adelsberger was told to arrest him. Before Squire Shuff, the defendant stated that he only wanted to see his daughter, and promised that he would wait until he obtained the legal right to do so. There was no charge against a man in the case was dismissed.

### Opportunity For Local Farmers

Word has been received at the Emmitsburg post office that farmers desirous of getting into communication with private residents of Baltimore with reference to supplying them with produce from the garden and farm, can do so by sending their names to the postmaster at Baltimore. He will in return place their names on a list and this will be distributed amongst the people of that city.

The plan offers a good opportunity for the farmers to get the highest market price for their produce. The produce can be sent by parcel post, up to 50 pounds, at a rate of five cents for the first pound and one cent for each additional pounds. Almost any product of garden can be shipped by the Parcel Post, except live animals.

## April 17

### Easter Sunday

Sunday being a particularly beautiful day the streets were filled with people clad in their becoming Easter costumes. Emmitsburg, which is noted for good taste in dress, and that good taste was noticeable among those who joined the promenade. The Easter rabbit seems to have remembered the children in this community and many little ones were made happy by the visit. Highly colored eggs were in evidence in the windows of many homes.



The fountain as it appeared in 1914. Over the prior years it had fallen into a state of disrepair and the water flow was cut off. The advent of automobiles made it dangerous for people and horses to congregate at the fountain as had been done for decades.

### New Amusement Place at Pen Mar

O. D. Sherley, owner of the newest and most up-to-date amusement at Pen Mar, now has a force of several teams and more than a dozen men doing the excavating and concreting for the erection of his new building which was destroyed by fire on January 2. The building will be ready for operation and will be open to the public on May 30.

### Fairfield High School

The Fairfield High School held their commencement exercises last Friday evening. There were five graduates, Philip Brown, Edith Harbaugh, Harry Hartzell, John Kugler and Gladys Metz. The room in which the exercises were held was decorated in class colors of orange and blue, and cut flowers and plants. The Fairfield school board has decided to make the school course, three years instead of two, next year.

## April 24

### Dr. Jamison Separates From Wife

Citing the fact that differences between them have arisen and they deemed it best to live apart, Dr. Jamison, and his wife have filed in court an agreement of separation. Each agreed to permit the other to enjoy individual liberty and freedom. Dr. Jamison agreed to give his

wife \$579 a year and the wife agreed to release any claim to her husband's property and to join him in any deed or instrument that may be necessary for conveying legal title to property. Dr. Jamison is a member of a well-known family of Frederick County and enjoys a large practice in Emmitsburg.

### Civic League Makes Practical Suggestions

The Civic League wishes to make a few suggestions to help reduce flying mosquito pest in Emmitsburg. Please do not throw any garbage to chickens that they will not consume. Orange, banana and potato skins let to rot on the ground will only bring pestilence. Smallpox, which is closer to us that is pleasant, is distinctively a filth disease.

Manure pits should be screened; cesspools covered once a week with a film of coal oil; A daily chore of every housewife should be sprinkle lime over the deposits in the out-house, this will prove a wonderful purifier, deodorizer and destroy of flies.

Let's make the week of April 27 cleanup week in Emmitsburg and if those who want to be more comfortable this summer will only act upon the above suggestions, the greater beauty of cleanliness will be added to the attractive quantities of our town.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago This Month visit the Historical Society Section of emmitsburg.net.

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## FROM THE DESK OF . . .

## State Senator David Brinkley

In my years of public service—from serving with the New Market Fire Department to now, serving as the Senate Minority Leader, I have learned a great deal. One of the most important lessons I have learned: while anyone can point a finger and criticize, it takes a true leader to find solutions and get answers. I have decided to seek reelection to the Maryland State Senate representing District 4 again, and am proud to stand behind my record of conservative leadership over the last twenty years.

Another candidate running for the District 4 Senate seat has tried and will continue trying to convince you that I am not Republican enough, not conservative enough for your support.

To give credence to this claim, you've been asked to examine a handful of the tens of thousands of votes I have cast during my time serving the fourth District. You'll be asked to ignore two decades of hands-on constituent service, to overlook nearly three decades of party commitment and leadership.

I don't subscribe to the standard approach to campaigning for political office. I won't ask you to ignore my record; rather, I suggest you examine my service in full. Look at every vote, read every local endorsement, learn about every policy committee and issue task force I have served on. Consider how this considerable effort and growth over the decades stacks up to the claims of someone who has only

been in office for three years, someone who is still learning what it means to represent thousands of citizens.

From Mount Airy to Emmitsburg & Thurmont, from Johnsville to Brunswick, the people lining up to endorse my reelection include Mayors, Councilmen, business owners, farmers, first responders, faith groups, youth sports organizations, veterans and retirees. The true blessing of my continuous service has been the ability to touch tens of thousands of people's lives by making Maryland's state government rise to meet their needs and expectations.

When I'm working for you in Annapolis, I am not led by what a party says. I am motivated by an under-

standing of how state issues impact Frederick and Carroll County, and what that means for my constituents. I do not vote out of any special interests. I do not subscribe to the all-or-nothing Party idea that has so visibly divided the government at the state and national levels. I vote based on my conscience and the knowledge of what I've learned from talking to thousands of folks just like you and me.

When does this matter? It matters every single day. Throughout this General Assembly Session alone I will be leading the Senate Republican Caucus as the Senate Minority Leader in the fight to investigate the failed state healthcare exchange. I will coordinate the fight against the damaging across-the-board implementation of an increase in the minimum wage. At the same time, I will be leading the

fight to protect critical investments in Frederick and Carroll County. I will fight for investments in our towns and cities, I will fight to protect agriculture from environmental over-regulation, and I will be diligently working to obtain crucial transportation infrastructure investments.

As this election year continues on, I encourage you to compare my accomplishments with that of my opponent, rather than listen to the empty political rhetoric that is too often heard in the race for election. Remember this tried-and-true political adage: Any fool can make a pledge; it takes a leader to get things done. Now ask yourself, which one of us is a pledge-signer, and which of us is a leader?

To learn more about David Brinkley visit [www.dbrinkley.com](http://www.dbrinkley.com)

## State Delegate Candidate Wendi Peters

I have been out meeting and talking with voters since I announced my candidacy for House of Delegates last July. It is very rewarding to not only talk about my positive vision for Maryland, but to also listen to the concerns, thoughts, stories and feedback of everyone I am meeting. While I am a Republican, these conversations are not limited to political party.

In fact, I recently had an interesting interview with representatives from the Frederick County Teachers Association (FCTA). Before the meeting I completed a lengthy questionnaire responding to important issues as identified by the Maryland State Education Association. While I joked with them

about entering "hostile" territory, I appreciated the opportunity to discuss important issues regarding the education of our children.

As a Republican, I was advised by some not to "waste my time" with the FCTA, but I felt otherwise. Education is an important issue for all of us, regardless of political affiliation and it is a large component of our state and county budgets. Through my years of experience volunteering as a room parent, a PTA board member, and a youth mentor I have gained a great deal of respect and appreciation for the important role teachers play in the lives of our children.

Further, if elected as Delegate, I will serve all of the people and in-

terests of District 4, not just those who agree with me. As I reminded the FCTA representatives with whom I interviewed, we may not agree on all issues, but I am willing to listen to opposing views and opinions and will work to solve problems.

While we had a good conversation, the FCTA interview highlighted how divided we are as a country, state and county. It also served as an example of how often we are unable to get beyond labels and have real discussions about solving problems. No one person, group, or party has all of the answers. Indeed, we have witnessed the negative effects of one-party control in our State. And, it is

important to note that when discussions begin with loaded terms like "anti-this" or "anti-that," "entitled to their fair share," and "hiding profits" these expressions often stymie any real discussion of solutions.

While labels are convenient ways to predetermine a certain ideological leaning, they inhibit the necessary and worthwhile time spent reaching workable solutions. This distinction is important. It does not mean "go along to get along" as some would dismiss it, rather it means holding firm to core values while making the tough economic and social decisions.

As an elected Councilwoman for the Town of Mount Airy, I served

for eight years. We had some difficult times and faced some very controversial issues in those eight years. It was in the instances when we had the valuable combination of open government and committed elected officials, (all willing to engage in vigorous debate) that we were able to reach consensus and move forward.

Leadership is more than eloquent words and partisan rhetoric for those who already agree with you. Leadership requires persuading those who disagree while holding firm to your core values. True leaders bring people together and solve problems and I believe voters have the right to expect nothing less.

To learn more about Wendi Peters visit [www.wendipeters.com](http://www.wendipeters.com).

## State Delegate Candidate Kelly Schulz

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job in Annapolis has been the educational experience of working on energy and utility issues. Over the past 4 years, my committee has heard bills regarding a variety of renewable energy options. We have passed very few bills over this term in hopes of allowing the market to determine the success of the initiatives included in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

The RPS was set up in 2004 after the General Assembly passed legislation. Those standards state that Maryland's energy portfolio would consist of 20% renewable sources by 2022. Tier 1 approved energy generating sources would receive Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for the creation of clean energy. The approved Tier 1 list includes solar (a variety of options), wind, biomass, landfill gas, hydroelectric, geothermal (electric and heat),

municipal solid waste, anaerobic digestion, and a variety of oceanic options. In 2013, the Maryland General Assembly passed the bill that added Offshore Wind to the list of sources.

Many of the bills that we heard have been attempts to modify the approved list of sources. It has become quite obvious that this issue is a very sensitive topic. One example from the past two sessions is the proposal to remove biomass from the list of sources. This became one of the fiercest battles between two very distinct groups—the union/business community and the environmental community. The discussion related to the closing of a biomass plant in Cumberland, MD which would have cost jobs but would have removed a 'dirty' source from the Tier 1 list. There was a great division among the members, but the bill ultimately failed both years.

I voted NO on the bill for a few reasons. First, Allegany County cannot afford to lose any jobs. But, in addition to that, I believe it sets a precedent of removing certain sources from Tier 1. As policy makers, we need to be able to review all of our options. The RPS was set up in 2004 to allow for the inclusion of a variety of sources, and I believe that the legislators had set some standards and timetables that would be measured over the course of the next several years. Biomass contin-

ues to be one of the highest producing renewable in our portfolio, and it is not prudent to remove it at this time.

Currently, Maryland claims that 7.9% of our overall energy consumption comes from renewable energy. We have a long way to go to get to 20% as mandated by law, but we are getting closer. The 2022 benchmark would be the optimal time to re-address the sources and the possibility of the increase in percentages. There is no immediate need to alter the course unless and until we have proven that we are capable of meeting our current goals. (As a side note, there was a bill in this year that proposed to increase the percentage from 20% to 40% by 2022....needless to say, it didn't go very far).

I applaud my committee members for being very deliberate in their approach to our energy consumption. Throughout my term, I have learned that there are many issues that need to be addressed when reviewing what appears to be a very simple request. There is no doubt that there is an environmental benefit to clean energy. However, one of the most important factors is the cost to the rate payer. Renewable energy is more expensive than 'traditional' sources. One of my key objections to any additional mandates is the overall cost. In many cases, the cost to the rate payer can be in ad-

dition to the cost to all tax payers due to a subsidy or capital project funding. The overall benefit needs to outweigh the negatives.

As we look forward to the next few years, I can guarantee that similar questions will arise about the Tier 1 sources. It is quite possible that we continue to see opposition to many of our sources including biomass and waste to energy. It will be interesting to watch the progression of this movement as Frederick County pursues the waste to energy plant. If that is removed from Tier 1, Frederick County will not receive the RECs, which theoretically would put that project in jeopardy. Waste to energy plants currently exist in a number of counties across the state which provide extra revenues that would not be easily replaced. Counties would be faced with some very difficult questions about waste should that occur.

My goal is to protect our county and the taxpayers. It has become obvious that the issue of energy is a topic of major importance and I am honored to have the ability to continue to learn as a policy maker. It does not appear that the need for energy will decrease anytime soon, thus ensuring that we develop the best policies that have the highest benefit with the least cost will be challenging, but also very rewarding.

To learn more about Kelly Schulz visit [www.delegateschulz.com](http://www.delegateschulz.com).



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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

## County Executive Candidate Blaine Young

It seems like all anyone wants to talk about these days around Frederick County is politics. As we are in an election year, sometimes I am guilty of that as well. But not today. Today I want to talk about something else, something that is very important to me and near and dear to my heart. And that is Frederick County's Meals on Wheels.

For over a year now I have been personally involved with Meals on Wheels. I began delivering meals as a part-time fill-in, and now I make time to deliver meals on a regular basis part-time. I was also asked (and I subsequently agreed) to serve on the board of Friends of Meals on Wheels. I just love it.

When I first started this, I assumed it would be like many local charitable endeavors I've become involved in, where I pitch in and help out and then move on to the next cause. But there was something about Meals on Wheels that grabbed a hold of me and wouldn't let go. I get as much out of making these deliveries, I think, as do the people receiving the food. And with every delivery, I learn something new about those of our citizens who are down on their luck or just having some issues.

I was amazed early on at how many people I was delivering to who I already knew. Some people had been very successful previously in their lives, and as they aged they have fallen on hard times and become home-bound. It was very sad for me at first, but then I realized that my bringing them a meal and spending a few minutes trying to brighten their day meant a lot to them. And it certainly makes my day, as well.

For those who don't know, Meals on Wheels is a program administered by Frederick County that receives money from the state and federal governments and prepares the food for the volunteers to deliver. But what I learned early on is that the government funding is not suffi-

cient enough to take care of all the people who need the service. Too many of our citizens, particularly our seniors, are hungry and need our help.

I decided that it wasn't enough for me to simply drive the car, drop off the food, and talk to the recipients. It was clear that we needed to raise more money, and it had to come from sources other than the government. It was time to mount a serious fundraising effort in the private sector.

With help from many dedicated and capable volunteers, we started and organized a persistent fundraising campaign. Not one dollar of government money was spent on the fundraising. It was all through volunteer efforts. In just over a year, we have raised over \$50,000, every dollar of which has gone to supplement the program and provide meals for those who need them most, home-bound adults and seniors.

Currently, it costs Frederick County's Meals on Wheels program over \$3,000 a year to provide meals to one individual. That's just over \$250 a month, or just over \$60 a week, or about \$10 a day. If you would eliminate going out to lunch once a week and donate that money to Friends of Meals on Wheels, you will provide a meal for an individual for a day!

Please join us—become a member of our organization by making a \$10 donation to help feed those in need in our community. Please make your checks payable to Friends of Meals on Wheels of Frederick County, 1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD 21702. We are also looking for volunteers to help us as we raise funds to support our mission. Please contact Gail Wingate for more information at 240-446-6402 or gailwingate@yahoo.com. Also visit [fomow.org](http://fomow.org).

I am as proud of this accomplishment as anything that I have done in this community. As President of the Board of

County Commissioners, I spearheaded the effort to pass a real and meaningful tax credit for our senior citizens. Almost 300 senior taxpayers have taken advantage of this credit, and the Board of County Commissioners recently voted to appropriate even more funds to help even more seniors. I am very proud of that, as well.

The BoCC allocated funding for a study/survey for the Needs Assessment of the Aging Population in Frederick County. The vision of the Needs Assessment is to ensure that Frederick County is a senior-friendly community now and in the future. In addition to serving the needs of today's older residents, the study took into account today's boomers who will have different needs as they expect to work longer and intend to stay in their homes as they age. Movement away from institutional care to "aging in place" is more cost-effective but still requires the availability of critical services and support. Additional funding has been recommended in the FY15 Operating Budget to provide access to services that may not be affordable but would enhance a senior's ability to age in place in the community with appropriate services and support.

Hardly a day goes by that I don't hear a complaint from a senior citizen that he or she is being run out of the State of Maryland because of high taxes and other costs of living. I firmly believe, and it is one of my most important issues, that our seniors here in Frederick County should be able to comfortably retire right here at home and live out their lives in dignity. The senior tax credit and Meals on Wheels program are just part of the solution, and I am very pleased that we have been successful in helping many of our seniors who are in need. But there are more out there who need our help, and none of us should be happy until we have reached out to each and every one of them and made a difference in their lives. I promise that I will continue to work to solve these problems.

## Michael Hough and the politics of hate, fear & deceit

I read with interest a recent "Letter to the Editor" in the *Frederick News-Post* from a Jason Miller. In it, Mr. Miller states he "withdrew from the race against Senator David Brinkley when he knew that a true conservative with more time and fundraising abilities would oppose Senator Brinkley." He then went on to endorse Michael Hough. A casual reading lends the impression that Mr. Miller made his decision after learning Hough was going to run.

While commendable, the timeline belies a different series of events. Mr. Miller withdrew from the race on January 16, a full 30 days before Delegate Hough filed for the State Senate primary.

Why is this timing important?

If Mr. Miller withdrew in January without prior notice of Delegate Hough entering the race, his reasons for withdrawal are misleading and raise serious questions about the veracity of this situation.

On the other hand, if Mr. Miller is being honest, stating he withdrew after hearing that Delegate Hough was going to challenge Senator Brinkley, then it is Hough's veracity that is of issue. You see, during that 30-day period, Delegate Hough barnstormed around the County raising funds to promote a second run for House of Delegates, not the Senatorial primary he now desires. It's called "Bait and Switch."

One can only wonder how many people who contributed to Hough's campaign for Delegate would have actually contributed, or even sanctioned, his challenge of Senator Brinkley. (See Marty Burns article on page 8).

Unfortunately, we will likely never know the truth. Either way, neither scenario presents the actions of a Statesman!

These actions will not surprise anyone who has followed Hough's career. He learned "slash and burn tactics" at the feet of former State Senator Alex Mooney, whose biggest claim to fame was that he hated more people, and more people hated him, than any other State Senator in Maryland's history.

A far cry from the respect Sen-

ator Brinkley has earned on both sides of the aisle for his Statesmanship. Senator Brinkley's professional approach toward service was so admired that he was elected the Republican leader in the Maryland Senate.

To further elaborate, prior to Delegate Hough announcing his political career move for the Maryland Senate, a Push Poll was undertaken. A Push Poll is when questions are framed in such a manner that the facts are skirted so that the desired answer is elicited instead of the truth. The questions were framed in such a manner that all the ills of the Western World were laid at the feet of Senator Brinkley.

Each false representation in this Push Poll was followed by the question: "Now that you know Senator Brinkley did this, are you more or less willing to vote for him?" Obviously the truth was not the intention, but rather an attempt to broad-brush an opponent with vitriolic fabrications.

When challenged, Hough denied knowledge of the Push Poll. A week later, an e-mail was sent to Republicans announcing his candidacy against Senator Brinkley. Amazingly, this e-mail was filled with many of the same fallacious accusations raised in the Push Poll.

It is clear in this writer's mind that Hough has no intention of running a campaign of ideas and it does not appear he has any. Instead, Hough has apparently decided to take a page out of the Alex Mooney playbook, one of the blackest times in Maryland politics, and run a campaign based upon nothing more than sowing hate and fear.

It's bad enough that we have to deal with negative campaigning in national politics, but we should not have to deal with this in county politics. Frederick County deserves better.

Senator Brinkley is a man who embodies the values, hopes, and ideals of Frederick County—as such, he is an ideal candidate to represent us in the Maryland State Senate.

Hough, on the other hand, represents only himself and the politics of hate, fear and deceit.

*Michael Hillman, Editor.*

## County Executive Candidate Jan Gardner

Northern Frederick County is blessed with the friendly small towns of Thurmont and Emmitsburg, the rural communities of Sabillasville and Rocky Ridge, the history of Catoclin Furnace, vibrant agriculture and orchards, and beautiful mountains. The charm and beauty of the area are rich with the history of Mt. St. Mary's University and the good work of Mother Seton and the Daughters of Charity. What a wonderful place to live.

During a recent visit to Thurmont, I spent time at the Thurmont Regional Library. Local residents were streaming in and out of this vibrant community centered library. It is clear that people enjoy and value the activities and events offered at the library. I am proud to have supported this wonderful regional library and to have successfully partnered with the Town of Thurmont which provided the site for the library.

I had the opportunity to speak with Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird at the library and again at the Thurmont

Business Expo. He agreed that the regional library has been a great addition to the town, with programs enjoyed by residents of all ages. I asked about the status of the Thurmont Senior Center since the current commissioners removed all county funding support. This has meant the loss of transportation for seniors to the center and the loss of staff for programmatic support. As County Executive, I pledge to work with town officials and the senior advisory board to make sure seniors receive the services they need.

There was a large turnout at Catoclin High School for the Thurmont Business Expo. I enjoyed talking to local business owners at this event. The dedicated volunteers from the Thurmont Ambulance Company were at the expo sharing their plans for their new community building which will break ground soon. Congratulations to these hard working individuals for their efforts to make the Thurmont community even better. I also learned about a

new winery on Roddy Road now part of the Frederick County wine trail.

I did hear some anger and frustration from Thurmont residents about the 4.8 cent increase in property tax passed by the current Board of Commissioners with no apparent increase in service. There is anger that residents are paying more in taxes to improve services elsewhere in the county.

I enjoyed meeting recently with Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs to learn what is happening in Emmitsburg. The town is going green with solar as part of the new wastewater treatment plant. Emmitsburg is leading the way in sustainability and saving its residents money too. Most exciting is the new pedestrian access and sidewalk project that the town is working on with the State Highway Administration. Not only will residents be able to get around town easier and safely, the project will beautify the square by adding a fountain and some other amenities.

I look forward to representing northern Frederick County again as your first

County Executive. I am proud of my past accomplishments and work with local officials, community organizations and residents. Together, we improved schools by expanding the Thurmont Middle School and building the new Thurmont Primary School. I am proud of building these new schools and most proud of the advocacy of local residents and PTA members. I am also proud to have supported the renovation of the former Emmitsburg High School which is now home to a much larger branch library, the food bank, and the town offices. It is a great community center for Emmitsburg. I am

also proud to have supported the Agricultural Tax Credit enjoyed by over 300 farm properties in Frederick County to help keep agriculture viable as well as provided the support of an Agricultural Economic Development Specialist.

As your County Executive, I pledge to restore honest government, fiscal responsibility, and re-focus government on serving people by focusing on our core priorities of education and public safety. Together, we can keep northern Frederick County a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

## FROM THE DESK OF . . .

## Candidate for County Council At-Large Justin Kiska

No one can honestly say they know what issues the County Council will have to face in the next four years. Because of that “unknown,” we need to have representatives on the Council who will take a levelheaded, practical approach to solving the county’s problems.

This will also be the first County Council elected under the new Charter. It is an historic election and one that will be the beginning of Frederick’s future. However, many residents still don’t really understand what the changes in Frederick County’s form of government means. And those who have actively followed the creation of the new Charter still have many questions about how what has been put on paper will translate into reality.

The County Executive and Council members elected this year will need to be able to guide the county through these changes and grow-

ing pains that there will inevitably be. In the next four years, there are going to be many questions that need answered and precedents that will need to be set. Because of that, we need responsible leaders in Winchester Hall. We need leaders who will put ideological differences aside and focus on the work that needs done and the issues facing residents.

Most importantly, the individuals we elect to represent us during the next four years need to have proven track records of leadership. They will need to understand the complications and intricacies of organizations and how to put the pieces of government together to make a fully functional and effective system. They are also going to need to make tough decisions; decisions that will not always be popular.

For the last twelve years, I have been in a position where I have had

to make difficult decisions at times. I have been the executive of a company in an industry that, on a good day, is tough to survive in. The economic downturn of the last several years hit the entertainment industry very hard and theatres across the country, including right here in the National Capital Region, were forced to close their doors. I am proud to say that Way Off Broadway, my family’s company, not only emerged from the economic crisis, but is stronger and better off because of it. Adaptability, creative problem solving, and being willing to make tough decisions for the good of the organization as a whole, are valuable lessons I learned through hands on experience; experience not everyone is fortunate enough to have.

Frederick County has been my home for nearly thirty years, since my family moved here when I was five. I grew up here, graduated from Walk-

ersville High School then I attended The George Washington University in Washington, DC where I had wonderful opportunities to learn and grow.

While I was still in college, I joined the Presidential Campaign of someone who would become my mentor, Former Transportation and Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole. Following her campaign, I went to work for Jack Kemp and Bill Bennett as a Policy Intern at Empower America. Two legendary figures I had enormous respect for. I returned to Elizabeth Dole’s office in 2000, where I served as Secretary Dole’s Special Assistant and Scheduler for the next two years.

Having “grown up” at the feet of such luminaries and true public servants like Jack Kemp, Bill Bennett, and Bob and Elizabeth Dole, I learned how service and doing what is right is far more important than

politics. Serving one’s community, at any level, is an honor and a serious responsibility. It may sound idealistic, but there are still people that believe service is one’s duty. I am proud to say, I am one of those people.

This year’s election shouldn’t be able politics. At the local level, we need to put ideological differences aside and “keep the trains running on time.” This year’s election must be about leadership. Strong leaders will be able to handle any issues that arise in the coming years. No matter how complicated or divisive. It’s about electing the individuals who will do whatever it takes to provide the best possible services to the residents of Frederick County. It’s about leadership for Frederick’s future.

To learn more about Justin Kiska visit [www.justinkiska.com](http://www.justinkiska.com).

## Thurmont Commissioner Marty Burns

Last month I commented on the stupid idea of Delegate Michael Hough running against Senator David Brinkley, the current Minority Leader of the Maryland State Senate. I then read with interest that Mr. Hough was blasting Senator Brinkley for voting for Governor O’Malley’s budget.

Funny, but our current Delegate Kathy Afzali voted for one of Governor O’Malley’s budgets and yet Mr. Hough didn’t attack her. Why? Because Hough is using the “attack your opponent on everything” tactic but ONLY if they’re in the elected position you want.

Delegate Afzali has also has endorsed Hough, which could end up hurting her. Both Afzali and Hough were running together, be-

fore Hough used the bait and switch. He got everyone, including me, to think he was running for Delegate, then at the last minute he fooled everyone (took their money) and then decided to run for Senate. Senator Brinkley doesn’t have a right to the seat simply because he’s in it, but he has proven that even the majority of ALL Maryland State Senators think he’s the one they want to lead the Republican Party in Annapolis. Hardly the time to remove him from the job.

Leading in Annapolis takes the right person and Hough doesn’t have it. He’s so far right that if he won, he wouldn’t be able to get anything done in Annapolis and he certainly wouldn’t be able to get Democrats to support his constituents because he’s cut from the Alex Mooney mold.

That mold is to get all kinds of endorsements, garner a huge war chest, have lots of money in the bank, and attack the opposition. NOT for his constituents, although he will say it’s for you, but in fact it’s for his own personal agenda. Don’t be fooled.

Some may think this article was about the Senate race, when in fact this article is about the Sheriff’s Office race. I thought Mr. Hough’s attempt to unseat Senator Brinkley was the dumbest political move possible until I heard about Kevin Grubb’s desire to unseat Sheriff Chuck Jenkins.

Sheriff Chuck Jenkins has what I call “Jim Haggy syndrome,” in that he will be Sheriff for as long as he wants to. People look at this position as a person who they like, trust, and feel

comfortable with. Chuck meets all three to perfection. He is extremely personable and approachable and he runs a top-notch police agency.

He is also extremely involved in his community, and has been since long before he was elected Sheriff. So why on earth would another Republican think NOW is a good time to unseat the extremely popular and successful Sheriff? Mr. Grubb is a power-hungry, egotist who thinks his position on the Republican Central Committee put him in line to push Sheriff Jenkins out. Boy, is that a dumb move. I certainly wouldn’t be complaining if Mr. Grubb was running as a Democrat, but you don’t get much more Republican than Sheriff Jenkins. He’s given money back to the

taxpayers, he’s enforced the laws, and his organization, its men and women, are well respected.

Like Senator Brinkley, I have not agreed with every single thing that Sheriff Jenkins has done, but then I wouldn’t support any politician who did everything I thought was right. That type of politician simply doesn’t exist.

Don’t be fooled though. Both need you to do your part and VOTE. If you become complacent and think they have this in the bag, they could lose. A recent election where this happened was when Delegate Paul Stull lost his bid for re-election because everyone thought he had it in the bag and he ended up losing.

So Frederick County, get out and support Sheriff Chuck Jenkins for re-election as Sheriff of Frederick County and Senator David Brinkley as our State Senator.

## Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

With many thanks reluctantly we say goodbye to Donna Depress our town clerk and accountant. Donna came to work

for the town on September 27, 1994 started out in the basement of the old town office. As a staff member with the most seniority

she has always brought calmness and continuity to whatever situation arose in the office. Her personality and institutional knowledge will be missed.

The square revitalization design and funding solidification is moving along and the town has been notified it’s been awarded a second State Community Legacy matching grant of \$50,000. As a result, \$200,000 worth of improvements are coming to the downtown. We

intend to apply later this year for our third grant.

Why have I pushed so hard for installations of energy efficient LED street lights and a \$2,200,000 solar array? Because we have too. We have to

continued on next page



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The Frederick Board of County Commissioners invites interested persons to volunteer their time to serve on several boards and commissions that include the Affordable Housing Council, Commission on Aging, Ethics Commission, Social Services Board, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Sustainability Commission and many others. To view a complete listing of the vacancies, please visit Frederick County Government’s website at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/boards](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/boards).

Persons having a desire to serve must be residents and registered voters of Frederick County. If interested, send a letter indicating the specific board/commission of interest and a cur-

rent resume by mail or e-mail ([fcgboards@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:fcgboards@frederickcountymd.gov)) to Mrs. Joyce M. Grossnickle, Frederick County Government, Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701. Please include current contact information, i.e. home, work and cell numbers, home mailing address and e-mail address.



For more information please contact Mrs. Grossnickle at 301-600-1102.

All required documentation must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 4.

Frederick County Government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.



## GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

### Candidate for County Council (District 5) Kirby Delauter

As I read in an article titled “Vacancy rises at Federated Charities” in the March 22nd edition of the Frederick News-Post, this is the first time in a long time that this building that is rented to non-profits at a reduced rate is not at 100% occupancy. They stated that the tough economic conditions are some of the reasoning for a reduction in their reduced rate leased space. I tend to agree with them. This economy that is now going on its 54th month of lackluster activity has taken its toll on even the best of companies. The average recession is 18 - 24 months in duration. This extended downturn in our economy with no end in sight does not bode well for the taxpayer or business in general.

There is a saying that I often think of when I’m having a bad

day, and that saying is, “Adversity introduces us to ourselves.” It’s easy to skip along through life when things are going well, all the while thinking you’re the smartest person in the room, but what about the times when things aren’t so good? It can be a humbling experience. It will make you think about where you’ve been and where you’re going. Who are you? What is your character? Do you have a moral compass?

All of these questions are easy when life is good; it’s when life throws you those inevitable curveballs, when adversity strikes, that is when we get introduced to our true self. That is when we find out who we really are.

In keeping with the theme of this edition of the paper, I’d like to talk about “Paying it Forward.”

As noted by the Managing Editor of this paper on page 32, “Paying it Forward” is where you can do a nice thing for a total stranger. The concept is to focus on everyone but yourself.

As the Frederick Community is known for Christmas Cash for Kids, or many other causes such as the Patty Pollatos Fund which is operated brilliantly by Debbie Williams and The Community Foundation, all of these entities concentrate on the needs of people in our community of Frederick County. It is your choice to give to the charity of your choice; it is not the government’s responsibility to extract money from your wallet and decide who is lucky enough to receive those funds. You should make that decision out of your own free will.

What would you think if you were eating at a restaurant and the service was terrible, you pay your bill, walk out without leaving a tip, and are stopped before you leave and told by a government bureaucrat that you are required to leave a tip? That would not only diminish the server’s self-worth, but it would also create resentment by you, toward the server. Now, if you have good service and you are able to tip out of your own free will, you feel great, the server’s self-worth is satisfied and the free market just created two people who will try harder, do better and provide greatness without one single taxpayer cent being spent on their cause.

The same goes for “Paying it Forward.” This allows you to decide when and where you want to make a difference in this world.

Do you tip a waiter/waitress well who went above and beyond? Do you help a family who just hit hard times? Do you give to a charity of your choice? Do you pay a toll for the person behind you? Do you buy a coffee for a military person? The list goes on and it’s your choice. There is no government program that can take the place of random acts of kindness or just plain community involvement.

Remember that the next time someone comes out and says our government isn’t doing enough. It’s not up to the government. It’s up to you to make your own way and assist others when you can. Pay it forward; it works every time!

To learn more about Kirby Delauter visit [www.kirbydelauter.com](http://www.kirbydelauter.com).

### State Delegate Candidate Gene Stanton

Every school day, I teach students the importance of understanding and learning from history. I constantly explain that history can change on a dime and if we fail to learn from it, we are doomed to repeat it, sometimes quite literally.

As a history teacher, I see our country, state, and our community in a very interesting time historically. I believe we are presently at a crossroads where either big money rules our beloved country, or a place where we the citizens rise up and take back our country. We must take it back from the big money interests and continue to grow our vibrant middle class, protect the less fortunate and respect the wealthy. We must strengthen our communities, protect democracy and respect our capitalist system.

You see, we write our history with our support and with our votes. Unfortunately, a lot of people nowadays are voting for people who do not have their best interests at heart, or worse yet, do not have the best interests of their family at heart.

It’s time to ask ourselves why it

would ever be OK that some of our schools are falling apart and we are told there are no funds to rebuild them? Maryland is currently the number one state school system in the United States. We need to keep it number one.

Why is it OK that our roads are constantly gridlocked when we pay so much in state and federal taxes? Why is it OK that our beautiful green spaces and farms are disappearing so that developers can make millions, all the while ignoring the infrastructure needs of the future and existing citizens?

I decided to seek the District 4 seat because I realized that the only way that the House of Delegates will address the concerns of middle class Marylanders is by electing someone committed to working with both parties to advance solutions for the issues we face. I believe that District 4 is best served by sending a Delegate to Annapolis who has a common-sense, pro-business approach like myself. A moderate who believes District 4 should have a voice in the majority

party in Annapolis. This is important, because when budget deals are made, we need someone on the inside from our area. We can’t all just be on the outside looking in.

I have always been interested in public policy and I understand how it affects all of us. I also know that I can be very passionate about important issues, and I have never been shy about sharing my views.

As your delegate from District Four, I guarantee you that I will fight fervently for our school children every day, to make sure that all of Maryland’s public school children have the very best education possible in the United States.

As a ten year resident and a homeowner in Frederick County, I have watched the traffic problem get worse and worse every year. One only need to turn on WTOP early in the morning to know that I-270 is a consistent mess. Residents in our area spend far too much time stuck in traffic. One of the reasons I am running is to fight to get I-270 and U.S. 15 widened from Germantown to Monocacy Blvd.

we need to serve. I served on Historic and Sustainability Commissions and both were incredible experiences.

Congratulations to Dr. Thomas Powell president of the Mount and Tony and Tina Testa, owners of Rocky’s Pizza, in receiving the biannually presented Mother Seton School Business - Professional Partners awards. A wonderful event where with an eye always toward preparing students for the future, students led by eighth graders played a key part in the event.

As a resident of the town and also as a member of the Mount Athletic Advisory board congratulations to Mount basketball coach Jamion Christian (2004 graduate of the Mount), his staff and players of the strong finish in winning the Northeast Conference tournament and going to the NCAA D-1 tournament.

I don’t have a lot of money. I am not independently wealthy and I completely agree that money has corrupted the political process. However, if I am going to win this race – and it can be won -- I will need to rely on small contributions.

I need everyone that wants to bring common sense back to politics to vote. I need everyone to urge your family, your friends, your co-workers, the people in your churches and synagogues to join in our campaign to make the Frederick County we love and even better place for ourselves and future generations.

May God continue to bless America and continue to bless the people of Maryland.

To learn more about Gene Stanton visit [www.stantonfordelegate.org](http://www.stantonfordelegate.org).

continued from previous page


save money to maintain service level for residents. Like many of you, as a result of the cold weather, the town was shocked at increased electric bills. But now the town is readying to produce renewable energy from the sun. It is a relief for me to know that the town, besides lowering its own energy costs, is taking steps not to compete with its resident’s energy needs that raise their energy costs. We are planning to expand our solar usage with an additional second megawatt later this year to help offset the additional energy cost of the \$15.5 million wastewater treatment plant. It is mind boggling the amount of energy this project is going to need and the burden it will impose on the town, what was everyone thinking when the state edict came down in 2007 that we had to build this?

As a follow up to the public meeting with the deputies and narcotics officers held last fall and an extensive identification and assessment of the problem completed by the deputies, the town, in conjunction with Vigilant Hose, the Ambulance Co. and the Sheriff’s Department sponsored a drug awareness presentation in March which was a tremendous success. In the pipeline, the town is drafting an update of the 1981 public nuisance ordinance and an ordinance regarding rental property tenant safety issues.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> the town is sponsoring a Frederick County Senior Tax Credit seminar at the Emmitsburg Community Center-Senior Center. See the public notice on page 2 for more information.

Want to get involved? The County is advertising openings on all types of commissions. More of

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# FROM THE DESK OF . . .

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

March 20th is when Spring sprung! Hope by the time you read this column the weather has warmed up. It seemed that winter did not want to go away, especially the snow. Some of the special dates in April are the 5th, 15th, 19th, 22nd, and 26th. Hopefully, you changed your clocks and Sprang Forward otherwise that is why you have been late to all of your appointments. But the question is did you also use this event to change all your smoke alarm batteries. You should test your alarms monthly. The entire smoke alarm system (all units) whether battery-powered or hardwired in the home's electrical system should be replaced every 8-10 years. While you are at it, you should also check your carbon monoxide detector too. Check out [www.carbonmonoxidekills.com](http://www.carbonmonoxidekills.com) for understanding the dangers of carbon monoxide.

A number of Fairfield High School graduating seniors briefed the Carroll Valley Council on their senior projects. Trisha Zimmerman is holding the first community "Tell Every Amazing Lady" (TEAL) 5k Walk at the Carroll Valley Commons on Saturday, April 5th at 9:00 am. Registration begins at 8:00 am and the registration costs \$20.00. All the proceeds benefit the Tell Every Amazing Lady About Ovarian Cancer Organization. The TEAL organization mission is to promote public awareness and education of the signs, symptoms and risk factors of Ovarian Cancer, while provid-

ing support to survivors and raising funds for research in order to find a cure for Ovarian Cancer. If you need more information, contact Trisha at [tkzetter18@yahoo.com](mailto:tkzetter18@yahoo.com). Also, on April 5th at 1:00 pm a Senior Project Golf Tournament will be held at Mountain View Golf Club. The purpose of the tournament is to raise money for an outfield fence at the baseball field located in the Ranch section of Carroll Valley. The seniors working on this project are Chase Senseney, Brett Harris, Dalton Carbaugh, and David Stone. Admission is \$240.00 for a 4 person team. It is a Best Ball tournament with a shotgun start. Come out, play and help these students help their community. Dave Hazlett, our borough manager, is a mentor to these young people performing these Senior Projects being performed in Carroll Valley. Thank you for your involvement.

If you are just starting to prepare your taxes to meet the April 15th deadline, there are a couple of places that may offer you some help. The Adams County Office for Aging (ACOFA) tax aide volunteers provide Tax Counseling for the Elderly to older citizens of Adams County. The tax assistance program is in cooperation with the IRS and the ACOFA. It is a free service that can address tax issues for most middle to low-income taxpayers. The office is located at 318 West Middle Street, Gettysburg. Their phone number is (717) 334-9296. Your

2013 Individual Earned Income Tax (EIT) Return is also due to be filed with the York Adams Tax Bureau (YATB). If you have questions or need assistance in preparing the EIT submission, YATB is offering "free of charge" assistance. No appointment is necessary. The office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. They have two offices. The Gettysburg Office is located at 240 West Street in Gettysburg. Their phone number is (717) 334-4000. The York Office is located at 1405 North Duke Street in York. Their phone number is (717) 845-1584. Online filing is available on their website at [www.yatb.com](http://www.yatb.com).

The Carroll Valley Citizens Association (CVCA) is holding their Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th at Carroll Valley Commons from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Earth Day is April 22nd. U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson is considered the "Father of Earth Day". The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970.

On Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Fairfield Fire & EMS Department on Steelman Street, the Carroll Valley Borough Police and Liberty Township Police Departments along with the State Police will be partnering with Collaborating For Youth and Fairfield Fire & EMS fire department to carry out the sixth Adams County "Take Back" medicine collection. This medicine collection provides an opportunity for Adams County residents to dis-

pose of unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications safely and free of charge. Pills, liquids, creams, and pill bubble-packs will be accepted. No needles or sharps will be accepted. Seventy percent of people abusing prescription pain relievers get them (take) from family and friends. In fact, more teens abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana (SAMHSA 2011). In addition, safely disposing of prescription drugs and unused OTC medications helps reduce the damage to groundwater and the environment. Adams County's medication collection and disposal is being sponsored by the Pennsylvania Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration in partnership with local and State Police, local fire departments, Collaborating For Youth, and the Adams County Department of Environmental Services. For more information regarding the Adams County TAKE BACK, please contact Eileen Grenell, 717-338-0300 x 24, or [drugfree@cfygettysburg.com](mailto:drugfree@cfygettysburg.com).

Are you aware of the PennDOT "Yellow Dot" program? A yellow dot decal is placed on the lower left corner of participant's vehicle's rear

windshield. The decal alerts first responders that vital information can be found in the vehicle's glove compartment. If you are interested, go to PennDOT's website [www.yellowdot.pa.gov](http://www.yellowdot.pa.gov). When you visit the site, you will be asked to fill out a form that documents your emergency contact information, medications, allergies and your doctor's name. Why participate? If you are in an accident and unconscious, the first responder is aware of your personal health needs at the site and will be able to communicate that information to medical personnel. You also may be interested in acquiring the Blue Medical History Card from WellSpan. This foldable card allows individuals to record their medical record information (allergies, medications, past surgeries and important phone numbers). Please consider it.

The Borough meetings in April are: Planning Commission (April 7th); Finance Committee (April 14th); Council Meeting (April 15th); Parks/Recreation Committee (April 23rd) and Sewer/Water Authority (April 28th). Please watch your speed when driving. There will be more residents walking the trails. If you have any questions, please contact me by calling me at (301) 606-2021. Keep dry!



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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

## County Commissioner Marty Qually

In early 2013, the Adams County Commissioners and Court began discussions concerning future facilities for County and Court-related offices. In the fall of 2013, the Commissioners requested the Court explore whether a viable alternative existed to the current practice of leasing office space. All parties understood that the discussion was framed in the context of the three most pressing issues involving the management of County facilities: (1) planning for future growth, (2) security, and (3) the efficient and effective use of County facilities to adequately accommodate the needs of both our local government as well as the needs of the community. Importantly, all parties also understood the need for such planning to include responsible fiscal management within the context of the current economy; the plan must be budget neutral at a minimum.

As the Court and County have been involved in facilities planning since as far back as 2006, numerous sources of information were available to assist resolution of the issue presented. Following an initial review of that information, the Court presented an assessment of their findings and offered a proposal to the Commissioners on January 15, 2014. The Court concluded that a new County owned facility could be built for less than the County was currently paying in leases. The

Court proposed demolishing the current building on the County owned lot that is currently occupied by the offices of Magisterial District Judge Harvey. The proposal suggested the erection of a facility containing three floors of office space with an additional lower level dedicated to parking at a total construction cost not to exceed \$8.3 million. The proposed facility would house the offices of Adams County Children and Youth Services, the Department of Domestic Relations, and the Department of Probation Services. The Court suggested that since each of the affected departments provide critical human services, location of the departments at a joint facility would increase service delivery to the community. While the proposal did not eliminate the need for continued long-term planning, it did address significant issues related to security, overcrowding, and inefficiencies.

Upon receipt of the Court proposal, the County Commissioners reviewed the financial aspects of the proposal. In addition, the Court indicated their intent to form an advisory committee of community members to objectively review the merits of the proposal. The Court Facility Advisory Committee was formed on February 26, 2014 and was tasked with assessing the current state of County facilities with a view towards the best option to further the dual interests of efficient ser-

vice delivery in a financially responsible manner.

While I cannot possibly outline the Committee's full report in this article a copy of the full 10 page report may be viewed on the county's website [www.adamscounty.us](http://www.adamscounty.us). What follows are excerpts from the report showing seven options that they reviewed and their final recommendation.

The Court's Committee created and reviewed seven options to address future needs. They were (1) Continued status quo, (2) Purchase the former American Legion Building and the Union Square Building, (3) Purchase either the former American Legion Building or the Union Square Building and continue to lease the other, (4) Remodel the former St. Francis School Building, (5) Build a new facility on the St. Francis property, (6) Build a new facility on the site currently occupied by the Office of Magisterial District Judge Harvey (The original Court proposal), or (7) Build a new facility on the County owned property in Straban Township.

Please take the time to read the entire report to learn the pros and cons of each option, but in the end the Committee chose to endorse the seventh option to build a new facility on the County owned property in Straban Township. The County currently owns a significant amount of property located in Straban which is currently vacant with the exception

of the Adams County Correctional Complex and the Emergency Management Building.

The advantage of constructing a new facility at the Straban Township property is that the new facility would eliminate the need to maintain the three existing leases. The County would acquire an asset on its investment and with the ability to construct a building not to exceed \$8.3 million. Construction of the facility would result in a long-term tax relief without any increase in short term expenses. The Straban site allows the County to develop a building footprint limited only by expense and thus will promote the most efficient design to deliver the services housed at the facility. The site permits accommodations for unexpected future growth and expansion. Zoning and historic architectural considerations would not preclude construction of an environmentally friendly "green" building. The new facility would be able to provide unlimited parking for employees and the public.

The Committee's evaluation concludes that the Court's proposal for construction of a new facility makes economic sense. The financial information provided establishes that construction of a new facility which does not exceed \$8.3 million in total costs will result in a long-term budget savings. The new facility can be developed within the limitations of

the County's current budget and would not require any tax increase associated with a new project.

Over the length of the financing, new construction will actually provide tax relief by freeing the County from uncontrollable lease arrangements. Initially, we note that demolition and construction at the St. Francis lot is, at this time, not a financially viable option as it would result in a tax increase. Moreover, the preservation of that lot has potential to accommodate future needs would be preserved and is the proper subject of future discussion and planning. Although the Committee supports the Court's proposal for construction of a new facility, our evaluation has led us in a direction other than construction at the Middle Street property. While construction of a new facility on Middle Street is a viable option, we have concluded that a better option exists. More specifically, construction of a new facility at the Straban lot has much greater potential and best guards the County against unanticipated growth.

While the Committee recognizes that there may be operational hurdles in having the facility located some distance from the Courthouse, it is the belief of the Committee that technological accommodations will minimize this impact. This recommendation is made however taking into account the Court's need to evaluate the impact this distance may have on the operational aspects of Court related services.

## State Representative Dan Moul

The House Consumer Affairs Committee is holding hearings to address recent electric rate spikes for customers with variable rate electric generation contracts. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has fielded about 9,000 complaints from customers with variable rate contracts who were hit with exceedingly high electric bills following recent storms and record low temperatures.

In testimony at the March 20 public hearing, I told the committee about the complaints I have received from constituents who were stunned to receive dramatically higher electric bills. I told the committee that for those with low or fixed incomes, it may be impossible to pay.

I support House Bill 2104 because it will address these concerns. The bill would protect variable rate customers by capping rate increases and requiring variable rate contracts to contain language warning customers about the nature of variable rates. The bill also shortens the time required to switch service to another supplier.

Indeed, it has been a difficult winter and forecasters indicate we still have some cool and unsettled weather ahead. Officials of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) say the unusual winter weather has delayed trout stocking in some areas. To see the trout stocking schedule for

your area, go to [www.RepMoul.com](http://www.RepMoul.com). Trout season officially opens in the 18 county southeast region including Adams and Franklin counties on March 29, and statewide on April 12.

As a member of the House Game and Fisheries Committee, I am growing increasingly concerned about a trend that is limiting public access to brooks, creeks and streams and other fishable waterways in our Commonwealth, and I am introducing legislation to change this.

The growing number of "keep out" and "no trespassing" signs, posted along both sides of non-navigable and navigable waterways, effectively blocks public access to waters that may or do contain fish stocked by the PFBC and paid for by sportsmen. I believe licensed anglers have a right to be there and I am sponsoring legislation to open up these waterways for public use and enjoyment. My legislation would amend the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code to allow the public to fish in any waters in which fish, stocked by the PFBC, may migrate or be present.

Under current law, waters considered navigable must be open to the public for fishing to the normal high water mark. However, waters that are considered non-navigable or that have never been deemed navigable may be closed to public fishing by simply posting the property on both sides of the water. Even though

these are still considered Commonwealth waters, there is rising concern that the public's opportunity to fish is being limited due to the increase in postings along properties bordering these waters.

Some groups and individuals have been taking advantage of the law and are posting lands along non-navigable waters as "no public fishing" areas. Meanwhile, they may grant certain anglers exclusive access to the fishing area in exchange for membership dues or user fees. This blocks public access by licensed anglers to fish stocked by the PFBC and paid for by all Commonwealth sportsmen who purchase fishing licenses or pay taxes on the purchase of fishing equipment. I believe that Commonwealth waters that may or do contain fish stocked by the state should be open to anyone with a Pennsylvania fishing license.

As vice chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee, I understand the importance of Pennsylvania waterways to the state's tourism industry. Limiting access to fishing will impact small businesses in communities all across the state that provide hotel rooms, meals, gas and consumer goods to visitors, and much-needed tax revenue for the state. I plan to introduce my legislation very soon.

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## COMMENTARY

## Words from Winterbilt

## On the redistribution of wealth

Shannon Bohrer

A common complaint within some segments of the press is that the government is trying to redistribute the wealth. Apparently some people actually believe that the government is about to do this—because of the reported income inequality that has also been in the news. With the reporting there has also been some press coverage of a Mr. Perkins, who happens to be a billionaire. It seems that Mr. Perkins has equated the treatment of wealthy people in America to the Nazi attacks on Jews just before the Holocaust. He wrote that in a letter that was published in the Wall Street Journal. I am a student of history and I just do not see the connection. Does he really think we have concentration camps for the wealthy and that the government wants to take his wealth?

While a lot has been printed and said about redistribution of wealth, there has also been a lot said and written about the 1 percent. The 1 percent being the wealthiest individuals in our society. Mr. Perkins is in the 1 percent, which is a good place to be. During 28 years, ending in 2007, the average after-tax income for the top 1 percent increased by 275 percent. At the same time there was an increase of 20 percent for the bottom 20 percent. Apparently the top 1 percent are doing very well with some

doing extremely well. The heirs to Wal-Mart are in the group doing extremely well and are worth a reported \$89.5 billion. For a clear perspective, \$89.5 billion is equivalent to the wealth of almost 49 million households. The heirs include six people.

According to a report by Credit Suisse (a Swiss bank) there were 98,700 individuals, worldwide, with net worth more than \$50 million, with more than half of them in the United States. It was also reported that the top 10 percent of U.S. earners control two-thirds of American wealth. There has been an inequality in the distribution of incomes over time. In 1982 the top 1 percent of earners earned 12.8 percent of the total national income and by 2006 they earned 21.3 percent. And in a strange coincidence this distribution difference has not been seen since the Depression era. In 2013 in American the top 1 percent took in an average of \$1.3 million per year, while the average American earns just \$33,000 per year.

You would think that Mr. Perkins would be happy since the United States has more income and wealth inequality than many countries and that would seem to affect him in a positive way. But just how the rich got richer is a good question and there have been multiple theories in the public conversation. One theory is that they are just paid more. If we examine the 299 compa-

nies in the S&P 500 Index, thirty years ago the CEO's average compensation was 42 times that of the average worker. In 2010, the CEO's average compensation was 343 times more than the average worker. The CEO makes an average of \$11.4 million and the average worker made \$33,190. From 42 times to 343, that is a big jump.

Another theory is that the one percent is just smarter, they work harder and they have just risen to the top because of their talent. That sounds good until you realize that this country has always had talented individuals that have risen to the top, but the wealth has not always been concentrated so much in so few. However, there have been times when the wealth distribution was as great. During the late 1800's when the Robber Barrons owned and ran everything was one of those times. Of course it was easier then because the rich had no regulations to comply with. That's why monopolies however existed until the government created regulations. Of course there was a lot of opposition to the regulations; after all they were viewed as "job killers." Then just before the Great Depression there was another period of great wealth inequity. This time many the wealthy ran the financial institutions and when they collapsed we had a depression, a big one.

Another theory is that the widening the income inequality between the rich and poor is related to tax policies that benefit the rich. Reportedly the tax



policies have been favoring the rich for over thirty years. I am sure this theory has legs since many of the wealthy have influence in congress. Every time a politician says they need income tax reform to jump start the economy, what they mean is they need to lower the top rates for the one percent which includes lowering the capital gains tax. In 1977 the maximum capital gains rate (long term) was 39.75 percent and by 2009 the maximum rate was 15.35 percent. Influence can - and does work.

Of course the top one percent does have a valid complaint that they pay an estimated 30 percent of all taxes (in 2013). And it is also estimated that the top 10 percent pay 66 percent of all taxes. While that may seem extreme, remember that the top 10 percent of U.S. earners control two-thirds of American wealth, that's around 66 percent.

Remember the venture capitalist Mr. Tom Perkins, who compared equated the treatment of wealthy people in America to the Nazi attacks on

Jews just before the Holocaust. That same Mr. Perkins recently was in the news again. This time Mr. Perkins believes that people that do not pay taxes should not vote. As he said, "The Tom Perkins system is: You don't get to vote unless you pay a dollar of taxes." He also added, "But what I really think is, it should be like a corporation. You pay a million dollars in taxes, you get a million votes. How can a billionaire be so un-informed? Normal billionaires already have a return that exceeds our votes. They get what they want not by popular choice, but because of what they can buy elections, I mean contribute to elections.

Trickledown economics does work, if you are rich. You would think that Mr. Perkins, who is a billionaire, would already know that the redistribution of the wealth has already occurred.

To read past editions of Words from Winterbilt visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

## Common Cents

## Cooperation or confrontation?

Ralph Murphy

The whereabouts and specific circumstances of ill-fated, Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 may never be known. What is certain is a change of mindset among South China Sea neighbors who had been locked in a seemingly intractable, diplomatic and even military conflict with The People's Republic of China over maritime disputes in the region. All the nations that had been locked in various conflicts, are now helping the PRC find the missing Malaysian plane. One that carried about two-thirds Chinese citizens.

Malaysia itself spearheaded the search effort for its missing aircraft after it disappeared on 8 March while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing International Airport. The Boeing 777 was lost to surveillance less than an hour after take off. Its 239 passengers and crew included citizens from 15 nations and regions.

When they were unable to perform an adequate search for the plane themselves, Malaysia requested outside aid and quickly got it from China who activated a seldom used "International Charter on Space and Major Disasters (ICSMD)" to mobilize a 15 member body whose purpose is "to provide a unified system of space data (for) delivery to those affected by natural or man made disasters." It brought together satellite imagery and communications from mostly developed nations to in-

clude the United States, France, Australia, and others, but did not include the major intelligence functions of these countries, hence proved largely useless.

The ICSMD was founded on 1 November 2000 and successfully used to monitor natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and volcanoes. Flight 370's disappearance was the first plane the organization had ever tried to locate.

The search for Flight 370 began in the Gulf of Thailand, and the South China Sea, and extended to the Strait of Malacca. No trace of it was found and the effort was then extended into the Andaman Sea and the Indian Ocean. By 15 March military radar data provided by satellite, indicated the plane had wandered off course for about seven hours, and probably crashed in the Indian Ocean somewhere to the south of Indonesia, and west of Australia. On 16 March satellite imagery revealed the possible whereabouts of the plane, and a 26-nation air and sea rescue effort was mounted two days later.

By 24 March Malaysia's government-run "Air Agreements Investigation Branch (AAIB)" concluded "beyond any reasonable doubt" that the plane crashed into the Indian Ocean without any survivors. By 28 March an area 1,850 kilometers west of Perth, Australia was being scoured, and, as of this writing on 30 March, nothing specifically linked to Flight 370 has been found.

While it is still largely conjecture as to why the plane disappeared, China had a plethora of antagonists in the area that were upset by their territorial claims in the South China Sea. The PRC asserts a historic claim in this area, based on a so-called "9 dash line" demarcation that encompasses most of the South China Sea as their territory. They were largely able to assert control in the region during the post World War II period, as other regional powers who also claimed islands and maritime areas lacked the military power to enforce them.

The Chinese claims include a swath of territory that is rich in fishing and resources such as oil and natural gas. It also provides strategic control of shipping lanes that carry more than half of the oil being transported by sea to Far East ports of call. As China's economy develops, so too does its transport needs for commodities and finished goods. Oil alone that is traversing the region is three times that which flows through the Suez Canal, and five times that of the Panama Canal.

When the Flight 370 disappearance began, there were eight major territorial disputes going on between China and its neighbors. All have offered their help in searching for the missing plane. Taiwan, that is claimed as PRC territory, and is refused diplomatic ties with the 21 United Nations members who consider it a country, has provided two Coast Guard vessels for the search.

India is helping, even though it lost

territory to the PRC in 1962 and still skirmishes with China on its Western border. Despite this fact, the Indians have offered air and sea support to include units from the Adaman and Nicobar islands, and they are furnishing satellite data to the Chinese search efforts.

Japan, a historic colonial oppressor of Chinese regions such as Manchuria, and a nation that is currently locked in an East China Sea land and sea dispute with that nation, has provided air defense units to include Lockheed C-130's and even a disaster relief team.

A 1974 Naval battle between China and Vietnam resulted in a PRC victory and annexation of the Paracel islands. Vietnam still claims the territory along with the nearby Spratly islands, along with an Economic Exclusion Zone that China "muscles" out of the South China Sea. The zone is also claimed by Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, and Indonesia. The claims have turned belligerent at times and require a constant Chinese, naval presence. Despite their ongoing near term hostilities, each nation is involved in the rescue effort for Flight 370. They collectively provide air and sea support materiel.

How long this era of good feeling lasts is unknown at this point in time. Bringing together such a diverse group of friendly and not so friendly nations before the Flight 370 incident was unthinkable. But somehow it happened.

China sees the South China Sea as an area of natural resources that is worth \$1 trillion in 2014 dollars. It is priceless as an avenue for transport of goods, as its economy continues to grow and provide for its population of 1.36 bil-

lion hungry people. China's military budget to enforce its claims amounted to about \$126 billion in 2012. The other six countries in the South China Sea area collectively paid less than \$30 billion on defense. Malaysia paid \$4.7 billion of that sum. You can see where a Flight 370 rescue operation was considered unlikely and expensive.

Many of the regional powers welcome President Obama's military and economic "Pivot" to Asia as a "counter weight" to the rising Chinese star. The Philippines even invited US troops back onto their islands. Unthinkable in 1991 when the diplomatic battle to close Subic Bay naval base and Clark Air Base was finally achieved.

Sometimes it takes a disaster to bring out the best in people and nations. It was heart warming to see how the international community rushed to Ukraine's aid as it was being threatened and invaded by its belligerent, bully-neighbor in Moscow. Now we are seeing a similar response as China tries to find closure to the Flight 370 disaster.

Whatever happened to the plane, whether linked to terrorism or misdirected nationalism - every effort has been made to determine and deal with its fate. Given that level of involvement, effort, and commitment it seems likely the puzzle will be solved. A costly venture, but a very humane response. Perhaps the entire region, and by extension- the world will benefit.

To read past editions of Common Cents visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

# Pure OnSense Strawngmen

Scott Zuke

March was full of events appearing to signal the return of “strongman” era leadership on the international stage. By far the most visible was Russian President Vladimir Putin, who used the political crisis in Ukraine as an opportunity to invade the Crimean peninsula. The international community was caught off guard by the speed and gall of Russia’s annexation, and soon realized that its demands to respect Ukraine’s territorial integrity were futile. Crimea was already lost.

Right-wingers criticized President Obama’s “weakness” on foreign policy for emboldening Putin’s aggressive action, and some even seemed to admire his display of strength. Pundits jumped to discuss Russia’s rise to power and the prospect of a new Cold War, exhuming Reagan-era bluster to try to counter Putin’s renewed imperialistic intentions.

Perhaps it is beneficial to be too young to remember the Cold War.

What some are calling Putin’s power play in Crimea is actually a stark sign of Russia’s weakness, its lingering internal decay since the fall of the Soviet Union. Consider Putin’s motivation for retaking the

peninsula. It wasn’t to display Russian military strength, since taking Crimea hardly requires any, nor was it intended to bolster Russia’s international influence. On the contrary, the seizure predictably resulted in a broad rebuke from the United Nations, expulsion from the G-8, and even China, its ally against the West, has decided to steer clear of the whole mess.

Putin took Crimea for domestic political reasons: to appear strong to the Russian public by defying the West; to return to Russian hands a territory lost in the breakup of the Soviet Union with important ties to the country’s history, religion, and culture; and to stir up some sense of nationalist pride to help distract from Russia’s other serious problems, from corruption to rampant alcoholism. The annexation has accomplished little more than boosting Putin’s popularity numbers at home, and it comes at a steep price to Russia’s standing in the international community. Taking Crimea may have been the act of a ‘strongman’-style ruler, but it was not an action by a strong man.

Putin is just one example of this confusion over what constitutes the strength of the state. For another,

look south, across the Black Sea from Crimea at recent events in Turkey. In March, the neo-authoritarian Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, trying to prevent the public dissemination of audio and video recordings that implicate himself and other top government officials in corrupt behavior, ordered a ban on Twitter and YouTube. He boldly disregarded critics of the move, saying at a campaign rally, “We will wipe out Twitter. I don’t care what the international community says,” adding, “They will see the Turkish republic’s strength.”

Censorship of social media is a common tool in the neo-authoritarian toolbox—a reminder to the people of the state’s control over what they can see and say—but Erdogan’s move could hardly have backfired worse. Turkish citizens almost immediately figured out how to circumvent the block on Twitter, and usage of the social platform surged. Images protesting the ban went viral. One showed the Turkish flag with the star replaced by the Twitter bird logo and the crescent moon chasing it, like Pac-Man pursuing a ghost. Another depicted a bruised, disheveled blue bird posing for a mug shot. While amusing, these pictures got the truth of the matter backwards. A better political cartoon would show Erdogan boldly touting the “Turkish republic’s strength” in one frame, and cowering at the sight of the Twitter bird logo in the next.

Adding insult to injury, a Turkish court overturned the Twitter ban after less than a week. Apparently it wasn’t just the international community that Erdogan should have been worried about, and now the true weakness of his strongman regime has been laid bare.

Continuing south, Egypt may be between strongman leaders, but that hasn’t prevented the interim government from exercising strongman tactics. In March an Egyptian judge sentenced 529 alleged supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi to death for killing an officer during an attack on a police station last August. It was reportedly the largest capital punishment case on record in Egypt, and there are already at least two more on the way.

The conviction was seen as the latest tool in the transitional government’s crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood and its supporters, following on the group’s designation as a terrorist organization. The trial blatantly flaunted due process, attracting international condemnation. And once again, it was a move intended to project the strength of the state that instead exposes its weakness.

Since the July 3 coup, more than 16,000 people have been arrested and many hundreds have been killed in clashes with security forces. This new tactic of sloppy mass trials shows that the country lacks the

institutional capacity to deal with its security crisis, and raises the question of how hard it’s really trying. Terrorist attacks originating from the Sinai peninsula have risen dramatically in recent months, and it’s not clear how incarcerating thousands of civilians because of their religious identity and political views will help improve that situation. Instead, the Muslim Brotherhood is being used as a scapegoat, as well as a distraction from Egypt’s ominous economic vulnerability.

It’s not only the mass trials, either. Egypt has also detained and charged three Al Jazeera English journalists with spreading false news and belonging to a terrorist group (i.e. the Brotherhood). Ironically, they are accused of tarnishing Egypt’s international image, but there is hardly anything a news outlet can do to undermine a nation’s reputation quicker than a single photograph of a foreign journalist being held for trial in a cage.

It’s a photo we have seen before, such as of the glassed-in box that held the Russian rock group, Pussy Riot. The image of the caged defendant perhaps best illustrates the paradox of the supposedly omnipotent state that can completely contain a citizen—but also has to.

*To read past editions of Pure OnSense visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

# Down Under Blindsided

Submitted by Lindsay!  
Melbourne, Australia

*Calamity, n. A more than commonly plain and unmistakable reminder that affairs of this life are not of our own ordering. Calamities are of two kinds: misfortune to ourselves, and good fortune to others.*

One of the great writers of Australian history was Donald Horne, who coined the phrase ‘The Lucky Country’. This was meant to convey just how fortunate this country has been in its migrants, its resources, its heritage and industry, and at the time it was written, in the 1950’s, this was abundantly true. We were self-sufficient, a major producer of wool, wheat, and minerals, which, considering we inhabit the second driest continent on earth (only the Antarctic is drier), and have a population in the low twenty millions, is not bad. The people were generally happy, industrious, with a high standard of reasonable living, fine social security, a British heritage, and a stable economy. We grumbled a lot; things could be better, the old values were being eroded, with most complaints coming from the conservatives, who, as their title suggests, would like to conserve the old ways and ideas, but not anything new - like equality, minimum wages, tolerance and social justice.

Yes, this was Australia, but it could have just as easily been America. Our

luck, in comparison to yours, was like picking up a pair of queens in the game of life, while you had dealt to you pairs of aces and jacks which you managed to convert to a full house, enough to win the game. Envious? Not at all. Well, sometimes, but that’s normal, as is the fact that loyalty to the country of your birth or adoption is a very powerful magnet.

But we all like to grumble, don’t we? Some things are just plain wrong, prejudices prevail over common sense, laws pass to help the greedy at the expense of the worker, and honestly, who can you trust these days? It can get so bad that it would be better to live somewhere else, somewhere that right thinking prevails, where pinkies do not call the shots and the old values of law and order are upheld.

Well, I for one do not wish to leave home - it is, after all, where my heart is - but wouldn’t it be great to live in a place where things were better than this? I mean, this is ridiculous - laws that restrict my freedom, being forced to work for idiots and having to put up with all those migrants stealing my job.

Of course it is, and so many feel this way. BUT - there is a solution.

Let’s join a break away, make our own state and put the right things in place. Other states were carved out of this great land, and we can do the same. Make our own laws, set our own tax rates, keep right thinking people safe, form our own industries that pay the right wages.

Well, we did just that here in Aus-

ie last century, and it looks as though the push towards this idea is gaining strength over in your land. Jefferson in Northern California may split off, and, shock horror, West Maryland in your own backyard is ready for action. Oh my! Are you folk in Emmitsburg going to be part of this push for a smaller, leaner government with reduced - or no - taxes and fees, but that understands your rural needs?

Scott Strzelcyk believes your state government plans to tighten gun controls, and is driven by Agenda 21, a sustainable development plan developed by the United Nations. Sustainable development? Now that is surely going too far. In the old days we just took what we wanted, then moved on.

Further to the north we read “Downstate families are tired of Chicago dictating its view to the rest of us”, said state representative Bill Mitchell; together with fellow republican Adam Brown a new state is planned to allow all right leaning (thinking) citizens get out from under the ‘stranglehold’ of Democratic domination.

Even Colorado has become too liberal for some, while movements in New York, Virginia, and no doubt elsewhere are jumping on this disunity train. It’s interesting to see that there are apparently no Democrats trying to emulate them, even though there are many strongly conservative states and areas. It suggests the Dems are tad more aware of the problems such movements face should they succeed, and can hardly be unaware of the rhetoric, at least.

I can only guess at the causes of this revolt, but they have been growing in fervor if not in reality - so far.

It boggles the mind to even think of the implications, particularly the impossibility of such a state working, but putting that aside for a moment, it is all too apparent that such movements are born out of a sense of calamity (see the quote at the beginning) that has arisen because the democratic process has to been adhered to. The tunnel vision of the protagonists certainly has to be unwavering.

In truth, such folk are self-centered, unwilling to live in the society around them because it does not suit them. I’d ask them if they would prefer to live in a land where the bikie gangs had complete control, where slavery was a way of life, where edicts punish even basic freedoms, where talking or writing anything not approved by the government of ruling body was punished with banishment or death, and where you were not free to talk to a member of the opposite sex in the street?

Because this is how a third of the world’s population live, those who would give anything to have a day’s safety or peace. Your breakaways have never had it so good, and might well take a look at how the oppressed live and seek to help them before they try to tweak the shape of their society into their preferred mould - which will not suit them anyway, because others will be in it.

However, there is a far greater threat such movements set loose: The focus of attention is on them - they do not mind that, it’s what they really want anyway - and away from things outside their realm. One of these outside things has been around for a few decades, but just sprouted new wings. It is the long term

plans of China. They will challenge the might of your country sometime soon, will only play at peace unless heavy concessions are made, and despise democracy. Yes, they have many problems, but such a dictatorship doesn’t have to please its citizens, they have to please it. Their latest foray was to send their navy into the Indian ocean for a look around. That’s scary, more scary than Democrat liberalism or Republican anxiety.

Isn’t it about time the malcontents around you stopped looking at themselves in the mirror, took the rose coloured specs off (even though they believe the image they see is tarnished), and had a long hard look at the world around them? It’s not a lot of fun when you have not seen the wider issues and finished up blindsided.

None of us live in a world of isolation, our lives are ultimately shaped by things outside our borders, and come what may we do have to live with people different to us; people who may be beneath us, with beliefs, values and ways that make us shudder, but then - no one

Well, yes they are. At least here in Australia we tend to be pretty tolerant, get on with things, but not liking a class system. Our new state, carved out of Western Australia early last century, lasted about five years, then collapsed with much amusement from the onlookers. I’d give any of yours about two years.

Then we could really party.

Lindsay, from coalesced down under.

*To read past editions of Down Under visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

## THE PASTOR'S DESK

# Christ paid it forward for us

**Pastor Gary Buchman**  
**Emmitsburg Community**  
**Bible Church**

A few years back there was a good movie called, Pay It Forward with Helen Hunt, Kevin Spacey. It's about an idea that a small boy came up with as a project in a Social Studies class, for changing the world. He would help change someone's life and that person would not have to pay him back, they would be asked to pay it forward by helping to change someone else's life. Well, that was God's idea, and His will for every Christ Follower. Let me explain.

In a few weeks we will remember the greatest event of human history. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh. He would die not only physically but spiritually, paying the penalty of death that we all deserved and were condemned to pay. But just a few days later He would rise from the dead proving that He is God in the flesh and that our sins were indeed paid for. He then gives forgiveness, grace, peace, adoption, and eternal life to anyone who will

turn from their sins and humbly receive His gift. None of which we deserve, but all of which we are given without probation, or reservation. Is this too good to be true? Is there a catch? Yes! He wants us to Pay it Forward!

It is a gift from our gracious God. Romans 6:23 reminds us that, "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." We earned death because of our sins, but God graced us with life as a gift in Jesus Christ. God wants us to pay it forward. We who received what we did not deserve are told to give grace to others who may not deserve it. How do we do that?

Christian and non-believers, have suggested such things as paying the toll for the car behind us or to pay for the meal at the drive in window for the car behind us. Those are fun ways and there are more. But I would like to suggest a few that are a little harder but what our God wants us to do.

First, Forgive those who have wounded or offended you. This is the teaching of Jesus (Matt. 6:12; 18:21-35; and Eph. 4:28-30).

Paul said, "Put away all malice and evil speaking and be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ sake has forgiven you." In other words, pay it forward. Do they deserve it? No! But, neither did we, yet He gave it to us anyway. To forgive is to release the person from their debt to us. But more, forgiveness also releases us from the prison of our own anger, hatred and bitterness. Forgiveness does not remove the pain, or the memory of that pain, but it frees us from the bondage of that pain. Pay it forward. Forgive from your heart and feel the weight lift from your shoulders (Matt. 18:35; Mark 11:25).

Second, Grace those who are in need. The reason they are in need may be their own fault, but we don't believe in karma, we believe in grace. Grace is a gift given without merit. Grace is always undeserved. We didn't deserve it, yet God lavished it on us as Jesus illustrates to us with the story of the Prodigal son. The word prodigal means to spend lavishly even foolishly. That is exactly what God does with His grace for every person who receives Jesus. Jesus illustrated this personally when he picked up a basin and a towel and washed the feet of at least 12 men. One of these men would betray Him, another would deny Him, and all of them would desert Him in His greatest need, yet He washed all their dirty feet (John 13:1-17). He then tells us to love each other the same way He loved us. There are hungry, homeless, and hopeless people whose condition may be their own fault, yet Jesus wants us to feed, cloth, visit, and help them, because He did for us. The only reason necessary is that we have received such grace. These may be people in jail, nursing homes, hospitals, re-habs, or the older people who live next door. They may be in a foreign country. Pay it forward. Show love to someone who needs it today. (Read Isaiah 58; Matthew 25:31-40; James 1:25)

Third, give the Hope of Eternal

Life with Jesus. If Jesus Christ has changed your life, God wants you to pay it forward by telling others how they too can have eternal life. This hope is not wishful thinking, like hoping the Orioles and Ravens will win championships or hitting the lottery; rather, it is the sure guarantee kind of hope, like getting a pay check after you have worked for your employer. God's hope is the absolute certainty of forgiveness, grace, and eternal life. The last command that Jesus gave before He ascended into Heaven was to tell people how to have this sure hope. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 26:18). Jesus's mission was to seek and to save the lost and He wants that to be our mission as well. Don't keep the faith, give it away. Tell someone how they can have the gift of eternal life. Pay it forward.

As I write this, my dad is dying. He is under hospice care. My dad was a humble farmer who taught me about life. My dad loved Jesus and spent much of the last 20 years, helping hundreds of people to find hope in Jesus Christ by using 5 colored beads on a piece of rawhide. Like this:

- The Gold Bead – This was a reminder of heaven. Heaven is where we all want to be when we die (John 14:1-3). But we have a problem

- The Black Bead – Describes the sin that we all have. We all are sinners (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). Sin can't be in heaven, But God made a way to forgive sinners
- The Red Bead – Reminds us that Jesus came because He loves us and He bleed and died to pay for our sins (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). He then offers us the gift of eternal life
- The White Bead – Describes the heart that has been forgiven when a person receives Jesus.
- The Green Bead – Is a reminder for new Christians to grow by attending a Bible teaching church, reading their Bible, praying to their new Father in Heaven, and to Pay their gift Forward.

Soon my dad will be in Glory with Jesus, not because He was a good man, but because he received a gift from Jesus, and in His gratitude, he paid it forward. I hope you will do the same.

*Want to know more, give me a call at 301-447-6565 or email me at pastorgarybuchman@gmail.com. Better yet, stop by and see us on Sunday at 10:00 at the Emmitsburg Elementary School.*

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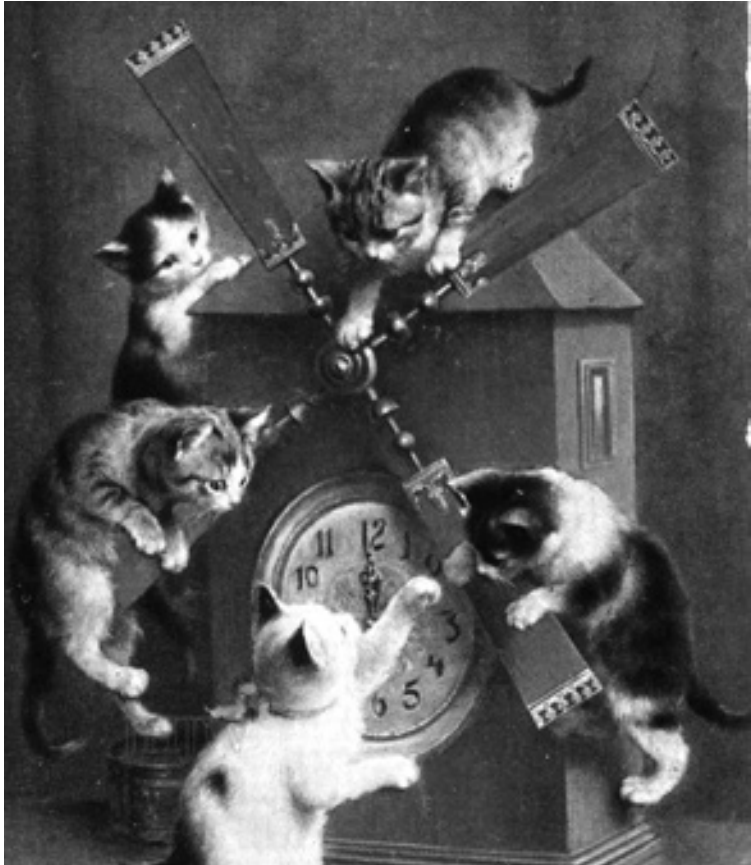
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THE BOOK OF DAYS

# Things by their right names



**April 25**  
The sportsmen of the middle ages invented a peculiar kind of language, with which it was necessary to be acquainted when speaking of things belonging to the chase. Different kinds of beasts, when going together in companies, were distinguished each by their own particular epithet, which was in some way descriptive of the nature or habits of the animal to which it was applied; and to have made a wrong use of one of these would have subjected him who made the mistake to undisguised ridicule; indeed, such is still the case, and to use the word dog, when sporting language would have that animal called a hound, would be an offence which the ears of a sportsman would not tolerate, and of which it would be no palliation to argue that, though every dog is not a hound, still, every hound is a dog.

Of the epithets applied to com-

panies of beasts in past times several are in use at the present day, though the greater part have passed away from us; or if they have not entirely done so, they are not all universally employed, though perhaps every one of them might still be found in existence if sought in the different counties of England. Of those which we daily apply we are at a loss to account for the origin in many cases, though no doubt when first employed the application seemed natural and descriptive enough; but as words are continually undergoing change in their spelling, or are subject to become obsolete or repudiated because old fashioned, we come, in time, no longer to recognize their source.

The following list will show what were those invented in the Middle Ages and what we retain. There was said to be a pride of lions; a lepe of leopards; a herde of harts, of bucks, and of all sorts of deer; a

bevy of roes; a sloth, of bears; a singular of boars; a sounder of wild swine; a doyft of tame swine; a route of wolves; a harms of hoses; a rag of colts; a stud of mares; a pace of asses; a baren of mules; a team of oxen; a drove of kine; a flock of sheep; a tribe of goats; a skulk of foxes; a cete of badgers; a richesse of martins; a fesynes of ferrets; a huske, or down of hares; a nest of rabbits; a clowder of cats, and a kindle of young cats; a shrewdness of apes, and a labour of moles. Also, of animals when they retired to rest, a hart was said to be harbored, a buck lodged, a roebuck bedded, a hare formed, a rabbit set. Two greyhounds were called a brace, and three a leash, but two harriers or spaniels were called a couple. We have also a mute of hounds for a number, a kennel of raches, a litter of whelps, and a cowardice of curs.

This kind of descriptive phraseology was not confined to birds and beasts and other of the brute creation, but extended to the human species and their various natures, propensities, and callings, as shown in the list below, in which the meaning of the epithets is more obvious than in many of the foregoing.

Here we have: a state of princes; a skulk of friars; a skulk of thieves; an observance of hermits; a subtiltie of sergeants; a safeguard of porters; a stalk of foresters; a blast of hunters; a draught of butlers; a temperance of cooks; a melody of harpers; a poverty of pipers; a drunkenship of cobblers; a disguising of tailors; a wandering of tinkers; a fighting of beggars; a ragful (a netful) of knaves; a blush of boys; a bevy of ladies; a nonpatience of wives; a gagle of women and a gagle of geese. As applied to inanimate things, there was a cluster of grapes, a cluster of nuts, a caste of bread, &c.

The cluster of

grapes and of nuts we are well acquainted with, but the caste of bread is quite gone, probably because bread is no longer baked in the same way as formerly, for by the word caste is meant that whole quantity of bread which was baked in a tin with divisions in it, or in a set of moulds all run together, and in that way the word is used as of something cast in a mould, as we say of metal. No doubt there was as much reason in all the terms when they were invented, and, as to the use of them, we are as rigorous as ever where we have them at all. Who would dare to call two horses anything but a pair when they are harnessed to a carriage, though they may be two in any other situation, and although four horses are four, let them be where they will. Then, two pheasants are a brace, two fowls are a pair, and two ducks are a couple, and so we might go on with an endless number.

**The Pony Express  
April 9**

The Pacific States, as they are called, of America, being separated from the rest by the wide sierra of the Rocky Mountains,—canal, railway, or even good roads not yet being practicable in that region,—communication necessarily becomes a difficulty. Even to convey letters over two thousand miles of prairie, mountain, and forest, was a task of a sufficiently formidable character.

This difficulty was, however, overcome in 1860, by the enterprise of a private firm. Messrs. Russell, Major, and Waddell, who had been engaged as contractors for the conveyance of

government stores, determined to establish a kind of express mail, by which letters should be conveyed in about a week between the two extreme points; depending partly on the commercial public and partly on the government for an adequate return.

The contractors first built stations along the line of route, at convenient intervals, stocking them plentifully; then purchased six hundred ponies, or strong service-able horses; then engaged a corps of fearless and trustworthy riders; and finally provided an equipment of riding-dress, letter-bags, revolvers, and rifles for the men. On the 9th of April 1860, the service commenced. Two pony-couriers started on the same day; one from St. Francisco, to come east; the other from St. Joseph on the Missouri, to go west.

When a pony had done his stage, at twelve miles an hour, he was replaced by another; and when a courier had done as many stages as he could accomplish without rest, another took his place. Thus the mail-bags were travelling incessantly at the rate of twelve miles an hour. Each mail accomplished the nineteen hundred miles of distance in about seven days and a half.

The system very soon became comparatively consolidated. The men suffered from fatigue, hunger, cold, heat, and especially from the attacks of Indians, but they persevered undauntedly; and the Pony Express might be considered as an established fact, so to remain till something better could be devised.

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# THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

## The voice of the turtle

Bill Meredith

*"For, Lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." ...*

—"The Song of Solomon," 2: 11-12.

*Def: "Homophone: a word that sounds like another word but means something different." ... Miss Rosina*

—Potesta, Senior English, East Fairmont High School, 1951.

Spring arrived on schedule at 12:27 P.M., March 20, Anno Domini 2014, and for a little while you could almost believe it. The temperature got clear up to 54 (normal for that date is 57), and the sun came out for a while and melted the last of the mound of snow that the plows had piled by our driveway. It didn't last, of course... within the week we were back into the 20s, with a mixture of snow and freezing rain... but there for a while it was

nice enough to get out in the yard and do things. I stood there for a while and gazed balefully at the dead leaves that blew in after I raked last fall, but at my age you can't afford to spend time being grumpy, so I decided to work on the plum tree that fell over last month.

Of course the easiest way to deal with the tree would have been with the chainsaw, but I couldn't remember where I'd put it. After a quarter of an hour's search, it finally emerged from under a pile of debris in the back of the garage, but then it refused to start. I diagnosed its problem as partly the result of old gasoline and a dirty carburetor, and partly what my Dad used to call "the innate cussedness of inanimate objects." The former could have been dealt with if I'd wanted to spend the next hour taking it apart; the latter was already there when I bought the infernal machine 25 years ago, and it is beyond my power to cure. So, since the weather was not likely to remain clement, I decided to clean the chainsaw later, and got out the pruners and bow saw.

It was a good choice. The chainsaw, when it chooses to work, is so noisy that it scares away all of the wild creatures within a half-mile radius, and besides that, it is marginally safe to operate only if you focus your entire attention on it. But when using hand tools, the birds usually decide that I am not a threat, so while I work I can listen to them and let my mind wander without risking the loss of body parts. That's the kind of day it was, and I meant to take advantage of it... but of course, my mind didn't cooperate.

Being outdoors on a spring day always makes me remember that verse from the Song of Solomon. That is not as odd as you might think; when I was a small child my father used to read aloud from The Bible before bed-time, and I knew a lot of verses; they seemed to come easily to me. Of course he didn't read the Song of Solomon to me at that age... I didn't know about it until much later... but there were a lot of mourning doves around the farm, and he sometimes quoted from that passage when he pointed them out to me. He said they were the same as the turtle doves in the Bible. I don't know whether he really knew they were different, but at that time it didn't matter. He told me they said "HOOOOooo, HOOOOooo," and I could tell them from owls, which said "HOO-HOO."

When I was four I knew a lot of stories in which animals like Peter Rabbit or Uncle Wiggly talked to each other, so I assumed animals and birds had their own languages, and they

should have a specific equivalent for every word in English. This began to bother me as I got older, because the doves never seemed to say anything else. I assumed "Hoo" in bird language meant the same as "Who" in English, and doves and owls

were inquiring about the identity of someone (I didn't know the word, "homophone" then, so it was a logical idea). I also noticed that crows communicated with each other, but they only seemed to have only one word, "caw," in their vocabulary. It was a mystery. By the time I was six, I began to wonder if saying a word with different degrees of emphasis or loudness might change its meaning. That didn't make much sense to me, but it turned out to be a good guess; my granddaughter, who has been in China for three years, tells me many words in Mandarin are like that.

Time, of course, eventually took care of the language problem; as was foretold, when I was a child I thought as a child, but when I became a man I put away childish things. Becoming an ecologist requires that you study animal behavior, and I learned that most animal languages don't have patterns of syntax that are comparable to human languages (the jury is still out on a few cases, such as apes and dolphins). In addition to sounds (many



According to folklore, the appearance of the first robin is a good indicator that spring is just around the corner.

of which are inaudible to us), animals communicate by posture, threats, submission, facial expression, odors...

So there I was, on the first day of spring, standing in the yard with pruners in one hand and a saw in the other, gazing at the fallen plum tree but actually seeing scenes from childhood, while my mind tried to make a list of the forms of animal communication. I always was a bit of a daydreamer, and aging has taken it to extremes. I think what brought me back to consciousness was a cardinal, which was perched by the feeder and singing "whatCHEER whatCHEER whatCHEER" at the top of its voice. Translated into English, he was saying, "It's spring and I feel absolutely great! This is my territory and you guys better stay out of it if you know what's good for you! Ladies, come and look me over... you won't find a better companion for the summer!" Somewhere in the other direction a Carolina wren was sending the same message in Wren-ese, except that it sounded like "CHIRPITY CHIRPITY CHIRPITY." From further off I could hear mourning doves cooing, crows cawing, and blue jays and chickadees pronouncing their own names. Each was going at it in his own native tongue, and it would have sounded like the Tower of Babel to the untrained ear; but the message was the same in every case, and it was coming through loud and clear to the intended audience.

I wasn't wearing my hearing aid, so I could barely hear the voice of a white-throated sparrow; he was singing "Old... Sam... Peabody Peabody Peabody." Part of it was the same expression of exuberance and machismo as the cardinal's song, but there is an added reminder: "Get the suitcases packed, folks; it's almost time to be heading north again." It won't be long before all of them will be singing: "Get a move on with those worms, Albert; another egg just hatched!"

Winter is grudgingly trying to hang on; but spring is here, and if you watch and listen, everybody is celebrating. While I was standing there, the black squirrel appeared, and he was singing too, in the squirrel version of sign language... wagging his tail up and down and sending the message, "Look me over, Gals, I'm the best that ever was!" Seeing and hearing that message in all those different languages is the best way I've found for slowing down the aging process. Get out there and try it.

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# IN THE COUNTRY

## Creature court

Tim Iverson  
Naturalist

On the first day of April we humans have a rich history of playing practical jokes on one another in a light hearted jest of making each other appear a fool. As it turns out we humans need little help in this department when it comes to our understanding of the animal kingdom. We are a very gullible species. We often believe what we are told or initially observe without further investigation, and as a result have a very misinformed and skewed understanding of our surroundings. This is where science and some of our more skeptical brethren have done some heavy lifting to shine light on concepts we think we understand. You can be sure that as you're reading this there is probably some adult imparting hearsay wisdom to some child and the misinformation chain begins anew. Let's take some of these myths to creature court and see what the verdict is. Hopefully we can take a crack at some of the more predominate animal myths you may have encountered and set the record straight.

Think back to a point in your childhood where you were outside playing. There you were minding your own business getting grass stains in your jeans, knocking over ant hills, meticulously pulling petals off flowers to see if were in fact loved by that special someone then -BAM! A baby bird was lying on the ground, perhaps at the base of a tree, and then you reach, as the valiant hero you are, to return this helpless bird to its' rightful nest. Only just as you're about to cement your nine year old Nobel Peace Prize an adult steps in and tells you "Leave it alone! If you touch it the mother bird will abandon it." They, in due course, explain that it has something to do with smelling human scent on it. While it is good practice not to interfere with wildlife, the premise is unfounded. Most birds have an un-

derdeveloped sense of smell (if any at all), so human scent has absolutely no bearing on a mother bird helping her young. Chances are this bird is learning to fly or the mother is only away temporarily. Housing, feeding, or caring for any baby wildlife will more than likely kill it or make it dependant on humans and never be able to care for itself. Picking up the baby bird could be detrimental to its long term ability in learning to fly, but won't stop a mother bird from caring for her child. Consider this myth busted as false.

In hindsight this next myth seems rather a sadistic experiment that many have probably tried or at the very least heard of. The accusation is that cutting an earthworm in half will create two worms. If you've been witness to a worm being severed you'll have astutely seen that both sections continue to wiggle. Some adult may have even happened along in this instance and said something encouraging like "You know eventually both ends will grow back and then you'll have two worms!" This myth probably arose from a simple misunderstanding. Worms, like many other invertebrates, do have some regenerative ability. The ability to re-grow body parts differs enormously between them, although tails are generally easier to re-grow. So if you cut part of an earthworm's tail off, it might be able to regrow a stunted replacement. How-

ever, it is highly likely that the worm will lose the tail section permanently, or even perish. In reality it makes about as much sense as cutting a raccoon in half and expecting it to regenerate a head and hind section for the remaining halves. So the wiggling you see is really only a result of the final moments of agony the poor creature will endure until it suffers no more. Do our annelid (worm) friends a favor and leave them in one intact piece because verdict for this myth has been ruled false.

Next up on the docket is that touching a frog or toad will give you warts. A lot of frogs and toads have bumps on their skin that some people think are contagious. Some think that coming in contact with these bumps will cause you to have warts. The ruling on the bench is that this myth is false. Dermatologist Jerry Litt says, "Warts are caused by a human virus, not frogs or toads." These bumps, or parotid glands, contain a toxic poison that can cause irritation of the skin to predators and humans if touched. If a predator tries to make a snack out of these little critters they will often experience a foul unpleasant taste, may begin to foam at the mouth, or even die. While it may not transmit warts to people, depending on the species it may just be best to leave well enough alone and not touch them.

Justice may be blind, but the next accusation is that bats are too. It's

often said that when someone can't see they are "as blind as bat." This myth may have arisen because of the sonar used by bats to hunt prey. However, contrary to popular belief bats are not blind. Bats can see, and some rely solely on their vision to hunt and travel. Bats are broken down into two categories - mega (they eat fruit) and micro (they eat insects). "Mega" bats rely solely on vision, and while "micro" do have poorly developed eyes they can still see and will use sight for long distance navigation. Some bats can even see in ultraviolet light, which helps them hunt and navigate. The scales of justice have tipped in favor of not guilty for this myth because it is untrue.

The next defendant is hungry for justice, because Praying Mantises have had enough of scandalous rumors about their copulative behavior. The female Praying Mantis is known for devouring the head of the male after the act is complete. However, this is not necessarily always the case. After much research entomologist realized that this only occurs about a third of the time. Researchers still are unsure of the reasoning behind this behavior, but it is likely to provide nutrition for the newly

expecting mother. Others think it's simply because the female gets confused and mistakes the male for prey. Either way, females will usually only perform sexual cannibalism when starving. This practice mostly occurs in captivity. Researchers usually don't see the same behavior in the wild, so there could be other underlying causes as well. Consider the Praying Mantis only acquitted from this myth.

Hopefully our little creature court has been able to clarify some common myths and justice has prevailed. With even a little more understanding our natural world can become an even more wonderful and miraculous place. Now that the weather is beginning to become more favorable I encourage everyone to get out into their public lands or even their very own yards and explore their surroundings and soak up some sun. These myths aren't the only things that can make us fools, so do a little sleuthing for yourself and see if you can witness some of our newly exonerated friends in action.

To read other articles by Tim Iverson visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## IN THE COUNTRY

# Wake up! It's springtime!

**Kay Deardorff**  
**Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve**

Who decided to wake that groundhog, anyway? And then he had to tell us that we would have 6 more weeks of winter. Well, whether or not you agree that Punxsutawney Phil is the all-knowing predictor of our winter season, we have finally turned the calendar page to the Vernal Equinox and, YES, Spring is officially here! While I love the change of seasons and I think that if the temperatures are going to be cold we may as well have snow; I am ready for SPRING!

Each season is unique in itself and spring is the time of year when nature seems to burst forth with life! Plants and animals that have been in a dormant stage, wake up from their slumber. Let's face it, even us humans are anxious to shake off the cabin fever and spend some much-needed time outdoors.

There are so many things to explore when venturing outside. Nature is rich with young life. For example, a vernal pool is a very interesting habitat. During this time of year when school children come to Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve in Fairfield, our naturalists love to visit one of our vernal pools and discuss the life that is thriving there. Since, as the name "vernal" indicates, the pool is only a springtime bed of water and will dry up when the hot summer sun beats down, it is important to view the dwelling while we can.

Fairy Shrimp are one of the first critters that can be found in a vernal pool. They are small, about 1 inch, crustaceans which spend their entire lives (a few weeks) in these pools. Eggs hatch in late winter/early spring and adults may be observed in the wetland in the spring. Females eventually drop an egg case which remains on the pool bottom after the pool dries. The eggs pass through a cycle of drying and freezing, and then hatch another year when wa-

ter returns. They are very difficult to see as they may often be under the snow and unable to be spotted.

Wood frogs are an amphibian species of forests. They venture to vernal pools in early spring, lay their eggs, and return to the moist woodland for the remainder of the year. The tadpoles develop in the pool and eventually follow the adults to adjacent forests. The adult frogs will return to the same wetland where they were hatched to lay their eggs. So if the area has been disturbed or destroyed, the next generation will be non-existent. Thus the importance of human respect for the natural habitat of these small creatures.

Salamanders are also upland organisms. They spend most of their lives in burrows on the forest floor. Annually, on certain rainy nights, they migrate to ancestral vernal pools to mate and lay their eggs. They soon return to the upland. The eggs develop in the pool and, by the time the pool dries, the young emerge to begin their life as a terrestrial animal. The vernal pools at the quarry at Strawberry Hill are known to inhabit the red-spotted newt (aka the Red eft, in the juvenile stage). This newt has become so popular that we consider it to be our mascot at the Preserve.

It is thrilling to hear the ooohs and aahhhhs as the children spot gelatinous masses of eggs laid by frogs, toads, or salamanders. Naturalists express the importance of a wetland as we encourage a respect for the life being formed there. If the same children have an opportunity to revisit the pool a week or so later, they will again oooh and aahh over the transformation as the eggs have become tadpoles and then the adult stage of the amphibian.

Because these pools are only in existence in the spring, there are no fish that can live there. Fish, of



The Red-Spotted Newt is considered Strawberry Hill's mascot.

course, need water for their entire lives since they breathe through gills rather than lungs. Therefore, it is more feasible for the egg masses and tadpoles to survive to adulthood until they can make their journey on dry soil.

Vernal pools and wetlands are not only a source of life for our four-footed friends, it is also a community for one of the first plants to appear in early Spring. The Eastern skunk cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*, is an amazing plant that can be seen peeping through snow that may still be covering the ground. It can actually produce enough heat to melt the snow around it as it grows. The first part of the plant that appears is called the spathe which is a brownish-purple, shell-like pod with green splotches. As the spathe grows larger, it reveals a portion inside called the spadix. The spadix is a small knob covered with tiny yellow flowers. Certain flies, bees, beetles, and butterflies that are also waking to

the warm Spring temperatures love to visit these flowers, thus pollinating them.

As the Skunk Cabbage grows green leaves unfurl to a size of possibly one to two feet long by a foot wide. These leaves, when crushed release a strong odor that smells very similar to ... you guessed it ... a skunk! This can be a deterrent, which is good because skunk cabbage is poisonous to mammals, including us. But it does attract those insects that will come to take care of the pollination process.

These are just a few things we can experience as we explore the nature around us. It can be thrilling just to rake away some of the leaves that have been blanketing a garden or portion of our lawns. You will find a small plant waking to new life as the fresh sprouts stretch toward the warmth of the sun. Or you may uncover critters that have begun a search for food under the mulch of the leaves.

While the winter snow held a beauty all its own, a new season is upon us. So take some time to de-stress, explore, and discover the beauty that has been hidden for the past few months. Start in your own backyard, but you don't have to be limited to that area. There is a lot of area that you can journey through when you step into the forest. Visit our trails and vernal pools at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. It could bring a new appreciation for the nature around us.

*For information about some exciting programs and events coming up at Strawberry Hill, contact us at 717-642-5840 or info@strawberry-hill.org. Be sure to visit our website, www.StrawberryHill.org. Wake UP, it's Springtime on the trails!*

*To read other articles by Kay Deardorff visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

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# THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## Seed bank

Jack Deatherage

The first ever (as far as I know) Frederick County Libraries Seed Bank (Emmitsburg branch) “give-away” was held on March 20th from 6pm until 8pm. It went off without a hitch, as I predicted it would.

DW and I emptied three refrigerator bins onto a work table and sorted through our stash of heirloom and open pollinated vegetable and flower seeds looking for something worth passing along to others for a couple of reasons. The first being, we’ve tried some variety and found it of no use to us. The second being, we have a use for a variety, but have moved on to something of more interest and haven’t the space or time to keep the former in the garden. The third being, I’m an idiot and actually think I can introduce, or entice new people to gardening if I give them free seeds.

After we removed pounds of “green manure” crop seeds from the bins, we settled down to what we wanted to plant this year. The newly acquired seeds were also set aside and the sorting began in earnest.

What would work best for people likely new to gardening? Beans and peas probably. We have pounds of those in several varieties and cultivars. (Varieties are like bush beans and pole beans, which break down into green beans, lima beans and

such. Cultivars would be beans by the common names, ‘Empress’ ‘Roma’ ‘Christmas’ and so on.) Those beans we aren’t going to plant went into a “give away” bin.

Garden peas came next as we also have pounds of them. I pulled out a few packets of peas a friend in Minnesota sent me. She’d gotten them from the government seed bank for some trial she was running and sent me some of the seeds she’d not had a chance to plant. Heirloom collectors tend to share.

From there things get complicated. Tomatoes, peppers, melons, corn, sunflowers, and squash (winter and summer) require some knowledge to grow on well. Sure, idiots such as I can, and often do just poke such seeds into the ground and get a useful crop without having a clue as to what they are about.

Actually, reading up on the culture of such plants tends to confuse me. So I pretty much stick to just poking seeds and letting Nature, the goddess Chance and the whims of the weather and insect gods enjoy a good laugh at my expense. (I wish they wouldn’t laugh so deeply and loudly sometimes.)

DW asks if I think new gardeners can handle such plants. I shrug, we do and we aren’t exactly competent gardeners. I toss a couple dozen cultivar packets of seed into the “give away” bin. Some of them are seeds we saved

from the rare successful growing year. Among those grown and saved is ‘Charentais’ a cultivar of *Cucumis melo*, which by the way, does NOT cross with ‘Crimson Sweet’ *Citrullus lanatus*, though the ‘Charentais’ will cross with ‘Pride of Wisconsin’ which I hope someone will take and grow so I can give a fruit to Jim Welty, who first told me about this melon. (Jim’s going to grow old before I manage to grow one of these melons for him!)

As we dig deeper into the seed stash, we suddenly remember past gardening successes, actual triumphs and expensive defeats. We laugh at nearly forgotten aches and pains, disastrous infestations of insects and diseases. Fruit blotch on the ‘Golden Midget’ melons. Asian stink bugs on everything! Flea beetles, leaf-footed squash bugs, squash vine borers. Tomato hornworms and cabbage loopers and worms. Yeah buddy! We gotta share those adventures! (Haven’t figured out how to put those into the “give away” bin yet.)

So, after a few hours of sorting, I come up with two “give away” bins of seeds. Sheesh. We had no idea we’d hoarded such a pile!

The seeds safely back in the seed fridge, I set about searching online for tips I can steal... urr borrow, on planting, growing and harvesting seeds and assemble them into some sort of order. (I include weblinks to everything I stole... urr borrowed.) I print out pages that

can be copied on the library’s copy machine, which is also stealing... urr borrowing. (I recommend anyone copying such work patronize the sites that supplied it. Besides useful advice, these sites have lots of seeds I can only lust after. Who knows what one might find inspiring among their offerings?)

A “contact” and “seeds taken” sheet is typed up. I’d like to know who attempted to grow what and be able to contact them for later offerings of seeds. And to hear how their gardens fared.

Librarian Sue posted a flyer about the seed bank. Librarian Bev tells me she has spoken to a number of patrons excited about the concept and I’m ready to go.

Come Thursday, I lug my seeds into the Emmitsburg library around 5:30pm and spread the bags and packets of seeds on a table behind the librarian’s kiosk. Then I head for the magazine rack and take all the Mother Earth News (MEN) copies (OG, Organic Gardening, isn’t worth a glance these days) and settle in until the crowd of seed seekers and new gardeners arrive.

Around 7pm, I get up and enjoy a concert of popping and cracking joints as I stretch. I start off at a half-staggering walk (when did I get so old as to be stiff after a few minutes of just sitting?) about the stacks looking for new gardening books, or adventure novels, or books on writing (that never seem to do me much good.)

By 7:50 I’m repacking the seed box, putting the magazines back on their shelves and smiling at Librarian Bev’s confused expression as she insists people were really excited about the seed bank. She apologizes for my having wasted my time.

I assure her the evening came off as I had expected and I had hardly wasted my time! I’d read some interesting articles in MEN.

I promised I’d be back the next Thursday, and each Thursday thereafter until it was gardening time.

People have their routines so it may take awhile for those interested in a seed bank to fit it into theirs. Ben Kelkye tells parents, new to the IWLA youth program, that I have “the patience of Job when it comes to teaching little kids how to shoot a bow.” I’ve learned that such patience is also required when dealing with grownups.

Should the season end with me not having found a home for the “give away” seeds I’ll box the lot of them up and send them to a sister in Florida who will certainly put them under her green thumb.

Should I take this idiot’s idea of a seed bank on again next year I’ll likely haul the collection down to the Thurmont branch and see how that plays out.

*To read past editions of the Village Idiot visit the Authors’ section of Emmitsburg.net*

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## PETS LARGE & SMALL

# Paying it forward

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley  
Animal Shelter

I've been noticing recently how easy it is to get caught up in the minutiae of every day life and how quickly that can drag you down.

I'm starting to think Murphy's Law "if something can go wrong, it will," is far more insightful than I may have given it credit in the past. I seem to end up behind folks who have no idea how to drive; at the grocery store, if I'm in the line, it's pretty much guaranteed to move at a snail's pace; and I usually find myself in ear shot of some of the most barbaric comments.

Don't know how it happens, but there I am.

It's easy to get buried in the negativity, to feel bombarded by all those moments in life when things don't go exactly as planned.

Some days it feels like we're always rushing to get somewhere else and we seem to be almost hyper aware of what's wrong with the world that it doesn't allow us to take the time to realize what's right.

The concept of paying it forward is so important, especially when life gets you down. I truly believe the only way to battle a negative experience is with a positive moment. Give someone even a second of joy and it could change their entire mood, resulting in them doing the same for someone else.

Luckily, I work at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and in a lot of respects, we pay it forward sometimes on a daily basis.

And we do it one four-legged friend at a time.

The happy endings we make really bring the point home.

We had a family who had been without a dog for three years because it took them that long to be ready for another pup. They found an adorable little puppy who is exactly what they were looking for and they couldn't be happier.

We had a little Pomeranian who has brought life back to an elderly gentleman and put a big smile on his face. The two are inseparable -- he doesn't go anywhere without her and she stays right by his side.

One couple actually took the dog they adopted from us -- a pit-bull, no less! -- along with them on their honeymoon. They specifically looked for a place that would let them bring her along. That's how much they adore her.

Another elderly couple who adopted a ridiculously cute beagle thanks us profusely every time we talk to them.

A few years ago, a couple came in looking for a cat, but the wife became quite enamored with two brothers. The husband didn't want two cats, but after talking with him for a bit, we convinced him to try it. When they called in to tell us about

their sibling felines, the husband admitted it was the best thing he'd ever done -- he adores those cats.

We've adopted animals out to nursing homes and the amount of happy that comes from those stories is pretty much off the charts. So many times we'll hear how a resident responds to the in-home cat or dog before he or she will even talk to a human.

Another woman told us it was the pup she adopted from us that got her through her mother's passing.

We hear comments, "he saved my life," and "I don't remember what my life was like without her" all the time.

But paying it forward isn't limited to the adoptions -- because the adoptions wouldn't be possible without our supporters.

When someone donates a bag of kitten food that helps us feed a litter of cats, that's a link in the chain that leads to the adoption and the moments of joy cats can bring to their owners.

When someone donates money to care for a pup until he can find a forever home, that's a step on the staircase that leads to smiles and happiness.

When volunteers come out to walk dogs, making them more sociable and adoptable, that helps them find the homes where they can make a difference in a person's life.

We have a bunch of people at CVAS who help pay it forward every day, whether they know they're doing it or not.

It's an interesting concept in that often times, we don't know or get to see the results of our actions. A lot of times paying it forward isn't something for which we receive concrete proof of what we've done.

There's a saying here that's so appropriate: a good deed is its own reward. In this fast-paced world of instantaneous gratification, it's often difficult to remember that some of the nicest things we can do for people will never



Earley is a friendly orange tabby boy—just look at that laid-back face! He's a little over a year old and is going to make an awesome friend for someone!



Abigail came into the shelter as a stray, so it's tough to determine her breed, but we're thinking she's a pitbull mix. Abigail is a 1-year-old, very happy dog with lots of energy who will need an active family. She tends to eat really fast and we're hoping her new family can work with her on this. It would probably be best if she went to a home with children older than 8. If you're looking for medium-sized, going-to-climb-in-your-pocket lapdog, Abigail just might be your match.

have a result we get to witness.

We do it because it's right. We do it because we should be kind. We do it because putting good out into the universe is never a bad thing.

If you would like to be a cog on the wheel of a whole lot of happiness, talk up the animals at CVAS to anyone you know who might be looking; donate whatever you're able to help the animals in our kennels; stop by if you're in the area and see if one of these furry faces doesn't grab your heart.

Help the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter pay it forward in one of

the most rewarding ways: with the gift of an animal's love.

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

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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


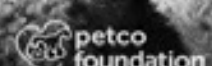
I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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PETS LARGE & SMALL

# Paying it forward one four-legged friend at a time

**Peppy Meow**  
**Kimberly Brokaw DVM**  
**Walkersville Vet Clinic**

I had just gotten home from work. My plan was to quickly feed my horses as I was meeting a couple of friends for dinner. We'd declared the need for a girl's night out, even if it was just for a Friday evening dinner at a local restaurant. I was on the phone with my sister and continued talking to her as I proceeded to feed the horses.

Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a new cat. While I have spayed and neutered numerous cats and brought them back to my farm, most don't stay with me for long. They usually wander off to a neighbor's house and become the neighbor cat. I've bumped into a few of "my" previous cats at clients' homes. While more than one client has been happy to know about their cat's prior history, they all nervously ask if it's okay if they keep the cat. Truthfully I'm just happy to see the cat in a loving home and don't care if it's mine or theirs.

I excitedly told my sister about the new cat. He was very thin, and was sneezing out blood tinged snot but I proclaimed him mine and was determined to neuter him, rabies vaccinate, deworm, and administer antibiotic, all in time to meet my friends for dinner.

My sister wasn't sure this was a good idea. After all, she proclaimed, how do you know he doesn't belong to somebody. I told her that even if he was someone's cat, they were a negligent owner for not feeding him, treating his ear mites, treating his respiratory infection and neutering him. I had claimed him as mine. After all, he was on my property and in obvious need of care.

I am fanatical about having all of my animals up to date on rabies vaccine. Every year, cats, dogs, cows, horses, and other animals develop rabies. The Maryland Health Department provides weekly updates on ra-

bies cases in Maryland just to remind us that rabies is ever present in our area. At the clinic, we have seen our share of rabid animals. When humans are exposed or potentially exposed to

a rabid animal, the vaccines and immune globulin shots cost thousands of dollars. It is better to have every animal on the farm immunized with a cheap vaccine, and not take a chance of exposing people to rabies. Therefore, the new cat was soon to be immune to rabies.

I quickly gave the cat a shot of sedatives, neutered him, gave him a rabies shot, antibiotics, and gave him an all in one ear mite, deworm, and de-flea treatment. I figured he would likely be like my other cats and run away after that welcome to my house, but overall I knew I was doing the best thing for him. Much to my surprise, I was able to take care of the cat, feed horses, and still have time to change out of work clothes to be on time for dinner with friends. They too laughed at my "oh look, a new cat.

Let's give him a rabies shot" approach but agreed it was good.

The next morning I was stunned to see that not only was my cat still there but he was super friendly.

He knew that the best way to assure that I would love him, was to endear himself to the dogs and the horses. He promptly became

a new friend to my puppy, Claire. He rubbed up on her, let her drool all over him, and played with her as I did morning chores. This further entrenched that he was staying. I decided perhaps I should buy some good cat food for him rather than the cheap cat food that I gave the chickens as a special treat. He would also need a warm bed and a good name.

The good name part would be a challenge. I'm notorious for giving animals horrible names. One poor cat received the name of Cali Moon Love Shadow. With a name like that I can't really blame her for running away. I had just named a horse "Spin Zippy Doc Bar's Impressive Heidi." While my cat was not a quarter horse, I decided that I would continue my famous quarter horse themed names for my cat.

I hadn't used the Peppy San Badger line so thought would be good for my cat. That, and an all black cat reminded me of Peppy le Pew, so it would tie together well for "Peppy Meow."

Peppy Meow quickly took to his new life. He enjoys feeding horses with me in the morning and playing with the dogs. He has no fear of the horses. He constantly rubs up against their legs and lets them sniff him. It wasn't long before Peppy Meow was sitting on Bart's back and enjoying the soft squishy warmth of my fuzzy draft/pony horse.

This cat is quickly turning me into a cat person. Not that I hated cats



**Barn cats know that the best way to ensure a lifelong home is to endear themselves to the dogs and horses.**

before, but I'd never found that perfect cat, and here he had just shown up and found me. Hopefully Peppy Meow will be happy in his place as my barn cat. Even if he decides to move on and become a neighbor's

house cat, I know that he is better off due to the provided vet care.

*To read past articles by Dr. Brokaw visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.*

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Paying it forward in the garden

**Connie Schmotzer, Adams County Extension Educator**  
**Mary Ann Ryan, Adams County Master Gardener**

As a gardener, we strive for beauty: beauty in color combinations, texture variations and bloom time. We often look for those unusual plants that no one else has or is so different that everyone wants a piece of it. But should we also be thinking about how our gardening selections and maintenance choices affect the wildlife around us?

Considering that 75% of all flowering plants need pollinators to produce fruit or seeds, our food supply relies heavily on the pollinators, like bees, butterflies, other

insects, birds and mammals. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of nearly 70 percent of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. The United States alone grows more than one hundred crops that either need or benefit from pollinators, and the economic value of these native pollinators is estimated at \$3 billion per year in the U.S.

As our communities become an interruption of plant corridors, our pollinators, whether insects, birds or mammals, are having a difficult time surviving. Small patches of plants cannot support the insects needed to pollinate our food sup-

ply. And the plant life often chosen many times does not support the pollinators.

What if we all gardened for the insects, birds and mammals? What impact would this have on our communities, neighborhoods, and farm land? What kind of enjoyment would we receive from their activities as they visit the flowers and plants?

Research at UC Berkley shows that natives are 4 times more attractive to pollinators than non-natives. This tells us that in order to attract a large variety of pollinators, we should be selecting native plants as opposed to plants that have been introduced from other parts of the world.

Different pollinators favor certain shapes of flowers. So diversify. Use flowers with a range of shapes and sizes. Trumpet or cup-shaped flowers, such as cardinal flower, honeysuckle, and bee balm, attract a wide range of pollinators. Pollinators with shorter tongues, such as small native bees and wasps, feed on tightly packed clusters of small flowers, such as those found on milkweed, zinnia, phlox, and mint. Hummingbirds feed on red, purple, or orange flowers with lots of nectar, such as bee balm, and trumpet honeysuckle.

When designing, plant in groups and drifts. A larger mass of color will attract the bee or bird much more quickly than a single flowering plant. Include not only flowering plants – perennials and shrubs – but consider introducing some native evergreens like bayberry or inkberry holly to provide some protection for the birds that may



When planning your spring garden look for opportunities to plant plants that will support Monarch Butterflies. The species is under threat and can use all the help gardeners can give it.

be feeding on the seeds provided by the flowering plants. Keep in mind that even evergreens produce flowers— so they, too, become an attractant for the pollinators. Trees and shrubs provide nectar in early spring before flowers are available. Many are host plants for butterfly larvae.

When we garden for insects, birds and mammals, we must think about the entire landscape, not just the flowers. Consider connecting planting beds with the neighbor's planting beds. Allowing corridors in our communities will provide lots of food for the pollinators as they go from one property to another, not drawn by a property line.

Reduce the amount of turf in your yard. Turf can be a very ster-

ile environment for our pollinators since we typically reduce the amount of flowering plants like dandelion in our turf area.

When making plant choices, understand what the environment has to offer. Watch for the amount of sun and water the location receives. Also check for soil pH as different plants prefer a lower or higher pH level.

Take a look at a typical development in our area. What do you see? Grass, and if possible, that grass is free of dandelions (great pollinator plants, by the way), other weeds, and foundation plants that are made up of mostly evergreens (like yews, junipers and arborvitae). You may see some perennial and annual borders, but they probably don't link into the neighbor's plantings. Grass meets grass; plantings are confined to the foundation of buildings creating little diversity. Vegetable gardens, if any, are in the middle of the yard. The corridors that could be present to allow for lots of vegetation, food and predator protection are none existent.

Imagine a community that has perennial borders and flowering shrub borders growing alongside of the neighbor's border. What if the foundation planting was 10' wide instead of 3' and connected to a planting along that shrub border, that's connected to the neighbor's? Just imagine! Not only would the beauty of all the color be overwhelming, but the life that abounds would be magnificent! From butterflies, to hummingbirds, to other mammals, the excitement of the corridor would be unrecognizable from today's typical yards. The diversity of those plantings would be great.

Allow shrub borders, perennials and annuals to grow outside their typical limits of the foundation. Less chemicals would be needed to manage the bad insects, as beneficial insects would visit and take care of the bad bugs. Managing a perfect lawn could become much less of a problem, as we wouldn't have as much to maintain. Less

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Small Town Gardener

### Deadly volcanoes are closer than you think

Marianne Willburn

It is difficult to swim against the tide of current landscaping trends. Anyone who has had the temerity to plant a vegetable garden in their front yard and suffered the resulting neighborly outrage can tell you that. And don't bother to hand out pamphlets from the local Extension office to support your outlandish behavior – expert opinion in matters of fashion is almost universally disregarded. After all, any extension agent will tell you that vegetables are better for you and the Bay than a springy, luscious lawn – but how many people will buck the age old trend and grow greens instead of grass?

But while there are many wonderful reasons for growing a splendid lawn, there is absolutely no defense for the willful and malicious torture of good and decent trees – torture that takes place on a daily basis in thousands of cities nationwide. I speak of mulch volcanoes, ladies and gentlemen. Those oh-so-tidy circles of shredded death sitting twelve inches high against the bases of trees whose only crime was to bring a bit of oxygen to suburban sprawl.

The landscapers and homeowners that continue to perpetuate this atrocity, do not of course call them 'mulch volcanoes' – that term is for gardeners like me, amused yet horrified at what people are willing to do in the pursuit of order. No, they are instead "well mulched", "beautifully trimmed" or most ironically, "well protected."

Now, don't think I can't hear you muttering to yourself; questioning my expertise, my aesthetic sensibilities and general snarkiness. There are many who feel that a clean, tight circle of fresh double-shred is a potent symbol of man's ability to segment nature into neat little compartments and keep it there. Mulch mounds are orderly, efficient and painstakingly precise: in short – beautifully suburban.

And, as the argument goes, "Everyone's doing, it – even the landscapers. How can it be wrong?" Have you seen the thousands of green, luscious lawns laid down in Las Vegas desert subdivisions on the orders of a landscaper? While there are many excellent horticultural professionals out there, they still have a living to earn, and must do so often within the confines of what the customer wants. And the customer wants order. He wants neatness. He wants a yard that screams "a place for everything and everything in its place" Sometimes he just wants to avoid a citation from the HOA.

Over-mulching trees with piles of shredded hardwood is bad gardening for many reasons –Deep mulching forces roots which feed at the surface to adjust to a different growing plane closer to the tree, encouraging deadly girdling roots and suffocating original surface roots. It softens the bark near

the mulch line, and extends a dinner invitation to Harry Vole and his wife Harriet to gnaw until they can gnaw no more.

As we have always heard, but apparently forgotten, a tree's root system is mirrored by its extensive drip-line; pray tell me what a skimpy three foot circle is going to provide for that tree besides disease and insects that enjoy feeding on softened bark? And I'm afraid that a submersible termite trap only heightens the ridiculousness of it all.

Bottom line, and according to Adrian Higgins, gardening columnist for The Washington Post, "Whether or not it works visually, the practice ignores the needs of the tree."

Let's examine for a moment the premise that these suburban sculptures do indeed "work visually." I still wear 1980's white Princess Reeboks and maintain that they work visually. My best friend, culturally wiser and hipper than I, maintains that they do not. However, should these shoes cause my ankles to twist inward and develop bone spurs, I hope I might start to doubt the wisdom of form over function – no matter how tiny they make my size nines appear. Perhaps it's also time to question the many layers of "mulch mythology" that Higgins says are so ingrained in our suburban psyche.

So what is the hapless homeowner to do if mulch is bad and the world has been turned on its collective head? Well first, relax; I'm advocating less work, not more. A thin layer of mulch every two years is more than adequate, and if it begins to look a little tired, scrape it lightly with a hoe. Save your mulching for areas that can really use it, such as flower and veggie beds, and mulch with compost or leaf mould, not hardwood – unless you're mulching pathways and play areas.

Think for a moment of trees in their native environments. They benefit from the leaf mould that falls every autumn and naturally mulches root zones, but don't suddenly fall down dead because a bit of greenery managed to spring up and brush their trunks. In fact, the only reason I can think to create a three foot "no-grow-zone" around a trunk is to save it from the very damaging touch of a lawnmower or trimmer.

But that's what shears are for. And children.

So buck the trend, hand out a pamphlet or two, do something different in your yard. Although it might not be as satisfying to be a rebel with a cause, sometimes you've got to take what you can get.

to maintain would result in less chemicals needed to support the perfect lawn.

Not only do we need to provide the right plants to achieve our goal, but water and nesting material/sites are needed to maintain our pollinators. Water sources can consist of a puddle to a pond. Bird baths, fountains, rocks with reservoirs can all provide the water source needed. Cavities, whether old logs, dead trees, or hollow flower stalks can all provide the nesting sites needed. Wait before taking down that dead tree, assuming it's not a risk, for cavity nesters may be hanging out there. That old rotted log? Let it go – insects may be living there. And what about those flower stalks that are finished blooming? Let them go as well – the seeds will provide a food source and after the seed heads drop, the hollow stalks just may be the mason bees next nesting site.

We need to re-direct our perception of a landscape. Take a walk in the woods or through an untouched meadow to regain some perspective. We should strive to

recreate these environments to allow for diversity in our yards.

Imagine the birds you would see visiting the yard. Think of the predator protection you and your neighbors can provide. Think of the food source you are providing to the pollinators. And what about the pollinators you are encouraging to feed on those apple trees that are in the neighboring orchard, or the zucchini your neighbor is growing, or the pumpkins the farmer down the road is growing - imagine the impact!

Pay it forward in gardening? Absolutely! The enjoyment you can receive from watching the incredible life you'll be bringing into the yard, the food supply that will result in the pollinators' frequent visits will be overwhelming. The impact we all can have on our own food supply, by allowing corridors in our neighborhoods is overwhelming! Think about it. Spring is here. Now's the time.

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## HISTORY

# The history of Catoctin National Park

Edmund Wehrle

## Settling the Catoctins

For centuries before the arrival of European whites, the Catoctin mountain area sat largely uninhabited with the exception of occasional groups of roaming Native Americans, lured by the rich natural resources of the area. Even as white colonists settled other areas of Maryland, the western part of the state remained sparsely populated. Then, beginning in the 1740s, whites began arriving in greater numbers. Early settlers were mostly Germans, escaping the political and religious turmoil of Europe. They carried with them an intense religious devotion and proficiency in farming. Life for the early pioneers could be hard, even terrifying when war broke out. Yet the availability of large, bountiful tracts of land offered real rewards. As the revolution approached, eastern elites, largely of English origin, also began noting the rich resources of the Catoctin area. Among them were Thomas Johnson, future governor of Maryland, and his partners who planned to build a iron furnace at the foot of the mountain. Chapter 1 then is the story of pioneers, rapid development, and swift change.

## Native Americans

Traveling through Maryland in the 1680s, Dutch explorer Jaspas Danckaerts was impressed by the burgeoning colony, but he sensed that something was missing. "There are few Indians," noted the Dutchman, "in comparison with the extent of the country." He blamed the English for having "almost exterminated" the native population. The relative paucity of Indians in Maryland actually was a permanent feature of the region and predated the arrival of the English by centuries. But Danckaerts' general point was correct: Native Americans did not populate Maryland as heavily as they did other areas of North America. And within the Maryland region, no area had a smaller Indian population than western Maryland, which reflected the general trend of sparse habitation found in the northern and central Appalachian region.

During the Paleo-Indian era (1300-7500 BC) the first Native Americans entered the continent by crossing the Bering Strait. Nomadic hunters, these early travelers left few traces. Still, archeologists have uncovered enough evidence to establish that such early natives did inhabit the region that became Maryland. Grad-

ually as the climate warmed and forests developed, the early Indian population increased--especially around the waterways of the Chesapeake. By the Woodland period (2000 BC-1600 AD), agricultural villages and organized tribes had emerged in the coastal areas.

The Blue Ridge and Monocacy Valley areas, however, contained significantly fewer occupants than eastern areas. Some scholars have theorized that during the Woodland period and after western Maryland served as a buffer zone between coastal settlements and the western Indians occupying the Ohio Valley.

Yet archeologists have uncovered significant evidence that western Maryland was not completely uninhabited. In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, amateur archeologists such as E.R. Goldsborough began making surveys of the Monocacy Valley and Catoctin area. His surveys pointed to numerous sites containing evidence of Native American habitation. Although Native American sites in Eastern Maryland continue to draw the majority of scholarly interest, by the second half of the twentieth century, building on the work of Goldsborough, professional ar-



To get an idea of the view the first settlers might have seen when they entered the Catoctin area, one only has to go to the Ligore Bridge over the Monocacy.

cheological surveys were underway in western Maryland. These studies suggest that native Americans did value and seek to exploit the rich natural resources available in the region.

More than anything else, the Catoctin and Monocacy areas served as fertile hunting grounds for eastern tribes. Around the mountains, exploring parties pursued deer and other game. In order to facilitate hunting in the uninhabited territory, Native Americans set brush fires to clear out game. At times the fires burnt with such fury that they could be smelled forty miles away. Also of value were the rich deposits of rhyolite available in the western mountains. Rhyolite could be fashioned into arrowheads, hoes, and other important tools. Those in search of the compound would dig small pits into the flattops of ridges. The work of local archeologist Spencer O. Geasey in the 1960s and 1970s, focusing on rock shelters and rhyolite pits in Frederick County, stirred interest and suggested the need for more archaeological work.

Between 1978 and 1980, the Maryland Geological Survey conducted an "intensive archeological reconnaissance" of upper Freder-

ick County. As part of the survey, Michael Stewart excavated "aboriginal quarries" along the west slope of Catoctin Mountain near Foxville. Seeming to date from the Woodland period, the site was "characterized by large amounts of primary chipping debris, few diagnostics, and occasionally by small pits against the face of the outcrop." Finding ample evidence of rhyolite manufacturing, Stewart and the survey group concluded that the site might have been part of a larger "rhyolite procurement and processing system." Although, little is known of the mechanics of this system, archeologists hypothesize the existence of "a regional exchange network operating between bands or by movement of groups from the Coastal Plains to the interior processing camps." What one archeologist characterized as "periodically revisited temporary" camps existed in the area to support to the rhyolite extraction.

Other Western Maryland excavations have indicated more permanently inhabited sites. State archeologist Tyler Bastian excavated a Monocacy Valley site called Biggs Ford Village, where he found an ornament and other artifacts from the

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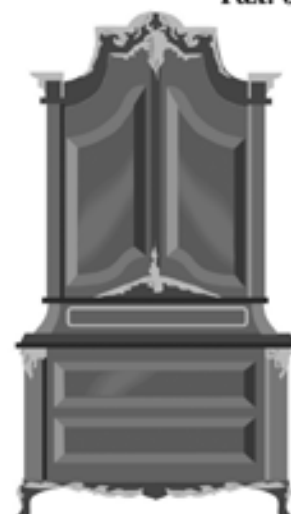
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# HISTORY

Late Woodland Period. More recently, in 1992, the Archeological Society of Maryland initiated a major effort to excavate a Late-Woodland site high on a bluff over the Monocacy river, northwest of the present site of the Frederick Airport. While preliminary investigations do not lend themselves to absolute conclusions, the Rosenstock Village site, as it was named, did contain evidence of a possible permanent settlement. Future digs may someday fill out the picture of prehistoric life in the Monocacy Valley region, but preliminary surveys suggest that temporary camps existed in the Catoctin Mountain area, while more permanent, yet still small, dwelling areas lay to the south—especially along the Potomac.

Clearly, the major source of transportation for the Native Americans sojourning in Western Maryland were the Potomac and Monocacy Rivers. But there also appear to have been a series of Indian trails allowing for passage through some of the more difficult terrain. Although nearly impossible to recreate, such trails do seem to have provided the basis for the later Monocacy wagon road, which sliced diagonally through the region from eastern Pennsylvania to central Virginia.

With the arrival of European settlers in Maryland, beginning in the 1630s, a clearer picture emerges of the native population in the region. Early accounts from white settlers suggest a state of tension between coastal Indians and their neighbors—in particular the Piscataway (also known as the Conoys) and Nanticoke, both from the Algonquian language group—occupied the Chesapeake area. To their north and west were the Susquehannock, a more warlike tribe, which made its home on the Susquehanna River. The Susquehanna—related to the Iroquois— but not part of the confederation—frequently clashed with both their Algonquian neighbors to the south and the confederacy to the north. These series of raids and battles may have discouraged permanent settlement in the western reaches of Maryland, which sat as disputed territory between warring tribes.

Intertribal tensions also shaped early relations with the newly arrived Europeans in the 1630s. The Chesapeake Algonquian tribes strove to establish good relations with the whites, so as to tip the scales against the Susquehanna. They shared their technology with the newcomers and

introduced Europeans to maize, beans, pumpkins, and squash. But good relations were not to last. Lord Baltimore, after essentially removing the Susquehanna threat, turned on his Indian allies. By the late seventeenth century, the proprietary government of Maryland had forced the Piscataway out of the Chesapeake region. Most moved to Pennsylvania, but some settled temporarily near Point of Rocks, on Heater's Island, on the Potomac River. By the 1720s, the tribe had left Maryland completely.

The displacement caused by the arrival of white Europeans brought other Native American tribes briefly to the Monocacy Valley region. Leaving their native South Carolina, the Algonkian Shawnee tribe temporarily inhabited the region before moving further north. At other junctures, the Delaware and the Catawbas used the Monocacy River for travel and hunting purposes. The Tuscarora tribe, originally from the Carolinas, moved northward, after the Tuscarora war in 1711-1713. An English map from 1721 clearly shows a Tuscarora village at the mouth of the Monocacy River on the Frederick County side. The tribe, of course, also gave its name to the creek flowing to the south of the present-day park. Like other eastern tribes during the difficult eighteenth century, the Tuscarora only briefly made Maryland their home before moving westward.

By the second decade of the eighteenth century, then, most Indians tribes had passed through western Maryland onto points further west. Although they dramatically reasserted themselves during the French and Indian War, on the eve of the white settlement of western Maryland, Native Americans were simply not a factor in the region.

### Early White Exploration and Settlement

The absence of hostile Indians, however, did not lead to the immediate European settlement of Western Maryland. Indeed the first whites to come to the mid-Atlantic region (arriving in 1607) remained primarily in the Chesapeake area for almost a century. The appeal of the Tidewater region rested on the profitability of tobacco. By the late seventeenth century—while western Maryland remained largely uninhabited—thriving plantations, a self-indulgent gentry, and an African slave-based labor system had sprung up in the Chesapeake. Since good tobacco could not be cultivated in the western reaches of

the colony, there existed little interest in exploration and development. The absence of a navigable river in central western Maryland, the threat of Indian raids, and an ongoing border dispute between Maryland and Pennsylvania also worked to discourage settlement of the region. While eastern Maryland thrived, western Maryland sat virtually vacant of white settlers.

By the early-eighteenth century, however, the market for tobacco had softened and the colonies began to diversify their economies. Like the Native Americans whom they had displaced from the Tidewater region, European settlers began to look west in hope of exploiting the rich natural resources of the region. Trappers, traders, and missionaries were frequent visitors to the area by the early part of the century. In 1712, explorer Baron de Graffenried climbed Sugar Loaf Mountain and recorded: "We discovered from this height three chains of mountains, the last higher than the one before, somewhat distant and a very fine valley between the first ranges." Soon squatters and a few other hearty souls began setting up permanent homes in the region.

The Chesapeake gentry, seeking investment opportunities, also grew interested. In 1727, a Chesapeake

planter, Benjamin Tasker acquired a patent for 7,000 acres, west of the Monocacy, roughly twelve miles up the Potomac. The investor called his purchase "Tasker's Chance," as if to underscore the still risky nature of western ventures. Maryland's colonial government—seeking to encour-

age settlement of the backcountry—issued a proclamation in 1732 waiving the usual 40 shillings Sterling per 100 acre fee to anyone who would settle land in the western holdings of the colony.

Part 2 next month

## 2014 Emmitsburg High School Alumni Association Scholarship

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Applications can be obtained from the Catoctin High School's website or a member of the Emmitsburg High School Alumni Association board of directors. Application must be submitted by Thursday, May 1, 2014. (CHS seniors submit applications to Mr. Zimmerman in the Career Center. Other applicants may mail completed applications to: Phyllis Kelly, 22 Centennial Street, P.O. Box 581, Fairfield, PA 17320)

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## CIVIL WAR

# The Second Battle of Braddock's Gap

John Miller  
Civil War Historian  
Emmitsburg Historical Society

For the last two months, I have written about the 1864 Maryland Invasion led by Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early. I have provided my readers with a general overview of the campaign itself, and last month I talked about the operations that took place on South Mountain. This month, I want to write about a small, but very important engagement, the Battle of West Frederick, or the Second Battle of Braddock's Gap.

In the midst of the Confederate invasion of Maryland, Union Major General Lew Wallace had heard and read the reports of Lt. Gen. Early's movements in the Shenandoah Valley and Maryland. He asked Lieutenant Colonel David Clendenin to move westward, across the Catoctin Mountain, and locate the Confederate army. From his headquarters near Monocacy Junction, Maj. Gen. Wallace tried to formulate his plan of defense, but found that he needed to size up the situation.

At dawn on July 7, Lt. Col. David Clendenin, with 250 troopers of the 8th Illinois Cavalry, moved out of Frederick and marched to the Catoctin Mountain to observe the Confederate activity. Lt. Col. Clendenin was supported by a section of cannon from Captain Frederick Alexander's Baltimore Battery, under the

command of Lieutenant Peter Leary. While the 8th Illinois Cavalry was making their way to the Catoctin Mountain, several miles to the west on South Mountain, the Confederate cavalry was moving along the National Road. They were ordered to scout the area for the preparation of the Confederate army crossing over South Mountain. Confederate Major General Robert Ransom ordered Brigadier General Bradley Johnson to advance cautiously, ensuring that he did not move out of support distance of the main infantry body.

Leading the advance of Brig. Gen. Johnson's cavalry was Colonel Harry Gilmore and his battalion of the 2nd Maryland Cavalry. At 10:00 a.m., Colonel Gilmore made his way through Middletown trotting along the same streets, where in September of 1862, Major General J. E. B. Stuart had fought. Two miles east of Middletown, along the National Road, Colonel Gilmore was surprised by the sound of cannon fire from Lt. Leary's command, and a shell hitting seconds later near him, wounding his brother Robert, in the leg.

After taking cover, Colonel Gilmore began deploying his battalion in the fields. He quickly ordered his men to dismount and prepare for a Union cavalry attack. When no attack was made, Colonel Gilmore ordered two squadrons forward, but the Confederate troopers stalled as they approached Hollow Creek. Both sides simultane-

ously fired into each other and the skirmish quickly heated up. Hollow Creek presented a natural barrier, and provided Lt. Col. Clendenin with some much needed protection. Although a small creek flowed under the bridge, the creek bed itself was deep and steep.

Lt. Col. Clendenin ordered his command across the bridge, and quickly deployed his skirmishers. The Union troopers began pushing Colonel Gilmore's troops back toward Middletown. Upon seeing Brig. Gen. Johnson's larger Confederate cavalry, comprised of one thousand men, making its way to the scene of the engagement, the Union cavalrymen halted on the outskirts of the town. Lieutenant Leary saw the Confederate force and fired his two cannon into them. As one of the Union shells hit, the explosion knocked nine 8th Virginia Cavalry troopers off of their horses, killing five of them.

Brigadier General Johnson ordered the 8th Virginia Cavalry forward to support Colonel Gilmore's Marylanders. The two units began pushing Lt. Col. Clendenin's command back, regaining the ground they had lost all the way to Hollow Creek. By 11:00 a.m., the Union troopers were pushed back toward Braddock's Gap, where Lt. Col. Clendenin quickly re-established his defensive line covering Braddock's Gap, supported by Lieutenant Leary's two cannon.

Lt. Col. Clendenin quickly sent a



Looking west toward Middletown in the area where the July 7 battle began.

courier to Maj. Gen. Wallace's headquarters near Frederick. Major General Wallace had heard the sounds of artillery in the distance. Arriving at his headquarters, the courier handed the dispatch over, which read "Catoctin Pass [Braddock's Gap], Jul 7 1864." This short and simple dispatch meant only one thing, that the Confederate army had been located.

As Lt. Col. Clendenin prepared for a counter attack, Colonel Gilmore's forces had halted. They were waiting for additional reinforcements from Brig. Gen. Johnson to come up, with artillery support from Griffin's (three gun) Battery. As Colonel Gilmore advanced, Brig. Gen. Johnson's brigade

fired upon Leary's guns that were situated in Braddock's Gap. As Colonel Gilmore made his way past Hollow Creek, he quickly halted and waited for support.

Brigadier General Johnson and his cavalry crossed Hollow Creek and deployed. Johnson quickly ordered out two hundred and fifty men to occupy Lt. Col. Clendenin's front, while he sent two squadrons to the Union flanks. There were very few Union troops to prevent this attack, and the Confederates were going to simply roll them up.

Near noon, Lt. Col. Clendenin, seeing the Confederate movements, fell back to a stronger position off



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# CIVIL WAR

the Catoctin Mountain, a few miles west of Frederick city. He sent a dispatch to Maj. Gen. Wallace notifying him of his situation. The Union cavalry quickly redeployed where the National Road and Harper's Ferry Road come together. As Johnson's advance reached the gap, they saw the valley floor below, and Frederick city in the foreground, as well as troops moving to the scene.

Major General Wallace had ordered reinforcements to the battlefield. The 3rd Potomac Home Brigade, the 159th Ohio mounted infantry, the other gun from Alexander's Baltimore Battery, and a detachment of the Loudoun Rangers were sent to Clendenin's position. As the Union reinforcements arrived, Lt. Col. Clendenin handed command over to the senior officer, Colonel Charles Gilpin. Colonel Gilpin established his defensive lines across the National Road. The 3rd Potomac Home Brigade was ordered to a hill, a half of a mile west of Frederick. The three guns of Captain Alexander's Baltimore Battery deployed at different points in Zimmerman's field. The 159th Ohio was ordered to support Alexander's guns, while the 8th Illinois Cavalry held the left flank of the Union line.

Brigadier General Johnson had two tasks ahead of him. The first was to inform Lt. Gen. Early of the enemy in his front, and the second was to determine what they were up against. The only way he would get the answers was to form a plan of attack. Brig. Gen. Johnson knew the city of Frederick and the surrounding area

well and this may give him the upper hand.

By 4:00 p.m., the artillery on both sides began to fire, and Confederate skirmishers were sent forward to feel the Federal force in their front. Brig. Gen. Johnson deployed the 8th, and the 36th Virginia Cavalry to the right of the National Road, while the rest of the brigade remained on the road. Brigadier General Johnson studied the situation, and came to the quick realization that he was no longer facing just cavalry, but artillery and infantry as well. The artillery hit the Confederates with great accuracy.

By 5:00 p.m., the 8th Illinois Cavalry dismounted once more for the fight. They were very low on ammunition. An hour later, after keeping the Union front busy, Confederate troopers began shifting their line. Brigadier General Johnson was going to hit the Union left flank, but he needed to shift some of his troops farther to the south in order to do so. As he pressed the Union front even harder, the Confederates took Rizer's

barn, however, they gave it back to the Union forces after some struggle. Soon the Union line began to shift toward its left as support. However, the shooting from the Confederates began to decrease slowly as they ran low on ammunition.

By 8:00 p.m., the engagement had not produced any results, and became a stalemate. As Brig. Gen. Johnson encircled the Union force and prepared to make an attempt to take Frederick, his divisional commander Maj. Gen. Ransom called off the attack. Brigadier General Johnson and Colonel Gilmor both are furious at their commander's decision. Maj. Gen. Ransom felt that they were too far ahead of Lt. Gen. Early's army if support was needed. Brigadier General Johnson was forced to pull his brigade back to the Hagan Tavern, where he made his headquarters for the night.

The next day, the Confederate army would enter the Middletown Valley, by way of South Mountain. Maj. Gen. Wallace took command, and began establishing defenses that



Maj. Gen. Wallace

stretched six miles along the banks of the Monocacy River. Around midnight on July 9, Major General James Ricketts' division of the VI Corps began to arrive at Monocacy Junction. They were sent from Petersburg during the Confederate invasion. These

men were the only troops that would stand between Lt. Gen. Early's Confederate army and Washington.

To read other articles on the Civil War visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## MOM'S TIME OUT

# The simplest things make a difference

Mary Angel

We, as parents, have a very short amount of time to “mold” our children into productive, caring, happy members of society. We all want our children to be happy, to find the right person and fall in love and start a family. We all want our children to have a career that they love that will also be able to support them and their family. But, how often do we think about what kind of person they will become. Will they be polite, caring, loving people? What if we concentrated on raising children who thought first of other people and how they could make the world a better place than it was

when they entered it? What if our children were encouraged to “pay it forward” and see where it takes our world?

I am not talking about the huge things that were “paid forward” in the movie with Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt and Haley Joel Osment. I am talking about just thinking of others. The simplest thing can make a difference in someone's day. When my girls were asking if we were going to do anything special for Valentine's Day it caused me to have to get creative. I realized the girls were missing handing out Valentine's cards to their friends at school. So I decided we needed to have a talk about why we give the cards. They agreed the

reason you give cards is not because of the way it makes you feel but more for how it makes everyone else feel. It seemed like a simple jump to make cards for our local rehabilitation and nursing center. After I got all of the craft supplies out we immediately started crafting. The cards were fabulous, unique, and quite interesting. Then I made the call to find out exactly how many we needed (after all we had already made 30 and couldn't need too many more...right?) They said we needed approximately 80 and we got busy again. When we dropped off the cards the girls were beaming. That was nothing compared to the response they got from a couple of older ladies in the lobby.

Just seeing to little girls in there lobby made these ladies smile ear to ear, then the receptionist couldn't stop thanking them. When we got in the car my oldest daughter (9 years old) said, “did you see them smiling mommy, that was awesome!” and she continued, “what is the next holiday?”

When we got home we had a long conversation about how important it is to do for others. The smallest little gesture can make someone's day. My mother-in-law makes jewelry for a hobby. My girls enjoy getting a new piece of jewelry from her more than a bowl of ice cream, and let me tell you that is a lot! They love that feeling so much that they decided to start

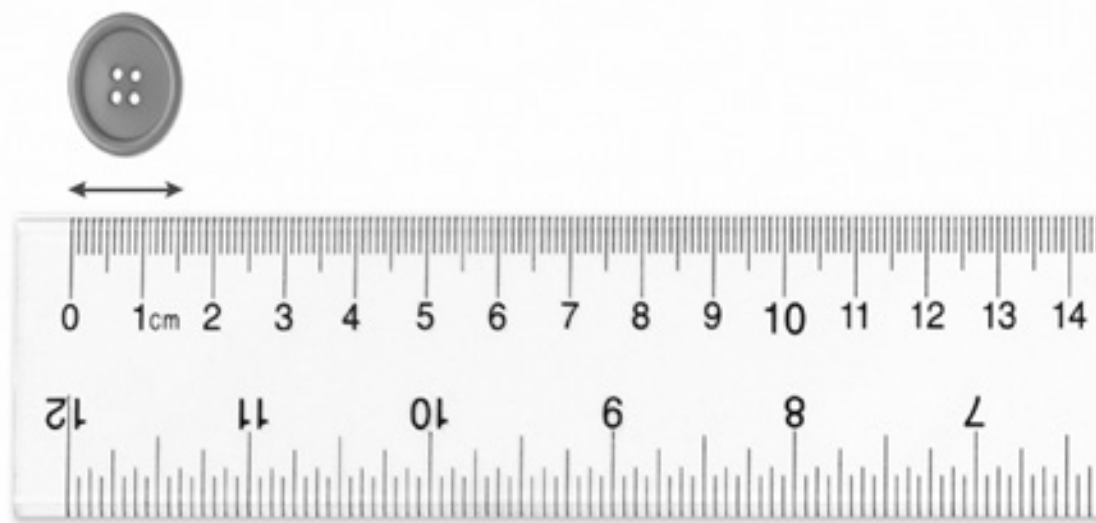
making the loom bracelets for everyone, and I mean everyone. They gave them to everyone who they could think of and then they started carrying them with them so they could brighten the day of a stranger. Think back to when you were a child and picture the smile in my daughters' hearts when their Meme and Poppop came to visit from Delaware and they showered them with loom jewelry. It doesn't always take a big thing to make someone's day.

Since I am homeschooling my girls this year I have decided that we needed to pick a different thing each month to “pay it forward.” Whether it be making cards for each holiday or making jewelry for strangers I want my girls to understand the importance of being thoughtful and kind. They are both learning to write in cursive. I have made their cursive practice for the day to write a little note of encouragement on an index card. I explained that we can now mail the index cards, or hand them to a friend, or even take them to the local hospitals to be given to patients to brighten their day. I know my children love receiving little notes or cards (actually anything) in the mail. Who am I kidding I love it when I get something positive in the mail. Maybe my elation has more to do with receiving something that is not a bill, but all the same it puts a smile on my face. What a wonderfully simple way to pay it forward. Send someone a hand written note in the mail and see what a difference it will make in their outlook for the day or even week. Then imagine if they do the same for someone else, and so on and so on...wow!

It is so funny to me how excited my girls are to do these things for other people. It has made me realize how important it is to instill the “pay it forward” mentality at a young age. My boys still do nice things for people but, they are busier and busier the older they get and sometimes they just aren't as motivated as the girls to do these kinds of things. I actually believe this is the premise behind service learning hours in Carroll County Public Schools, to get to do for others. Not unlike many other parents, I am sure; I have been struggling to find service learning opportunities for my boys that will make a difference. We have recently started looking into helping smaller local charities that often get overlooked, but will allow us to make that difference. Maybe in this case the pay it forward will be seen when other people realize how many small charities are out there that can use our help and they will have more help than they know what to do with.

Regardless of what you do, or who you do for, just make sure if something makes you smile then be sure to “pay it forward.” Also, do not forget to teach your children the importance of this inspiring and rewarding concept.

To read past edition of Mom's Time out visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.



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SCHOOL NEWS

# Mother Seton School science fair

Over one hundred participated in Mother Seton School's annual science fair in March, employing the scientific method to determine everything from what bird seed attracts the most birds to does music affect chickens? Some were downright sweet – like “What animals are most popular?” to the practical, like how to determine how fast your laptop really is. (Off the record – Macbooks are fastest.)

The projects were judged and presented for public viewing. The winners of this year's science fair were – by grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup>—Pearl Walker (What bird seed attracts the most birds?), 2<sup>nd</sup>—Helen Hochschild, 3<sup>rd</sup>—Jane Disharoon, Honorable Mention—Brendan Guinan.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup>—Amanda Bruner (What animals are most popular?), 2<sup>nd</sup>—Shae Archie, 3<sup>rd</sup>—Brody Holz

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup>—Natalie Bosche (What cleaning methods get clothes/laundry the cleanest?), 2<sup>nd</sup>—Matthias Buchheister, 3<sup>rd</sup>—Liv Cliber, Honorable Mention—Summer Ruskey

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup>—Darren Byrne (Does music affect chickens?), 2<sup>nd</sup>—Carleton Walker, 3<sup>rd</sup>—Brede Laug, Honorable Mentions—Ana Hand, Luke Szukalski

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup>—Matthew Collins (How fast is your laptop?), 2<sup>nd</sup>—Hannah Hartness, 3<sup>rd</sup>—Eilis McCormick, Honorable Mentions—Caroline Mullineaux, Adrianna Bussey.





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## SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

# Homeless students

Katie Groth  
Frederick County School Board

Much has been written of late concerning the plight of homeless students in our public schools. In fact, as the numbers of these children rise, more attention has been paid to the circumstances of families during the difficult economic times of the last decade. One thing is known for certain – and that is the fact that when students are in a situation of homelessness, they have extra challenges in trying to access their education and to do well in school.

Imagine wanting to do a science fair project when you live in a homeless shelter!

Many people think that in order to be classified as “homeless,” a child or a family must be living in their car or in a homeless shelter. This is not true. In 1987, Congress took up the problem of homelessness and a law was passed that defined homeless children as “...children who lack a fixed, regular and adequate night time residence.” The original law was amended in 1999 as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. In 2001, it was amended again and became part of the No Child Left Behind law. It thereby guaranteed all home-

less children the right to a “free, appropriate, public education.” Services are provided for homeless students by the administration of a grant from the Federal government. In Maryland, all students who attend public school are covered by this law.

What does this law do for children who are homeless? First, each local school system must provide transportation to and from the student’s “school of origin.” That is, if a student attends a particular elementary school and becomes homeless, that student is guaranteed transportation to his or her home school, no matter what jurisdiction that student may come to reside in. This is often across school district lines. In addition, a student is guaranteed registration in school even if parents are lacking residence or immunization documentation.

Each school district must appoint a “Local Education Liaison” to administer the provision of services to homeless children. The liaison must ensure that school staff is made aware of the child’s homeless situation. The liaison must provide notice of legal rights to the parents of the homeless child, regardless of where that child might be temporarily staying. The liaison must also arrange for the student to receive

transportation services between the temporary facility and the student’s school. This might include re-routing a bus or providing a separate bus to transport a student between the temporary living situation and the school.

Some have questioned the need for these services, often believing that there are few to no students living in cars or bedding down in tents in the woods. In fact, there may be very few who spend the night like that. However, the McKinney-Vento Act is specific about children who are classified as “homeless.” Under the law, the following conditions would classify a student as “homeless” and therefore eligible for services under the act:

Children who are sharing housing accommodations due to poverty or economic hardship;

Children living in hotels, motels, trailer parks or campgrounds due to lack of adequate accommodations;

Children living in transitional housing or shelters; migrant children;

Children awaiting placement in foster care;

Children whose nighttime residence is not ordinarily a sleeping accommodation;

Children who live in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings,



or bus or train stations.

We may think we do not know any children who are living in these situations. However, the startling truth is that there are approximately 650 students in Frederick County Schools who are currently classified as “homeless” by these definitions. We have over 40,000 students in our school system. That is nearly 2% of our students.

At present, FCPS has a part-time position designated as our “Local Education Liaison.” She is currently working to access community support and assistance in various ways.

Frederick is a very generous and caring community, including citizens from all corners of the county. This is much for which to be grateful! Once recently, a call went out for a pair of shoes for a young man in one of our middle schools. A hundred pairs of shoes were collected.

Contact a charity in your area to find out what you can do to help, especially to help homeless students and families. Our children deserve the help they need to attend school and be supported in their pursuit of a good education. Thank you, Frederick County.

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## SCHOOL &amp; LIBRARY NEWS

# What's new at the library

**Erin Dingle**  
Frederick County Public Library

## Emmitsburg Library Associate special lecture: Islam Art and Architecture

A unique discussion and visual presentation by Sue Cardella of the Emmitsburg Branch will be present in the Thurmont Community Room on Thursday, April 3 at 6:30 pm. The public is invited to join Sue, a retired Art History Adjunct Professor formerly teaching at Frederick Community College, for a look at the exquisite art and architecture of the Islamic world. Islamic art includes all the artistic traditions in Muslim culture with a strong aesthetic appeal that transcends time and space, as well as differences in language and culture. No registration necessary.

## Green Thumb Family Gardening Club

Gardening will be more fulfilling and exciting this year after the hard, cold winter we just survived. And if you don't have

your own patch of dirt, you and your family can still get involved. The Green Thumb Gardening Club is brand new and it involves fun, learning and even a little bit of dirt. Anyone can join the club and the town's Community Garden will be the focus of this three-part series. The club is intended for families with kids ages 4 and up who want to learn about growing food in a community garden. It will include some stories along with hands-on experiences.

Everyone will get to plant, water and weed as well as make garden crafts, hear stories at the garden and much more. B.Y.O.T - Bring your own tools if you have them. Visits to the garden are part of every meeting. All programs begin at 10:30 am at the Emmitsburg Library. The first meeting on April 5th, is on "Growing Fun in the Garden" - planning and planting starter plants and plus our first visit to see the garden. On May 10th, meet Will Morrow of Whitmore

Farm who will share information about healthy gardens. Whitmore Farm is a local small farm emphasizing sustainability. Registration is appreciated by visiting the programs page at

## Seed Exchange at the Library

Fellow New-Journal columnist and gardener extraordinaire Jack Deathridge has planted the idea of starting an Emmitsburg Seed Exchange the community and is looking forward to other growing enthusiasts to help get this idea off the ground. The library will be the meeting place for this new venture. Stop by the Emmitsburg Branch on Thursday evenings in April between 6 and 8. Jack will share his seeds with anyone who stops by and you are welcomed to bring your extra seeds to share and exchange. This is also an opportunity to share information with other growers and ask questions about those plants and crops that are challenging. Seed exchanges are popular all over the country and give people a

chance to try growing new vegetables and flowers as well as saving money by sharing seeds that would otherwise go unplanted.

## Seniors & Technology

It's no secret that young people have technology know-how in their genetic makeup. George Busse, a Frederick County Public Library Associate who works at both the Emmitsburg and Thurmont Branches, has a strong interest in connecting those tech savvy teens with local seniors who would like to be more comfortable with technology and feel that one-on-one will be helpful. Are you 50+ and interested to learn more about tablets or smart phones? When you drop by the library, just let the staff know your name and phone number

and George will contact with your more information. Don't let your electronic devices baffle you - let the library find solutions to your technology questions.

## Summer Activity Fair - Reserve Your Table Now

Reserve your table at the Thurmont Regional Library's Summer Activity Fair on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Just let me know if you want to take advantage of this special opportunity for your organization to talk directly to parents and their kids about special summer activities just for kids. If you are hosting a summer class or camp for art, music, sports, theater, science, literacy or other types of youth activities, just register and then bring your information to the open house fair between 4-6 pm to share with interested families in the community. Book your table early by emailing me at edingle@frederickcountymd.gov.

# Fairfield's school budget

**Brad Rigler**  
Fairfield School Board

The proposed 2014-2015 budget for the Fairfield Area School District would be one of the largest budget increases in the history of the district. If it is approved, the proposed budget is almost certain to require a tax increase.

The district is requesting \$16,564,204 to fund the 2014-15 school year, that's an increase of 5.5% over last year.

Those numbers are shocking, but what's even more disturbing is that the additional \$862,134 won't go toward funding any new programs nor much needed capital improvements. According to the district, the massive increase is they need just to continue business as usual.

These days everything costs more. From fuel to loose leaf paper, prices are always ticking up. But our district's largest expenses are related to staffing. The teacher's collective bargaining agreement that the board approved last year, represents a large portion of the increase. Also, health-care costs for teachers and staff are skyrocketing and our district (like many others) has to pay more and more toward pensions.

While student enrollment in the district has steadily decreased and is expected to continue to decrease, staffing in the district has not. The total enrollment for the current year is 1,113. That's 20% fewer students than 10 years ago. However, the number of teachers employed by the district has increased by at least 5%

over the same period.

The average Fairfield Area School teacher's salary is \$56,739.82, that's before health-care/benefits and the district's contribution to their retirement.

Even in spite of all the spending, and there being more teachers and fewer students, FASD test scores have not improved. The Fairfield Area School District is currently paying an average of \$14,107 per student, per year. That's more than tuition at most area private schools. In fact, that's more than in-state tuition at Shippensburg University.

While our cost per student is

at the college level, classes are not. FASD currently doesn't offer AP (Advanced Placement) courses designed to prepare students for higher education. Most of us tend to equate spending on schools to benefiting the students. But in reality, students are the last ones to benefit from all this spending.

During a more prosperous time, the solution may have been to simply spend more. But times have changed. We can't spend our way out of this problem, because the problem is spending. The Fairfield Area School District can no longer afford to finance the status quo.

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**April 24th (Thurs.) - "Music Of The Night"** - at The American Music Theater. This is music most seniors enjoy - the music of Andrew Lloyd Weber. Lunch will be at Shady Maple Smorgasbord. Show at 3:00 pm. **Final Payment Due April 8th.**

**May 29 (Wed.) - "Moses"** - I have another S & S day trip for Moses on Wed., May 28th. The greatest Biblical epic of the Old Testament comes to life on the stage of Sight and Sound. **Price: \$104 - Lv Frederick 9:00 am. Final Payment Due May 5th.**

**June 7 - "Celtic Woman"** - An all female Irish ensemble. Celtic Woman has been described as being RIVERDANCE for the voice. Lunch included at Shady Maple Smorgasbord & show at The American Music Theater. **Lv Frederick at 10:00 am. Call for details.**

**June 20-26**  
**"Cruise St. Lawrence Seaway"**

Several months ago I received a catalog from the Saint Lawrence Cruise Lines, Inc. I read through it and decided I wanted to do that! I much prefer the smaller cruise ships and know there are many others who feel the same. The cruise I chose sails from Quebec City to Kingston, Ontario. This is a 7 day/6 night cruise with no cruising at night. During the day there are stops for shore excursions and the cost is included in the tour price! We will fly from BWI to Quebec and home from Toronto. If you have a computer, view their DVD at [www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com](http://www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com). In 2015 I plan to do the Ottawa to Kingston cruise!

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**May 1-3**  
**"Elkins, WV"**

Leave Thurmont at 7:00 am & Frederick at 7:20 am, and have breakfast at Hancock, then on to Fairmont, WV to Valley Falls State park to view 2 waterfalls, then on to Phillips for lunch and a tour of the Adalard Mansion. From there we head to Elkins Hampton Inn. For dinner and a show at the American Mountain Theatre. Day 2 after breakfast, at 8:30 am we head for Weston to tour the Lunatic Asylum, then on to the Stonewall Resort for a buffet luncheon. On the return a visit to the American Museum of Glass. In the evening dinner & a show at the Gandy Dancer Theatre. Day 3 on to Davis, WV for a visit to Black Water Falls. A lunch stop before leaving. **ETR 5:30 pm.**

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Let's face it. It can be tough to turn on the television or read a newspaper when they are so often filled with such bad news. Sometimes it's easier to turn the other cheek and settle for the idea that society is just going downhill and there's nothing we can do about it.

The *Emmitsburg News-Journal* wants to change that. We want to use our newspaper to send out a powerful message that is often overlooked. This month, we are on a mission to spread the concept of "paying it forward." We want to inspire others to live each day exhibiting kindness toward others. We encouraged our writers to take their own approach to the theme and use it to inspire our readers to implement it in their everyday lives.

"Pay It Forward," by Catherine Ryan Hyde, tracks the story of a young boy named Trevor McKinney. Trevor's teacher challenges the students to come up with a plan that will change the world, and Trevor certainly rose to the challenge. Trevor's idea is to do a good deed for three people and ask each of them to "pay it forward" to three other people who need their help. Rather than simply returning the favor, you pay it forward. At first, Trevor's plan seems overly idealistic, but it ultimately results in a global movement of kindness spreading far beyond where Trevor could have even imagined possible.

"Pay It Forward" exhibits a concept that everyone should live by each day because it assures us that together we can make the world a better place. It's easy to fall into this trap of thinking that a single person can't really make a difference, but in reality, a single person can make a world of a difference.

April 24th is Pay It Forward Day, and it is the perfect way to start the ripple effect of kindness. All it takes is one person to start the movement, but together, we really can change the world.

For more information about Pay It Forward Day, visit [www.payitforwardday.com](http://www.payitforwardday.com). To learn about the Pay it Forward Foundation, visit [www.payitforwardfoundation.org](http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org).

## Freshman Year Relay it forward

Leeanne Leary  
MSM Class of 2017

"Pay It Forward" is typically seen as receiving a favor and then proceeding to do someone else a favor, with the hope that everyone will continue to pass on a good deed. As a result of this continuous good action, the world becomes a better place, with people doing things out of the kindness of their hearts. This idea, especially if the chain continues to grow, has the potential to spread so much happiness and love to the world because people will slow down and focus on others. The influence of this concept is everywhere. There is the movie, "Pay It Forward," which, for the record, made me cry all the way through. There are theme days and weeks at schools everywhere where students take the time to pass on acts of kindness while working against bullying and exclusion. There are social media pages simply dedicated to sharing acts of kindness from around the world

— unusual favors that people document to encourage others to do the same. All of these embody the spirit of the "Pay It Forward" concept and help to promote this kindness.

There is, however, another way that "Pay It Forward" can be taken — more along the lines of making an impact. I witnessed this kind of paying it forward at the Mount St. Mary's University Relay for Life. Relay for Life works to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The event serves as a night of remembrance for those who have lost loved ones to cancer and a night of celebration of life for those who have beaten the disease. Mount St. Mary's Relay for Life as a whole literally "Paid It Forward" by raising over \$26,000 for cancer research. However, much more went on that night than simply raising funds. Instead of just paying forward money, a donation, or a favor, everyone there paid a memory and an impact forward.

Everyone involved had been or is now a "caregiver" for someone bat-

ting cancer. These caregivers are parents, friends, classmates and anyone whose life has been impacted by someone's diagnosis. Maybe it was the loss of a loved one, or maybe the strength they saw in the fight, but somehow cancer has changed their lives. Instead of sitting back and moving on or letting it ruin their spirit, everyone there that night chose to fight back against this terrible disease. This was their unique way of paying it forward. They felt a desire to take how they had been impacted and use it to impact others, to remember those who have passed, to celebrate the lives of cancer fighters, and to join the ongoing struggle against cancer.

There night consisted of games, dancing, karaoke, and much more. There were groups making friendship bracelets, selling cake pops, and all kinds of other creative prizes and snacks. There was non-stop walking around the track and high levels of energy everywhere. There was candy and soda to help participants stay awake, but most importantly there was hope. The night started with a speech by a Mount St. Mary's student who is a cancer survivor. She shared her story and talk-

ed about everyone who stood by her side, shaved their heads with her, and didn't lose faith in her fight. She took all the help she has received and all the love she has felt and shared it with everyone. She paid it forward by sharing her testimony with everyone there that night, and inspired us to continue the fight against cancer.

Another instance of paying it forward that night took place in a jail cell. Yes, you read that right — a jail cell. One set up by the Women in Science Relay team as a way to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Relayers could put friends into jail for any amount of money, and the people in jail weren't allowed out until they could match that amount either from people walking by or other friends in jail. I actually made a few friends in jail that night. One such friend, a seminarian I was trapped with, raised over 40 dollars after being locked up for hour. As you can imagine, a lot of people got to pay it forward in the form of some light-hearted revenge once they were released.

The night was long, but I was surrounded by acts of kindness and love the whole time. "Pay It Forward" gained a whole new meaning

to me, and I'm sure it did to everyone else as well. The final act was at the end of the festivities, just as the sun began to rise. Everyone got a balloon, and even though a bunch popped along the way, eventually everyone there dedicated their balloon to someone who they knew or know with cancer. Some people had multiple names on their balloon, and others had only one, but each balloon was dedicated to a loved one. We all gathered outside for the balloon release, with each balloon representing the love that each person was going to pay forward. In some way, that balloon release was in itself the perfect depiction of paying it forward, because everybody was focused on someone other than themselves as the balloons disappeared.

Even though it may not be the textbook description of the "Pay It Forward" chain, and even though the focus wasn't on tangible forms of favors throughout the night, every person involved paid hope and love forward that night in the hopes that all those involved in the fight against cancer felt the impact.

To read other articles by Leanne visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Sophomore Year I saw a city invincible

Lydia Olsen  
MSM Class of 2016

This year I spent my spring break in Camden, New Jersey, with five other students from Mount St. Mary's University. Camden was once a city that thrived on manufacturing goods. It started off as a place for individuals and families who did not want to live within the city of Philadelphia. However, the industry crashed and nearly all of the factories moved out of Camden to other locations. The people within the city all began to move away and those who did not move away had difficulty finding employment. To many it seemed that the only business that ensured a high enough income was the sale of drugs, causing drug sales and use to increase as well as violence. In 2010, Camden had the highest crime rate in the nation. The same year it was also named the poorest city in the nation. Funding to Camden has been drastically reduced and the police force has been cut in half. Mayor Christie has said that he believes the rest of New Jersey should not have to pay for Camden's excuses. There are no hotels in Camden, no movie theaters, and the last supermarket closed in September, mak-

ing Camden an official food desert. Yet, the people of Camden are some of the strongest I have ever had the privilege to spend time with. Within the people of Camden, in their hearts, thoughts, words, and actions, there is always a glimmer of hope and an immense love for their city.

For the duration of the week our group stayed with an organization called DeSales Service Works in northern Camden. Through this organization we had the honor of meeting Father Mike, an Oblate priest who is originally from northern Virginia. When our group arrived at the row house we were going to be staying at, Fr. Mike offered to give us a tour of the city. We put our bags down and eagerly followed him as he led us through the alleys and streets, informing us about the struggles within the community and those living in it. As we walked along the sidewalks, people would enthusiastically call to Fr. Mike and inquire about how he was doing. It appeared as if everyone we encountered had had an experience with Fr. Mike at some point in time. He introduced us to two amazing men who both believe that if they had not met Fr. Mike and if he had not been so persistent in helping them, they

wouldn't be alive today. It was instantly evident that Fr. Mike was constantly living his life through paying it forward to others. He is like a beacon of hope that many have reached out towards. He never fails to reach out back to those who seek him and help them find their feet to stand again. The two men now pay it forward in their own lives by doing service within Camden, sharing their stories, and becoming more active in the spiritual journeys of others.

Throughout the week we spent time at many different service sites within the city. Our group went to a local Cathedral for Sandwich Ministry, where we made and helped distribute lunches. On an average day the Cathedral feeds between 350-500 people. Also at the Cathedral, we helped to match socks with minor manufacturing flaws that were donated from the local sock factory, so they could be handed out to help those in need stay warm. While working with Sandwich Ministry, we met amazing people like Susan, who organizes and oversees all of the operations, and Erma, who has committed all of her time and energy to service. They both pay it forward not only through their work, but also through their pure passion for aiding to the needs of others.

Another day we had the wonderful opportunity to go to New Visions, a day shelter in Camden. On the day that we happened to be serving there it was snowing outside, which caused the amount of people seeking shelter to be

higher than normal. We started out by helping to pass out breakfast, and then we were given the chance to interact with the guests visiting the shelter before lunch. I sat down next to a man experiencing homelessness and had a conversation I will never forget.

His name was Abraham, and he had just celebrated his 55th birthday. We immediately started talking as if we were old friends, laughing with each other and sharing stories. He told me about his impressive bowling career and his dream of opening a sandwich shop he would name Honest Abe's. We talked about our families, my sisters and his children. We discussed God and how we feel God's presence in our lives. Abraham introduced me to his friends who he calls his family, and I was honored to hear about their life challenges and triumphs. A woman named Alice came and sat down with us and mentioned that her feet had gotten wet in the snow. Abraham immediately reached into his backpack and said, "Well, I have just the thing." He pulled out a pair of socks that a member of our group had matched together the day before. Abraham handed the socks to Alice while she thanked him greatly, and he smiled back at her. Abraham had a personality that radiated happiness and kindness. He was easy to talk to and one of the best listeners I have ever known. Abraham has a drive and determination that is unparalleled.

He has been one of the most inspirational people I have met in my life. He not only paid it forward by forever inspiring and impacting my life, but also by constantly being there for those around him and putting others first.

Spending a week in Camden, New Jersey, caused me to grow in more ways than I thought possible. I had so many life-changing experiences, and I know it's a time I will never forget. The stories I mention here do not even begin to encompass all that our group experienced throughout the week. Entering Camden, I was convinced that it was a city in ruins. By the end of the week I had a completely different vision of the city that the members of the community helped me to see. Yes, Camden faces a lot of challenges and continues to struggle, yet I would argue any day that Camden is one of the strongest cities that has ever existed. The city lives off of paying it forward. The community is full of people who are constantly giving, only to receive and then give yet again. Etched in the side of the city hall building is Walt Whitman's famous quote and the city of Camden's motto: "In a dream I saw a city invincible." Camden is indeed invincible because the community continues to fight to keep itself afloat by continuously paying it forward.

To read other articles by Lydia visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



## PAYING IT FORWARD

# Junior Year

## Wise lessons learned

Kyle Ott  
MSM Class of 2015

Every person has a mentor, someone that transcends the role of boss or teacher and becomes someone from whom you can truly learn. I'm not talking about learning in the sense of book learning, or the simple regurgitation of facts (shout out to "Work as Flow" from Freshman Seminar!). I'm talking about true learning; the life lessons that only come from those who possess the wherewithal and wisdom to lead others to where they need to be.

Now I may be blessed with astronomical good looks, incredible talent, and the self-deprecating sense of humor that makes both those previous statements a joke, but I have never been blessed with all the answers. Sure, I could muddle my way through life, never really worrying about the consequences or striving for more, but I didn't. Instead, I found people who I knew possessed of the kind of intelligence that I could only dream of and the kind of leadership qualities that I not only admired, but also wanted to emulate more than anything. This month, the "Four Years At the Mount" writers were challenged to pay it forward through our writing. I decided to do

this by paying tribute to the people who matter most to me, my mentors. Those few people who saw something in me that no one else, not even I, could seem to grasp. This newspaper, despite all of its amazing qualities, is far too short for me to thank all of the amazing people to whom I owe my success in life. So before I begin, let me tell those teachers, friends, and spirit guides that I may not mention you by name, but you already know who you are.

It's fitting that the first mentor I should mention by name is Mike Hillman, the editor of our newspaper and the man who brought me on when I had just entered Mount St. Mary's University as a wide-eyed little freshman. I owe Mike a lot of things. He got me my first paid writing gig and opened my eyes to the wide range of opportunities before me. He continually offers untold amounts of joy at our banters back and forth. One running joke in particular is that after three years on the newspaper, he still can't remember my actual name to save his soul, a joke made all the more hilarious by the fact that I'm the only man on the "Four Years At the Mount" staff, and one of two men on our college staff period. Despite all the laughs, Mike has given me the lesson that I'll never forget, and it was

one that was far more serious than I could have anticipated. The summer after my freshman year with the paper I got a very long email from Mike. At first I thought the email was filled with comments about my latest article. Instead, it was comments about my performance as a member of the staff, and let me tell you, they weren't pretty. Mike was disappointed at my commitment to the paper, at the perceived lack of gusto in the way that I worked and wrote for them. He said that he'd considered firing me several points throughout the year... not exactly banner statements about my first year on the job. Mike kindly presented me with a choice, though unstated, incredibly clear. I could get my act together and work or I could leave.

I'm still here.

The lesson I learned that day was that the truth hurts, but the best medicine in the world is the truth. I was given an option to earn the position that I'd always claimed I'd wanted, or let this incredible opportunity disappear. It wasn't enough to just be a skilled writer. I learned the hard way that I had to be a hard worker, and that's a lesson I haven't forgotten since.

The next lesson is a little lighter than the one that Mike taught me, but still just as important. Much like my lesson in hard work, this one occurred during that important transitory time of my freshman year. During my second semester I was positive that, despite my tender age, I had

figured out how the world worked. I was in my Renaissance Literature class with my soon-to-be mentor Dr. Carol Hinds. Dr. Hinds was and is a sort of legend on the Mount St. Mary's campus. People go to her for advice and guidance, but before I knew any of this, I was some obnoxious freshman who barely bothered to read the material for class (in my defense I did read Henry V and The Rape of the Locke). Somehow, without having read a single other text from the class (this is probably a gross exaggeration but hey, it's a story for a reason), I managed to dominate class discussion. One day we were locked in the throes of an intense debate about the human behind Frankenstein (I got about 15 pages through that one). I was crushing it if I do say so myself. My points were tight and well argued, and I managed to leave a few people speechless. I was feeling pretty proud of myself when, by chance, I made eye contact with Dr. Hinds, and she gave me this look. There wasn't anything special about that look but there was something in it. In that moment, all of my pride turned into stunned appreciation.

She knew.

This whole time I thought I had been really slick, that I had somehow managed to get the best of this woman who had been teaching since before I was even born, but in one look I realized the truth. She was the one who had gotten the best of me by a long shot. Not only did I have a lot to learn, but I was also nowhere near

as smart as I thought I was at first. I never missed another reading assignment. A few weeks later when we had to ask a faculty member from the department of our major to be our mentor, I jumped at the chance to see if Dr. Hinds would mentor me. To this day she still acts like she's utterly shocked when I show up on time and am prepared for our one-on-one meetings. I've been blessed to continue to learn from her and it all started when she taught me one of the most important things anyone can learn: humility.

I guess this brings us to the last mentor, and if I had to pick one more person and what she taught me, it's my mom. She's my greatest mentor, my number one editor, and one of my best friends, and you know what...she's amazing. I might be a 20-year-old husky dude with a thick beard, 13 Resident Assistants who come to me for advice, and two underclassman authors who send me their articles for editing, but I still turn to mush around my mom.

So what's the lesson there? Some things never change.

The next time you go out and you see the person in your life who has made a positive change, go and thank them. Remember that you owe a lot to the giants who have come before you and cut a path for you. Until next time, I'm Kyle Ott, won't you sit and read for a while?

To read other articles by Kyle visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

# Senior Year

## What a change you could make

Nicole Jones  
MSM Class of 2014

It was a Sunday morning, the busiest day at Bob Evans' Restaurant. The kitchen was fully staffed and the floor was cluttered with seven waitresses flitting from table to table. I was among them. One of my tables was ready to order. It was a booth seated with two middle-aged couples; their hair was greying around the edges, ready to blend in with the sea of elderly couples that traditionally graced the restaurant. They were regulars, but I had never served them before. I politely asked for their order, and they chimed off one-by-one.

"A waffle with blueberry topping, please."

"I'll have the Farmer's Choice with scrambled eggs and hash browns."

"The same for me."

"I'll have the Southwestern Omelet, please."

I nodded, jotting everything down in my notebook and asking if there was anything else I could get for them this morning.

"That will be everything for us," said the gentleman who ordered last. He was wearing a black suit and a neck brace. The suit was typical of him but the brace was new. I wondered vaguely what might have happened to him. "But is there anything we can buy for you today?"

The question startled me. I was here

to serve him. I had been at this job for a month and a half and never had anyone offered to buy me a meal. I was just supposed to bring meals to them. I must have looked like a deer in headlights during the time it took for me to process his question. I shook my head and smiled.

"No thank you, sir."

Though I hadn't taken the gentleman up on his offer, he had just committed an act called "paying it forward." To pay it forward means committing an act of kindness towards another person. This act can be as small as holding the door open for someone or as dramatic and unexpected as offering to pay for someone's meal. The theory is that your act of kindness will inspire others – the person you helped and anyone who may have observed – to spread kindness as well. These acts are not done for personal reward, but simply because to be kind is to demonstrate love towards others, and every person deserves to be loved.

That same Sunday, a father came in with his five-year old son. The boy had an origami book and was folding a paper crane when I took their order.

"That's pretty neat. What do you have there?" I decided to connect with the little boy. He held up his book.

"It's origami," he said excitedly, starting to flip through the pages to show me what other creatures could be made from paper.

"Cool! Are you going to make one of everything?" I asked.

"Uh-huh. Dad got it for me," he nodded.

"Well, he sounds like a pretty cool dad. You keep it up, and I'll come back to see what you've made."

The boy beamed up at me before concentrating on his next fold. He later put aside his origami when I served him his chocolate chip pancakes, but when I dropped off the check, I made sure to give him a little more encouragement.

"The next time I see you, I bet you'll have finished that entire book."

I didn't think any more about it and took the next table's order. Business as usual. I was punching an order of all-you-can-eat pancakes into the computer when a little face popped around the counter. It was the boy. I smiled.

"Well, hello again."

He stretched his hands out towards me. I carefully took the paper from him.

"For me?" I asked.

He nodded and said, "Have a nice day!"

"Thank you!" I waved as he walked out the door and I marveled at the little paper bird in my hand. That's when I realized my encouragement had meant something to that boy. I had only said a few words to him, but it had left a positive impression. In turn, his small gift had made my day.

I decided to share these stories with my friends the other day, and it opened a floodgate of pay it forward stories.

"I bought someone's meal at 7-Eleven once," said my friend, Matthew

Steele. "She was obviously very poor. She was paying in all change, and she was at the point where she had hundreds of pennies she was counting out. She clearly didn't have the money."

"My family was out walking in Baltimore once, and we found twenty dollars on the ground," said Nicole Vanagas. "We continued walking, and we came across this poor crippled man sitting on the ground, and we gave him the money. He teared up and said, 'You just bought me meals for the week.' He was so genuinely grateful."

"We had a very old neighbor in her 90s," began Olivia Gorman. "She had an at-home nurse, but she lived alone. On Thanksgiving Day my father suggested that we take Thanksgiving dinner over to Ms. Johnson, but when we got there, we found out she was a vegetarian. Dad had us bring the food back, and we prepared her a vegetarian meal. Unfortunately, we couldn't get her over to our house, but my sisters and I sat with her while she ate Thanksgiving dinner."

Matthew had a second, even more

incredible story, but this time it wasn't about himself.

"My great uncle was the mayor of Shiremanstown," Matt explained. "He would do a lot of little things for other people. He would visit the prison and volunteer at shelters. Then simple things like buying people ice cream cones and such. Anyway, when he died there were over 2,000 people at his funeral. It was amazing because we got to see all the people that he touched. Everyone loved him."

It's amazing how simple acts can touch people's lives. Many times we never know what an impact we may have had on a person until, like Matthew's great uncle, we have passed on. He left behind an inspirational legacy that teaches us not to withhold kindness from others. Your one simple act of kindness may be the encouragement others need to pay it forward. If we can keep that chain reaction going, we can begin to make this world a kinder place to live in.

To read other articles by Nicole visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## THE GRADUATE

# A letter to my future children

Megan Kinsella  
MSM Class of 2013

*"We love because he first loved us. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."*

—1 John 4:19, 21

To be a parent must be a wonderfully beautiful, yet terrifying thing. As a mother, I'll someday have the opportunity to give the best of myself to my children: my physical and personal traits, my joys and desires, my faith, everything that I am and that I dream of. But, there's also the possibility that I'll pass on some things to them that I never wanted or expected to pass on: my impatience, my knack for spending too much money, my emotional wounds. Needless to say, I've been reflecting a lot lately on motherhood and everything that comes with it. So, in the spirit of "Pass it On," I offer you some of my own reflections on love, children,

and motherhood, reflections that I'll one day pass on to my own children...

Hey it's me, mom.

As I write this, I'm sitting in a church in Southern Louisiana, where I'm living this year and working as a missionary. Your dad is living in D.C., going to school for a Masters in Economics. We're engaged and getting married in November, eight short months from right now.

We talk about you guys a lot. We obviously have no idea how many of you there will be, what your names will be, what you will be like. But, when we talk about you, we are both just so incredibly excited. We talk about how funny you'll be (I hope you get your dad's humor), how beautiful and handsome you are, how you will bring us so much joy and happiness. It's so crazy to think about the fact that we already love you so much and you aren't even human yet! I can't even imagine what it will actually be like when you are here with us. My heart is most likely going to explode

with joy and love.

And do you know why we can love you so much? Because God loved you first. He already knows your name, your birthday, your career path, the number of hairs on your head, the things that will make you happy, the things that will bring you to tears, all of the mistakes you will make, everything... He literally knows everything about you. And He loves you! He is the God of the universe, and He loves you so immensely and totally and completely, enough to send His Son to earth, to take on the weight of our sins, to die for us, to save us from ourselves. He loves you, and you are His precious sons and daughters.

And this is the only reason that your dad and I can love you... because Jesus loves you first, and Jesus loves us first. He taught us what it means to love and to sacrifice, and so we try to imitate what He does. My children, we recognize that you are not ours. You were never ours... you belong to your Heavenly Father, and we are simply your adopted parents during this short journey on earth. And what's your dad and my number one job? To do our very best to get each other and all of you to the heavenly banquet feast of eternal life, to be united in eternity with your true father.

This means that sometimes we're going to do things that you don't like. Sometimes you're going to want to sleep in on Sunday and we are going to drag you to mass. Sometimes we're going to ground you for breaking the rules. Sometimes you're going to hate us for not letting you go see that movie that all of your friends are going to see. Sometimes we're going to ask you to help your brothers and sisters with

their homework or their chores around the house. Please know that we do these things because we love you so much and we want the very best for you. And the very best for you is Heaven with Jesus. Plain and simple.

Another thing I want you to know up front is that your dad and I are not perfect, and we never will be. Your dad will get frustrated and impatient and lose his temper. I will get picky and annoying and tired. We will make mistakes, because we are human and all humans are broken. We will hurt your feelings sometimes. We will fight sometimes. I want to apologize right now for all those times, and let you know that it changes absolutely nothing about how much we love you or how much we love each other. When you're really little, your dad and I are going to be like Superman and Wonderwoman in your eyes. But, as you grow and mature, you'll start to see all the imperfections in us and in the world around you.

And we know this: when you start to see all the bad in the world, all the sickness and death and imperfection and evil, please know that God exists and that He is so good. There would be no such thing as the "good" without the "bad." We need the imperfections, or else we wouldn't know true beauty or true goodness or true joy.

As I sit here thinking about and praying for you, my perspective has shifted a little bit. In the past, I've always thought how badly I want to have kids because they would make me happy and babies are so cute and yadda yadda yadda. All of this is still true, but I've realized that it's not about me. It's about each of you! Your dad and I are preparing for marriage so that, among many other reasons, we can give you the gift

of life, just as our parents gave us and their parents before them. What better gift to give someone than the opportunity to be born, to breathe fresh air and see the joyful smiles of friends and family, to experience the fullness of this life and then the even more full fullness of the next life. There is literally nothing better I could ever give another human than the gift of life.

Yes, you will experience sadness and pain and heartache... that's inevitable. But that is nowhere near a good enough reason to keep life from you. It is your right, and your dad and I aren't going to take that away from you.

Your dad and I are both 23 years old right now. I still feel like an eight year old kid most of the time (and I hope it stays like that for the rest of our lives) and can't believe we are going to be getting married so young. But, I am so excited for it. So excited to give myself to him fully and completely and for him to do the same. And to live our lives together and to welcome you all into our family here on earth.

Know that we love you so much and that we always will, no matter what. No matter how many detentions you get, how many fights you get in, how many times you get caught sneaking out of the house or lying to us. Yes of course there will be consequences (don't you dare think about sneaking out of the house), but we will never stop loving you. It's an everlasting love, with no conditions or exceptions. Because that's how Christ loves us, and He calls us all to do the same.

Love always, Mom

To read past articles by Megan Kinsella visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net)

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## CREATIVE WRITING

# What goes around comes around

Alexandra Tyminski  
MSM Class of 2015

I was sitting on the DC metro headed to my job. It was a Monday, and it was raining. It was “one of those days.” My eyes began to wander.

I noticed the young, mid-30's looking woman with bleach blonde hair and blue eyes. She was dressed in a black suit with heels and a black bag. Most definitely a lawyer. It was hard not to smell the strong stench behind me. I looked at the reflection of the window instead of turning my head back to see who it was. There, sinking into the blue seat, was a large man with a white beard. He seemed to be wearing a construction uniform. His eyes in the reflection seemed tired and droopy. He was definitely working through the night.

“Next stop, Farragut North,” the metro driver announced. I rose from my seat, attempting to not lose my balance and fall down. We came to an abrupt halt. The doors opened and people fled on by me like a race to the finish line. In this case, it was more like a race to the escalator.

I took a deep breath and stepped out of the metro. I walked confidently up the escalator and out into the rain. I had seven blocks to get to my first official job since I graduated from college. With each step I took, I heard my black Steve Madden heels hit the wet sidewalk. I walked with purpose. *This was my day*, I thought.

As I passed by a Starbucks on my way to work, I decided that I deserved to spend a little money on a small 12-ounce coffee. I was an official adult with a real job. Although I was living at home until I could afford to move out, I still felt different.

“Laura! Laura!” My name was yelled out. I was too busy fumbling in my purse to realize that my drink was ready. I quickly grabbed the small white cup off the counter and headed for the door. As I waited at the crosswalk outside of the Starbucks, I watched the crowd in front of me. Almost every person to the left and right of me was in a business suit. They all looked so serious and so purposeful. Was this how everyone in the business world looked? Serious? Mission-guided? Where did all of these dressed up people work? Who were they? Engineers? Writers? Mathematicians? Politicians? Editors? Musicians? Artists? Fashion designers? Suddenly, a man caught my eye. No, he didn't look like Brad Pitt. His occupation was something unlike the others. This man's appearance was extremely noticeable to me, but to others he seemed invisible.

His name was Stewart. He had on a raggedy gray winter jacket. Underneath it looked like a red shirt. Stewart wore a fishing hat to cover his head, but it was soaked from the rain. His curly beard reached half way down to his chest. As I observed from afar, he seemed to be smiling at everyone walking by him. However, no one paid any attention.

The light turned green, and I quickly stepped into the street with the rest of the busy crowd. Again, I felt as if it was a race to see who could get to work the fastest. I approached Stewart. The sign with his name on it was very visible. As I got closer, I realized that this man was older than me and desperately in need of a haircut. Behind his shaking wet legs were three bags. I assumed by his bags and his sign that read, “Anything will help and God Bless you,” that he was homeless. I turned to him and smiled.

“Hey, Stewart!” I said with excitement as if he were a longtime friend. It took him a little bit to respond.

“Oh hey, miss!” he said with a big smile on his face. His smile was most memorable in that moment. He was missing more than a few teeth, but it was one of the most genuine smiles I have ever seen.

“This rain never seems to stop, huh?” I said jokingly to him.

“No miss, it never really does.”

Stewart was shaking, and he seemed to be calling out for someone to just simply notice him. I took out a pen from my purse and wrote a message on the cup.

“Here is my drink. I'm not sure if you like coffee, but it is nice and hot,” I said, handing him my drink.

Stewart stood there in shock. It seemed as though he was confused and unsure of what to do. *Should I accept this act of kindness? Should I take the coffee?*

“Thanks, miss.”

He took the cup of coffee, and his smile once again stretched across his face. He never really said how much he appreciated it, but I could tell by his smile that words didn't need to be spoken. I responded with a smile and headed onward.

When I looked down at my watch and noticed that it was a few minutes later than I had planned on being at work, I didn't even feel a sense of urgency. As everyone was busy beginning their daily work lives, I started mine by giving Stewart a cup of coffee and a good morning smile. He taught me that there is time in our busy days to reach out to others. I turned my head and looked over my shoulder. Stewart was looking right at me. I nodded my head and waved goodbye. I'll always remember his smile.

...

The streets are always busy. Everyone is always in a hurry to get somewhere. I remember what those days used to be like. Now I'm older and trying to get back on my feet. I'm trying to return to the busy life. Many of the busiest people in the world may look at me and think I'm strange, but I would like to get back to working one day.

I've been homeless for two years now, and it has been a tough journey. However, I went to college a long time ago so I have the ability to read and write, which allows me to release a lot of my thoughts. I've learned a lot about myself on the streets. But,

I've also learned a lot about others. I'm seeing that it is really hard to connect with people when you are almost invisible. I just keep telling myself that if only people knew my heart and how nice of a person I am, maybe things would be different. I've learned that friendship and interactions with others are so important. Even if you are homeless.

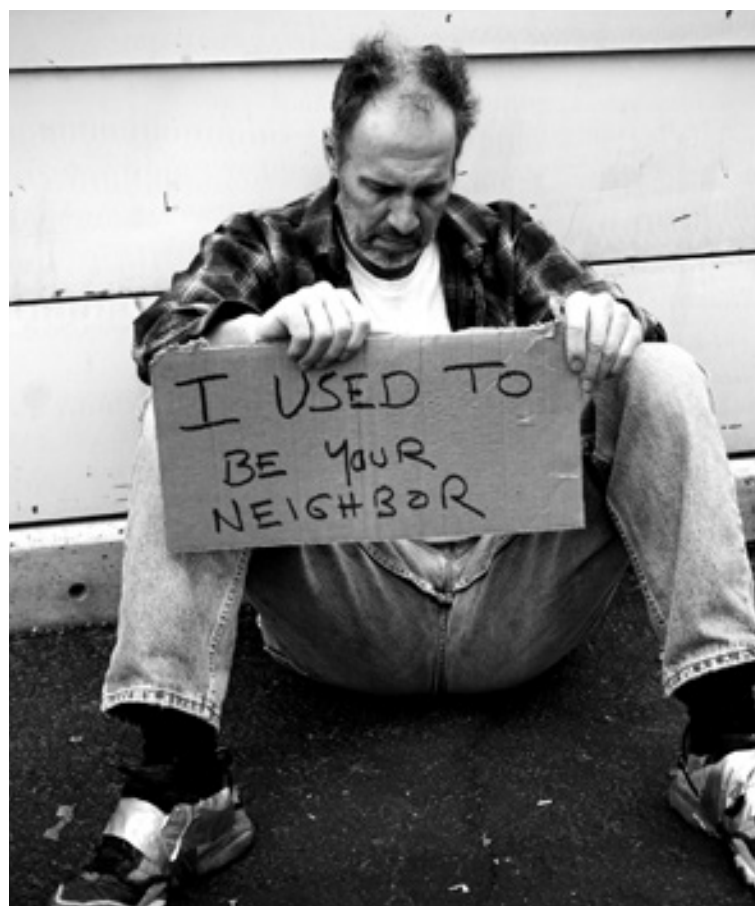
I know that people look at me and see that I have nothing, but I look at some of them and see a calling for love, a helping hand, and conversation. We are all human. We all thrive on kindness from others. However, it is the act of actually giving that I think is the best part. I spotted a young man on his cell phone in the rain. He looked young, fit and born to be leader. Maybe he was a doctor.

He stood tall and proud. He had a nice suit on and looked extremely put together. There was something off though. His suit was soaked. He had a despaired look on his face. He stood on the corner near my three bags. I looked closer and it looked like he was crying. No, not this guy. Not the doctor. I approached him, and he saw me coming closer. Most people would back up quickly when they see my long beard, but he didn't move away. He seemed too tied up in his phone conversation to even notice me.

I stood there waiting until he was done. He looked at me like I was an alien.

“Sir, are you okay?” I asked confidently, expecting him to ignore me. He suddenly burst into tears.

I couldn't tell if he was afraid or concerned that I was going to steal something from him. With no words coming from his mouth, I frantically took the small black umbrella out from my coat pocket. I reached out my arm to him and he took the umbrella. He quickly gestured to give me back my umbrella. I had another one in my bag so I answered back with a gentle hand motion saying no thank you.



“Thank you sir,” he said while stretching out his other arm for a handshake.

I shook his firm hand with the best handshake that I had. He didn't say anything, but he smiled and turned the other way. I hope the umbrella serves him well.

...

I could not believe what just happened. The terrible realization that I lost my wallet. I must have left it at the Starbucks. I was on my way back to the metro after work and I realized that I didn't have my metro card. I frantically waited at the metro station. I began to tell the guy in charge what was going on when someone behind me started speaking.

“I'll pay for her ticket,” the voice behind me said.

I looked and there stood a tall, almost 6-foot man with a black umbrella and cash in hand. He gave the

money to the ticket counter, and I was handed a ticket.

“Thank you so much! I can't thank you enough,” I said. He looked at me and nodded.

“My pleasure,” he said.

I walked to the metro platform and followed in the man's footsteps. He stood on the opposite platform as me. The train pulled up and when it sped away, he was no longer standing there, but bright blue words engraved on the old tile walls of the metro stuck out like a sore thumb.

“Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

I smiled a big grin and thought to myself, I wonder what Stewart thought when I wrote this on his Starbucks cup this morning.

To read past articles by Alexandra Tyminski visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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## LOCAL ARTS

## Rebecca Pearl Gallery

Kathryn Franke  
MSM Class of 2013

When you are passionate about what you do, it really shows, and after sitting down with Rebecca Pearl from Emmitsburg's Rebecca Pearl Gallery, I found myself inspired. As a fellow artist, I was so happy to have such a great discussion with her about art.

Rebecca was a nurse for 25 years, but she could not ignore her desire to have the arts play a more prominent role in her life. She missed making artwork, so she began creating portraits of people for a living. She would also set up her easel in a shopping center and create beautiful works of art inspired by the architecture around her. At one point her architecture drawings had a "cubistic" nature to them. Her works contained many diagonals and were grid reactions to doing things realistically.

Rebecca has now been creat-

ing art for over 30 years, and she is best known for her work with watercolors, although she also creates many pieces using pastels and oil paint. The subject matter of her work is very diverse, but her love of animals is clear as many of her works include dogs, cats, and horses.

Rebecca describes art as being similar to yoga. "It is the joining of your mind and your body together," she said. "It is both relaxing and focusing." For her, the art studio is a place for her to use drawing and painting to help sort out the rest of her life. As an artist myself, I can completely relate to that feeling. I can spend hours drawing or painting and it can feel like only minutes have passed by.

Recently, Rebecca has added writing and illustration to her list of art accomplishments. She has been illustrating books for author Lois Noffsinger-Spurrier (pen name "Granny Lo"), and she is now illustrating Lois' fourth book.

Some of the books include "The Adventures of D.O.G." and "The Miracle of Life: God's Greatest Gift," which was commissioned by Kiwanis International in Frederick, of which Lois is a member. All proceeds from this book will go to Project Eliminate, which works to get rid of tetanus in third world countries. Lois uses the story of her own five children and the availability of vaccinations within the United States to note the importance of helping new life survive in these countries. It is very noble of Lois and Rebecca to use their talents to help such a good cause and inspire others to make a difference.

Together, they are working on the creation of two additional books, one about Rosa Parks and the other about the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.

Rebecca has also written, illustrated, and self-published her own book titled, "Gilbert and the Great Horse Spirit." The story is

inspired by her own horse, who she adopted seven years ago. He was a retired police horse of the US Park Police. Because of this, he was desensitized to many disturbances. The story follows her love for Gilbert and their experiences together.

Rebecca admits that the hardest part of the book's creation was writing the first line. She noted that she believes anyone can create a wonderful piece of written work; you just have to get through writing the first line and the rest will follow.

Rebecca has continued to use her artistic skills to help the community. She has sold prints of her artwork to raise money for the Mother Seton School, and she has also had the pleasure of meeting Pope John Paul II in Rome to hand-deliver a gift of her artwork to him. She recently created a series of watercolor paintings commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, taking her inspiration from the various monuments located throughout the Gettysburg battlefields.

Rebecca shares her love of art through demonstrations in her gallery. She hosts two classes each week, mostly watercolor and drawing classes, and she also teaches a children's class.

Rebecca's husband, James Zeigler, a Mount St. Mary's alum, also has a custom framing shop located within the Rebecca Pearl Gallery. In addition to works of art, he has framed things such as diplomas, jerseys, relics, fossils, and more, and the frames look exquisite! After seeing them in the gallery, I will definitely be taking some of my own personal artwork there to be framed.

I encourage you all to stop by and visit the Rebecca Pearl Gallery. You will find beautiful works of art, wonderful company, and inspiration around every corner. The Rebecca Pearl Gallery is located at 24 West Main Street Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727. It is open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am to 5pm.

For more information, visit Rebecca's website: [www.rebeccapearl.com](http://www.rebeccapearl.com).

## Smoke on the Mountain

"I don't have to tell you mothers out there how hard it is to raise three children in today's world....But with a strong hand and the help of God, I believe I've done a wonderful job. So, of course, it fell on me to do the chil-

ren's devotional tonight. So, children, scoot up to the edge of your pew. This is for you," says Vera Sanders, one of the lead characters in the Thurmont Thespian's upcoming show, Smoke on the Mountain.

Those who know Anna Perry, who will be playing Vera Smith, could easily hear those same words coming from her at any time. Anna has three children, is a faithful Christian woman, and can be heard singing profes-

sionally at any number of local venues, both Christian music and rock and roll. One thing that may not be as well known is that her daughter, Annabelle, is also a musician and will be performing along side her moth-

er in Smoke on the Mountain. Annabelle, who is in the 7th grade at Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg, will be playing the role of Denise, a guitar playing, motion-picture loving young lady, who sometimes, "has a little too much time on her hands," and Vera and Stanley's youngest daughter.

Director, Kelli Donaghue, has enjoyed working with the mother and daughter team. "Many times I giggle watching them on stage. Anna can finish Belle's lines and Belle can do the same for Anna! If one of them gets "stuck" during rehearsal, the other one leans forward from wherever they are and helps the other one out. They "comfortably" get the other one re-started again and ...on with the show! They both have beautiful voices and make similar faces while singing."

Smoke on the Mountain is set in North Carolina's Smoky Mountains in 1938 and tells the story of the Sanders family, a traveling bluegrass group, who are enlisted by the local pastor to bring his tiny congregation into "the modern world." Between songs, each family member tells a story about an important event in their life, often revealing their true and hilariously imperfect natures.

Rounding out the cast is Joshua Flanick (Dennis, Denise's twin brother), Lori Hockley (June), Norm Gibat (Stanley Sanders), Steve Hess (Burk Sanders), and Travis Sanders (Pastor Oglethorpe).

Opening night for Smoke on the Mountain is Friday, April 4 at 8 p.m. Performances will continue that weekend on Saturday, April 5 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 6 at 2 p.m. The show will resume on Friday, April 11 at 8 p.m., a Dinner Theatre on Saturday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m., and closing show Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale now by calling Becky Urian, Box Office Manager, at 301-271-7613. Tickets are \$15 each; Dinner theater tickets are \$35 and include dinner and the show.



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**MOUNT ARTS**

# SPARC festival is bound to be electric!

**Caroline King**  
MSM Class of 2015

There is a certain time all Mount Saint Mary's students know well. It is, of course, our annual SPARC festival! The time of year Mount students pull together to present their research projects and works to the public and fellow students for the enjoyment of others. From the school's literary magazine, to plays, poems, art galleries, and even scientific studies, the SPARC festival offers something for everyone, with many students from every major participating. Teachers often encourage their students to attend presentations pertaining to what they're learning and incorporate the festival into their curriculum. The SPARC festival is completely open to the public, and the 2014 festival will be held on April 8, 9 and 10.

I remember my own freshman experience with the SPARC festival. The amount and diversity of the presentations took me completely by surprise. From film festivals to lightning talks, each presentation was given with a depth that was astounding. Fun and educational, the SPARC festival became one of my favorite events at the Mount. It's an amazing way to have exposure to information that you might not be exposed to otherwise. The first SPARC festival presentation I ever saw was a presentation of a silent French film a student had made. Following the film, I heard a reading of a Japanese children's book a student had written and illustrated.

SPARC festival begins this year on Tuesday, April 8. The kick-off opening ceremony will be lead by the honored faculty speaker, Dr. Greg Murry. This event will take place at 3:30pm in Knott Auditorium and will be followed by the first Honors Session from 6pm to 9pm. Starting at 7pm, both the theater student recitals and the art gallery in the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center will open to the public for the first time. The first night of SPARC will be rounded off with the first film festival, ending at

11pm. Any and all of these events will be worth attending, but I myself will be going to the Delaplaine events and covering them in next month's issue.

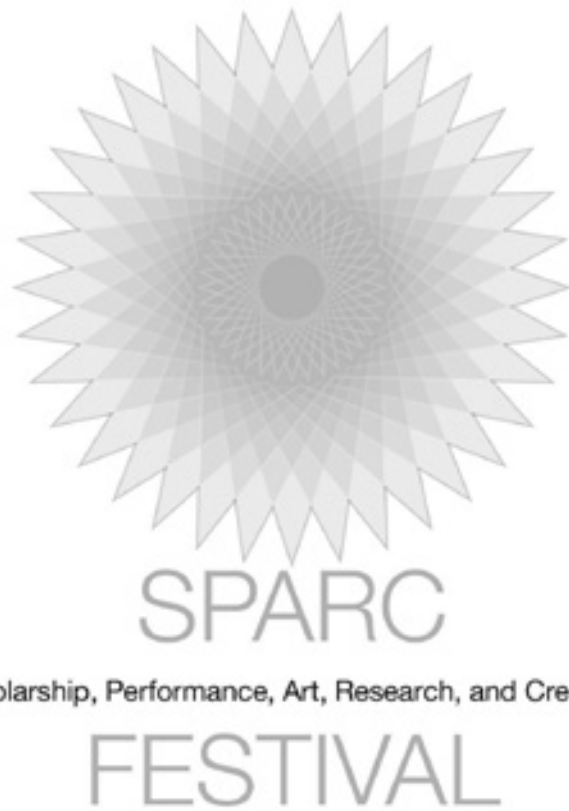
SPARC continues its events on Wednesday, April 9, opening with the second honors session and a series of "lightning talks" showcasing various topics and areas of discussion from students and professors. Mount Saint Mary's award-winning literary magazine, Lighted Corners, will also be revealing its new issue. This annually released magazine will be debut from 4:30 to 5:30pm in the Phillips Library on the Mount Saint Mary's campus. Filled with students' writings ranging from poems to short stories to flash fiction, every piece in Lighted Corners has been hand-chosen by a group of students and will be presented alongside images of student artwork, painting and photography. A free copy of the literary magazine is often offered to the first attendants, while supplies lasts. Many of the students whose work is being featured will be attending the release, but as with all SPARC events, it is completely open to the public.

To round off the festival on Thursday April 10, there is the last of the honors sessions throughout the day along with performance presentations in Knott Auditorium. The last of the films will also be shown, completing the film festival aspect of SPARC. There will also be one last hurrah, a closing celebration from 3:00-5:00pm in Founders Plaza, open for every-

one to celebrate another successful SPARC Festival. More detailed listings of events, times, and locations can be found on the Mount Saint Mary's webpage by visiting [www.msmary.edu/academics/SPARC](http://www.msmary.edu/academics/SPARC).

If you find yourself free on any of the dates in April during the festival, grab your family and friends and make the trip to Mount Saint Mary's. What better way to enjoy the upcoming spring weather than attending a fun, educational festival? The students have been hard at work with the research projects, art galleries, and performances all semester. Some presentations are the culmination of all of the students' four years at the Mount. Between the wide array of student work and professors' presentations, there will be something for everyone at the SPARC Festival this year.

In my previous article we took a look at many of the upcoming artists who will be featured during the SPARC festival, and in the next issue we will be having a full recap of the SPARC art gallery and theatrical presentations. The interviews of the previous article revealed the time and effort that each student has put into these presentations throughout the year. From sculptures made from molds of faces, to wood made flexible, to a modern and abridged presentation of Shakespeare, each student's passions and talents have whole heartedly gone into making these presentations the best they can be and showing off everything they have



learned at the Mount. It is bitter-sweet for some seniors who will be presenting for the last time at Mount Saint Mary's before graduating in May and leaving our campus for graduate school or the working world. It would certainly mean a lot for the students to have a good turnout for the

presentation of their final works as college students. So whether you're interested in science, art, philosophy, psychology, theology, math, or any other subject, the SPARC festival promises a complete and in-depth array of all fields and topics. Be sure to stop by!

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# GUARDIAN HOSE COMPANY AWARD BANQUET



William Willhide receiving his live membership certificate for 25 years of service from Vice President Terry Frushour.



James Eyer receiving his 50 years of service award from Vice President Terry Frushour.



Donald Stitely receiving his 55 years of service award from Vice President Terry Frushour.



Richard Willhide receiving his 55 years of service award from Vice President Terry Frushour.

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President Emeritus:  
Don Stitely  
Vice President:  
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Assistant Secretary:  
Tisha Miller  
Treasurer: Russ Schantz  
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### Trustees

Dave Fogle, Jody Miller, Donnie Easterday, Steve Yingling, Joe Ohler

### Line Officers for 2014

Chief: Chris Kinnaird  
Assistant Chief:  
Carroll Brown  
Captain: Kevin Welch  
Lieutenant: Blaine Schildt  
Lieutenant: Will Gue

### Top Ten Responders for 2013

- 1 - Terry Frushour, 320
- 2 - Wayne Stackhouse, 258
- 3 - Brian Donavan, 231
- 4 - Donald Easterday, 226
- 5 - Chris Kinnaird, 216
- 6 - Larry Duple, 213
- 7 - Mike Duple, 202
- 8 - Chad Brown, 197
- 9 - Steve Strickhouser, 158
- 10 - Thomas Minnick, 155



Administrative Officers for 2014. Front row (L-R) President Wayne Stackhouse, President Emeritus Donald Stitely, Vice President Terry Frushour, Secretary Lori Brown, Assistant Secretary Tisha Miller, Treasurer Russ Schantz, Assistant Treasurer Pam Fraley, Chaplin Reverend James Hamrick. Back row (L-R) Trustees Jody Miller, Steve Yingling, Donnie Easterday, David Fogle, Joe Ohler.



Top five Responding Drivers and Firefighters. Front row drivers (L-R) Terry Frushour, 320, Wayne Stackhouse, 258, Larry Duple, 213. Not pictured Mike Duple, 202, Brad Weddle, 141. Back row (L-R) Brian Donovan, 231, Chris Kinnaird II, 216, Chad Brown, 197, Steve Strickhouser, 158. Not pictured: Lev Ellian, 145.



Activities Committee. Front row (L-R) Tina Ohler, Lynn Davis, Pam Fraley, Tina Yingling, Trish Hahn, Lori Brown. Back row (L-R) Shirley Baxter, Bev Frushour, Darlene Richerd, Trina Wiltrout, Peggy Wehage. Not pictured: Peggy White and Debbie Landry.



Operational Officers for 2014 (L-R) Chief Chris Kinnaird, Assistant Chief Carroll Brown, Lieutenants Blaine Schildt, Will Gue. Not pictured: Captain Kevin Welch.

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# FAIRFIELD FIRE COMPANY AWARD BANQUET



2013 Top Responders. Front row (L-R) Patrick Henry, Chad Fogle, Brad Hartdagen, and Chuck Haynes. Back row (L-R) Dave Millstein, Kip Hamilton, Adam Jacobs, Bill Jacobs and Chuck Schussler.



2014 Line Officers (L-R) Ambulance Sgt. Patrick Henry, Ambulance Lt. Chad Fogle, ambulance Capt. Kip Hamilton, Fire Chief Bill Jacobs, Deputy Fire Chief Adam Jacobs, Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Koons. Not pictured: Ambulance Sgt. Neal Abrams and Fire Lt. Jesse Sanders.



Bill Jacobs was honored as top responder for both Fire Calls and ambulance calls. Pictured with him is Jessica Kraft, 2013 awards banquet Chairperson.



Gayle Myers, Chuck Haynes, present Kevin Koons and Bob Fitez with the 2014 Leadership Award.



Diana Ratliff, Membership Secretary and James N. Hammett, Ambulance Medical Director, were the recipients of the President's Awards.



Bingo chairperson, Jamie Phillips presented President Chuck Haynes with a check for \$100,000.

**Fairfield Fire Company Officers for 2014**  
 Fire Chief Bill Jacobs  
 Deputy Chief Adam Jacobs  
 Asst. Chief Kevin Koons  
 First Lieutenant Jesse Sanders  
 Ambulance Captain Kip Hamilton  
 Ambulance Lieutenant Chad Fogle  
 Ambulance Sergeants Neal Abrams & Patrick Henry.

**Administrative Officers for 2104**  
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 Vice President Bob Fitez  
 Secretary Tamie Leckemby  
 Treasurer Gayle Marthers  
 Membership Secretary Diana Ratliff  
 EMS Membership Secretary Betsy Bucher

**Board Members**

Doug Tomko, Jim Hammett, Chuck Schussler, Derrick Martin, Kevan Taylor, David Millstein, Larry Schneider, Neal Abrams, and Bob Fitez, Jr.

## Fountaindale VFD



The Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department awards banquet and dinner was held on February 22, 2014 to honor the members of the Company Department. The Top 5 responders for 2013 were: David Martin, Larry Fowler, Brad Martin, Sarah Ginn, Dale Buffington, and Sam Ginn. The 2013 Member of the Year was presented to Peggy Martin for her 35 years of dedication to the department.

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## COOKING WITH LOVE

# The incredible, edible egg!

Brooke Hagerty Lurie  
The Food Chick

With Easter coming in April this year I thought it only après pax that this month's article be devoted to the incredible, edible egg. Did you know that 61 million eggs are sold during the Easter season? That is 732,000,000 individual eggs... that is an awful lot of eggs and it represents a whopping 45% increase over the rest of the year.

The egg is said to have over 100 different ways to be prepared. One of the most popular ways is the boiled egg, hard boiled to be exact. And as you might have guessed the hard-boiled egg is definitely the most popular during the Easter season. Here are some helpful hints regarding hard boiled eggs;

1. When hard boiling eggs it is best to use eggs that are 5 days old or older. So if you are raising your own chickens be sure to save eggs before you boil them.
2. If you store hard boiled eggs in the shell be sure to put them in a covered container to reduce the odor and keep refrigerated.
3. If you store hard boiled eggs out of the shell do so in cold water with lemon wedges to retain the white color and keep refrigerated.
4. To make the perfect hard

boiled egg; place your eggs in cold water with a few pinches of salt. Bring to a boil, cover with a tight lid and remove from heat for 8 minutes. Rinse in cold water for 3 minutes to stop the cooking process.

Another popular way to prepare eggs is to scramble them. There are a few different schools of thought on how to properly scramble an egg and they differ depending on how you like your eggs; loose or firm, fluffy or flat. I prefer mine fluffy and firm so for me the best way to prepare is the following:

1. Whisk three eggs with salt, pepper and approximately 2 tablespoons of heavy cream, half and half or milk (heavy cream will make them the fluffiest).
2. Prepare your sauté pan by heating with a medium flame or medium setting on an electric or flat top stove for approximately one minute. Add two teaspoons of unsalted butter and wish around to cover the entire bottom of the pan.
3. Whisk your eggs again and pour into the center of the pan so that they will spread out on their own, cook for one minute.
4. With a wooden spoon or heat resistant spatula gently push

eggs toward the center of the pan and then back out to allow for even cooking. If you like toss in some of your favorite fresh herbs and a little cheese until the eggs have lost all of their liquid.

5. If you are making a scrambled egg sandwich do not add any liquid so that the eggs will remain firm and not fall out of the bread.
6. If you would like to make a warm wrap, remove eggs from pan and place your wrap in it for 30-45 seconds per side. Place eggs in the center and fold the bottom side up, then the two sides in and roll to the top for an easy on the go breakfast!
7. If you prefer your eggs looser and flatter substitute water for your dairy liquid.

Baked eggs are another one of my favorites and are so easy; you can even make a large batch and heat them up another day thus saving time during those hectic weekday mornings. This recipe, which makes 12, is perfect if you are hosting a brunch as it incorporates your meat (in this case Canadian Bacon) and basically cooks itself in the oven with little to no supervision.



1. Pre-heat your oven to 350 degrees and grab your muffin pan (spray with cooking spray)
2. Dice one small Vidalia onion and one small red pepper into small bites and season with salt and pepper (add a little hot sauce if you like a little spice).
3. Take Canadian Bacon and "line" your muffin tin.
4. Place one tablespoon of your mixture in the bacon "liner".
5. Crack one egg and cover the mixture.
6. Repeat until your muffin tin is filled.
7. Cook for about 10 minutes or to desired firmness. (the more you make this recipe you will find how you like your eggs best, I love mine to run right out when I put my fork in them)
8. To remove from muffin tin,

scoop out with a soup spoon and serve.

Eggs aren't just for breakfast, they can be eaten anytime of the day and one of my favorite ways to eat them is in Egg Drop Soup. Egg Drop Soup is one of the simplest soups to make and requires only three basic ingredients; stock, eggs and cornstarch. You can add your favorite spices and herbs to kick it up a notch as you see fit. Some great additions are scallions, lemon grass, ginger and soy sauce

1. Heat 4 cups of your stock over medium heat. As you are heating gather your "extra" ingredients (lemon grass and peeled and sliced ginger) and place in a cheese cloth bag, then add to broth.
2. Bring to a light boil and then simmer for 15 minutes. Remove "extras" and add salt or soy sauce to taste.
3. Scoop out ¼ cup of broth and whisk together with 1 tablespoon of cornstarch. Pour into soup to thicken by whisking (if you like it thicker repeat this step to desired consistency).
4. Whisk together 3 medium to large eggs in a measuring cup.
5. Slowly pour eggs into soup mix. You want to pour over the tines of a fork so the eggs will string out in the soup.
6. Garnish with scallions and serve immediately.
7. Hints- do not be afraid to be creative with your extras. If you want to store this soup do not add the eggs until you are ready to serve. The stock mixture will hold for 3-5 days. You can use any stock, beef, vegetable, chicken or seafood but chicken is the most popular.



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There you have it folks, some great recipes for one of our favorite foods; the incredible, edible egg!

As always, if you have an idea for an article or have any questions do not hesitate to contact me anytime at [brooke@gunnersgrille.com](mailto:brooke@gunnersgrille.com). From all of us at Gunner's Grille at Taneytown we thank you for your support over the past three years, we will miss you all. You can reach me on Facebook under The Food Chick. And be on the lookout for our new website coming soon to a computer near you!



# Connie Kniesler

**Bridgette Nitza**  
MSM Class of 2015

Constance Kniesler, who prefers to go by Connie, is a junior on the Mount St. Mary's University Cross Country and Track and Field teams.

At first, however, finding her niche in the running world was not an easy task.

Kniesler had always loved to run in high school. "During Indoor track I started as a Junior Varsity sprinter and in Outdoor track I moved up to varsity to be one of our 400-meter open runners. I was encouraged to join the fall cross-country team by some of my distance friends and the distance coach. I did and I made varsity on our small team in that too. That made my next few years in Indoor and Outdoor track a bit more diverse than others' experiences. I ended up running every distance, aside from the Indoor 55m, at least one time. It's kind of funny because I realized that during my senior year, but I had not run a 100m yet. Then at my final meet, a girl on the 4x100m relay left to get ready for prom early and coach told me to run – so now I've run all races but one distance. I did run the 400m most consistently throughout high school, though," she explained.

Though Kniesler's willingness to adapt to any race needing a competitor was highly commendable, it left her a bit unsure of what event to focus on in college.

She reflects on her entry into college athletics, and an email conversation between the Mount St.

Mary's University Track and Field coaches. "When I emailed the coaches, I was interested in walking on the team, and they asked me what my event group was—I didn't know what to tell them. I switched event groups every few weeks in high school, but I have found that I do enjoy the mid-distance event group here. I run Cross Country in the fall and then 800s (with the occasional 400 or 1000) for track," Kniesler explained.

It is important to recognize Kniesler not only for her perseverance through a struggle to find her event group, but also for her consideration of others. Many would call Kniesler a vibrant young woman, always enthused to attend practices or compete. Though she cares about her own success within the sport, she also cares about the success of each individual teammate. Kniesler is a friend to all those on the team, and she is always there to offer kind words of encouragement and make everyone smile. Her selflessness and her compassion toward others make her a beloved member of the team.

Kniesler helps others as a determined and passionate runner, but on an even more personal level, she helps others through her volunteer work with Mount St. Mary's University Campus Ministry.

She explained, "During my freshman year I joined the female athlete Bible study offered by the Mount's Faith & Athletics program. It was lead by an amazing Varsity Catholic leader, Emily Koenning, through the Camp Ministry office."

Kniesler remains dedicated to the Bible Study today. "I am still in the

Bible study but now with the leaders Jenna Lewis and Maddie Midles. I am also the head sacristan and an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist for services," she shared.

The Bible Study group has expanded since Kniesler first joined. More athletes are involved and according to Kniesler, "The study actually grew so big that we've split up into groups by our athletic teams. Meeting with my teammates is so great. Knowing there is a community of people supporting each other helps on and off the track. It's good that we all have people we can fall back on."

Kniesler made clear what it is that she specifically contributes to Campus Ministry: "Not many people, even Catholics, know what a sacristan is or does. I actually prefer that 'behind the scenes' work and knowing how it all comes together. But basically, I set up and take down Mass. As head sacristan I am in charge of organizing the semester schedule of sacristans for the nine daily Masses a week and Sunday Masses."

Aside from this great contribution, Kniesler leads by example and interacts with younger volunteers of Campus Ministry. She said, "I also help train incoming sacristans and set up a 'shadow program' so the trainees can get used to working real Masses before going it alone the next semester."

Kniesler also contributes to Mount 2000 and a girls' high school retreat over her spring break.

It was apparent from discussion with Kniesler that she is not only a determined athlete, but also a very kindhearted individual. "I love knowing that I help make possible the most important kind of prayer. Making the Mass and other services smooth and prayerful for the congregation to me is great success. I want each Mass to be a fruitful time



with God, and if I can help with that in some way, I like to," she emphasized.

Kniesler is a great example of someone who pays it forward throughout her everyday life. She embraces her passions and passes them on to others so that they too can enjoy all these experiences have to offer. By acting as a mentor to fellow athletes on the team, she ensures that they too reap the benefits of being a part of such a close-knit team. Through her role as a

sacristan and her work with Campus Ministry, she guides others and helps strengthen their relationship with God, in addition to her own.

Kniesler links passion with compassion on a daily basis, and she is a great role model when it comes to paying it forward through faith and athletics.

For more information about Mount St. Mary's University athletics, visit [www.mountathletics.com](http://www.mountathletics.com) or [www.NECFrontRow.com](http://www.NECFrontRow.com).

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## COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## The Golden Rule

Renee Lehman

April 24, 2014 has been labeled 'Pay it Forward' Day. It is based on the expression, Pay it Forward, which can be described as the action of an individual in repaying a good deed to someone else, instead of to the original benefactor. This concept was the major theme of Catherine Ryan Hyde's novel, Pay It Forward, which was then made into a movie with the same title in 2000 starring Helen Hunt, Haley Joel Osment, and Kevin Spacey.

This idea of 'Paying it Forward,' is a concept which many could say relates to the Golden Rule. The 'Golden Rule,' is a phrase that was coined in the mid-1600s ([www.iep.utm.edu/goldrule](http://www.iep.utm.edu/goldrule)), which states that you should "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The concept of the 'Golden Rule' can be explained from many perspectives, including psychology, philosophy, sociology and religion. As a concept, the Golden Rule has a history that long predates the term 'Golden Rule.' The Golden Rule concept can be found throughout antiquity in the philosophies and religions of China, Egypt, Greece, Persia, Rome, and India.

Some examples in ancient China include Confucianism and Taoism. Confucius has been quoted to have

said: "Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself." Lao-tzu wrote in Chapter 49 of the Tao Te Ching, translated by Stephen Mitchell: "The sage has no interest of his own, but takes the interests of the people as his own. He is good to the good; he is also good to those who are not good. This is true goodness. He trusts those who are trustworthy. He also trusts those who are not trustworthy. This is true trust." Also, Lao-tzu has been quoted to have said: "Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss."

In ancient Greece, Socrates, in Plato's Republic said: "...it has been shown that to injure anyone is never just anywhere." In the Bible, it is written: Do to others what you want them to do to you. This is the meaning of the Law of Moses and the teaching of the prophets (Matthew 7:12).

Then in more modern times, there is even more evidence of the concept of doing good for others, not just for those who have been good to you.

"Be the change you want to see in the world." Gandhi

"A life lived for others, is the only life worth living." Albert Einstein

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one." Mother Teresa

resa

"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy." Thomas Merton

Finally, the Golden Rule in general actually serves as a motivation toward proactive action. As Dr. Frank Crane put it, "The Golden Rule is of no use to you whatsoever unless you realize that it's your move!"

So how can each one of take a step toward putting the 'Pay it Forward' or 'Golden Rule' into action? Here are a few practical tips:

Practice empathy. Try placing yourself into the shoes of another person. What is it like to be that person and what they are going through? What may cause them to do what they do?

Practice compassion. When you can understand and empathize with a person, what could you do to lighten their suffering?

Practice gratitude. Try being thankful for where you are in your life. There are no accidents. There are lessons to be learned from every situation. Can you learn to appreciate the value of your life? This can have a positive impact on people that you interact with.



WHERESOEVER YOU GO, GO WITH ALL YOUR HEART.  
IF YOU ALWAYS GIVE, YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE.

Heart

Practice listening. We all want to be listened to. So, take the time to actively listen to another person. Rather than jumping in with your own thoughts, pause, the other person usually has more to say. This can go a long way to really understanding the other person.

Practice loving yourself. As Lucille Ball once said: "Love yourself first and everything falls into line." If you cannot love yourself, how can you love others? To learn to love yourself more, eliminate self-criticism, acknowledge that you've done your best at things, be kind and positive to yourself, let go of worry, and forgive yourself (leave the guilt and shame behind).

Be the change. Follow Gandhi's famous quote from above. It applies on all levels – from small scale to large scale changes. Do you want people to treat each other with more compassion, understanding, and loving kindness? Then let it begin with each one of us. The world will change!

Notice how it makes you feel. Notice how your actions affect others, and also begin to notice how you feel about yourself. Don't be surprised if you find yourself happier, more content, and more trusting of yourself.

Say a prayer. There is a prayer on the Golden Rule, attributed to Eusebius of Caesarea (263 – 339 CE) that would be worth saying once a day. It includes the following lines, among others: "May I gain no victory that harms me or my opponent. May I reconcile friends who are mad at each other. May I, insofar as I can, give all necessary help to my friends and to all who are in need. May I never fail a friend in trouble."

So make every day a 'Pay it Forward' Day!

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

## The Herbalist

Amy Brodish  
Clinical Herbalist

Chickweed is found in abundance in our area between March and September. Its appearance is unobtrusive and dainty, yet its personality speaks of persistence. The straggling stems have fine hairs along one side that change angles at each node. The opposing leaves are elliptical ending in a point and the roots are shallow. Its star-like white flowers occasionally have a slight tinge of pink and measure about 3-6 mm. The flowers consist of five petals and five longer sepals that tend to close during evening hours and on cloudy or rainy days. Many consider it a nuisance weed, as it very easily propagates itself from seed.

Chickweed is nutritious, containing Vitamins A, B1, B2, B3, C, E along with Calcium, Copper, Iron, Magnesium, Manganese, Phosphorous, Potassium, Selenium, Silicon, Sodium, Sulfur and Zinc plus essential fatty acids. Many cultures enjoy the leaves and stems as a common food. It can be eaten as a salad vegetable, blended with smoothies, juiced or cooked like cabbage. The cooking water can be drunk or used topically. The greens can be dried for winter use. For convenience, it

can also be made into an ointment or tincture. Furthermore, for those who may have caged birds, Chickweed is a healthy treat most enjoy.

This medicinal herb has been used for hundreds of years due to claims of the following properties: antiseptic, diuretic, laxative, lung supportive, lubricating, expectorant, nutritive, blood cleansing, anti-rheumatic, cooling, and its ability to dispel or dissolve abnormal growths, tumors, cysts, abscesses and cancers. Chickweed has also been employed to clear skin diseases and eruptions, alleviate burning and itching, draw out splinters, heal wounds and scalds, remove mucous, clear blood poisoning, counteract scurvy, reduce inflammation of all sorts, plus to relieve sore eyes, sore throats and coughs, hemorrhoids, bleeding of bowels or lungs, abraded nasal passages, peritonitis, appendicitis, St. Anthony's Fire, conjunctivitis, gastrointestinal weakness, asthma, bronchitis, consumption, pleurisy and for liver issues including hepatitis. One scientific study shows Chickweed has diverse antiviral activity, including potential for anti-hepatitis B activity and another study concluded that Chickweed has liver protective activity. Chickweed has also been reputed to curb obe-

sity and scientific studies confirm such action. Another study shows that the seeds exhibit antimicrobial and antifungal activity.

Quite an impressive reputation for an often overlooked weed, isn't it?

Chickweed is best gathered as it starts to flower because the stems toughen. The tops can be pinched off, allowing the plant to provide more tender greens. Herbalists use the above ground parts. Before gathering any plants, be certain that you have positively identified the correct plant with a field guide and gather from an area far from roads that have not been in contact with herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, synthetic fertilizers or other harmful substances, including vehicle exhaust fumes.

This article is for educational purposes only and is not intended to treat, cure, diagnose, prescribe or prevent disease. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. Please consult with a qualified practitioner before starting any herbal protocols and notify your healthcare provider of any herbs or supplements you may be taking.

Amy Brodish, MH, CNHP, graduated from the American College of Healthcare Sciences as a Master Herbalist, and is a Certified Natural Health Professional and owner of Herbal Reflections in Fairfield, Pennsylvania. She holds consultations with clients interested in im-

proving their health naturally and is available for seminars. Amy also prepares personalized herbal formu-

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# Keep Moving

## Exercise and Meditation May Ease Stress

Linda Stultz  
Fitness Trainer/  
Fitness Therapist

We all have stress in our lives. How we handle it is the important thing. Personality plays a big part in how we handle stress. Some people are able to let things go easier than others. When a problem arises, some people deal with it and forget it. These people are better off, health wise, by not dwelling on the problem. Being able to do this is in their personality. People will tell you to just forget it, but it is not easy for some. Exercise and meditation are good for you even if you have the personality I just mentioned, but if you don't, they are of

even greater value to your health.

People who dwell on a problem or situation really need to explore exercise and meditation as a tool to help them handle the stress in their lives. For many, using exercise to help calm themselves and work through a stressful situation would never be thought of. They would think about the problem until they come up with a solution. Thinking about it constantly is not healthy for their body or mind. Take a walk or run. Go for a swim or play a game of tennis to get your mind off the problem. Have you ever tried to balance your check book or solve something at work and no matter how hard you looked for the error, you just could not find it? Finally, you took a break or went home for

the day and when you went back to it, there was the answer. That's what a walk or some type of exercise can do for you. Give yourself a break and when you come back to thinking about the problem, maybe it won't seem so impossible to solve.

Stress can be good for your body, but being under constant stress is where the trouble comes in. I'm sure you have all heard about the instant stress of our ancestors, having to run away from a wild animal or fight off an enemy from another tribe. That immediate stress was good for their body. The stress of today comes from jobs, family or money is a slow, continued stress that is not good for our health. Exercise gives you a chance to clear your head or to concentrate on something else for a while. It gets your blood pumping and your breathing up to circulate through your body. Being sedentary is the cause of so many unhealthy conditions. I know

it is easier to sit on the couch and munch on those chips but your body will react in a negative manner after a while. Once you get up and get moving you feel so much better.

Meditation is another way to relieve stress. Learning to clear your mind and keep it on track is hard to do but if you practice it becomes easier. I realize we all have so many responsibilities and things on our mind all the time. Everyday life is filled with so much and all this causes stress to build up. Sleep eases and refreshes our mind and body but so many people do not get enough sleep or real restful sleep. The practice of meditation before going to bed is helpful in clearing your mind and preparing your mind for sleep. Time is a precious thing to all of us but just take five minutes a day and clear your mind, as much as possible, and meditate. I know that doesn't sound like much

time but it really can help and hopefully some days you can take ten or fifteen minutes. Maybe after some practice you will see the benefits and make this a regular part of your day. I do realize what I am suggesting. We are so busy but always remember we need to take care of ourselves before we will have the energy and ability to take care of others.

I'm sure your life is already filled with many things to do and adding exercise and/or meditation may seem just another thing to add to your plate. You may think it will be difficult to find time for these activities but I'm sure once you do, you will find the benefits will improve your health. Working exercise into your day may seem impossible at first but you will find it to be something you will never want to give up. Call me with any questions at 717-334-6009.

Remember to keep moving!

# Fitness Matters

George Puvel  
Anytime Fitness Owner

**Question:** Is there a proper way to breathe when lifting weights?

**Answer:** If you are new to exercise, it's far more important that you just breathe rather than *how* you breathe. Often, synching your breath with your movements can be overwhelming to a new exerciser. There are more pertinent pieces of information that need to be addressed when getting started, such as becoming familiar with the strength training machines, execution of the exercises, or understanding which muscles are working. Once the exercises become familiar and you are out of the be-

ginning stages of weight lifting, you will most likely be lifting a slightly heavier load and will be synching your breath with your movements. This becomes more important to move the increased load. Exhale during the "work" phase of an exercise. The "work" phase will be the most strenuous part of the movement pattern. Inhale during the "recovery" phase on an exercise. The "recovery" phase is typically the return back to the starting position.

**Question:** I like to eat nuts but usually avoid them because they are high in fat and calories. But recently, I've seen information in magazines saying nuts are good for you. Is it true, and how can that be with a food so high in fat?

**Answer:** Eating nuts as part of a healthy diet can be good for your heart. Nuts contain polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fatty acids, which may have an effect on reducing blood levels of both total and LDL ("bad") cholesterol. Nuts also contain protein and fiber which helps you feel full, so they make a great on-the-go snack. Yes, nuts are high in calories, but you don't need to eat much to reap the benefits as a handful is considered a serving. Almonds, cashews, and pistachios are all great choices. When possible, make sure to choose nuts that are raw or dry roasted for the most nutritional value.

*About the author: George Puvel is the Club Owner. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at [ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com](mailto:ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com).*

# Health Choices

Holly McGlaughlin-Redding

Ask anyone who has managed to lose weight and keep it off for an extended period of time, and most will credit a new way of thinking or change in their mindset as the reason for their success in losing weight. Basically, they felt uncomfortable with how they felt or looked and decided they were more afraid of staying the same than making the difficult changes necessary to lose weight.


The journey toward weight loss can be a very frustrating one, with many ups and downs. Successfully losing weight seems out of reach to most, especially if one has a large amount of weight to lose. Everyone wants to know the "secret" to weight loss. People are willing to spend hundreds of dollars on that new supplement in hopes to lose weight easily, ignoring the often long list of negative side effects. There is really no secret or special supplement that will make you lose weight. You have to decide to lose weight, and then make

daily choices to make it happen. New research has shown that we can rewire new, healthy habits into our minds so that daily healthy choices become almost second nature. This concept is called neuroplasticity... Google it. So, the trick is to make better choices, not excuses.

I recently read a great book called *The Power of Habit: Why We do What We Do in Life and Business*, by Charles Duhigg. It's one of those books that you can apply to many aspects of your life, but being a fitness professional, I read it from an angle that could help my clients. This book, as well as many other recent articles I've read, has suggested that will power really doesn't exist. Instead, it's a matter of making better choices that become habits that eventually eliminates the need for will power. This tosses out the idea that only people with "strong will power" can lose weight. This book and those articles suggest instead that essentially we are who we are because of our daily sustained habits. And, when we make a

decision to begin or end a habit, the more we make the daily decision to do A or B instead of C or D, the more that behavior becomes engraved as a habit and who we are, so that we no longer have to struggle with the decision. We simply decide after making the choice over a period of several weeks that we have a piece of fruit instead of a candy bar to satisfy our sweet tooth.


For example, when clients begin their journey to better health, one of the first things I instruct them to do is to stop drinking soda...diet and/or regular. Most will tell me that the first few days of choosing to not have that daily soda with lunch are the hardest. After a week it becomes easier to choose water over soda, and after the third week, they don't think much about the choosing to drink water instead of soda with lunch anymore. They may occasionally have a craving when presented with a cue, such as eating pizza or another food that seems to go well with soda, but after a few weeks, they accept the fact that water is better for them, they like that they are 5-10 pounds lighter, and it becomes way easier to say no to the soda.



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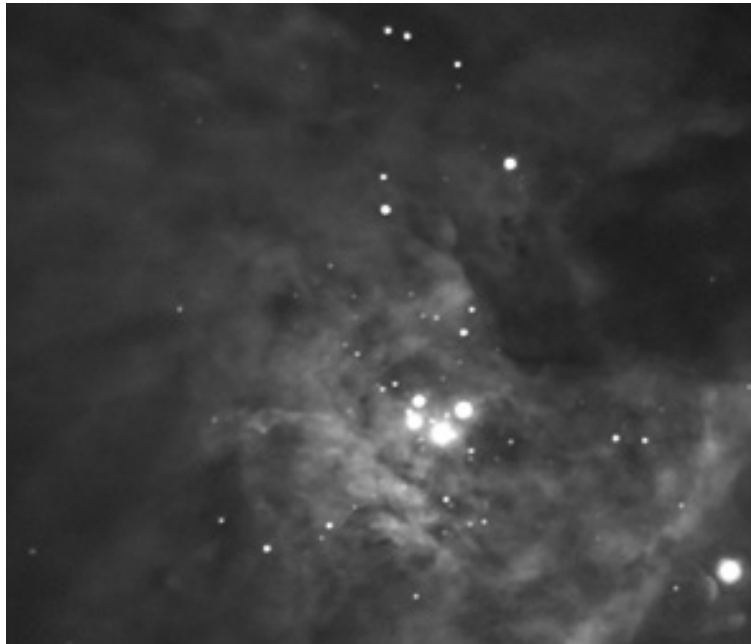
## ASTRONOMY

# The night sky of April

Professor Wayne Wooton

For April 2014, the Moon will be new moon on March 30th. The waxing crescent moon passes 5.3 degrees south of Jupiter on April 6th. The moon is first quarter on April 7th. The full moon, the Egg Moon, occurs on April 15th, and will see the moon moving through the earth's umbral shadow between 1-4:30 AM for a total lunar eclipse. The moon will be moving through the southern portion of our shadow during the next hours and half, and start leaving the shadow about 3:30 AM. By 4:30, the moon will be moving completely out of our dark shadow.

During totality, the bright blue star Spica in Virgo to the lower right of the red moon, and much brighter Mars will be to the top right of the eclipsed moon. On April 17th, the waning gibbous moon passes 1.2 degrees south of Saturn; this will be an occultation for observers in the southern hemisphere. April 20th is Easter Sunday, late this year since the Full Moon in March happened before the Vernal Equinox, and we had to wait for the April 15th full moon for the next Sunday to be Easter. The last quarter moon is on April 22nd, which corresponds with the Lyrid meteor shower in



**M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery.**

the morning hours. The waning crescent moon passes 4 degrees north of Venus in the dawn sky on April 25th. The new moon on April 29th will produce an annular solar eclipse, but only for a tiny region in Antarctica.

Mercury is not well placed for viewing now, but Venus dominates the dawn sky. On April 1st, she is 54% sunlit, 22" of arc across, and mag. -4.3, and by the end of the month, she pulls farther away from us, now only 16" across, down to mag. -4.1, and appears 66% sunlit. She will do

behind the Sun in a few months, and return to the evening sky at the very end of this year.

Mars comes to opposition on April 8th, as the earth overtakes Mars and passes between Mars and the Sun. This is the closest and brightest Mars has been in a decade, so it will be bright red and easily visible in the SE, rising about sunset in the SE. It reaches 15" across, and mag. -1.5 at best this year.

Jupiter is still well up in the western evening sky as April begins, but gets lower in the sky and closer to the sun each evening. It lies south of the two bright stars of the Gemini, Castor and Pollux. Its four moons are a treat with any small telescope, and larger scopes will reveal a lot of detail in Jupiter's clouds, including its famed Great Red Spot.

Saturn rises in the SE about 9 PM as April begins, and reaching opposition on May 10th. The ringed wonder is at its best in the east in Libra. This is the best time to observe the most beautiful object in the sky. When viewed with a telescope, the rings are open 21

degrees open, to reach their greatest tilt of 27 degrees wide at its solstice in 2017, and Titan and several smaller moons fall on either side of the most beautiful telescopic sight in the sky. In addition to its glorious rings, Saturn hosts a huge moon, Titan, visible in most any telescope, and several smaller ones needing at least a 6" scope to spot.

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

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the southern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope.

In the east are the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky as darkness falls. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from West Florida.

To the northeast, look for the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars of the bowl, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Look for Mizar-Alcor, a nice naked eye double star,

in the bend of the big dipper's handle. Take the pointers at the front of the dipper's bowl south instead to the head of Leo, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star".

Now take the curved handle of the Big Dipper, and follow the arc SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of the spring sky. Recent studies of its motion link it to the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a companion of our Milky Way being tidally disrupted and spilling its stars above and below the plane of the Milky Way, much like dust falling away from a decomposing comet nucleus. So this brightest star of Bootes the Bear Driver is apparently a refugee from another galaxy!

Now spike south to Spica, the blue-white gem in Virgo rising in the SE. Mars lies a little to the west of Spica in April, and is much brighter than anything else in the SE evening sky at opposition this month. Virgo is home to many galaxies, as we look away from the obscuring gas and dust in the plane of the Milky Way into deep space. To the southwest of Spica is the four sided Crow, Corvus.

To the ancient Greeks, Spica was associated with Persephone, daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. She was abducted by her suitor Pluto, carried down to Hades (going to Hell for a honeymoon!) and when Jupiter worked out a compromise between the newlyweds and the angry mother-in-law, the agreement dictated Persephone come back to the earth's surface for six months of the year, and Mama Ceres was again placated, and the crops could grow again. As you see Spica rising in the SE, it is time to "plant your peas", and six months from now, when Spica again disappears in the sun's glare in the SW, you need to "get your corn in the crib"....so was set our calendar of planting and harvesting in antiquity. In the arms of Virgo is a rich harvest of galaxies for modern astronomers

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## Farmers' Almanac

*"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."*  
—William Shakespeare (1564–1616)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Snow, mainly in the northern part of the region (1); fair, windy and cold (2,3,4,5,6,7). Showers, severe storms in the south (8,9,10) turning fair and cool (11,12,13,14). More showers (15,16), windy, and colder (17,18,19,20) with some showers and a chance of snow in the north (21,22,23,24) returning to fair skies, cool temperatures, and some showers in the south (25,26,27,28,29,30).

**The Moon:** April's full moon will occur on April 15th. Many Native American tribes called it Pink Moon because of the pretty pink hues many flowers dis-

play as they bloom throughout the month. And because fishing starts to improve in lakes and streams due to warmer weather during the month, it has been often referred to as Fish Moon as well.

**Special Notes:** Earth Day is observed on Tuesday, April 22nd. Try to go a bit easier on our fragile planet and look into ways to help treat her better. Call the Earth Day Network at 202-518-0044 or go to [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net) for some ideas and activities that will help promote a healthier relationship with good ol' Mother Earth! How about this... Check out the 80+ varieties of trees at the National Arbor Day Foundation's website at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) and try and plant a tree on Arbor Day on Monday, April 25th.

**The Garden:** Now is the time to do some serious Spring "cleaning" in the garden. Trim back dead foliage and gather up winter's detritus, such as small branches and excess leaves. Trees and shrubs like Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Spiraea, and Viburnums planted, if planted now, will provide some beautiful late Spring color. Set out annuals and other perennials now. If a perennial has been grown outside, rather than in a warm greenhouse, plant it as soon as you get it. Otherwise, give it a few days outside in a sheltered location (such as in an unheated garage) to allow it to harden a bit. Cool season vegetables, such as spinach, lettuce, peas, broccoli, cauliflower, and beets can be planted as soon as the soil can be worked. A good test of "soil readiness" is to take a handful of soil and squeeze it. If it remains in a ball, it's too moist and should be allowed to dry further. If it crumbles, start planting!

# COMPUTER Q&A

# Rest in peace, Windows XP!

**Aysë Stenabaugh**  
**Owner of Jester's Computer Tutor**

Support for Windows XP and Microsoft's Office 2003 has ended on April 8th 2014. But don't panic! -- Okay, maybe just a little bit! You will still be able to use Windows XP but it is NOT recommended. Updates that Microsoft currently pushes weekly to online XP computers will be discontinued leaving your computer vulnerable to exploits or security flaws that updates would normally patch. If you find yourself needing technical support for an XP computer you won't be able to reach out for help directly from Microsoft support.

In addition to the above, while Microsoft's Security Essentials will continue to receive updates for a limited time, those using the software will still be vulnerable because Microsoft will no longer be providing updates to your XP computer that would normally protect it. Small Business's may have increased complications which may resolve some issues by using a special Windows 7 with XP mode

Different programs and applications that you normally use will become outdated and may not work properly or at all. Manufacturer's for devices such as printers, digital cameras, scanners etc. will no longer provide drivers for Windows XP so that means, if you need to buy a new device, you may not be able to use it with your XP computer. Always check the product specifications on the packaging before you make a purchase to be sure your computer will be supported, don't assume it will be.

What do I do now that XP is retiring?

You may be able to upgrade your current computers operating system by installing either Windows 7 or Windows 8.1. (Jester's Computers recommends Windows 7 over Windows 8.1). Running some tests on your computer will help to determine if your system's hardware is compatible with the new operating system. You may only need a small system upgrade like adding additional memory to complete the upgrade. The first step in the upgrade process would be to determine if you are currently running a 32 BIT version of windows or 64 BIT you can find this by right clicking on computer (or my computer) and choosing properties.

Upgrading your computer from an outdated operating system to a new one can be challenging and it is recommended that you have a professional help you to evaluate your system setup to determine exactly what your upgrade will require. Upgrading your XP computer to Windows 7 or 8 will remove all of your applications and personal files. You can use the included Windows Easy Transfer tool to move your data files (not programs) to an external storage space which can later be restored once the upgrade is completed.

Of course cost will always be a large factor in your decision. The labor cost of either operating system is a minimum of a hundred dollars. Most people would need a professional to complete the installation, which would cost an average hundred dollars. Those who decide not to have a professional do the installation

will want to be prepared to spend some time backing up all of your data, re-installing all of your compatible software, and locating drivers for devices that are compatible with your new system. If you choose to have someone do it for you, always make sure you are receiving a licensed copy of windows (meaning you receive an original operating system disc and license key that will prove your Windows is genuine) Prices will vary from place to place but will typically average around one hundred dollars also.

Before you consider an upgrade (or a new computer) complete the following checklist prior to purchasing any software or making any final decisions

Determine if your current Windows XP is 32 bit or 64 bit, determine if the system is upgradable by visiting Microsoft's Website and running the upgrade

advisor tool (or a professional can check it out for you as an alternative).

If your system is upgradable total all your costs and decide if the cost is worth the outdated hardware already in your system -- other parts on your computer may also be outdated even if they are compatible, your money may be better spent on a new system.

No matter if you purchase a new system or upgrade your existing system you need to consider that your existing equipment such as printers, scanners, graphics cards, etc. will have updated drivers to support work properly with your new system. You can visit the manufacturer's website for each device to determine if drivers are available for the operating system you wish to upgrade to.

Remember that programs or applications will need to be re-installed. You will

need to have a copy of the software on a disc or removable media to re-install it on the new or upgraded computer. Most software will also require a license key which should be included with the software packaging. Also consider that the software may not be compatible and be sure to check the packaging or manufacturer's website to ensure that you will be able to use it on your system.

Make sure that your system can really support your needs long term. No one wants to upgrade a computer to find that it really runs too slow and it would have been better to purchase the new system instead. Also remember to add antivirus right away to protect your computer from being unusable!

Microsoft Operating systems are

only licensed for use on one PC meaning once you install that operating system on a computer you won't be able to install it on another so you want to be sure you are making the right decision. In most cases people find that the better investment is purchasing a new computer that will have more power, all new components, and a warranty. Unless you find yourself in the situation where you built your XP computer within the last two years and aren't having any other hardware issues.

*If you are in need of PC computer repair or would like for us to build you a Custom Built desktop computer call or visit Jester's Computer Services located at 5135 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, PA. You can reach Jester's Computer Services by phone at (717) 642-6611 or send an email to: customerservice@jesterscomputers.com.*

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12:15.... \$100 G. Cert.	1:15.... \$100 G. Cert.	2:10.... \$400 Cash	3:10.... \$400 Cash	4:05.... \$200 Cash	5:05.... \$200 Cash
The Palms	Red's Tavern	2:15.... \$100 G. Cert.	3:15.... \$100 G. Cert.	4:10.... \$400 Cash	5:10.... \$400 Cash
12:20.... \$400 Cash	1:20.... \$400 Cash	Dave & Jane's	Chubby's Barbeque	4:15.... \$100 G. Cert.	5:15.... \$200 Cash
12:25.... \$200 Cash	1:25.... \$200 Cash	2:20.... \$400 Cash	3:20.... \$400 Cash	Rube's Crab Shack	5:20.... \$300 Cash
12:30.... \$400 Cash	1:30.... \$400 G. Cert.	2:25.... \$200 Cash	3:25.... \$200 Cash	4:20.... \$400 Cash	5:25.... \$200 Cash
12:35.... \$100 G. Cert.	Shriver's Meat	2:30.... \$400 Cash	3:30.... \$400 G. Cert.	4:25.... \$200 Cash	5:30.... \$400 Cash
Ott House	1:35.... \$100 G. Cert.	2:35.... \$100 G. Cert.	Jubilee Foods	4:30.... \$400 Cash	5:35.... \$200 Cash
12:40.... \$400 Cash	Carleo's	Hillside Restaurant	3:35.... \$100 G. Cert.	4:35.... \$100 G. Cert.	5:40.... \$300 Cash
12:45.... \$200 Cash	1:40.... \$400 Cash	2:40.... \$400 Cash	East Park Auto	Stavros Pizza	5:45.... \$200 Cash
12:50.... \$400 Cash	1:45.... \$200 Cash	2:45.... \$200 Cash	3:40.... \$400 Cash	4:40.... \$400 Cash	5:50.... \$400 Cash
12:55.... \$200 Cash	1:50.... \$400 Cash	2:50.... \$400 Cash	3:45.... \$200 Cash	4:45.... \$200 Cash	5:55.... \$200 Cash

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 1**  
Strawberry Hill's 'Build a birdhouse workshop. Learn how to build a house that will attract native Eastern Bluebirds to your backyard. All materials are provided to build a take-home birdhouse. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit [www.strawberriehill.org](http://www.strawberriehill.org)

**April 4, 5, 11 & 12**  
Gettysburg Community Center presents - Jesus Christ Superstar. For more information call 717-334-2692 or visit [www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org](http://www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org), 49 York Street, Gettysburg.

Fairfield Venture Scout's annual book / bake sale at St. Johns Lutheran Church, Main St. Fairfield. All proceeds help to fund Crew activities throughout the year. For more information call 717-642-9283

Catoctin Mountain Park invites Frederick County Outdoor School Alumni to an Outdoor School Reunion at the Recreation Hall in Camp Greentop. Current Catoctin High School students will be on site to collect oral history memories from former students and to scan photographs and documents for an Outdoor School archive as part of a Park Stewards program sponsored by the National Park Foundation.

Tom's Creek United Methodist Church Turkey & Oyster Supper and Bake & Craft Table.

**April 6**  
Bell & History Handbell Festival at the Seton Shrine. A diverse repertoire will be presented, including secular and sa-

cred music. For more information call 301-447-8037

**April 8**  
Mother Seton School Young Authors Night. Enjoy literary works by MSS student authors in grades Pre-K through 8, meet the authors, and leave them a message in their guestbooks. For more information, contact us at 301-447-3161 or visit [www.mothersetonschool.org](http://www.mothersetonschool.org).

**April 9**  
The Majestic Theater presents 'Sid The Science Kid Live!' The popular PBS Kids television show produced by The Jim Henson Company, comes to life in this incredible live stage experience! Kids and parents alike will be thrilled as Sid, May, Gabriela and Gerald come to their town to discover the excitement and curiosities of the world! For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org)

**April 11, 12 & 13**  
Gettysburg Community Center presents - Jesus Christ Superstar. For more information call 717-334-2692 or visit [www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org](http://www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org), 49 York Street, Gettysburg.

**April 12**  
Fort Ritchie Community Center's Think Spring Yard sale. For more information call 301-241-5085.

**April 15**  
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's native and streamside landscaping workshop. Join Master Gardener Mary Ann Ryan to learn about plant selection and the proper practices to maintain the health of your stream ecosystem. Pre-registration is preferred. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit [www.StrawberryHill.org](http://www.StrawberryHill.org)

Total eclipse of the moon - see the Sky at Night article on page 44 for more information

**April 17 & 18**  
The Vigilant Hose Company annual Seafood Bonanza & food/bake sale. For more information or to place orders, please call 301-447-2728 or contact any department member.

**April 22 & 23**  
Annual Lyrisd Meteor Shower - see the Sky at Night article on page 44 for more information

**April 24, 25 & 26**  
16th Annual Greyhounds in Gettysburg. Greyhounds in Gettysburg is a 3-day event designed to celebrate the retired racing greyhound! Several educational sessions by dog professionals in the areas of health, nutrition, and behavior. All dog lovers may attend and well-behaved dogs over 50 pounds are welcome inside the Expo Center. Adoption groups will have adoptable greyhounds available. Visit our web site for details, and to register for the other events offered. For more information call 814-933-6981 or visit [www.greyhoundsingettysburg.org](http://www.greyhoundsingettysburg.org)

7th Annual Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg Rummage Sale. 136 S. Stratton St., Gettysburg, Indoors, rain or shine. Collectibles, Glassware, Curios, Household Items, Plants, Yarns, Sewing items, Baked goods

**April 26**  
Gettysburg National Park's National Junior Ranger day. Children ages 7-12 can participate in special activities at Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center and Eisenhower National Historic Site. Free at Gettysburg NMP. At Eisen-

hower NHS the activities are included in site admission

Gettysburg Green Gathering - a community event to promote and educate the practice of environmental stewardship. This day long family friendly event features local bands, local food vendors, environmental displays and presentations. This is a free event; however, donations will be accepted to help offset costs as well as benefiting the Land Conservancy of Adams County!" This is 'Woodstock' meeting the 'Sierra Club'." For more information call 717-642-6256 or visit [www.gettysburggreengathering.com](http://www.gettysburggreengathering.com)

**April 27**  
Land Conservancy of Adams County's 17th Annual Art Auction at the Blue Parrot Bistro, 35 Chambersburg Street, Gettysburg. Doors open at noon and bidding begins at 1pm. Admission is \$10 per person. Visit the Land Conservancy website for additional details. For more information call 717-334-2828 or visit [www.lcacnet.org](http://www.lcacnet.org).

For a complete list of all upcoming events in April visit the Upcoming Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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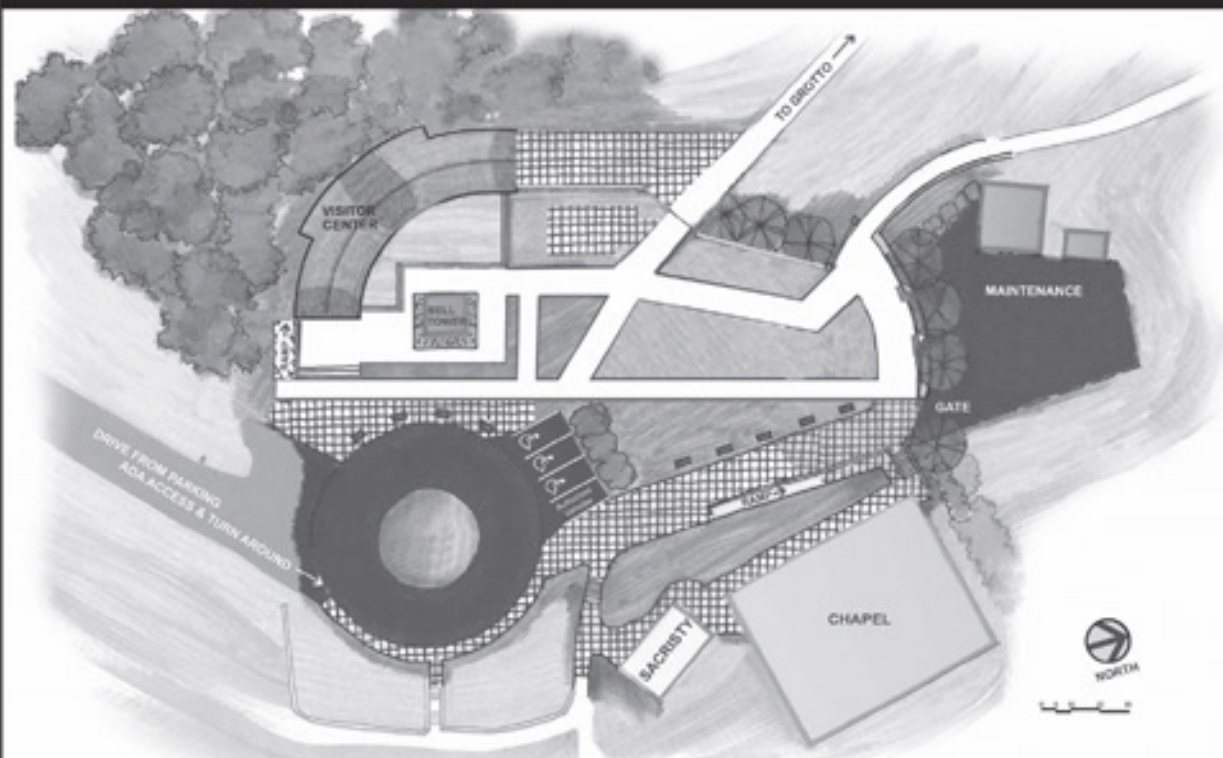
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# MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



## GROTTO PARKING CHANGES

Effective immediately, the upper parking lot at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes will be closed for renovations.

All parking, except for a few handicap spaces, will be in the lower parking lot.

The change is in response to safety concerns about the area. Attendance at the Grotto continues to grow, along with the number of pedestrians in the area near the Miller Family Visitors Center. The parking area between the new Mother Teresa Shrine and St. Mary's Chapel became more of a walkway rather than a place to park. It was unsafe for visitors, so the Grotto moved all of the parking to the lower lot. You will need to walk a little more, but we promise it is worth it!

Daily drop-off/pick-up transportation to and from the lower parking lot is available. Please call 301-447-5318 to schedule or stop by the information desk located in the Miller Family Visitors Center.

### Join us at the Grotto for Good Friday and Easter Services

#### Good Friday

Friday, April 18  
 10:30-11 a.m., Confession  
 12-1 p.m., Stations of the Cross  
 1-2 p.m., Last Seven Words  
 3-4 p.m., Liturgy of Good Friday

#### Easter

Sunday, April 20  
 6-7 a.m., Emmitsburg Council of Churches Prayer Service  
 8-9 a.m., Easter Sunday Mass  
 12-1 p.m., Easter Sunday Mass

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*

Thursday, April 3-Saturday, April 5  
 8-10 p.m., *Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center*  
 All 38 of the Bard's plays, performed by four actors in under two hours..... Is it possible? You'll just have to come and see! Directed by Mary Kate Coleman, C'14. Admission is free.

### *Graduate Business Programs Information Session*

Tuesday, April 8  
 4-6 p.m., *Mount St. Mary's Frederick Campus, 5350 Spectrum Drive, Frederick*  
 Learn more about our graduate-level business degree and certificate programs. Choose from programs in health administration, project management, government contracting, organizational development and more! Classes are held at both the Emmitsburg and Frederick campuses.

### *Preventing Data Breaches--BB&T Community Business Forum and Dinner*

Monday, April 14  
 6-9 p.m., *Mount St. Mary's Frederick Campus, 5350 Spectrum Drive, Frederick*  
 Understanding how to improve corporate cyber defenses and developing an intelligence-led, threat-focused cyber security mindset is a critical business decision for information security today. Join us as Thomas J. Harrington, managing director and chief information security officer of Citigroup, examines the current cyber threat landscape, and the challenges facing corporations around the world.

### *Lecture: The Ethical Dilemma of American Healthcare*

Tuesday, April 15  
 7 p.m., *Knott Auditorium*  
 Renowned author, physician and Harvard Medical School professor John Abramson, M.D., examines how to resolve the divergence of market values and human values in the American healthcare system. Abramson believes there is a market failure in the production and dissemination of medical knowledge, caused by a corporate focus on maximizing short-term profits for the benefit of shareholders and executives. Abramson will ask the question: What can we do?

### *University Closed for Easter Break*

April 17-21

### *Senior Class Art Show*

Thursday, April 24-Sunday, May 11  
 Opening Reception, Thursday, April 24, 5-7 p.m.  
*Williams Art Gallery, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center*  
 The senior class student art show is the thesis exhibition for graduating visual artists. Members of the Class of exhibiting their works, include: Allison McCarron, Ashley Christie, Sarah Gawens, Kelly Blorstad, Jennifer McSparron, Anne Marie Battista

### *Miss Electricity*

Friday, April 25-Saturday, April 26  
 8-10 p.m., *Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center*  
 A children's theatre play, *Miss Electricity* tells the story of Violet, a fifth grader who believes she is destined for greatness. Her quest to find her "specialness" takes her into mythology, science, and the Guinness Book of World Records. Directed by Erin Nieves, C'14. Admission is free.

### *Around the Mount Triathlon*

Saturday, April 26  
 8 a.m.-Noon, *ARCC Pool and East Campus*  
 The Mount holds its inaugural triathlon, with the course taking participants "Around the Mount."  
 Note to PNC Fitness Center members: The ARCC will be open during regular hours, but the pool may operate on a modified schedule. For more information visit [www.msm.edu/aquatics](http://www.msm.edu/aquatics)

### *Student Instrumental & Vocal Recital*

Wednesday, April 30  
 7:30p.m., *Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center*  
 Join us for a year-end concert of masterworks by a talented group of Mount singers and instrumentalists from the studios of our music faculty. Admission is free.

Free Concert!



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Thursday, April 24 | 7:30 p.m.

Knott Auditorium | Mount St. Mary's University

Free and open to the public, no tickets required.

For more information contact: [conferences@msmary.edu](mailto:conferences@msmary.edu) or call 301-447-5330 | [www.usarmyband.com](http://www.usarmyband.com)