

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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EXULTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION — EDWARD R. MURROW

MARCH 2021

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Emmitsburg Receives

\$1 Million Grant

Money to be used to improve drinking water quality. **Page 2**

Carroll Valley Approves

Police Body Cameras

Council also approved purchase of bulletproof vests for officers. **Page 3**

Thurmont Addresses Parking

Violation Code Issue

Correction will allow residents more time to challenge tickets. **Page 4**

Taneytown Hires Economic

Development Director

Tasks will include draw in new businesses and cultural events. **Page 5**

Thurmont Masons Celebrate

150th Anniversary

Acacia Lodge #155 was officially constituted on March 31, 1871 and currently has 100 members. **Page 25**

COMMENTARY

American Mind

Possible solutions to the public education dilemma. **Page 10**

The Bulwark

A look inside the Republican civil war following the January 6 insurrection. **Page 11**

ARTICLES

The Book Of Days

The Ides of March – the assignation of Julius Caesar. **Page 13**

Ecology

A brief History of Fairfield's Strawberry Hill Nature Center. **Page 14**

In The Country

The results of the Frederick midwinter bird count. **Page 16**

Gardening

Tips for gardening in March weather. **Page 18**

Pets

It's kitten season – thanks to those who refuse to spay or neuter. **Page 20**

History

This month Gateway to the Mountains remembers The Snake Farm. **Page 28**

Taneytown History

Setting the record straight the real founding date. **Page 28**

Four Years At The Mount

This month, we asked our writers to reflect upon father figures in their lives. **Page 34**

Humor

Interesting facts that only those with no life actually know. **Page 47**

Plans for north county regional park unveiled

A new 152-acre recreational park will be created between Emmitsburg and Thurmont by Frederick County on land recently acquired by the county from Mount Saint Mary's University.

County Executive Jan Gardner and Mount St. Mary's President Timothy Trainor announced the proposed establishment of the park on February 25. The 152-acre park-site adjoins the university's sports complex on the east-side of U.S. 15, straddling Motter's Station Road.

University President Trainor said, "We are pleased to have offered the 152.7 acres for this regional park ... and are deeply appreciative of the county's partnership in our shared commitment to expanding access to sports and recreational opportunities and fostering the growth of youth-sports in Northern Frederick County."

The total purchase-price for the land is \$857,000, of which the State funded Program Open Space is providing \$807,000. The remaining \$50,000 will be coming from county recordation fees.

Gardner stated, "We are excited to be moving forward with a regional park in the northern part of Frederick County," adding, "County parks

attracted over three-million visitors last year, a 44-percent increase over the year before. The purchase of this land will help us to meet a growing demand for space to recreate and provide much-needed park amenities in northern Frederick County."

The parcel in which the new park will be located is currently zoned as agricultural and features both forest and open land. A conceptual design-graphic provided to the media depicts over ten sports fields, of which three are ballparks, six soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts, a dog park, walking trails and other features for active and passive recreation. The current design will utilize existing open space, preserving existing forested areas.

The development of the park will be a multiyear effort. A Master Plan Advisory Committee will be formed to develop a blueprint for the property. The committee will include representatives from local recreation councils and sports leagues, civic associations and neighboring property owners. Final approval lays with the county's Planning and Parks and Recreation commissions.



Artist conception of the proposed multi-faceted county regional park that will straddle Motter Station Road.

The land involved in the new park has some interesting ties to local history.

Located among the 152.7 acres is the Elder Family Cemetery, also known as the "Elder Burying Grounds." Among the interments is that of William Elder, who was buried at the cemetery in 1775, and both of his wives are buried in the cemetery, as well. Elder has been credited for established the first Catholic Church in portion of Maryland.

Additionally, in the area where there is what became an "artificial" lake on the land as the result of a

man-made mishap. In the 1920s, where the pond is now located, was a 90-foot-deep limestone quarry, operated by Daniel Roddy. At some point, workers at the quarry penetrated a major aquifer (source for groundwater), resulting in a torrent of water which rapidly began to fill the quarry so fast that the workers barely escaped. To this day, all the equipment which was in the quarry at that time - remains at the bottom and viewing the drowned equipment has been a goal for many years for local-scuba divers, who swim to the bottom to see the vintage equipment.

Strawberry Hill celebrates 35th anniversary

Strawberry Hill Foundation is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. The environmental education and conservation organization manages 32 acres of protected land north of Fairfield.

Executive Director Kara Ferraro stated, "This (anniversary) is a milestone itself, but also represents a larger accomplishment. Since our foundation in 1986, Strawberry Hill has welcomed and educated more than 100,000 people," noting that during 2020, trails received record-visitation as the community utilized Strawberry Hill's recreational opportunities as valuable resources, despite the outbreak of COVID-19.

Ferraro said that the environment and the facility-served patrons are interconnected with Strawberry Hill's mission ... that mission being to teach and promote environmental stewardship through innovative nature programs, hold summer camps, and employ hands-on learning.

Studies have disclosed that environmental education, particularly when geared towards K-12 students ... has a number of positive impacts, including increasing academic performance, enhancing critical thinking; heightening personal development of confidence

and leadership skills; increasing civic engagement and positive environmental behaviors, the executive director stated, adding, "Individuals who have grown-up with Strawberry Hill have gone on to become educators and foresters, and build careers in conservation, advocacy, and natural resource management."

Ferraro said, "We know that time spent in nature offers abundant health-benefits for all ages. This time spent in nature boosts mental health and makes people feel happier, improves memory and concentration, and decreases stress and chronic disease."

She further noted that time spent in nature boosts mental health and makes people feel happier, improves memory and concentration, and decreases stress and chronic disease. Ferraro added, "As we live our mission of connecting the community with educational opportunities, all these benefits are wonderful outcomes of our work."

Ferraro said that throughout the organization's history, they have been especially proud of several key-environmental accomplishments, including investing years of stewardship efforts in order to create an environment where the Red-Spotted Newt has been able to thrive, boasting some of the largest



Every year, Strawberry Hill draws tens of thousands of nature enthusiasts eager to tap into the learning opportunities the center affords.

concentrations in the area, helping to attain the state Department of Environmental Protection's "Exceptional Value" designation for Swamp and Middle Creek resulting in safeguarding the ecological integrity and the long-term protection of the Swamp Creek Watershed, and entering into a partnership with the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry.

"None of this would be possible

without the generosity of our community." Ferraro said, "The growing support during the past thirty-five years has been both encouraging and sustaining. We look forward to serving you and your family in the year ahead. Meanwhile, we are pausing to reflect-on and celebrate the tremendous work we have accomplished.

For more information on Strawberry Hill see related story on Page 14.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

'Green Street' approval postponed

Possible approval by the Emmitsburg commissioners for the conceptual plan for the North Seton Avenue Green Street project was postponed twice in February due to the snowstorm-related cancellation of two town meetings.

It had been the intent of Town Planner Zach Gulden to present the conceptual plan for the commissioners' approval, which has now been moved to the board's March 1 meeting.

The commissioners previously approved a \$19,825 contract with Fox & Associates, of Frederick, to develop a Green Street Concept Plan to enhance North Seton Ave. with trees and plants, create safer road conditions, and help relieve flooding at the Northgate subdivision.

Gulden stated that the creation of the conceptual plan was a first step towards developing "green infrastructure enhancements" planned to take place along North Seton Ave., from North Ave. to Provincial Parkway (approximately 1,600 linear feet).

Being more than just a beautification project, the estimated \$290,800 project will also help the municipality meet its requirements under the state MS4 program, which requires communities to reduce stormwater-runoff. "We can use this project as future MS4 credits for our federally and state-mandated stormwater management permit," Gulden had previously stated.

According to a Power Point presentation which Gulden prepared for the commissioners (now slated for March 1), the overall project is organized by goals to be achieved.

The first goal addresses the incorporation of green stormwater infrastructure, which encompasses reducing impervious surfaces with plantings or replacement with non-impervious surfaces, extending stormwater curbing and creating "bump-outs" to slow the flow of stormwater runoff, and installing stormwater-fed planters to capture and use some of the runoff.

New waterlines will also be installed, the cost of which is not included in

the \$290,800 price-tag for the "green street" project. The anticipated cost of the waterlines has not yet been assessed.

The second goal will address implementing street-design elements which includes utilizing the full street right-of-way for improvements. These improvements will focus on improving traffic-calming concepts, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, sidewalks, streetlamps, and vehicle access.

The third goal proposes vegetation, including utilization of only native plants. "The proposed street and stormwater plant palette includes plant species that will thrive within the street and stormwater context," the report states.

The proposed work will also address Flat Run by implementing measures to aid in filtering pollutants, improve water-quality, stabilize embankments, and add plantings to help slow the water flow.

Gulden told the News-Journal, "I believe I can easily obtain grant funding to complete the project, as this is a high-priority project."

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Town receives grant for waterlines

The Maryland General Assembly approved an outlay of \$1 million budget item in the state's capital budget to pay for water infrastructure improvements in Emmitsburg. The money will be used for a water clarifier. The clarifier would be installed west of the town, near a water-treatment structure in proximity to Crystal Fountain Rd.

The qualifier will cost around \$1.4 million, so the town will have to pay for - or find additional funding ... for the difference.

Meanwhile a proposal to seeking federal funding to aid with the replacement of the DePaul Street and North Seton Avenue waterlines which was to be dis-

cussed at upcoming meeting of the Emmitsburg commissioners has been pulled from the agenda.

Town Manager Cathy Willets told the News-Journal that the agenda item has been withdrawn for further consideration at this time. "The Town is (still) currently in the process of completing the preliminary engineering report (PER) and environmental report (ER) on the waterlines."

She said these reports must be completed ... before the town can proceed with soliciting for federal Department of Agriculture funding. When the reports are completed, seeking approval for applying for the funding will then be

placed back on the agenda.

The town had applied to the Maryland Department of the Environment for funding to rectify the pipeline issues, but the application was denied.

The commissioners previously approved engaging Annapolis-based McCrone to conduct the PER and ER for DePaul and North Seton waterlines, at a cost of \$25,000. The PER will consider all of the town's waterlines and water-supply system, while the ER would apply to the North Seton and DePaul projects specifically.

The necessity of addressing the DePaul Street and North Seton Avenue waterlines stemmed from numer-

ous reports being received from drinking-water were complaining of a persistent brown colorization of their tap water.

The complaints began to flow-in, beginning in October 2019. Although there were multiple suspect-sources, the DePaul and North Seton waterlines were determined to be subject to internal corroding, resulting in rusting iron-flakes dropping off into the water ... thus generating the colorization.

The water was subsequently tested and found to be "harmless," a statement posted on the town website stating, "Although the water may not be visually appealing, it is safe to drink

and continues to meet all federal and state drinking water standards. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water."

While the iron-rust posed no health risks, residents reported at the January 6, 2020 commissioners' meeting that they had suffered the consequences of rust in their water - which has stained clothing (including expensive service-uniforms), led to buying bottled water, and purchasing expensive filtration units, or increasing the numbers of filters they expend ... trying to eliminate the pollutants. The discoloration began to dramatically diminish by early March 2020.

News Briefs . . .

Vender license changes proposed

The town commissioners will be considering amending regulations that govern any businesses that want to sell goods and services from a non-permanent location or door-to-door in-town.

Willets told the News-Journal that, currently ... any person wishing to do this must request a "vender-license" from the town-clerk.

The proposed changes would protect the town and residents by

requiring the vendors to present information on what goods and services they are planning to sell, and proof that they are qualified to do business before the town approves their license. Willets said.

The amendment to the existing regulations also gives the town the authority to deny the person a license if the services or goods don't comply with federal, state and local laws, or if the information on the application has been falsified, or if the company

has had a fraudulent case entered against it within the past ten years.

"We want to protect our residents and make sure scammers aren't coming into town and selling items," the town manager stated.

The changes are proposed to be discussed and possibly adopted at the commissioners' March 1 meeting.

Four Points Bridge re-opens

The 145-year-old wrought-iron bridge, which carries Keysville Rd. over Toms Creek, that has been closed since December for repairs, re-opened.

Engineer Amanda Radcliffe, county Division of Public Works, told the News-Journal that work proposed to have taken place on the Four Points Bridge has been delayed due to "the highway crews having been busy with all the winter storms ... that they haven't been able to repair this bridge."

Radcliffe had previously described the damage that was discovered during an inspection that occurred toward the end of 2020 as a crack in a "critical member (structure)" of the bridge.

The repair to be made will be a temporary one. The county engineer said, "The (temporary) repair will likely involve the fabrication of steel-members to help support the location of the cracked bridge-member." The temporary fix will make the bridge safe for traffic.

She said the county Highway Operations is also pursuing a permanent repair that will replace the temporary repair. The retrofit repair will be installed at a later time and should "fit with the historic nature and aesthetics of the bridge."

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Police vest and camera services approved

The Carroll Valley Borough Council approved paying for two protective vests for police and the subscription for monitoring body and in-vehicle police cameras.

Police Chief Richard Hileman approached the council requesting their approval that he be authorized to acquire two protective vests for officers in the amount of \$2,342, and to pay for the \$2,845 subscription with Digital Ally which provides police cameras, and the cloud-based storage for the video generated. The proposed expenses totaling \$5,187.

Additionally, the chief pointed

out that the council had cut \$2,845 from the Contracted Services budget-line item, which included the police contract with Digital Ally for the body-worn cameras and in-car video-service. "Without this funding, I will have to discontinue the use of our body cameras and will lose access to the cloud-based video storage. I am asking that this funding be restored as well," he stated.

Regarding the acquisition of the two vests, Hileman said, "With the decision to move forward using part-time officers, we need to equip them with bullet-resistant vests, as we do for

our full-time officers," adding, that in 2020 the department was borrowing equipment as a temporary measure, and now that the decision was made to have part-time officers, "we need to provide them with our equipment."

To pay for the requested purchases, Hileman suggested using un-delegated department revenues, which presently amounts to \$5,171 - \$4,780 of which had been provided through Adams County COVID-19 grant funds which had been set aside for police departments, and the \$371 remainder was provided through a police-protective vest-grant. The difference

between the departmental revenues (\$5,171) and the proposed expenditures (\$5,187) was \$35.

The council decided to pay for the vests out of the capital budget, and subscription costs as a budgetary line item.

In other police business, Chief Hileman stated that on January 20 a CenturyLink fiber-optics line was cut on a bridge in Northern Maryland which knocked-out phone service to the affected customers ... including almost all of Adams County, and the 911 lines at the county Emergency Services Center.

As a result, the center asked local

fire and police departments to have staff on-hand who could help manage emergency calls during the outage. Hileman said, "Thanks to our (the borough's) Comcast phone-system and the remote working that we have been doing ... they (the borough and police staff) were already hooked-up to do that" and were thereby capable of handling the emergency calls.

Hileman acknowledged Assistant Borough Manager Gayle Marthers, Assistant Borough Secretary Amanda Bell, and Police Administrative Assistant Jo Ann Myers as the three staff members who left their phones on all night in order to take calls.

Liberty to update trees & driveway ordinances

The Liberty Township supervisors voted at their February meeting to advertise several ordinances and amendments for possible adoption at an upcoming meeting, including those addressing junkyard permits, dead roadside tree-removal and driveways regulations.

Chairman Walter Barlow, in introducing the proposed Junkyard Ordinance amendments, said the ordinance was "revised to clean it up - and made it a little bit more helpful to us to be able enforce," because the existing ordinance did not offer a sufficient degree of enforcement power.

The revisions included stating that a junkyard permit is good for one-year from the date that it was

issued, and that if the applicant has not properly filled-out a junkyard permit application form, the application permit will be denied, and if an applicant is found to have been in the non-compliance of the ordinance during the preceding term of the issuance of the current permit, a renewal may be denied.

Changes in application fees for applying for a junkyard permit were placed into effect since the supervisors' January meeting, which raised the application fee from \$100 to \$1,000, to ensure that the township recoups inspection and enforcement expenses.

In related business, the supervisors approved the re-submission of a junkyard permit application that

the board had rejected at their January meeting - due to the application form not having been properly fill-in, according to the supervisors.

Township Secretary/Treasurer Wendy Peck noted that the applicant did submit the \$1,000 fee as per the revised fee-schedule.

Also pending adoption is an ordinance which would allow the township to enforce removal of dead or diseased trees whose limbs are overhanging on township roads. The right-to-remove would be applicable to removing applicable trees more than six-inches in diameter.

Chairman Barlow noted that the township has already prepared five letters to be sent to residents along Bullfrog Road who have dead trees

"along the road and read-to-fall" on their properties. He stated that such trees potentially pose a threat to those who utilize the road,

Under the ordinance, if adopted ... property-owners would be given 30-days' notice that a tree or trees must be removed. If the property-owner fails to comply, the township will have the authority to have the tree or trees removed at the property owner's cost, plus any legal costs which may be involved. Failure to pay any resulting assessment would constitute a criminal offense.

Also proposed at the meeting was an ordinance intended to amend the township driveway-ordinance which, Barlow stated, was determined to be in conflict with the

township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO).

Specifically, he said, in the SALDO ... the diameter of a culvert pipe is left-up to the discretion of the township roadmaster. The proposed amendment would mandate that any culvert pipe installed be fifteen inches in diameter at the minimum.

Additional changes that the driveway ordinance amendment would entail are that driveways should be paved four-feet back from the roadway, that the entranceway to a driveway should be a minimum of 25-feet in width, and that two driveways per-property would be permitted without having to apply for a waiver.

Strawberry Hill subdivision approved

A subdivision proposed by the Strawberry Hill Foundation was unanimously approved by the Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors at their February meeting, as had been recommended by the township Planning Commission.

Specifically, the 'minor' subdivision plan involves subdividing a four-acre lot from a 26.56-acre tract of land belonging to Strawberry Hill. The four-acre lot, which is the subject of the subdivision, is located on Swamp Creek Lane and contains a cabin that was previously used as a rental by Strawberry Hill, with an additional abandoned structure.

The conditions imposed on the subdivision approval are more of a technical nature, such as ensuring that certain notations and signatures are added to the plan. The applicant has 90 days to meet the conditions. Petrus Holdings is the intended buyer.

Some of the concerns expressed at the meeting include that the specific or intended use of the property, which remains unknown ... and that the plan does not address issues relating to the protection of Swamp Creek.

However, those concerns cannot really be taken into consideration when doing a subdivision - but tend to be triggered when a developer actually begins to propose a project

which would alter that which presently exists on the site, according to township Engineer Fred Heerbrandt. A subdivision doesn't physically impact or alter anything other than a map.

As far as any 'hint' of proposed use, Commissioner Robert Gordon stated the applicant had suggested the tract would be a nature preserve, but subsequently suggested it could be used for unspecified religious purposes.

Petrus Holdings had previously acquired a circa five-acre tract along Swamp Creek Lane which is now

owned by a religious sect, but there is no known connection (if such even exists) between that group and Petrus Holdings' purchase of the soon-to-be-subdivided tract.

Also approved by the supervisors at their meeting was a planning waiver for the four-acre lot, which relieved Strawberry Hill from having to install septic systems. Both the cabin and abandoned structure already have septic systems in place.

Additionally, the supervisors approved granting the applicant a 60-day extension to allow for the execution of a maintenance agree-

ment that would facilitate the use of privately-owned Swamp Creek Lane ... in order to be able to access the proposed four-acre lot. The agreement would include the applicant and other parties who utilize the lane.

The 26.56-acre tract, from which

the four-acre lot is being culled, is part of Strawberry Hill's 32-acre campus. In June of 2018, Strawberry Hill transferred a the vast majority of the preserve's original land grant - the organization donated 80 acres of land and sold 480 acres to the state and subsequently became part of Michaux State Forest.



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THURMONT NEWS

Parking ticket code issue fixed

The Thurmont commissioners approved at their February 2 meeting ... an ordinance amending the municipal code for correcting discrepancies between the code and parking citations.

The action was taken in response to a request proposed by Police Chief Gregory Eyler at the board's January 26 meeting.

At the January 26 meeting, Chief Eyler told the board that the wording in the municipal code states a parking-violation citation recipient has 30-days to pay a fine, and five-days' notice before the due-date to notify of intent to challenge the citation in court. The chief said the actual citation states 20-days, and to notify the department within 15-days of the intent to challenge the citation in court.

Eyler requested that the commissioners adopt an ordinance that reflects the information that is currently on the citations. "It's (the verbiage) conflicting, and people get confused by it," he stated, adding, "Actually a resident here in Thurmont brought that to our attention ... I think it's a carry-over that nobody (throughout time) has caught onto."

Commissioner Martin Burns described the adoption of the changes as "a no-brainer," adding, "I think it makes complete sense ... thankfully, a resident brought it to our attention. That's awesome."

Commissioner Wes Hamrick noted bringing the code into conformity with the citations themselves saved a lot of money, as opposed to having to reprint citations and

their envelopes, further stating, "I'm thankful that an extra pair of eyes ... outside of ours, saw it."

Eyler noted that the resident who reported it had been cited – and had apparently exceeded one of the failure-to-pay stipulations but was not fined because of the disparity in the regulations. Is the recipient had been charged, he would have been reimbursed under the circumstances, the chief said.

The ordinance was unanimously adopted and became effective effect on February 9.

In other business at the February meeting, the commissioners approved a contract for the North Church Street water-main engineering and design services.

Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick told the board that the contract services would be



On February 27, Thurmont's newest restaurant, Los Amigos, officially opened its doors. Located just across the street from the Weis Market it offers "The best Mexican food this side of the Rio Grande."

addressing an abandoned, underground pump-station under North Church Street, which has not been functioning for years, and a four-inch water main.

The pump-station has contributed to flow and pressure issues, and the pump and water main are to

be replaced with a straight-through six-inch main. The commissioners awarded the contract for the engineering and design work to Arro Consulting for \$8,850. The commissioners previously approved \$110,000 in the town budget for the completion of the project.

Thurmont-owned internet discussed

The Thurmont commissioner received an hour and forty-minute presentation regarding a proposed town-owned internet service for local residents and businesses at their February 9 meeting.

Commissioner Martin Burns spearheaded the establishment of an *internet commission* to explore options and costs that would be applicable to founding a Thurmont-owned and operated highspeed internet service for the community.

Internet Commission member Dan Kosek said that one advantage Thurmont has is that it "actually owns its own electrical distribution,"

which includes the poles, the wires that run between them, and the distribution of power to the town, "which gives us a (existing) path through town to do a fiber build-out when that's appropriate."

Additionally, he said there are three tall water-towers in the municipality, "so we have nice, tall venues to use wireless services from (to serve as distribution towers)."

Kosek further noted that the current, primary internet-providers to customers in Thurmont include Comcast and Verizon, adding ... one of the downsides of using available, commercial providers is using Com-

cast service as an example, customers often are receiving half, or less-than-half, of the gigabits or megabits for which the customers are paying.

Kopek stated that creating a fiber-optic network is expensive, so the commission explored a less-expensive strategy which would provide businesses and residents with a service in the interim that is fast and would allow the town to build a strictly fiber-optic network over time.

He suggested the start-up could be in the form of a wireless system running on the frequency once restricted for use by the former Citizen Band Radio Service (CBRS). This would

enable the town to provide in-town wireless internet service to residences and businesses without having to run cable-lines to the location of the customers. There would be a receiver installed outside of each customer's home or business-location, and a wire that would run from that receiver to the computer's modem.

The profits generated could then be used toward paying for the fiber build-out (which could take up to several years to complete) Kopek said.

The proposal, if pursued, would begin with a pilot-program which, would hopefully be comprised of 235 residential and businesses-us-

ers, which would entail the acquisition of the equipment, with the pilot-system to be operated by a contractor, at an estimated \$235,000, which could be recovered in under three-years through user-fees. The proposed user-fees that would be charged would run from \$50 to \$80 per-month for residential, and \$75 to \$180 per-month for businesses, based on the amounts of megabits provided.

Although the commissioners took no formal action on the proposed service, Mayor Kinnaird thanked the presenters for their efforts, noting that after reviewing the information ... the board will likely have more questions.

News-Briefs . . .

Old Thurmont Bank building sold
Town Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick informed the Thurmont Business Network at their February meeting that the Thurmont Bank building has been sold, and that the purchaser is proposing to establish residential apartments, with retail being on the first floor.

He said the purchaser, a "very reputable developer" that specializes in refurbishing old homes

and businesses throughout Pennsylvania and parts of Maryland, is working on a concept plan, and town staff hopes the plan will come before the municipal Planning & Zoning Commission in March.

"We are hoping with our fingers crossed ... that this is going to move forward quickly" Humerick said, adding, "In the next few months ... we'll (hopefully) see some activity down there on the Square."

Local business interests discussed

Various business-related topics were discussed at the February meeting of the Thurmont Business Network, following an in-depth overview of the Thurmont Police Department, presented by Thurmont Police Chief Gregory Eyler.

Economic Development Manager *Vicky Grinder* stated that an indoor market will be launched in March at the Thurmont Plaza, which will be open on every Sat-

urday from March 20 through May 1. COVID protocols will be enforced. The traditional outdoor market will begin on May 8.

Grinder also noted that there will be no Business Showcase this year, but that the town is planning to have one in 2022.

She reported that a Business Bucks Program booklet may be obtained at the town offices in \$5, \$10, and \$20 increments - which is good at 33 participating local businesses. "It's a great way to keep the money in the community

and support these 33 businesses," the economic development manager stated.

Grinder also stated that her office is endeavoring to amass business and contact information for a local business database. Not only would this information be used to promote the anniversaries of each of the local businesses at the appropriate time(s), but the information would be furnished to the police department so they would have the current contact information for the businesses.

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 <p>WOODFORD RESERVE. BOURBON Malt or American Wheat 750 ML</p>	 <p>Paul's Pit Stop DISCOUNT BEER, WINE & LIQUOR Website: m.paulspitstop.net 150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg 301-447-6262 Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.</p>		 <p>NEW! Tanqueray SEVILLA ORANGE GIN 750 ML</p>

TANEYTOWN NEWS

Economic Development director hired

Taneytown has finally found a new Economic Development and Main Street director ... but is continuing to seek candidates for a planning and zoning director.

The City Council voted at their February meeting to approve the hiring of Jay Meashey as the new Main Street program director, filling the position which had been held by the former program director, Nancy McCormick, until she retired on September 4.

Mayor Bradley Wantz, who recommended hiring Meashey, told the board

that applicant is currently working on a bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning at the Salisbury University, adding that the interview "went very well."

"He (Meashey) spoke of a lot of great ideas as it revolves around economic development," Mayor Wantz stated, adding, "I think with his personality, demeanor, and wealth of knowledge, along with his desire to learn more, he will be a tremendous asset to the city and would do very well working with our business-owners in bringing in more (business)."

He said the hiring would not be formally consummated until the candidate successfully passed a background check. The mayor stated, there being no issues stemming from the background check, Meashey would begin work on March 1.

Although Meashey's salary was not noted during the meeting, the position was advertised as having a salary-range beginning at \$44,970 and included a benefits package.

The city had a difficult time finding applicants for the position and had described the overall response to the first

advertisement placed for the position as having been "unsuccessful." A second effort generated 20 applications by the time the application-submittal deadline of January 21 had been reached.

Town staff is continuing in its quest for a new planning and zoning director, a position which City Manager James Wieprecht had held while serving as an acting city manager.

Mayor Wantz stated, "Based on the resumes that we received, there was one potential for interview ... unfortunately, he may be requesting more

money than we're willing to put into that position at this time."

In other business, the city Council approved four members nominated for the city Board of Elections: Judy Furbay (re-appointment); Bill Kennedy (re-appointment); Sue Billings (new appointment); and Christopher Miller (new appointment).

Regarding the City Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Wantz noted at the council's February work-session that staff had received the notice-of-resignation from board-member Gary Smith. As a result, the mayor will be nominating a replacement-for-consideration at a later date.

Roberts Mill Park improvements progress

The Taneytown Parks & Recreation Advisory Board moved forward at their February meeting to seek bids for proposed work to improve the walking trails and basketball court at Roberts Mill Park.

Lorena Vaccare, director of Parks & Recreation, told the board members that the city had received an estimate on the proposed work for the trails and ball-court at the at Roberts Mill Park from Hobbs Excavating of Fairfield, of \$250,000. However, she

said that estimate including the use of ReadyBlock - lightweight concrete blocks comprised of recycled aggregates.

Vaccare noted that Hobbs could get the cost down to \$145,000 if the company used riprap (loose stones) in lieu of ReadyBlock ... "provided that he (Hobbs) can overlay some parts of the path that don't need to be completely demolished and redone."

The director said the city would pursue the use of riprap over blocks

in the trail, and court repairs, and the improvements would also include the planting of low-growing, flowering vegetation among the riprap to "soften the look."

The project will be put out for bids, Vaccare said. The estimate was obtained in order to provide the board with an idea of the appropriate costs to refer to when putting the project up-for-bids.

The director said that the bids would be restricted to not exceed

\$150,000, with the requests for proposals (RFPs) to be released March 1 with bidding open until April 2, with the actual work to not commence until after the May 15 Fishing Derby.

The \$150,000 ... representing the maximum amount to be spent on the improvements, was approved by the city Council at their February meeting as a 2020-2021 budget amendment. Vaccare said the advisory board will be given an opportunity to review the bid specifications

before they are published.

Roberts Mill is located on 19.3 acres of open space, with a large pond that is fed by natural springs. The pond is home to a variety of different animals and wildlife, including ducks and geese.

There is also a lighted walking and jogging trail around the pond ... with benches along the way for park visitors to use. Roberts Mill Park also has separate soccer and lacrosse fields with ample lighting, a full basketball court, a fenced-in playground, and three picnic pavilions.

Emergency employee guidance approved

The Taneytown City Council approved at their February meeting an amendment to the employee handbook which addresses employee crises-related leave time policies - generated as a result of the various issues relating to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

City Manager Wieprecht noted at the council's February workshop... the need for the handbook amendment, "With the current state-of-emergency related to the pandemic, we have had primarily - issues that

are not really addressed in the handbook or the personnel manual.

Wieprecht said that responding to the pandemic resulted in changes to workhours, use of administrative leave as the result of having employees stay home during what would have been workdays, "and things that really were not anticipated prior to the pandemic," including the ability of employees to take leave, coverage-scheduling, and creating different shifts for people to maintain social distancing in the offices.

The amendment to the handbook

puts in place, as a policy ... some of the things that the town staff found it had to do to respond to the pandemic, he said, adding that the amendment would also be applicable to any emergency such as a weather-related emergency.

The development of the policies was the result of concerns expressed by Councilwoman Diane Foster, who over the course of several meetings had questioned the manner in which unused benefit time had been allowed to accrue during the

pandemic when essential employees could not use earned days-off.

Councilwoman Foster previously stated that there had never been a provision in the existing employee handbook that provided any guidance regarding employee time-management during emergency situations and offered to help Wieprecht if he needed it - in the effort to produce an amendment to the employees' handbook.

The conversation concerning the need for crises-related benefit policies stemmed from the city having to

reimburse the police and city manager towards the end of 2020 for accrued leave-time that they were unable to use during the course of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, while being employed as essential employees.

The council also discussed at the February workshop - the need to concisely state in the town charter or code that the mayor has the authority to declare a state-of-emergency, and that the council would have the authority regarding any proposed extension of such a declaration.

The handbook amendment was passed unanimously by the board.

News-Briefs . . .

Easter egg hunt options considered

Taneytown's annual Easter Egg Hunt may be held this year, but the form in which it takes will depend on COVID-19 protocols that might then be in effect.

Lorena Vaccare, director of Parks & Recreation, informed the city Parks & Recreation Advisory Board at their February meeting that, while it is hoped that the egg hunt can move forward in the manner in which it has in prior years, it may have to be modified.

Vaccare said the event was originally scheduled to take place at Memorial Park ... with someone dressed-up as the Easter Bunny - so that children could have their photographs taken with the Easter Bunny at the gazebo - and have the egg hunt, raffles, and juice and cookies for the children - but Vaccare stated she is "not sure where we're going to be with the COVID situation."

She said one option might be to disperse the plastic eggs throughout the park, and children could hunt for them on-their-own. The concern with that being, she said, might be risking those who might be throwing

the plastic eggs "in the pond, thrown in the porta-potties ... who knows - so I'm hoping we can do it in-person (more organized and monitored)."

Vaccare told the News-Journal that a decision regarding the Easter egg hunt should be forthcoming - and suggested anyone interested in participating to check on the status as posted on the Taneytown Facebook page at facebook.com/TaneytownParks.

Bollinger Park heritage grant sought

City Manager Wieprecht informed the city Council at their February meeting that town staff will be seeking a grant from the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) to utilize in the creation of a multi-purpose trail in Bollinger Park.

However, he stated, in order to qualify for the grant, the city must grant MHT an "historic easement" on the land upon which the trail is established.

Wieprecht stated that staff would be seeking to clarify if such an easement was actually called-for regarding the establishment of a trail - but given the fast-approaching deadline for filing for the grant, he requested that the council pre-approve pursuing the grant ... con-

ditioned on an acceptable outcome on the easement-aspect of the application.

Bollinger Park, currently in the developmental stages, and will be a "nature park." Preliminary plans include a walking, jogging, and biking trail, with the possibility for an observatory, constructed and operated by the Westminster Astronomical Society.

The council authorized the mayor to supervise the process of applying - without needing further action by the council.

Wine Fest still a 'go'

Lorena Vaccaro, director of Parks & Recreation, informed the city Parks & Recreation Advisory Board at their February meeting that vendor applications continue being submitted for the June Taneytown Wine, Music & Art Festival.

Vaccare said that the booking of three of the bands that had been approached to perform at the event has been secured, as well as securing the participation of the pony-rides and petting-zoo. Other attractions will include moon-bounces and games. "We don't need a lot ... just a couple of theme-booths and different things like that," she said.

The director further stated that staff

will soon be reaching out to prospective sponsors for the upcoming event, and that the supplies for the event will

be ordered in April. The event is scheduled to take place on June 19, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilman Phil Dacey

February was a busy housekeeping month for the County Council. We tackled issues on water and sewer changes, annexations, fire and rescue, and climate change.

As I type this, the coronavirus numbers continue to improve locally and nationally. The decline in the number of cases has really been stunning. We have vaccinated over 10% of Frederick County residents and a similar number of Maryland residents. I can't express to you how overjoyed and uplifted my children were in returning to the classroom (at least 2 days per week). I am extremely hopeful that the worst is behind us.

We will have to start changing our mindset into a post-vaccine mindset where we don't need to fear being around other people.

It appears that March will be a robust vaccination month with the expected approval of a third vaccine and increased production on the two approved vaccines that we have readily available. It does take persistence to find a vaccine, but it pays off as there are many channels now to receive one -- the Frederick Health Department, Giant, CVS, the Frederick Health Hospital, and soon to be four mass vaccination sites with a fifth promised Western

Maryland site being announced in March. There has been nothing but positive news on the vaccines which are extremely effective at preventing COVID and perhaps as importantly, keeping vaccinated people from even having to visit a hospital.

In more routine Council matters, in February, the County Council approved an annexation of two properties owned by the Town of Emmittsburg off Creamery Road that include the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Town's solar field totaling 85 acres. The Town may plant 11 acres of trees in the annexed area to improve the pollutant discharge.

The Council also approved creation of an Immigrant Affairs Commission, sponsored by Council Member Fitzwater, that will help the county communicate with immigrant communities. It should be noted that this bill was heavily amended to ensure that the Commission is focused on county level issues and isn't tempted to wade into the national immigration debates.

Additionally, the Council passed an ordinance to implement Kari's Law. Kari's Law is named after a 2013 tragedy where Kari Hunt took her children to meet her estranged husband at a Texas motel where she was assaulted and killed. One of her

young daughters attempted to call 911 from the hotel room, but was not able to get an outside line because she failed to dial a 9 first. The Maryland state law requires that multi-line telephone systems have a direct dial for 911 without having to access an outside line first.

We appointed members to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to make recommendations to the Council on how to best address this important issue. We also heard an interim report from the Climate Change Commission -- I will be keeping a close eye on their recommendations to make sure that there aren't negative consequences to the general public from their findings.

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

In January, Keith Suerdieck, after 10 years of service on the Town Planning Commission retired. Keith served in various roles during his terms, and finally as Commission Chairperson. Keith's service will be missed. He brought a quiet professionalism to his service, both a tribute to his architectural training and service as associate pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church. Thank you, Keith. At the January meeting Former Commissioner Glenn Blanchard joined the Commission and Commissioner Mark Long was elected Chairman.

On a sunny, balmy mid to late winter Sunday morning, with the temperatures souring to 30 degrees F, there, 38 souls from all about "teed off" in the first annual Emmitsburg Disc Golf Iceberg tournament. Special awards were

given to Eric Bolger and Wayne Nordberg for their hands-on development and construction of the course. Rain, sun, hot, cold, sleet, snow with only lightening poses as an obstruction. Wonderful use of the park in the winter months. Just like golf with its respectful decorum of play, the players are hooked on the game. You do not play with one disc, it looks like players have at least ten discs for long, mid, and short shots. Amazing.

Community Park is an active park with baseball, tennis, basketball, horseshoes, swimming, in season recreational activities and now a year-round disc golf course. Laced into the park design, is the development to accommodate the passive uses of walking, jogging, or biking along with an exercise trail, a dog park, cook outs, band shell or

a just place for sitting on a beautiful spring or fall day. In the planning stage are two family gazebos and maybe it is time to look at bringing back a volleyball court. We all must be patient and polite in the use of the park for passive and active uses.

Responsible Green New Deal. Lots of press on shutdown of the Canadian XL pipeline. But not so much on the recent unanimous final approval from the Maryland Board of Public Works on an 11-mile continuation of the Eastern Shore Pipeline (natural gas line) from Delaware, through Wicomico County to the University Eastern Shore, and the Eastern Correctional Institute in Somerset County. The pipeline corridor includes going under the Manokin River, Taylor Branch and Kings Creek. Now, natural gas is a fossil fuel. Use of fossil

fuel increases the level of greenhouse gases and any such work is more than frowned upon by environmentalist especially with the State goal set to reduce by 40% greenhouse gases by 2030.

How did the State do it, buck a strong environmental lobby? Very simply, by common sense. Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot summed up the State position, "I just want to salute the environmental advocates who disagree with us on this particular project because I think they're right, that natural gas and fossil fuels are on their way out," Franchot said. "And we're going to get to a renewable future with net-zero carbon emissions. Yes, natural gas and fossil fuel use may be on the way out but let's not go cold turkey."

The Town government energy accounts achieved 95% reliance of renewable energy in 2014. Solar panels and LED lighting. Even with some possible redundancy we added

along the way vehicle charging stations, an electric vehicle, and even a solar powered algae control system at Rainbow Lake. Though the solar panels do create energy on cloudy days, we always have planned for a fallback on a blend of fuel generated energy sources.

On March 27 the Seton Center Family Store plans to host a Spring Fling Craft Fair. Up to 15 crafters and/or vendors, a DJ and the Frederick Health Department representative will be on hand. Emmitsburg area restaurants have been asked to provide a 'Taste of Emmitsburg' at the Fair. Interested Crafts and businesses should call Keith Droneburg at 301-447-6102.

About a shot location up this way, according to Commissioner Davis, Vigilant Hose Company is getting closer to its activities building on Creamery Road being approved as a County Health Department vaccination site.

County Notes...

New Online Learning Platform Available for County Residents

Frederick County Workforce Services, the local leader in workforce development initiatives, has launched "SkillUp Frederick County" -- a comprehensive online learning platform with a wide variety of career training modules designed to close skills gaps in the local workforce.

"We are excited to deliver an additional workforce development solution to help our community address current workforce challenges,"

shares Workforce Services Director Michelle Day. "With this tool, individuals looking for a job can boost their qualifications to meet the needs and expectations of businesses that are hiring. It's a win-win for both job seekers and employers."

Course topics range from Management and Leadership to IT, Finance, Digital Literacy, Customer Service, and more. There are over 5,000 courses and more than 100 industry certifications available through the platform.

Supported by Metrix Learn-

ing, SkillUp Frederick County also includes skill assessments (300+ skill tracks) and career exploration tools (200+ occupations) in addition to the extensive course catalog. All SkillUp Frederick County resources are being offered to residents at no cost, and there are no limits to the number of courses taken within a six-month training period.

SkillUp Frederick County is accessible now on www.FrederickWORKS.com, a go-to destination for job search and career planning resources, as well as recruitment and training solutions for businesses. Visitors can click on the Job Seekers tab for immediate access to

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FREDERICK COUNTY
MARYLAND
Office of Economic Development

GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

I am very excited to share some good news! Near the end of February, the County purchased 152 acres of land from Mount Saint Mary's University to develop a new North County Regional Park conveniently located between Emmitsburg and Thurmont. The property straddles Motters Station Road just east of US Route 15. The land is adjacent to the campus to the south and east of the highway.

Throughout the pandemic, one of the best and safest activities for people has been outdoor activity. Frederick County parks have been busy with people coming to walk, bike, run, exercise or simply enjoy nature. The fresh air and the wide-open spaces at our parks provides a respite and solution to cabin fever.

Our county parks are always a wonderful place to visit. Over the past year, they became a refuge for many of us. In fact, in 2020, our parks saw more than 3 million visitors. That is an amazing 44% increase over the previous year! We know the pandemic is only one reason for the increase.

Our staff in the Division of Parks and Recreation, under the leadership of Director Jeremy Kortright, have been working with Mount Saint Mary's for many months to make this park land purchase a reality. The land includes open fields as well as forested sections, making the location ideal for a park that can offer both active and passive recreation.

The Mount had an architect draw up a plan with some possible features of a park which helps people visualize what the future park might look like. This concept plan includes courts

for basketball, volleyball, tennis and pickleball. There could be a dog park, synthetic and natural turf sports fields, picnic shelters, a multi-purpose building, a playground, and a trail. There is a small cemetery located on the property, which will be preserved and maintained. Until we are ready to start constructing features, the land will continue to be leased as farmland. You can see a short video of the park location and the concept plan overlay by going to www.frederick.granicus.com

As with any proposed park, the development of the North County Regional Park will follow a public process, with many opportunities for the public to engage and provide input to shape the final plan. A Master Plan Advisory Committee will be formed, which will include representatives from local recreation councils and sports leagues that might want to use the park, as well as civic associations and community members. Adjacent property owners will also be represented.

I am excited to be moving forward with a North County Regional Park. The need for a park in this area has been on the County's priority list for many years. Initial conversations with Mount St. Mary's University occurred more than ten years ago when I was serving as President of the County Commissioners between 2006 and 2010. The purchase was close to being finalized when a new board of commissioners was elected and nixed the plan along with all other park development in the county.

I want to thank Dr. Tim Trainor, President of Mount

St. Mary's University and the Board of Trustees for agreeing to the land acquisition. This is the beginning of a productive partnership between the Mount and the County as the park develops. The park will benefit the athletic program at the Mount as well as provide greatly needed park amenities to all of north county residents. I am excited to see this park move forward and look forward to the day it opens.

Covid And Vaccination Update
Health metrics related to new cases of coronavirus have steadily improved in Frederick County in recent weeks. Our positivity rate and the number of cases per 100,000 population have declined though we continue to track worse than the state average. While the number of new cases has declined, hospitalizations are declining at a slower rate.

Unfortunately, we continue to lose long-time members of our community to the virus. As I write this column, 263 of our Frederick County neighbors have lost their lives to Covid. This is just five fewer than the number of opioid-related deaths in Frederick County over the past five years combined.

While health metrics are improving, the spread of the virus remains much higher than it was last summer and fall. It is important for everyone to stay vigilant and do their part. To win the battle against the virus requires a combination of vaccination and personal responsibility to wear a mask, physical distance and wash your hands.

You can track the health statistics about the county prog-

ress with the coronavirus and with vaccinations on the county's coronavirus dashboard which is updated daily at 10 a.m. The website is FrederickCountyMD.Gov/CovidStats.

The county continues to make progress with vaccinating our residents even in the face of bad weather and reduced quantities of vaccine as the Governor has decided to shift doses away from public health departments to mass vaccination sites.

The Frederick County Health Department is scheduling vaccination clinics on both weekdays and weekends including some evenings and is operating mobile clinics to vaccinate some senior independent living facilities and group homes. Both the Health Department and Frederick Health Hospital administer all the vaccine they receive within the week they receive it.

If you are 65 years of age or older and have not yet been vaccinated, you are encouraged to contact our call center at 301-600-7900 to schedule an appointment. If you are in this age group your turn is NOW. The health department is currently vaccinating people age 74 or older and will move on to age 73 and lower as vaccinations are completed for each age.

The health department has focused on vaccinating older adults because most of the worse health outcomes including death have occurred in people over age 65. Our vaccination clinics are operated in an efficient and effective manner and get people vaccinated and on their way quickly.

I have been greatly concerned about the limited supply of vaccine and the reduction in doses to our local health department and

hospital. I have shared my concerns with state officials including the Secretary of the Maryland Health Department and will continue to advocate for our fair share of vaccine doses based on our population. I have also advocated for a private sector pharmacy location to get vaccine in North County.

While we are currently struggling with the demand for the vaccine far exceeding the supply of vaccine, I am optimistic that this will improve in the coming weeks as a third vaccine is authorized and production of vaccine increases.

When the opportunity becomes available for you to be vaccinated, you are urged to take advantage of the opportunity. To win the battle against the virus, we need the majority of people to be vaccinated to effectively stop the spread and end this terrible health pandemic. The vaccines are safe and are effective. We have already witnessed positive results with reduced cases in nursing homes and among healthcare workers.

We are in a race to get people vaccinated before new coronavirus variants, which are more contagious, become more prevalent. The new variants have caused an increase in cases and hospitalizations in other places and we don't want that to happen here. It is critically important for everyone to take personal responsibility for our actions and do our part by wearing a mask, physical distancing, and practicing good hygiene. These are our best defenses against the virus.

We all look forward to warmer weather and brighter days ahead with a return to our more usual activities. Stay informed, do your part, and be well.

continued from the previous page

ing, SkillUp Frederick County also includes skill assessments (300+ skill tracks) and career exploration tools (200+ occupations) in addition to the extensive course catalog. All SkillUp Frederick County resources are being offered to residents at no cost, and there are no limits to the number of courses taken within a six-month training period.

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Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Program

The Frederick Agricultural Land Preservation Program has opened up an application cycle for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Easement program. The MALPF

program purchases agricultural preservation easements that forever restrict development on prime farmland and woodland. Since the MALPF program began in 1977, it has preserved more than 22,000 acres of farmland in Frederick County.

MALPF was established by the Maryland General Assembly

in 1977 and is part of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. MALPF is one of the most successful programs of its kind in the country. The State of Maryland, with the work of the Foundation and its State and local partners, has preserved in perpetuity more agricultural land than any other state in the country.

Interested applicants should contact Land Preservation Planner II Shannon O'Neil at 301-600-1411 or via e-mail at soneil@frederick-countymd.gov.

MALPF is one of several agri-

cultural preservation programs managed by the Frederick County Division of Planning and Permitting. Together, the programs have permanently preserved 64,207 acres of agricultural farmland.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is March 2021. Correct? The reason why I am asking – when I sent in my February column to the Emmitsburg Journal, I mistakenly sent in the February 2017 submission. I could claim there was a break in the spacetime continuum. Spacetime is a mathematical concept used to understand our universe and how it works. We know it has four dimensions comprised of three spatial dimensions – length, width, height, and one temporal dimension – time. It was the time I had a problem with. Simply put, in fewer words, I made a mistake. Apologizes! I did learn a valuable lesson. When sending an attachment via email, before you click ‘Send,’ take the time to check the attachment name.

Last year, on March 6, Governor Tom Wolf signed an emergency disaster declaration to provide increased support to state agencies involved in response to the COVID-19 virus. At the time of signing, there were nearly 100,000 cases worldwide, including more than 3,300 deaths. There were 233 cases and 12 deaths in the United States. On February 19, Governor Wolf signed the fourth renewal of the disaster proclamation. This dec-

laration runs through to May 19th. At the time of this signing, approximately 111 million cases worldwide have been reported, including more than 2.45 million deaths. There were 28 million cases and 495 thousand deaths in the United States. As of February 19, there are 783,906 confirmed cases in Pennsylvania and 23,480 deaths reported. In Adams County, 6,089 confirmed cases and 148 deaths were reported. The advice continues to be: wear a mask (mandated), do social distancing, wash your hands, and as much as possible, do not gather in crowds.

The National Weather Service has reported as of February 2nd that over 16 inches of snow have fallen in the Carroll Valley area. Maybe the Punxsutawney Groundhog prediction is correct this year – he saw his shadow and so six more weeks of winter. Don't forget that March 5th is Employee Appreciation Day. It is a day to celebrate and recognize employees.

March 5th is also the day bingo comes back to our community. Friday, March 5th, doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and bingo starts at 8 p.m. At the Fairfield Fire Company fire

Hall. A limited menu will be available for players to choose from. In the new Bingo schedule, there will be no bingo on the first Thursday of the month. For subsequent Thursdays, the door opens at 5:30 p.m., and bingo starts at 6:45 p.m. On First Fridays, the doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and bingo will begin at 8:30 p.m.

On March 12th, we celebrate the creation of the Girl Scouts. Remember to turn your clock forward one hour to mark the beginning of Daylight Saving Time on March 14th at 2 a.m. The NCAA March Madness begins on March 14th, with the Final Four scheduled for April 3rd and 5th. The “Ides of March” is March 15th. You know the saying “Beware of the ides of March.” We celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. Watch out for that green beer. The Vernal Equinox is Tuesday, March 20th at 5:37 a.m. Spring starts. Equinox means “equal night.” The day and night are approximately equal (12 hours each).

The March Carroll Valley Library Program consists of the following: March 10th @ 11 am – Strawberry Hill Education & Outreach Coordinator, Lizzy Ryan, shows how you

the process of making maple syrup, from tap to table; March 17th at 11 a.m. watch how to make Hot Chocolate Bombs and you will be able to pick up the supplies at the Carroll Valley Library, and March 24th at 11 a.m. – Personal Trainer, Holly Forrest, discusses ways to stay fit in the spring. The dates shown are the date the video will premiere on the Carroll Valley Library Facebook page and the Adams County Library's YouTube channel. These videos will be available to watch any time after that the premiere date. If you have any questions, call 717-642-6009.

Do you have the proper house number lettering on your mailbox, so the fire company, ambulance, and/or the police department can find you. In an emergency, seconds count. It is so essential that it is addressed in the Carroll Valley Borough Ordinance §27-706. The ordinance states all improved property within the Borough must post the official street address in three (3) inch numbers that are luminous (reflective). The numbers shall be easily read from 20 feet day or night. If there is no mailbox at a residence or does not identify the house, the reflective street address numbers shall be placed on the house's front.

If the home sits back off the road or is not visible due to trees or bushes, a sign shall be erected displaying the proper address. Does your house meet the code? If not, you can buy a reflective mailbox sign for just \$8.00 from the Police Department. These signs are 6" x 18" aluminum and covered in green reflective vinyl with white reflective vinyl numbers attached on both sides. They have the same highly visible qualities as PennDOT directional signs. If you are interested in one of these signs, call the Borough Police Department at 717-642-8269 and ask about ordering. You can also contact the Police Department Administrative Assistant at pdadmin@carrollvalley.org.

The Borough Office remains closed. However, if you need to conduct business with the Borough or have questions, please call 717-642-8269. Check the Carroll Valley Borough website for the most up-to-date committee meeting dates and whether they will be held via zoom. If you have questions for the Mayor, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net or by cell at 301-606-2021. Keep your eyes on your speed when driving on the trails.

Walter Barlow, Liberty Township Supervisor

We have had our fair share of snow this winter, and the road crew of Liberty Township has been working hard to stay on top of removing snow and ice to keep the roads in safe travel condition. Remember to keep your driveway culvert pipes cleaned out to prevent water from flowing across the roadways and freezing. Please check on your neighbors this time of year, especially the elderly who may need assistance with snow removal.

February is Radon test month; we kindly remind residents to test your radon alarms and change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Additionally, the Fire Department has expressed concern that they are having difficulties identi-

fying house locations in our township due to house numbers not being visible. The Township has an ordinance that requires all residents to have visible and identifiable address numbers displayed. It is very important for the safety and welfare of residents that all households comply with the Township Ordinance of displaying visible house numbers. We highly recommend reflective numbers be displayed. Reflective numbers can be purchased at most hardware stores.

At the February meeting, the Board of Supervisors discussed the possibility of negotiating a contract with the Adams Regional Emergency Management Services for a price per household to provide all township residents with EMS ser-

vices. This would be paid for by the Township through an EMS tax. This is still in negotiations and would require adoption of an ordinance before going in to effect. Details on this issue would be sent to the Liberty Township residents requesting feedback before finalization. Input from our residents would be appreciated.

Also, in February, the Board of Supervisors voted to move forward to advertise a new ordinance, and two ordinance amendments for adoption at the March 2 meeting. A new Tree Ordinance is proposed allowing the Township to request landowners to remove diseased or dangerous trees on their property along the roadways. Section 2907 of the Pennsylvania Second-Class Township code allows for removal of diseased or dangerous trees by ordinance.

The township would notify the landowner asking them to address the issues. Several letters have already been sent out to property owners with dead trees along the roadways, requesting their removal for the safety and wel-

fare of all drivers on our township roadways. The second ordinance was an amendment to the Driveway Ordinance to add a pipe size requirement of a minimum of 15 inches round and 25 inches long for driveways. The minimum pipe size allows water to flow without clogging the pipes. Additionally, a four-foot skirting butting the road back off up to the driveway constructed of concrete or black top will be required. Minor amendments are also proposed for the Junkyard Ordinance.

Hamiltonban Township has graciously offered to help us mow back our brush along our roads. They will begin sometime in March with their boom mower. Please be mindful while driving when you see the boom mower on our roadways.

There have been incidents of dumping trash and furniture along our roadways recently. If you see anyone dumping trash, please report it to the Township immediately.

The PA State Highway Department is planning on doing road-

work on Tract Road from the intersection of Boyle Road to Crum Road starting in April, which may run into May for two weeks. They are proposing to shut down traffic in that section to replace pipes along the roadways. Detour signs will be posted closer to the work start date.

The Board of Supervisors issued certificates of appreciation to township residents who ended their terms on the Township Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board. The Township would like to thank Vince Gee, Geoff Grant, Dr. Lee Flinner, and Tom Keilholtz for volunteering their time and service to these important roles.

Primary Election is May 18, please mark your calendars. Several township candidates will be on the primary ballot. We encourage everyone to participate in the voting process.

Our Township meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We encourage everyone to come out to our Township meetings or to join us via YouTube. We also provide a call-in number for those who would like to participate by phone.

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Marty Qually

Early every year I take some time to develop a list of priorities. It helps me remain focused and, in some ways, invigorated to step into the new year. My list for 2020 fell apart pretty quickly and by the Spring it was simply COVID, COVID, and COVID. So far 2021 has been dominated by COVID related matters, but it is finally subsiding and I am able to focus on some project goals for 2021.

Before I get into my goals for 2021, let me say my peace on 2020.

Science is a good thing. I'll trust scientists over politicians any day. Please wear your mask and get the vaccine.

Black lives matter. Until we lift up those that have been held back, we will end up holding everyone back. Please remember the conclusion of our pledge of allegiance "with liberty and justice for all".

It is a national embarrassment that many still believe, despite all of the evidence to the contrary, that our elections are not safe and secure and that this delusion lead to an armed uprising.

Onward to 2021.

After soliciting advice from residents and reflecting on existing challenges in Adams County, I have come up with the following four priority areas for 2021. In no particular order my priorities are, (1) election education, (2) supporting the @Home in Adams Initiative, (3) increasing affordable broadband access, and (4) developing a plan for a women's substance abuse recovery house. These are not lofty unattainable goals, these are right in front of us. All we lack is the will to accomplish these goals.

2020 saw an unprecedented amount of voter confusion and election misinformation. This resulted in a large portion of the public feeling that the 2020 election was invalid. It is important to note that in PA the state creates the rules, but counties are the boots on the ground running the election. I plan to focus on processes that we use to manage elections here in Adams County and throughout the state. For example, there are still elected officials in PA stat-

ing that over 200,000 extra votes were cast in this election than voters. This was simply people using incomplete data and coming to the wrong conclusion. That isn't evidence of voter fraud, it's evidence of system under intense stress and some counties filing data slower than others.

My intention in drawing attention to this issue will be to pull back the veil and assist voters in understanding the process of how a candidate gets onto the ballot, how ballots are processed, counted, and eventually certified. I am not an expert on this, but I do have access to county and state staff willing to help explain this process. While I have full faith in our election process, I do also believe that we have areas to improve. But first we need to be educated on how elections work.

Supporting the @Home in Adams initiative is something we should all get behind. @Home has been doing a deep dive into the relationship between affordable housing, transportation, and our

workforce needs. In a county where over half of our workers travel outside of the county for work, we owe it to ourselves to learn more. A great example of their work so far is the new Rabbit Transit bus route established between Gettysburg, New Oxford, and Hanover. This will be a huge help in getting employees to three important county employment centers and beyond.

Prior to the pandemic it was clear that portions of our broadband infrastructure in Adams County was inadequate. After 2020 it is without a doubt one of the leading challenges to our future success. Affordable high speed internet in no longer a luxury. Affordable high-speed internet is vital for students learning remotely, employees working from home, obtaining medical appointments or scheduling a covid-19 vaccine, and other vital business transactions. Inadequate internet access is already holding us back, if this continues Adams County there could be lasting impacts on our local economy and quality of life.

Lastly, the pandemic may have slowed down construction on the Mercy House substance abuse recovery center, but we are now on track for a Spring open house. To refresh your memory, the Mercy house will be the first substance abuse recovery center in Adams County. It will provide educational and supporting services for any residents seeking solutions to addictions. It will also have affordable apartments for up to seven adult working men actively in recovery. While the doors are not even open yet, we already know we have a need for a women's recovery house. If the outpouring of support for the Mercy House is any indication, we should be able to develop a plan and obtain funding in 2021 to break ground on a women's recovery house in 2022.

These topics will not be the only things that I work on this year, but these will be my top priorities. If any of you have input, questions, or would like to help on these or any issue in the county do not hesitate to contact me at mqually@adams-county.us. Let's do our best to make 2021 a turning point in our county.

County Notes...

House Appropriations Committee Votes to Expand Small Business COVID-19 Relief

The House Appropriations Committee amended Senate Bill 109 to include additional COVID-19 relief for small businesses. The legislation, which appropriates \$197 million in educational grants, \$570 million for rental and utility assistance, and \$145 million for grants to the restaurant and hospitality industry, was amended to exempt income received from the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) from taxation under the state's Personal Income Tax (PIT).

"Many small business owners were shocked to learn that they would end up owing state taxes on PPP money they received to continue paying their employees," said Appropriations Chairman Stan Saylor. "Our antiquated tax code already exempts PPP money from taxation for large corporations. We need to help our small businesses, that were most impacted by the governor's shut down orders."

Congress exempted PPP income from federal taxation in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that was passed by Congress on Dec. 21, 2020. Because the Corporate Net Income Tax

(CNIT) conforms to the federal tax base, PPP income is not taxable under Pennsylvania's CNIT. However, the PIT does not conform to the federal individual income tax base, and therefore PPP income is not automatically excluded from the PIT. Approximately 80% of businesses in Pennsylvania pay the PIT.

House OKs Bill to Help Farmers, Support Agritourism

With Pennsylvania farmers facing ongoing challenges to keep their farms operating and feeding Pennsylvania, the House approved legislation to remove barriers to agritourism and help farmers diversify. House Bill 101, creates the Agritourism Activity Protection Act, which aims to promote agritourism business in Pennsylvania and provide these businesses with limited liability protection.

Farmers sometimes open their farms to the public for seasonal pick-your-own events, hayrides and corn mazes. While these activities provide farmers a secondary source of income, they pose risks should anyone be injured. House Bill 101 would protect agritourism businesses from lawsuits where no party is at fault for injuries or damages. The legislation would

require farmers to post multiple signs warning visitors of potential risks or ask visitors to sign a waiver of liability before participating in activities. The right to sue would still apply if an owner acts in a grossly negligent manner or operates without regard for public safety. The bill is now under consideration in the state Senate.

Savings Program Fees Reduced for People with Disabilities

Fees for the Pennsylvania Treasury's PA ABLE program are being reduced because the National ABLE Alliance - of which Penn-

sylvania is a leading member - recently met a \$150 million asset milestone. PA ABLE helps Pennsylvanians with disabilities and their families save without affecting eligibility for federal and state benefits. Fees are being lowered by two basis points, or 0.02%. The PA ABLE Program offers account owners seven different tax-advantaged savings options, including an interest-bearing checking account with accompanying debit card. Account owners pay no federal or state income tax on savings growth or withdrawals for qualified disability-related expenses.

Contributions up to \$15,000 per year can be deducted on state income tax benefits - a benefit exclusive to PA ABLE. PA ABLE accounts can be used for a large variety of qualified disability-related expenses such as housing, education, health care, transportation, assistive technology and more. For more details about eligibility and to learn how to save with PA ABLE, visit paable.gov or call 855-529-ABLE (2253). Follow the Pennsylvania Treasury Department on Twitter for more information on its programs or visit patreasury.gov.

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Doris Normand
 Office Administrator
 717-642-5854

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NEWACTIVE***

8 Novice Run, Fairfield, PA
 Beautiful Colonial home with 4 BR, 3 BA in Carroll Valley. Public sewer. A MUST SEE!
\$335,000

ACTIVE

30 E. Main St., Fairfield, PA
 4 BR, 2 BA. Colonial home, built in 1880, detached garage
\$225,000

ACTIVE LOTS

4 Fir Tr., Fairfield, PA - 0.79 ac., perc appr., near Gettysburg, very nice... **\$14,000**

3 Spring Tr., Fairfield, PA - 0.66 ac., perc appr., corner lot, wooded... **\$30,000**

15 Brown Tr., Fairfield, PA - Low price Low perc rate, near skiing & golf... **\$23,900**

16 Mason Dixon Tr., Fairfield, PA 0.94 ac., perc test needed... **\$18,500**

12 Winter Tr., Fairfield, PA - 0.52 ac., low perc rate, near skiing & golf... **\$23,500**

350 Topper Rd, Fairfield, PA - Near Gettysburg, skiing & golf & beautiful orchards & wineries... **\$89,500**

10 Valley View Tr., Fairfield, PA - 0.46 ac., perc appr., Beautiful surroundings near parks, lake & walking paths... **\$26,500**

PENDING

47 Meadowlark Tr., Fairfield, PA 0.46 ac., low perc rate... **\$27,500**

NEW LOTS

35 Old Waynesboro Rd., Fairfield, PA 0.52 ac., perc appr., skiing & golf **\$21,900**

4 Fernwood Tr., Fairfield, PA - 0.86 ac., perc. appr., near Ski Liberty. **\$27,900**

13 Oak Ridge Tr., Fairfield, PA 0.61 ac., low perc rate, well drilled, Motivated seller. Make offer!... **\$36,000**

Thursday Night Bingo is BACK! March 11

Limited Kitchen Huge Jackpot

Doors Open 5:30 p.m. Bingo Starts 6:45 p.m.

Masks required when not seated!

Fairfield Fire & EMS

Follow Rt. 116 To Fairfield Turn Onto J. Harry Kane Blvd.

COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Hunting, timing and coincidences?

Shannon Bohrer

The pandemic isolated many of us from our family and friends. However, living on a farm and as an avid outdoorsman and hunter, I had more time to enjoy this past hunting season. As usual, the hunting was nice. When I say nice, that means I was outside, not in the rain, and enjoying nature. When the hunting is good, I see the game that I am hunting. When hunting is great, the game I see is within shooting range. That still does not mean that I had a shot, but the quarry was close. This year the hunting was good, because I saw a lot of game, but it also felt a little different. I thought my hunting timing was off.

Sitting in my deer stand, I could observe the hay field where I have goose decoys set out, about 200 yards from my stand. While observing this, I saw geese landing in the decoys. There were also times when the geese flew right over my deer stand. Was this just bad timing, or maybe an intentional attempt by the geese to humiliate me? When I told my wife about this, she mumbled something about being smarter than a migratory bird; I think that is what she said. I believed it was just a coincidence, or maybe just bad timing.

A week later, when I was hunting from the goose blind, there were several times when I observed deer in the vicinity of my deer stand. Thinking about this I came to several conclusions. The first being that the deer and geese are smarter than I believed. The second is that they communicate with each other and together, they hatched a plan to humiliate me. Another thought I had was this was just poor timing on my part, just a coincidence. I did not entertain the metaphysical possibilities, not having a calculator in the goose blind.

At 74 years old, I have been hunting for a long time and while sitting in the goose blind, I thought of other hunting experiences that included poor timing or just bad coincidences. One being my first hunting experience when I was just 8 years old. I was with my Uncle George, along the C&O canal. The canal was private property back then, and my uncle had a cabin between the canal and the river. We were hunting raccoons, with his dogs, at night. While I remember being excited about going hunting, when I realized that we would be in the woods in the dark, my eagerness turned to a little apprehension. I had been to the cabin before and remembered that you could not see anything when it

was dark. I asked Uncle George if we would have flashlights, he said no, but there would be a campfire to keep us warm. The campfire greatly relieved my apprehension.

Uncle George, a friend of my uncles, and I sat around a small campfire, listening for the dogs. When the dogs barked in a language that Uncle George understood, that meant they had a raccoon treed. Uncle George and the other hunter would jump us and run through the woods in the direction of the barking. I followed but could not keep, and after losing sight of anything in front of me, I would stop. At first this felt like a traumatic experience, being eight years old, and not knowing where I was. After a minute or two, that seemed like hours; I would hear a shot. After which, the dogs would stop barking, and Uncle George would eventually return, finding me in the woods. He had a unique ability to locate me in the dark. The sequence was repeated numerous times, with me always meeting the hunters returning to the campfire. Did I mention that it was dark? Oh, and Uncle George liked telling me bear stories, which I thought about each time he approached me in the woods, with no light.

You may think that my first hunting experience was poor at best, but that was not true. The following day, my uncle

George gave me a real raccoon skin that had been stretched, salted, and dried, well almost dried. I intended to finish the curing process and make myself a real coon-skin hat, just like Davey Crockett's. At that time, every eight-year boy had no idea who the president was, but we all knew Davey Crockett. Davey Crockett was everyone's hero; he always stood up for what was right.

When I got home, I had a feeling that my mother might disapprove of my plans, so I hid the skin in the bottom drawer of my dresser. Several days later, my mother found my project before it was finished. She seemed upset, saying something about Uncle George and great bodily harm as if she had a premonition. She also said something about an unusual odor coming from my room. I think she had an overly sensitive sense of smell. I never thought my dog smelled bad, but maybe I was used to him.

After that unfortunate loss of my opportunity to make a real coon-skin cap, I was prohibited from associating with Uncle George without prior permission. I still fished and accompanied him hunting other small game. But the only thing I brought home was fish, cleaned of course.

After I turned 10, my father taught me how to shoot, and we hunted for small game. We were not always successful, but they were great memories. I remember my mother sometimes questioning my father when we

returned. I do not remember exactly what she was asking, but while questioning him, she would also check my backpack and bedroll, even smelling everything. I think she was worried about me having clean clothing. Another behavior she often displayed after our hunting trips was that she opened the only window in my bedroom and closed the door.

Hunting gives one time to reminisce, think about the meaning of life, the opportunities, the disappointments, and even the metaphysical science of bad timing. While this past season was nice, we did end up with four geese. After goose hunting one day, I found four harvested geese next to the barn when I returned to the house. My wife informed me that a neighbor who was also hunting geese had dropped them off. Apparently, the neighbor knew I was also hunting, and he heard some strange goose calls, possibly sick geese, coming from the direction of our field. I had been using my goose call, and I never heard the strange calls. When I see him again, I might suggest that he should have his hearing checked. Hearing issues can sneak up on you, at least that is what my wife tells me. I think that is what she said.

With four geese, my poor timing was finally changing.

To read past editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

American Mind

The public education dilemma – Part two

Mark Greathouse

I began last month's op-ed with a quote from Irish poet William Butler Yeats: "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." Well, we seem to have some half-filled pails and no fire. While the K-12 public education system is failing us, the higher education system – our colleges and universities – put the proverbial nails in the public education coffin. Higher education is a monster multi-headed hydra. College ready? How about life ready?

Many folks describe today's college students as naïve overly-protected buttercups subject to the destructive influences of far-left-leaning progressive academics bent on destroying the greatest nation on earth, the United States of America. Keep in mind that what is called "progressivism" in our nation was born out of Marxism in the 1870s and became the mantra of the likes of Robert LaFollette, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, John Dewey, and utopian socialist Edward Bellamy. Only the U.S. Constitution blocks the progressive leftist agenda, and it's under attack in our colleges and universities.

Today's colleges echo the failure of the K-12 system which promotes preparing students for college but readies very few for real life. Students entering college are ill-prepared to deal with a competitive win-lose environment, to value reliability, to be motivated, and to strive to truly matter in this world. It is essential that our citizens be

prepared for life by being well-educated in topics that will enable them to effectively contribute to society. Instead, politics and leftist philosophies have muddied the education waters. It's become a battle of competing ideologies bent on control of the masses. Over multiple generations, our colleges and universities have insidiously become a leftist indoctrination machine touting anti-exceptional, anti-individual, and anti-free speech agendas. It's a subtle re-education program on a scale comparable to the Uygurs in western China.

American philosopher and professor Allan Bloom noted in his best-selling *The Closing of the American Mind*, "Students now arrive at the university ignorant and cynical about our political heritage, lacking the wherewithal to be either inspired by it or seriously critical of it." Bloom saw American democracy as enabling colleges to host vulgarized ideas of negativity and despair coupled with social and moral relativism cloaked in shrouds of tolerance. And keep in mind that teachers in the K-12 system are graduates of this hydra of a system. It offers a vicious cycle of failure, a sort of circular firing squad executing our nation's future.

Roughly two-thirds of K-12 students go on to a 2- or 4-year college. For what it's worth, 36.6 percent of women and 35.4 percent of men or roughly half of those who enter actually graduate from college. Roughly one third of K-12 grads go on to trades, the military, or make

other choices. We also know that the non-graduate half of those who enter college will go on to other life career choices without ever receiving college degrees. This begs the questions of whether the system has failed them or whether some sort of natural selection is at work and we simply don't need so many college graduates. While it's tempting to refer back to the 6th Century philosopher Lao Tzu's thoughts on keeping minds empty and bellies full, it's notable that college grads still earn on average twice as much as folks trained in trades. Clearly, their bellies are full...it's the empty minds we should worry about.

Moving on to the higher education hydra itself, there's plenty of low-hanging fruit to straighten out. What return are we getting for our tuition dollars? Unless you've been living under a rock, you must be aware of the cancel culture and hardcore stifling of free speech rampant on college campuses. There is an ideological imbalance among the academic community, as better than 90 percent of professors vote for and/or contribute to the Democratic Party. Despite any efforts at neutrality, this imbalance naturally leads to the leftist indoctrination that we see at the polls, among the violent leftist "protestors" on our streets, and with the aforementioned free speech cancellations. Students are brainwashed with abominations like Agenda 21 and the 1619 Project. While leftist political ideology is a huge problem, the higher education hydra features other ills.

Lamentably, much of the first 2 years of college are naught but a reconstituted version of high school ostensibly to get many students rea-

sonably equipped to perform basic reading, writing, and math. There's also a vicious cycle of professors and textbook publishers colluding to rip off students with exorbitant pricing under the guise of ensuring updated material...for whatever that material is actually worth. The functions of textbooks and professors are to guide students; there's no need for annual update of books or professors. And there's the issue of the government offering a profligate array of grants and loans that have driven up costs to students. It should be obvious why the monster hydra serves as an apt metaphor for higher education.

Leftist college outcomes are reinforced by big-tech social media tracking private lives while promoting left-leaning group think and censoring opposing views. It's the tyranny found in George Orwell's 1984. Social media functions as 1984's interactive telescreens spying on us all. It's a slippery slope to totalitarianism. Orwell's Ministry of Truth blares, "War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength." Its power is based upon repealing the past...not unlike our public education system with its systemic reconstitution of the past with catch-all evils like social justice, racism, and cancel culture. American exceptionalism is denigrated, as students are brainwashed with leftist dogma about the misery and evils of present-day society. Many students are subjected to what has been termed Democratic Socialism which is simply a slippery slope to Communism, as those dumbed-down souls who identify as the petty bourgeoisie eventually overwhelm the supposed proletariat. Tragic.

Can higher education be improved? Certainly. The multi-serpent-headed hydra of Greek mythology that is American higher education can be defeated...and defeated it must be. We need to make learning about valuing students, not the power politics of inculcating globalist dogma. Debates must be balanced and ideas free to be exchanged and openly challenged (consideration of the rhetorical methods of Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato might help). We need college majors with clear career path prospects and courses focused on core major requirements and practical real-world applications. Students must be encouraged to pursue internships, practical mentoring, and other real-world studies applications as might be found with actual businesses.

Our public education systems are indeed broken but not beyond repair. The grown-ups must set positive, constructive, adult examples. Now is when students should truly get to be first, to light Yeats' fire, to take on the real world. It's about educating individuals, not crowds. It is paramount that colleges and universities deliver that preparation through optimally educating our children for productive lives. If the multi-headed monster hydra of education does continue on its current relentlessly destructive path, we are doomed. We must snatch our nation from the gaping jaws of progressivism, and that begins with salvaging our education system. Our nation's future is at stake. Just sayin'.

To read past editions of American Mind, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

The Bulwark

Cowardice has its costs

Robert Tracinski

Republicans had a choice to make over the last few months, a period during which their presidential candidate refused to concede after losing and whose behavior inspired an attack on the Capitol that will now put an asterisk on America's tradition of the peaceful transition of power.

They could have shown a modicum of backbone, realizing that there are worse things to fear than the president's defunct Twitter account. They could have voted to impeach Trump, convict him, and disqualify him from future office. They could have drawn a clear line that they won't submit to politics by mob agitation.

Or they could continue to cower in fear, terrified that his base would punish them at the ballot box for doing the right thing. The GOP took the path of cowardice.

As Shakespeare told us, a coward dies a thousand deaths, while the brave man dies but one. The GOP has chosen to die a thousand deaths. Rather than standing up to the Trumpist mob and risking political destruction once, they will die bit by bit, over and over, acquiescing to one indignity after another and destroying the party slowly.

This coward's dilemma is summed up in the one new thing we learned during the impeachment, though not in the hearings themselves: a more detailed report

about Donald Trump's refusal to help congressmen under immediate threat from the Capitol rioters.

In an expletive-laced phone call with House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy while the Capitol was under attack, then-President Donald Trump said the rioters cared more about the election results than McCarthy did. "Well, Kevin, I guess these people are more upset about the election than you are," Trump said, according to lawmakers who were briefed on the call afterward by McCarthy. ...

A furious McCarthy told the then-President the rioters were breaking into his office through the windows, and asked Trump, "Who the f— do you think you are talking to?" according to a Republican lawmaker familiar with the call. ...

The Republican members of Congress said the exchange showed Trump had no intention of calling off the rioters even as lawmakers were pleading with him to intervene.

Keep these details in mind when you consider the meaning of the House and Senate votes on Trump's impeachment.

The Republicans in the House who voted not to impeach, and the senators who voted not to convict, voted to accept that kind of mob attack as a normal part of their political lives. They voted for tyranny—not over the country as a whole, but over themselves, per-

sonally. They voted to live in fear of Trump and Trump's mobs.

The impeachment vote was their chance to remove Trump's malignant influence, standing up to a potential backlash from the voters this one time, but barring Trump from future office and ending his political career.

They couldn't do it. By caving to the fear of temporary anger from their voters, many of whom continue to support Donald Trump, they will now live in fear for the rest of their political careers.

Hence the immediate next step: The Trump mobs are working to take over the Republican Party at the state organization level.

There have been a series of votes by state organizations to censure any Republican who supported impeachment, with a Pennsylvania official declaring that when they sent Pat Toomey to the Senate, "We did not send him there to vote his conscience. We did not send him there to do the right thing, or whatever." They sent him there to reflect their personal loyalty to Donald Trump.

The first big electoral test is going to be in Virginia, thanks to our policy of holding state-level elections in odd-numbered years, so that candidate selection for this November's vote is already well under way. It's going about as well as you'd expect:

A Virginia state senator and gubernatorial candidate who has described herself as "Trump in heels" is emerging as a problem for the state's Republican party as they seek to take the governor's mansion.



Amanda Chase boasts enthusiastic grassroots support in pockets of the state. But she has also drawn bipartisan rebuke for incendiary statements calling for martial law to overturn the 2020 presidential election and seemingly expressing support for the mob that stormed the US Capitol. ... "That is my base support," Chase said. "I'm most in line with President Trump."

Obviously, Chase has no chance of winning in November, when she has to seek the votes of respectable moderates in Northern Virginia. But if you doubt she can win in the primaries, or that people like her can win control of state Republican parties across the nation, consider the polls.

A recent Morning Consult poll shows the extent to which the Republican rank-and-file, in the absence of leadership to rally them against Trump and the Capitol riot in the days after January 6, have managed to absorb, accept, and embrace the attack.

More than twice as many Republicans, 58 percent, now blame congressional Democrats for the riot than blame Donald

Trump (27 percent). And with 54 percent support, Trump is the prohibitive favorite for the party's 2024 presidential nomination.

The Capitol riot mob is the Republican Party now—in some cases, literally.

This is the prospect that could destroy the Republican Party. Having failed to stand up to Trump when it counted, the party is now driven primarily by fear of him—and of the fanatics and nut jobs who are setting themselves up as Trump's local enforcers. This, in turn, will drive away any reasonable people, which will put the fanatics even more firmly in power. There are some areas of the country where this will not hurt them at the polls. But letting the party fall under the thrall of an increasingly unhinged minority is a great way to lose elections everywhere else.

Cowardice has its costs. In this case, the cost will be a political death spiral in which there will be fewer but worse Republicans.

To read past editions of *The Bulwark*, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Down Under

Back to the real world

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia

"For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for nature cannot be fooled."

—Richard Feynman, 1986

As reported in an unnamed Texas newspaper, one of the Republican members of congress from that state said, 'Donald Trump will be president until hell freezes over'. Strangely, he nearly got it right. Trump went, and Texas froze over. I guess this doesn't make Texas a kind of hell, but it does highlight the sober truth that climate change is real, it is not going away, and the far-right conservatives are wrong. Indeed, they are wrong about many things, including that their wealth and their power will protect them.

What Joe Biden and every other clear-headed member of the human race face is the legacy of such beliefs. That is true, no matter the politics, race or religion held, because those ideas took America from being the greatest nation on earth, where a vibrant democracy squashed the tendency for dictatorships to form, to one that was intended become

the personal property of a very few. In other words, a version of dictatorship would be introduced. They had a vision of unilateral power, and arranged things so that dissenting voices were removed, killed, discredited and humiliated.

The architect and CEO of all this was, and still is, Steve Bannon. He is, without doubt, one of the cleverest, most ruthless and farsighted men to live in the 21st century. His influence using Breitbart News allowed the rise in conspiracy theory and other wacky beliefs to proliferate. The power he had over Trump was enormous – do not believe they parted company, do not believe he was finished when he left the white house, that was just window dressing. But do believe his power reached into the highest echelons of the judiciary: For all his crimes he was never convicted, never served one hour in custody.

To give you some idea of the breadth of his vision, take Brexit. Cambridge Analytica, another of his brain-children, was directly responsible for helping to discredit Britain's future in the EU. Easy to change people who had long-held resentments into a fervent cause - and we see the results appearing right now,

with lines of trucks waiting to get in, millions of lost hours, the economy on the way down. Disquiet was always there, but there are now a lot of people who want back in.

Steve's ability to produce chaos like this can mean only one thing – he is at heart an anarchist. Why would anyone want to do that? Live in a country that has no government? There can only be one answer: He will be the government. The supremo. (Of course, that has to be an exaggeration, but the reason is clear.)

He might even have got away with it, a lecherous figurehead at the helm while he pulled the strings, but like all demagogues he underestimated the intelligence of the people.

No matter how badly educated or ignorant they are, they have an innate sense of self-preservation. Trump might have seduced them with slogans, but his offhand pronouncements about drinking bleach were too blatantly stupid. They got angry with his idiocies, his disregard for them and their welfare, his refusal to help them in any meaningful way. So, they did what democracies allow them to do. They revolted and voted him out. Nothing Bannon and co could do about it. Nothing Rupert Murdoch could do either; Sky news fell to earth, and even the power of Facebook and its unregulated posts could not dilute the disgust the great majority felt.

This was all catalyzed by Trump's pronouncements on COVID-19.

I'd guess at 98% of all citizens have no concept of such a disease, one where you cannot take a tablet to fix it, get a jab, or change your lifestyle. Viruses are the most primitive form of quasi-life, and provided the building blocks for every other form of life. They have always been with us, and always will be, but this one is devastating to today's society where people are crowded together, believe they have the right to keep doing what they always have.

But, just when one was needed, a miracle occurred: Researchers and the pharmaceutical industry worked together and produced viable vaccines in a matter of months. More than that, they produced them at a record-shattering pace. You are being vaccinated at astounding rates, and it will not be long before the majority will have had their shots.

Good news? Well, yes and no. Getting back to the Trump/Bannon rhetoric that said, 'if nothing is done, then herd immunity kicks in, and those that do not die will be immunized and able to rebuild the economy'. What a load of rubbish. If the virus did not constantly evolve into new strains, it might be, but these types of viruses evolve rapidly so they can continue to infect, (which they do not do that to cause us mischief, they do it to survive). There is no certainty that immuni-

zation against the new strains will prove effective; much more likely is that each year there will be new versions which we have to be inoculated against, exactly as happens with the influenza viruses now.

I guess the immediate COVID panic has gone, but many others remain. Domestic reforms are being put in place, and the results of those will permeate through the country in due time, but the big question is 'when can industries get going again, can wages be increased from penury to possible', and the most difficult of all, 'can he get legislation through the senate?'

He has already put together a formidable team. Kamala Harris is like no other VP – she is a brilliant speaker, a personality that more than compensates for her bosses less memorable countenance, and people in charge of departments that have actually had experience in that area.

Notwithstanding the problems, everyone I speak to is quietly confident that the United States of America will once more be the great nation it was, and will assist rather than turning enemies into friends and friends into questionable allies.

You may have heard my sigh of relief from Melbourne, Australia.

To read past editions of *the Down Under*, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Come away, my beloved

Fr. Timothy Barkley
St. James Orthodox
Christian Church, Taneytown

Jesus, the Bridegroom of the Church, calls to His beloved, His bride: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." (Canticles ("Song of Solomon") 2:10 NKJV)

From Forgiveness Sunday, when we gather and reconstitute the Body of Christ by seeking forgiveness and reconciliation, until Holy Saturday, the day before Pascha ('Easter'), the Church prepares herself to receive her Bridegroom's self-offering, when he gave himself to win for himself a bride, the Church. The Church, both corporately and individually, prepares herself as a bride prepares for her wedding, yearning for the Bridegroom.

On Pascha ("Easter"), "the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land." (2:11-12) The springtime of the cosmos, new life, the resurrection of the earth and all creation, comes to us with the resurrection of the Bridegroom, his triumph over the sin and death that separates us from him, with our paschal union with him.

Until then, it is as though "he stands behind our wall ... looking through the windows, gazing through the lattice" (2:9) ... so near, and so present, and yet ... somehow we are separated from the ultimate object of our desire. If he is all good, all beauty, all love, all joy and peace and the fulfillment of our heart's desire, then desiring him is our natural state. Lent is yearning. It is the Bride preparing for her Bridegroom, setting aside everything else, all that is not worthy of him, readying herself for that glorious night of union with him.

God is love (1 John 4:8), and because he is a loving subject, with

particularity, there are things that he is, and things that he is not. He is love; and he is the way, the truth and the life. (John 14:6) Love and truth cannot be at variance, because the one God is both. There are things that resonate with his person, and things that violate his person. While we acknowledge that our understanding is finite and must bow before the infinite and ultimately unknowable God, that doesn't mean we don't know him. He has revealed himself to us in Jesus, who though fully God showed us how to be fully human.

And we, all of us, do yearn for him. We know we all do, because people look all over for goodness, beauty, love, and the rest. We celebrate it when we think we've found it, and we are disappointed, even angry and vengeful, when the object of our desire proves undeserving of our love, of our trust, of our faith. So we look elsewhere and repeat the cycle – or we become cynical and distrusting of even the possibility of love.

No wonder people are cynical. Sadly, the Church has not done a good job of presenting Christ to his world. We have harbored in our midst predators, wolves dressed in sheep's clothing who prey on the most vulnerable. We have argued and backstabbed and treated each other shabbily, just like everyone else. We have participated in the sins of our society.

But we are called to shepherd the sheep, not devour them. We are not called to be "just like everyone else." We are called to be a prophetic voice to our society. We are called to shine as the light of Christ, a city set on a hill, to which the nations come, where they find the life and love of God.

We as the Church need to cry out to God for forgiveness of our failure to be the Church. We need to plead with God to have mercy and protect us and those around us from the effects

of the sins of those in the Church, claiming to be the Church, who have used their Christianity and the Church as a mask for sin. Judgment comes first to the house of God (1 Peter 4:17). Let us fall on our faces and repent, individually and corporately.

Lent is our gift from our loving God, the time to become the Church, the Bridegroom of Christ. During Lent we prepare ourselves for the Bridegroom. We cast aside all the sin that so easily entangles us, and run with perseverance the race marked out. We

climb the tree with Zacchaeus, we cry out for healing with Bartimaeus and the ten lepers, we fall at Jesus' feet with the Syro-Phoenician woman, we beat our breast with the Publican, we turn home with the Prodigal Son. All seeking the fulfillment of our heart's desire.

We set aside time to clear away the clutter, to set aside the good-but-not-the-best, to pursue singlemindedly that which is infinitely worthy of our energies and affections. We run, we climb, we cry out, we worship, we humble ourselves and surrender to the one who we can trust with our life and our love.

Lenten observances – fasting, almsgiving, prayer – are not to placate an angry God by making ourselves miserable, so he won't squish us like bugs; nor are they to check all the correct boxes on our cosmic Bingo card so we get into heaven. Lent is pure gift. We are graced with the opportunity to come face-to-face with just how shabby our lives are in comparison with the infinite beauty, joy, love, peace and ... everything that Jesus is and offers to us by offering us himself as the Bridegroom, seeking his bride, the Church.

And we are given the privilege of responding by setting the beguiling ordinary aside for a brief moment, drawing near to him with all our strength – great or little though that be – and with our consummate determination – so that on that glorious night of Paschal union with our Bridegroom, we can hear these glorious words of St. John Chrysostom addressed to us: "If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant trium-



phal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; He gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour."

And He shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one He gives, and upon the other He bestows gifts. And He both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal king-

dom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages.

To learn more about St. James Orthodox Church visit them at www.stjamesorthodoxchurch.org or better yet, join them for Great Vespers Saturday at 5 p.m.; Matins Sunday at 9 a.m.; or Divine Liturgy Sundays at 10 a.m

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THE BOOK OF DAYS



March 12

Ludovick Muggleton

A time of extraordinary religious fervour is sure to produce its monsters, even as the hot mud of the Nile was fabled to do by Lucretius. Several arose amidst the dreadful sectarian contentings of the period of the civil war, and scarcely any more preposterous than Ludovick Muggleton, who is said to have been a working tailor, wholly devoid of education.

About 1651, when this man was between forty and fifty years of age, he and a brother in trade, named Reeves, announced themselves as the two last witnesses of God that would ever be appointed on earth, professed a prophetic gift, and pretended to have been invested with an exclusive power over the gates of heaven and hell. When Reeves died, Muggleton continued to set himself forth in this character, affecting to bless those who respectfully listened to him, and cursing all who scoffed at him, assuming, in short, to have

the final destiny of man, woman, and child entirely in his own hand.

By ravings in speech and print, he acquired a considerable number of followers, chiefly women, and became at length such a nuisance, that the public authorities resolved, if possible, to put him down. His trial at the Old Bailey, January 17, 1677, ended in his being sentenced to stand in the pillory on three days in three several parts of London, and to pay a fine of £500, or be kept in jail in failure of payment. His books were at the same time ordered to be publicly burnt. All this severity Muggleton outlived twenty years, dying at length at the age of ninety, and leaving a sect behind him, called from him Muggletonians.

It would serve to little good purpose to go farther into the history of this wretched fanatic. One anecdote, however, may be related of him. It happened on a day, when Muggleton was in his cursing mood, that he very energetically devoted to the infernal deities

a gentleman who had given him some cause of offence. The gentleman immediately drew his sword, and placing its point at the cursing prophet's breast, demanded that the anathemas just pronounced should be reversed upon pain of instant death. Muggleton, who had no relish for a martyrdom of this kind, assumed his blessing capacity, and gave the fiery gentleman the fullest satisfaction.

There is no mention of Muggletonians in the official report of the census of 1851, though it included about a dozen small sects, under various uncouth denominations. As late as 1846, some of Muggleton's incomprehensible rhapsodies were reprinted and published; it is sincerely to be hoped for the last time.

March 15

Julius Cæsar

'It is possible,' says a living author, 'to be a very great man, and to be still very inferior to Julius Cæsar, the most complete character, so Lord Bacon thought, of all antiquity. Nature seems incapable of such extraordinary combinations as composed his versatile capacity, which was the wonder even of the Romans themselves.'

The first general—the only triumphant politician, inferior to none in eloquence, comparable to any in the attainments of wisdom, in an age made up of the greatest commanders, states-men, orators, and philosophers that ever appeared in the world—an author who composed a perfect specimen of military annals in his travelling carriage—at one time in a controversy with Cato, at another writing a treatise on punning, and collecting a set of good say-

ings—fighting and making love at the same moment, and willing to abandon both his empire and his mistress for a sight of the Fountains of the Nile. Such did Cæsar appear to his contemporaries.'

The assassination of Cæsar on the Ides of March, 44 BCE, was immediately preceded by certain prodigies, which it has greatly exercised the ingenuity of historians and others to attempt to explain.

First, on the night preceding the assassination, Cæsar dreamt, at intervals, that he was soaring above the clouds on wings, and that he placed his hand within the right hand of Jove. It would seem that perhaps some obscure and half-formed image floated in Cæsar's mind of the eagle, as the king of birds, secondarily, as the tutelary emblem under which his conquering legions had so often obeyed his voice; and thirdly, as the bird of Jove. To this triple relation of the bird, the dream covertly appears to point. And a singular coincidence is traced between the dream and a circumstance reported to us, as having actually occurred in Rome, about twenty-four hours before Cæsar's death.

A little bird, which by some is represented as a very small kind of sparrow, but which, both to the Greeks and Romans, was known by a name implying a regal station (probably from the audacity which at times prompted it to attack the eagle), was observed to direct its flight towards the senate-house, consecrated by Pompey, whilst crowds of other birds were seen to hang upon its flight in close pursuit, towards Pompey's Hall. Flight and pursuit were there alike arrested; the little bird-king was overtaken by his enemies, who fell

upon him as so many conspirators, and tore him limb from limb.

The other prodigies were:

A dream of Cæsar's wife, Calphurnia, that their house had fallen in, that he had been wounded by assassins, and had taken refuge in her bosom.

The arms of Mars, deposited in Cæsar's house, rattled at night.

The doors of the room wherein he slept flew open spontaneously.

The victims and birds were inauspicious.

Solitary birds appeared in the Forum.

There were lights in the sky, and nocturnal noises.

Fiery figures of men were seen; a flame issued from the hand of a soldier's slave without hurting him.

After the murder of Cæsar, it was remembered that the attendant had removed his gilded chair from the senate-room, thinking that he would not attend the meeting.

The last words of Cæsar, as he fell before the blows of his assassins, have become proverbial, being generally given as 'Et tu, Brute!' (And thou too, Brutus!)—certainly a most natural expression on seeing a youthful and beloved friend among those prepared to shed his blood.

There is, however, a doubt as to the words used by Cæsar. They have been given as composed of the Greek language, express a doubt if he was heard to utter any expression at all after the stabbing began, or did anything more than adjust his mantle, in order that, when fallen, the lower part of his person might be covered.

To read more selections from Robert Chamber's *The Book of Days* visit www.thebookofdays.com.

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ECOLOGY

Strawberry Hill

Kara Ferraro

Who is Strawberry Hill? What sort of programs do you offer? Can anyone come to hike? These are just a few of the common questions people ask about Strawberry Hill.

The Strawberry Hill Foundation was founded as a nonprofit organization in 1986 by Frances Morton Froelicher. That same year, Mrs. Froelicher was quoted as saying, "I believe environmental education should run from the cradle to the grave... We have to take an interest in the environment because it is all we have." A woman of many notable achievements, one of her life goals was to provide the community with awareness, appreciation, and understanding of our natural environment through programs led by passionate, knowledgeable naturalists.

Mrs. Froelicher initially began the Foundation to support her husband, Hans Froelicher, and his efforts to clean-up and protect the Swamp Creek Watershed. In the early 1960s, the Froelichers began purchasing properties in Hamiltonban Township, stitching together various tracts of land to create the original 519-acre core of Strawberry Hill. After her husband's passing in 1976, and after ten years of failed efforts to find a new owner who would commit to providing environmental edu-

cation, Mrs. Froelicher created the Foundation to establish an environmental education center on the property.

She steadfastly believed that with a small professional staff, a large number of volunteers, and a great deal of enthusiasm, Strawberry Hill could establish itself as valuable asset to the Adams County community. She managed the land and worked towards establishing an environmental center until her death on December 31, 1994. In her passing, she gave Strawberry Hill to the community of Mount Hope and, with it, a small endowment.

Today, Strawberry Hill's mission serves to inspire stewardship of our natural world by connecting the community with educational opportunities. We serve thousands of visitors every year through innovative nature programs, summer camps, special events, guided hikes, and experiential learning. This year marks our organization's 35th anniversary teaching and promoting environmental stewardship, and to date, we have welcomed more than 100,000 program participants.

As noted in our cover story, Strawberry Hill's decades-long history has generated many key accomplishments. Below are just a few I would like to emphasize:

In 1988, a comprehensive stewardship plan was developed based on an environmental assessment

which included a survey of Strawberry Hill's ecology and inventory of the land's natural and cultural features.

By 1994, years of intentional stewardship efforts created an environment where the Red Spotted Newt has been able to thrive, boasting some of the largest concentrations in the area.

In 2005, we hosted our first pancake breakfast. This annual fundraiser eventually became Mount Hope Maple Madness, a celebration of the maple sugaring season which continues today (albeit modified during the pandemic).

In 2017, Strawberry Hill attained the Department of Environmental Protection's "Exceptional Value" designation for Swamp and Middle Creek. Our actions safeguard the ecological integrity and ensure the long-term protection of the Swamp Creek Watershed.

In 2018, we entered a partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry. This strategic decision fulfilled our founder's, Frances Froelicher, vision by protecting more than 550 acres through public ownership, enhancing recreational access, and ensuring forest stewardship.

Located in Fairfield, Pennsylvania, Strawberry Hill neighbors the Michaux State Forest, and adjoins the Mount Hope Trail System. This provides easy access from our campus to seemingly endless miles of hiking and recreational opportu-



Strix, Strawberry Hill's resident barred owl, has been a big hit with kids of all ages! He is the centerpiece of a classroom-style program that introduces learners to local birds of prey.

nities. And yes, anyone (and their four-legged friends) can come and hike, picnic, frolic in the forests, or splash in the creeks. Our parking lot is accessible dawn until dusk, seven days a week.

Strawberry Hill is situated on the confluence of Swamp and Middle Creek, which provides unique teaching opportunities during our aquatic programs and stream studies. Our past and present staff and volunteers have helped protect the Swamp Creek Watershed throughout our history. Swamp and Middle Creek are two of the few "Exceptional Value" cold-water streams found in Pennsylvania. These creeks feed the Middle Creek watershed, and ultimately, the headwaters flow into the Potomac River leading to the Chesapeake Bay.

Speaking of our unique learning opportunities, I would love to share several of our wonderful ongoing programs:

Maple Sugaring Tours (only available through mid-March): Maple sugaring introduces the process of making maple syrup, from tap to table. Participants learn the history of sugaring in Pennsylvania, how to identify the characteristics that distinguish different types of maple trees, how to tap, and the supplies required to process sap into syrup. This program is only available during the short sugaring season!

Owl Classroom with Pellet Dissection: Meet Strix, Strawberry Hill's resident barred owl! This classroom-style program will introduce learners to birds of prey, the food chain, and includes a guided owl pellet dissection.

Hike with a Naturalist: Join a knowledgeable naturalist as they lead you through the forests that surround Strawberry Hill. Learn about local flora and fauna as you explore the natural beauty of the South Mountain landscape.

Aquatic Communities (beginning in spring): This interactive aquatic ecology program introduces students to the tiny insects living in mud and under rocks. Half of this program is spent on the banks of the pond catching macro-invertebrates for up-close viewing on Bug TV. The other half

is spent on a Middle Creek stream study where students get wet!

Nature in a Nutshell: This nature walk is designed to help young children discover Strawberry Hill and their natural surroundings. Little ones will learn to identify a few basic types of plants, understand why a forest is important, and find out ways to help protect habitats and the animals who live there.

We work collaboratively with regional partners to provide a variety of adult and family programs throughout the year. Past programs have included a Nature of the Battlefield campfire series, nature journaling workshops, foraging classes, Little Timbers (designed for our youngest naturalists ages 18-months to five years old), and so much more.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generosity of our community. Your growing support during the past thirty-five years has been both encouraging and sustaining. As Adams County's only non-profit environmental education center, Strawberry Hill survives and thrives on funding derived from the Foundation's endowment, membership, donations, grants, and program fees, in addition to valuable services donated by community businesses and our volunteers.

Please join us in making our 35th anniversary another successful year by donating online at StrawberryHill.org. You may also mail a check to the Strawberry Hill office at 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield, Pa. 17320. By making a donation today, you join a community of people who care about environmental education and its positive impact. With your help, we will still be educating future stewards thirty-five years from now. Thank you for your support!

Kara Ferraro is the Executive Director of the Strawberry Hill Foundation. Strawberry Hill inspires stewardship of our natural world by connecting the community with educational opportunities. Stay in touch by visiting www.strawberry-hill.org.

To read past Ecology articles, visit Emmitsburg.net.



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IN THE COUNTRY

Frederick Midwinter Bird Count

David Smith
Frederick Bird Club

The Frederick Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, has sponsored the Frederick Midwinter Bird Count for many years. It is a very tangible example of citizen science and a great way to enjoy a winter's day in beautiful northern Frederick County.

Weather conditions for this year's count were mixed. Most roads were clear, but a heavy snow three days before the count had left all roads edged by solid snow-plow mounds. A few roads and most trails in parks and forests were still covered by heavy, icy snow. And it was cold. Morning temperatures never got above 18, but skies were clear and there was no wind.

The count was held on Saturday, January 30. Caravan birding is cumbersome but we had an excellent team. People who normally traveled or hosted family were available for the count for the first time. For others, the pandemic was an ideal time to hone birding skills and a count was a perfect winter outing.

Overall, 2021 was above average for number of species (88 versus the long term average of 85) and was noteworthy because of the high numbers of some species observed this year and the addition of a species new to the 27-year count. The new species for the count was a male Painted Bunting that showed up at a feeder in Myersville on count day. The bird has lingered and many of us have been able to observe it. This is a seed eating species that nests from the Outer Banks of North Carolina down through Northern Florida.

More and more individuals of this species have been showing up in winter in Maryland over the past several years. It is unclear why this is so, but the result may be that the breeding range will be expanding north as our climate continues to warm. For species showing 27-year high numbers, some of that might be the unprecedented numbers of participants that we had this year, nearly 50% more than a typical year. However, for some species, I truly believe that it has more to do with overall increases in their populations over the years.

For the woodpeckers, it may be the increase in dead standing trees resulting from the die off of ash trees from the emerald ash borer infestation. For other species, such as winter wren, hermit thrush, and ruby-crowned kinglet, it may be a reflection of birds just not migrating as far south, as we experience, on average, less harsh winters. And for some of the finch species, such as purple finch, pine siskin, and evening grosbeak, it is a result of an invasion year, where food supplies that normally sustain these species farther north, failed during 2020, causing these birds to wander farther afield to find sufficient food.

This was especially true of evening grosbeak, which was seen on the count for only the second time in the 27-year history. And then there is the steady rise in common raven num-

bers in Frederick County over the last 10 years. This species has really moved down into the lower lying areas of the county and state from its historic distribution only within the mountains. These birds are finding tall towers and high bridges to be quite suitable cliff substitutes, and successful breeding is increasing the number of individuals throughout the county. This can also be seen by the number of different sectors who reported ravens.

Historically, it was one or two sectors that included the Catoctin Mountains that would report them. Now, they are being reported even in the farthest southeast corner of the county. I believe that this year might have also vied for the highest species total had there been more open water on ponds.

Our highest species total for this count is 97 species, which we have reached a couple of times. However, on each of those two counts, we had a large number of different waterfowl species that helped to pad the numbers. During this year's count, most ponds were frozen and even some of the smaller streams were partially frozen, reducing the opportunities for finding waterfowl. Even so, we still managed a decent diversity, just not what it could have been.

The majority of the birds seen during winter counts are year-round residents, like chickadees, cardinals, hawks, and woodpeckers. But there are also a few winter-only visitors, who migrate from colder northern climates due to lack of food or heavy ice/snow cover.

As previously noted in the Christmas bird count article published in the January issue, a few species like the Bald Eagle show impressive population gains. Red-tailed Hawks are doing very well, but Northern Harrier and Kestrel numbers remain low.

Overall, 12 species recorded 27-year highs, these included the Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Red & Yellow-bellied Woodpecker,

Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, Common Raven, Winter & Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Hermit Thrush. The Mourning Dove count however was the lowest in 27 years.

The population numbers for our two common winter visitors, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows, that can be seen at the base of many bird feeders throughout the winter remained at the top of our list, only exceed by the ever-present Starling. Another handsome winter visitor, the White-crowned Sparrow, also had impressive numbers. Several things could have contributed to the increase. Fields were covered with snow forcing birds to feed at road edges (where we could easily find them). Birds were also taking advantage of well-stocked feeders, as more families have taken up "back-yard" birding during the pandemic. Hopefully, numbers for these species are increasing. We'll know more next year.

But good results for one year doesn't indicate a trend. There are still plenty of birds out there, but the hard reality is that some of our most loved and familiar back-yard birds are rapidly disappearing.

Studies show that grassland bird populations in North America have declined by more than 50%. Habitat loss is a probable factor in these declines, particularly agricultural intensification and development. Grassland birds include Bobwhites, Eastern Meadowlark, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Harrier, Horned Lark and many sparrow species.

In the first ten years of the Catoctin CBC, Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlark and non-native Ring-neck Pheasant were common. Ruffed Grouse and Logger-head Shrike were seen regularly. The American Tree Sparrow averaged 240 birds a year the first 10 years of the count; the last 10 years the average was 3. Most of us remember seeing a covey of Bobwhites scurry



For the first time in years, a pheasant, which has been named 'Ringo' by neighbors, has taken up residence near Stoney Branch. He was only one of two seen in the county during the Midwinter Bird Count

across a field or hearing the beautiful song of the meadowlark calling from a fence post. The Bobwhites are all gone and the number of Meadowlarks has declined significantly. Meadowlark numbers were up a bit this year; we'll be watching that number closely in the future.

If you are not one of the more than 50 million bird watchers in the United States, you may be thinking, it's unfortunate, but doesn't really affect me. But scientist Ken Rosenberg cautions, "These bird losses are a strong signal that our human-related landscapes are losing their ability to support birdlife, and that is an indicator of a coming collapse of the overall environment." A strong warning that should get everyone's attention.

Scientists say it is possible to bring the birds back and restore our environment, but it will take collective action at a national and international scale. A variety of initiatives are already underway including: bird-safe building standards; conser-

vation innovations in paper/wood production, agriculture and fisheries; cost-effective renewable energy; and expansion of conservation efforts and protection of The Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

There are seven simple actions everyone can do to help birds: make windows safer; keep cats indoors; reduce lawn and use native plants; avoid pesticides; drink shade grown coffee; avoid single use plastic; and join the Citizen Science Effort.

If you are interested in learning more about the birds of Frederick County, the Frederick Bird Club www.frederickbirdclub.org and Audubon Society of Central Maryland www.centralaudubon.org welcome guests and new members. Visit their websites to learn about meetings, bird-focused presentations, bird counts, and bird walks and outings throughout the year.

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REAL SCIENCE

Penicillin

Michael Rosenthal

One of the greatest events in drug development in my lifetime was the creation of penicillin. When I was very young in the 1940s (I was born in December 1939) I developed an ear infection, which had the potential to do terrible things to my health — permanent damage to my hearing and even the chance of death were among the possibilities. To my good fortune, penicillin had just been developed. As I recall, I received 99 shots of penicillin (guess where!), one shot every three hours day and night. It worked! The infection cleared up, and I came out of it with normal hearing. Though I have the usual problem of hearing well against background noise, a common phenomenon with people my age, I have had good hearing all my life without the use of a hearing aid. As I recall, my father offered to reward me \$1 per penicillin shot, but I don't think I ever was successful in collecting it!

Before antibiotics, the smallest injury, a scratch or a blister, could get infected and even lead to death. The penicillin mold was discovered in London in 1928 by the Scottish biologist Alexander Fleming. He tried to extract the mold's active substance that fought bacteria but was unsuccessful. In 1939 Australian doctor Howard Florey obtained funding from the Rockefeller Foundation in New York to study the substance further at The University of Oxford. His goal was to generate the mold's active ingredient. It was not an easy task. The mold tended to dissolve

in the process of extraction. Florey was eventually successful. Anne Miller was a 33 year old woman who lay delirious in a New Haven hospital in 1942 from septicemia following a miscarriage. Her temperature rose as high as 106 degrees, and no medical procedure known at the time helped her. An experimental drug at the time, a tablespoon of penicillin, was injected into her. Her temperature dropped overnight, and the next day she was up and eating again.

The tablespoon of penicillin that cured Anne Miller was half the amount of the drug available in 1942. Through trial and error, it was determined that penicillin was much more effective in fighting bacteria in animals than were sulfa drugs, which were the treatment for infections at the time. The need for such a drug was great at the time, due to World War II. Many millions of soldiers died from untreatable infections from relatively minor wounds and injuries. So penicillin research went on into the 1940's, with care being taken to keep the research away from German scientists. Because of the wartime demand in Britain for other drugs, Florey and his colleague, Norman Heatley, made a deal with the Rockefeller Foundation in New York to produce penicillin. The United States had greater drug production capability, and the United States had not yet entered the war. It was 1941, and Florey convinced major United States pharmaceutical firms, Pfizer, Lilly, and Merck among them, to work on production of the drug, and he returned to Oxford. The entry of the United States into the war after Pearl Harbor made the development



While much has been made of COVID-19 anti-vaxxers, they are not new to history. Their arguments were made against, Penicillin, Smallpox, and Polio, to name just a few. Arguments against vaccination are contradicted by overwhelming scientific consensus in favor of the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

of the drug much more a necessity. A major scientific breakthrough came when a new method called deep-tank fermentation was developed to extract the penicillin drug from the mold. Further research in the USDA Peoria Lab worked to develop a potent mold that would hold up during the extraction process. Moldy fruit became a mainstay in development of a site for the fungal growth. An assistant lab researcher named Mary Hunt was the principal searcher for the best mold, and she earned the nickname Moldy Mary. By 1943 penicillin production became the number two priority of the U.S. War Department after the atom bomb project and to prepare for the D-Day invasion. There was soon enough penicillin being produced, 100 billion units per month, to treat every Allied casualty.

New drug development contin-

ues. The world's deadliest infectious disease is...Tuberculosis! Though we don't have that many cases in the United States, in 2017 it was reported by the World Health Organization that some 10 million people developed active tuberculosis and that 1.6 million people died from it. The disease, often called TB, is caused by a bacterium that has highly drug-resistant strains. It is curable, but requires a lot of pills, and drug-resistant strains have been developing.

A new antibiotic, Pretomanid, has been developed, has been approved by the FDA, and in combination with two other drugs, is a hope that tuberculosis might be brought under control.

Pretomanid is the second drug to utilize a special regulatory pathway at the Food and Drug Administration. The Limited Population Pathway for Antibacterial and Antifungal Drugs (LPAD) was established by Congress in the 21st Century Cures Act in 2016 to speed development and approval of antibiotics to treat serious of life-threatening infections in a limited population of patients.

One of the best sources of energy in my mind is wind power. It is as natural as can be, and utilization has minimal impact on the environment. There are those persons, as I've previously mentioned, who find the sight of wind energy generation unattractive. This is particularly true

along the coast in New England.

The Empire State (that's New York) Realty Trust has announced that it has made a major purchase of wind power from Green Mountain Energy and Direct Energy. This organization has been moving toward use of renewable energy in New York. The latest development is the Empire State Building and 13 other office buildings are now powered solely by wind. The Empire State Building has run on renewable energy since 2011. This commitment will avoid the production of some 450 million pounds of carbon dioxide, CO₂, the equivalent of the emission of all of New York taxi cabs for a year.

Wind has become the most-used renewable energy source in the United States, generating about 9 percent of the nation's energy last year. New wind power facilities are cheaper to build and to operate than almost all kinds of fossil fuel infrastructure. The vast majority of electricity generated in New York State currently comes from natural gas-fired and from nuclear power plants. However in 2019 New York passed legislation committing to meet 70 percent of its energy needs with renewable sources by the end of the decade, aiming to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from its electric grid by 2040.

To read past articles by Michael Rosenthal visit the Authors Section of Emmitsburg.net.



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Chasing a Hollyhock

Jack Deatherage

‘Creme de Cassis’ hollyhock lept into an online catalog shopping cart so quickly I wondered who put it there. Does Pinetree Garden Seeds have a hacker whose job it is to fill my cart while I’m distracted? Seed Savers Exchange might also have someone doing that type of work as a recent order confirmation email informs me I bought two packets of ‘Romanesco’ cauliflower seeds when I only needed one. What the Hecuba is going on with these seed companies? Are things so bad in the industry?

Perhaps. I know I’m finding more seed catalogs gone from the interwebs every time I search Dave’s Garden Watchdog for company reviews before placing orders. The trend seems to be “gone out of business”, or “have been absorbed by” other seed catalog companies- the reviews for such collectives are almost always negative! Toss in warnings of slower than usual service due to the communist China flu and I’m open to the idea of company hackers adding stuff to my orders. But I approve each order! So how are they getting these additions by me?

I’m currently reading the Jane Hawk series by Dean Koontz. Psychopathic sociopaths, known as Techno Arcadians (TAs), use nanotechnology to enslave non-TAs for the purpose of creating a utopia- for the TAs, not the enslaved. I recall first reading about nanotechnology back in the late 80s/early 90s. One science fiction magazine editor claimed her genre was usually ten years behind where the science actually was. While I hope she is wrong I’m still pondering some mega multinational corporation, or a politically totalitarian ideology, slipping mind controlling nanobots into my brain. Seems like such a waste of technology.

More likely, though maybe not- at least not yet, the seed companies are using Google or Amazon ordering platforms? Those two corporations, along with Facebook and the gods know how many other online entities have artificial intelligence (AI) programs tracking, recording and analyzing everything we Non-Techno Arc- urr peasants- urr user/customers are doing. People, who go deeper into the cyberworld than I have any desire to, tell me the AI programs have long ago passed the ability to predict what I am likely to read, eat, wear, or buy for my amusement. The programs are now where they are telling me what I will like and buy.

I suppose that would be possible

if I didn’t flit about the interwebs, changing interests without warning or apparent reason. Poor Amazon’s AI hasn’t placed anything of interest in front of me in decades. Facebook ads seldom come close to my interests and when they do it’s because I deliberately choose to mess with their algorithms. So I can pretty much rule out some corporate AI slipping those seed packets into the order baskets.

While I’m pondering the infinite conspiracy possibilities that rattle around in my head, William of Ockham (1287 – 1347) comes to the fore, though only the gods know why! William advised, more or less- the simplest explanation is usually the right one.

Leave it to some long disincorporated English Franciscan friar to derail my convoluted reasoning! Now I got to backtrack to the moments when I was studying the online catalogs for possible candidates for next year’s gardening experiments.

I’m on the Seed Savers Exchange weblink ordering seeds for two gardens when I happen upon ‘Romanesco’ cauliflower. A memory of a long ago garden comes out of the mish-mash and I vividly see the seven plants towering above the rest of the garden. Two of the stalks have black rot- no flower heads, just black, slimy holes going down to the roots I’m guessing. Three other plants don’t head up at all, but the two that do! Oh my. There hasn’t been another cauliflower come close to those two in flavor or texture! Certainly not the hybrid, flavorless crap I’ve occasionally found in markets.

I remember putting one seed packet in the cart, then thinking, “Is the flavor worth the space and expense of growing the plant given the odds of actually getting anything fit to eat?” I removed the packet. Then thought some more and put it back. I evidently hadn’t removed it all. So, fond memory is likely to overrule current practicality?

Chasing back further to the hollyhock seeds, I’d have to say, “Yes. Yes it does.”

Hollyhocks, the single blossomed ones (I’ve no use for the doubles) have fascinated me since I was 3 or 4 years old. The plants towered over me as I marveled at blossoms that looked like ballroom gowns ladies might have worn a coupla hundred years before I was born. Bees worked the flowers, probably as much for their pollen, which littered the lower petals, as for any nectar. Mom, being an actual wonder woman before I ever heard of the comic book character,

would pinch off a dozen flowers. Her super power was ignoring the bees! She’d then show me and First Sister how to use the flowers as dancers on a stage- the concrete slab that secured the hand-pump above the hand-dug well that provided water for the flowers and kitchen garden in those days.

I’m online looking at the cultivars ‘Nigra’ and ‘Black Watchman’. I remember growing ‘Nigra’ years and years ago and saving seeds, but not realizing hollyhock have fans other than a 4 year old boy and a 40 something would-be seed saver. A type of weevil lays its eggs on the seed clusters and the eventual grubs, maggots, whatever that hatch out eat the insides out of the seeds. (Freezing the seed clusters after they’ve dried kills the grubs. Something I learned after losing the saved seeds.)

As much as I admire the beauty of the ‘Nigra’ cultivar I’m thinking it might not be the one I want to grow as a potential project in the youth garden, or in front of the house in buckets where passersby might ask the name of the flower and take umbrage when I tell them. Such is the insanity of the world I find myself in that I have to consider ‘Black Watchman’ as likely to offend someone as easily as ‘Nigra’.

So while I’m considering hollyhocks that might stand out with a red brick wall as a backdrop, ‘Creme de Cassis’- blooming the year it is sown (hopefully), with double, semi-double and singles on the same stem (not



As I read Jack’s article this month, all I could think of was “he’s going down the rabbit hole” ... and given the internet is now what – 30 years old – you think one could find a better image ...

the single I’d have preferred), having a deep wine colored flower with a pink fringe that catches my eye- evidently puts itself in the cart while I’m lost in memories of childhood gardens on Grandfather Cool’s farm. At least I won’t have to deal with ignorant asses calling me a racist because of the flowers I grow.

I guess it’s a good thing the only watermelon seeds I ordered were ‘Crimson Sweet’ and ‘Orange’lo’. All hell might’ve broken loose had I purchased ‘Congo’.

Gods! It just occurred to me. I don’t know what “creme de cassis” translates to in English!

Okay, I’m good. It’s French for “black currant cream”... Wait! Is using ‘black’ as a prefix disallowed now?

Hmm... maybe a nanobot controlled population wouldn’t be such a bad idea- so long as people I agree with are in control?

To read past articles by Jack Deatherage, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

March gardening tips

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

March means spring is here – or almost...

Take this month to prepare for the gardening season and begin some gardening chores. Here are some things you can do to prepare for the upcoming gardening season...

Spray dormant oil on deciduous trees and shrubs to kill over-wintering scale and mites. Spray only when the daytime temperatures are over 40 degrees and a freeze is not expected for 24 hours. Be sure to cover all plant surfaces and read the label for proper mixing and application.

Now is the time to prune many deciduous trees. Remove any dead, dying and unsightly parts of the tree, sprouts growing near the base of the trunk, crossed branches and V-shape crotches.

When pruning shrubs, know when they flower before doing a hard prune. For instance, forsythia should not be pruned until after they bloom, or you will cut off all the blossoms. Azaleas and rhododendron, likewise, should not be pruned until after flowers have dropped.

It may be time to start some seeds indoors. Know how long the seeds need to germinate and if any stratification is required. When reading the seed label, pay attention to how long germination takes, and count back from

our last frost date is around May 15. Add about two weeks, for the seedlings to grow their true set of leaves, and that is when you want to start. One of the biggest mistakes we all make as gardeners is starting our seeds too early indoors. Issues like weak, stretching plants is a common occurrence. If you decide to start indoors, be sure you have good lighting system with heat under the seed trays for best results.

Also remember that many seeds can be direct sown outdoors. That alleviates the many issues that may occur if starting indoors. Seeds like tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, kale are all possibilities for indoor starting. Other seeds, like squash, beans, corn, leaf lettuce and peas can all be direct sown. The seed label should help guide you as to what should be started, and when. Or contact your local extension office for guidance.

Cool season vegetable transplants (these are plants in packs or individual pots), like cabbage, kale, and broccoli can be planted at the end of the month. I have some gallon milk jugs with the bottoms cut out that I can cover the plants with if we get a late freeze. These plants do just fine with frost, but a freeze can injure the leaves, or cause severe damage to the plant if the center of that plant is frozen. Covering them with a cloche or sheet will help to keep them a few degrees warmer than the air temperatures.



Yes - pansies can survive a bit of March snow!

Cool season seeds like lettuce and peas can also be planted at the end of the month, provided the soil is not too wet. Potatoes, which are started from seed potatoes, or potato parts with “eyes”, not seeds or plants, can be planted by the end of the month as well. However, sweet potatoes, a totally different plant family and method of planting, cannot be planted until after frost, typically around late May in our area as they are very sensitive to cold temperatures and frost.

Plant some pansies! Pansies are one of my favorite annual flowers. They can be planted in the fall and often overwinter here for spring blooms, but I like getting fresh pansies in March and April for my containers. There are other annual flowers you may want to look at, like snapdragons and osteospermum (African daisy). They will all

mix nicely with pansies.

Transplant houseplants in need. If they are rootbound, now is a good time to bump them up to the next sized pot. Take off any dead leaves or stems and use a good quality potting soil for houseplants. Scout for insects, like scale and mealy bugs. If you see critters, now is a good time to use some insecticidal soap for houseplants as you can more easily get under the leaves to spray.

Dig out your garden tools. Shovels, rakes, loppers, and pruners, if not stored properly in the fall, may need a little oiling, or even need to be replaced. There is nothing more frustrating for me than to look for a particular tool I need and not be able to find it or find it in bad shape.

Take some time and enjoy the quiet before the spring rush. Take care of some of the small garden-

ing tasks that won't take up valuable time in May!

Becoming a Penn State Master Gardener

Interested in learning more about gardening and sharing that knowledge with others? The Master Gardener program may be just what you're looking for. The Master Gardener program began in Adams County in 1990 with two Master Gardeners in the program. It is now 55 volunteers strong! As a Penn State Master Gardener, volunteers commit their time and knowledge to assist Penn State Extension in educating groups as well as individuals on proper horticultural practices and environmental stewardship. They are trained in horticulture by Penn State Extension educators, other Master Gardeners, and professionals in the industry from across the region.

To become a Penn State Master Gardener, one must complete just over five months of coursework that covers information on botany, plant propagation, insects and diseases, plant identification, diagnostics, native plants and much more. Upon completion of this course, the Master Gardener trainee must dedicate 50 hours of volunteer time to the Master Gardener program throughout the following year. There is a fee of \$200 for the training to cover costs of the manual, handouts and instructors.

Some of the programs and projects our Master Gardeners are involved in include planning and teaching workshops and seminars like Home Gardening Essentials, which begins in March through virtual classes. Other classes include Buzz, Blooms and Beyond, beginning in June, where we will focus on our pollinators in the gardens.



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THE MASTER GARDENER

Virtual garden tours of the trial gardens and Native Plant garden will be available in June when you visit at the Agricultural and Natural Resource Center. These trial garden projects run from June through September and are used as tools to teach the residents of our county and surrounding areas about horticulture, gardening, environmental gardening strategies, pollinators, and plant selection.

Our Master Gardeners are available to answer gardening questions through email beginning in April. Other opportunities include speaking opportunities to local community groups and writing garden related articles for local and state outlets. As a Master Gardener, you might be seen at the Farmers Market, answering gardening questions or introducing kids to bees and butterflies.

The Community Learning Garden, also located at 670 Old Harrisburg Pike, is an opportunity for community members to do a bit of vegetable gardening that they otherwise may not be doing and learning a bit as they go. Each gardener gets a 20' x 20' garden to grow their choice of produce. If you are interested in learning more about our community learning garden, contact me at mar35@psu.edu. We still have

a few garden plots available.

There are many opportunities for a Master Gardener to become involved. My guess is if you love to learn and love to share your knowledge, this program is a good fit for you.

There is great pride and community service involved when becoming a Master Gardener. The Master Gardener training program will begin Wednesday, September 29, 2021 through March 23, 2022 at the Agricultural and Natural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. These classes will take place Wednesday evenings from 6pm – 8:30 pm and a few Saturday afternoons from 1pm – 3:30pm.

If you are interested in becoming a Penn State Master Gardener, or just interested in learning more about the class schedule and training topics, please e-mail Mary Ann Ryan at mar35@psu.edu for an application, or call Penn State Extension, Adams County at 717-334-6271. The application and additional information will be sent to you. After we receive your completed application, an interview will be scheduled this summer, prior to the first class.

To read other gardening articles, visit the gardening section of emmitsburg.net.

Small Town Gardener

New age homesteading fanaticism

Marianne Willburn

It's a running joke amongst our friends that our place is the safe house for any type of future apocalyptic scenario. I'd like to believe that they just want to get together, laugh, drink wine, and discuss the mysticism of Yeats before the zombies descend, but in reality, there's something about owning your own wheat grinder that makes people believe you're ready for nuclear war.

As homesteader credentials go, I've got some good ones. I've intentionally birthed a baby on the floor, have more chickens than children, grow kohlrabi, use wood to heat, forage for edibles, homeschooled my kids, and yes, I make my own yogurt.

But even with all that under my belt, I'm far from hard core.

I learned this the day I butchered chickens at a small homestead belonging to a friend-of-a-friend. I was inspired by what they had created there, but while the feathers flew, I snuck a glance at the seven-month pregnant owner of the farm up to her elbows in chicken entrails – she having just hung a fresh load of diapers on the line.

I thought of myself at seven months pregnant with my second child, avoiding the sights and smells of anything more offensive than a potato chip, and desperately thankful for the convenience that disposable diapers had brought into my life after two years washing and hanging up diapers in the attic of a tiny flat. Yep. Not hard core.

The lesson was further brought home as I grew older and watched the tendency of many of my homesteading mother friends to not only feed their babies in public (as I myself had done), but to do so with a level of nudity that rivaled ancient issues of National Geographic. A line was definitely being drawn in the sand, and I



was on the other side of it – wanting to hit my fortieth birthday before I died of exhaustion and exposure.

Problem is, I was also on the other side of the line drawn by the opposing camp of hydrogenated peanut butter and frozen taquitos. I couldn't relate to friends who made different dinners for each child, or who didn't want to compost because it was "too messy." Neither did I keep up with the latest trends in footwear or jeans length (hard to do when one treasure hunts one's entire wardrobe from a thrift store).

So, one side thought I was a hippie, the other thought I was a poser. Perhaps you too are stuck between these two worlds, tired of waving your evening primrose oil at Midol-gobbling friends, but not ready to have henna flowers painted on your pregnant belly. What's a middle-of-the-roader to do?

Personally, I think we should band together and rejoice in our moderation – providing a counterweight to a world filled with extremism. Societally, we can clearly see the unhappy results of extreme thinking, but that's nothing compared to the toll it takes on an individual seeking ideological perfection. Whether it's credit card debt to buy the newest iPhone or two hours of sleep after processing sixty pounds of surplus cabbage – there's always a price to pay.

And if you believe that the laid-back vibes emanating off of the Back-to-Earth movement preclude it from fostering the "I'm-better-than-you" environment that plagues the Modern Consumer Lifestyle, then you have yet to sit in a circle of women who make their own cheese, and confess to a guilty pleasure in the occasional American slice.

I was almost asked to leave the group that day.

A new movement deserves a new

name of course: Extreme Moderates Society springs to mind, as does The People's Association of Living Sensibly. My favorite has to be "The Guild of Well-Dressed Hippies," but the acronym would defy any attempts at marketing.

Nevermind. For now, let's just forget the labels and instead believe in who we are and what we're doing. To the homesteader friends who continually ask me why I don't keep goats or pigs, I reply "I'm a gardener, not a farmer. I keep chickens and bees." To the suburbanite friends who ask me why I feed a furnace instead of turning a dial, I smile and share my heating bills for the last year.

If you love the freedom in the layers of a wrap-around tie-dye skirt as much as you love the tailored feel of a lined jacket - but would almost certainly never buy either in a multi-plex shopping mall - then you're not alone. It's not tough to live "outside the box" if that's where your heart takes you - it's just tough for others who are trying to put you in one.

Ignore them and pass the wine. If your lifestyle works for you and your family, *that's all it has to work for.* When things are breaking down around here, it's usually because I am trying to live up to some preconceived notion of perfection in one arena or another, and only succeeding in making everyone's life a misery in the process.

I'd rather be a dichotomy. It gives one so much more freedom, and provides less opportunities for apology.

Marianne writes from Lovettsville, VA. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.com, www.gardenrant.com

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PETS

We're starting to see the kittens

**Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter**

I was on the phone with a volunteer whom I hadn't spoken to in ages the other day and she came up with an idea that I had to put down on paper.

Or a word processing screen, as the case may be.

She is a cat-lover. Always has been, always will be.

She's also been known to feed the wildlife around her house cat food sandwiches, but that's a story for another time.

She takes amazing care of the cats that show up around her home. Her husband has even built them outside enclosures with heat and blankets and in some respects, those cats are probably warmer than I am some nights.

She's a huge proponent for spaying and neutering and back in the day even helped take care of a cat colony near her church.

I wasn't joking when I said she's a cat-lover.

So she came up with the idea of being able to spay and neuter a cat by seeing him or her and zapping them with a ray or, I even said, blinking at them like Barbara Eden from I Dream of Jeannie.

Our conversation took a bit of a

crazy turn (well crazy-er) after that, but just go with me here.

What if we did have the capability of super simple, painless and free spaying and neutering for the feline world?

Studies have shown that the real way to control the pet population is to have your pets spayed and neutered. In fact, years ago, I read an article about a town in New England somewhere that passed an ordinance saying that unless your animal was used for breeding purposes, he or she had to be spayed or neutered. It was the law and you could be facing fines if you didn't abide by it.

You know what happened? The animal shelters emptied out.

No joke. They had to call down south to see if there were any animals they could transport to their shelters.

So, spaying and neutering works.

And now is the time of year when our feline friends are climbing out of the cold and looking to spend some time with one another and, well, make babies.

There is a statistic out there that one unneutered and one unspayed cat can produce more than 10 million cats in ten years' time. I know that's a little unbelievable, but if allowed to continuously reproduce, our cat friends can certainly add to the population.

Let's take a conservative estimate. Let's say an unspayed and unneutered male cat has four litters per year and three kittens per litter. For the math majors out there, that's 12 kittens produced in the first year.

Each of those 12 can go make 12 of their own and each of those 12 can go make 12 of their own and it begins to make pyramid schemes look pretty obsolete.

But it happens. And that's how the cat numbers climb so very high in animal shelters.

You can see how spaying and neutering just two cats can keep a whole bunch of cats from coming into existence – and in the summer time when we have more than 200 cats in our care, that would be a welcome respite, to say the least.

Going back to my original bizarre theory, if we could spay and neuter any cat we see in the blink of an eye, the cat population would decrease.

My volunteer took it a step further and said that cats would become incredibly valuable friends because you wouldn't be able to find a cat just anywhere.

She said, "The less we have of something, the more we seem to value it."

It's true, sadly, but I could see it coming to fruition if we didn't have as many cats as we do right now.

There could even be a waiting list to adopt cats. Could you even imagine it?

I know at CVAS we have a tough time picturing something like that.

In the 20 years I've been here, we've always had far more cats than we ever had dogs and it looks like that trend will continue because of the felines that aren't spayed or neutered. There has never been a time when our cat adoption or isolation areas were empty. Ever.

If we could all just become I Dream of Jeannie, how different the cat population could be. Actually, a whole lot of things in my life would be different if I had Jeannie's ability to blink my wishes into reality, but that's a plot that will likely show up in a Hollywood movie, not in real life.

Until then, our feline friends will have to continue to rely on the handful of humans who understand how

important that surgery is in keeping the numbers manageable.

For all of you out there working so hard to help the cats, you have my sincere gratitude, appreciation and respect.

And if you got the I Dream of Jeannie reference, let's have coffee and talk retro television. Maybe we could even find a place that would let us bring our cats...

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



Flufferduster is a 2-year-old, spayed Rex rabbit who is a sweet girl. She was adopted from the shelter about a year ago, but came back to us because the owners were no longer able to care for her. Flufferduster loves attention and loves her veggies! Do you have the right spot for her?



Koda came into the shelter because his family could no longer care for him. He is a 9-month-old lab/terrier mix who weighs about 70 pounds and has some room to grow. This guy is one BIG puppy and that includes the puppy behavior. He's a master at the wiggle-butt – he just gets so excited! Because of his size and energy level, an age restriction for children in the home may apply, so be sure to discuss this with shelter staff. Koda also has a tendency to want to hold something in his mouth, so he'll need to be watched in a home. He seems to have a pretty good chase drive, too, so small animals might not work well with Koda. Do you have a spot in your home for this wiggle-butt?



Big Mama was surrendered to the shelter because her owner was moving and could not take her along. She's a 7-year-old brown tabby girl who seems to get along with other cats. Her owner said she was afraid of small children, so a home with older children or just adults might be the best spot for her. Do you have the right place for Big Mama?

For more information about Flufferduster, Koda, or Big Mama, call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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COVID-19 and pets

Dr. Jon Branson
Catoclin Veterinary Hospital

There are many types of corona viruses which exist in the animal and human realms. These tend to be species specific. The new corona virus pandemic is caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Corona virus 2 or SARS-Cov-2. This is the virus which can lead to Corona Virus Disease 2019 or COVID-19. This is predominantly spread by human-to-human contact. That is why we need to protect each other by distancing, masking up, washing hands, and hand sanitizing.

If a person is infected with Covid-19, there is the potential for the pet dog, cat, or ferret even to carry it. There is no evidence, to date, that they can spread the disease to people. However, exercising protective measures should be undertaken with pets as well as the other people in the household. Pre-

vention of mixing of the pet with other uninfected people should be done. The infected pet owner should be the sole caregiver for the pet. If that can't happen, then someone else should be designated as the sole caregiver for the pet. In order to limit contact with that pet, reusable, washable dishwashing gloves should be worn. Those gloves should be washed and the hands should be washed and disinfected after removal of gloves.

Remember the infected person in the house is the greatest risk to those who are uninfected. Certain pets could get infected and some may be able to transmit the virus though this has yet to be confirmed. Dogs, cats (domestic and zoo), and ferrets can acquire SARS-Cov-2. Poultry and pigs do not seem to be susceptible. There have been several high profile stories about 2 dogs in Hong Kong, a cat in Belgium, and a Bengal Tiger at the Bronx Zoo testing positive. There is more information

about these cases available from the AVMA and COVID-19 website - www.avma.org.

Preventive measures to take with pets are to reduce exposure of pets to a sick individual and keep pets away from other people. Pets that are exposed to sick family members should stay away from those who are unexposed in the family. However, if a person has Covid-19, and has exposed their pet, keep those pets inside, keep them away from other people (even your family members). If you are in self-isolation, keep your dog, cat, or ferret in isolation. Do not let them roam. If an uninfected person must care for an exposed pet, avoid handling the pet where possible. Wear reusable kitchen gloves to handle the pet, food and water bowls, and litter boxes. Once again wash the gloves, remove them, then wash bare hands and sanitize hands afterwards.

COVID-19 is primarily spread by body secretions such as saliva

and mucous droplets from sneezing, coughing, and shouting. Pet fur, collars, leashes, and carriers have limited risk of transmission, but don't stop good hygiene practices. Since routine cleaning is effective against SARS-Cov-2, wash all of these items with soap and water. Disinfectants are highly effective against SARS-Cov-2. One can use rubbing alcohol or 70 % isopropyl alcohol, bleach (diluted), and 0.5% Hydrogen Peroxide.

While it is good to go for a walk with your dog to take a break and get some exercise, don't let down your guard on social distancing, maintain 6 feet of separation, avoiding public places (dog parks), and gathering. You should not let others pet your dog.

If your pet should get sick in a household that has Covid-19, keep in mind it is more likely to be another illness for that pet. Multiple regulatory agencies, AVMA, USDA, CDC and others, do not recommend routine testing of animals even with upper

respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms. There are other more common organisms and diseases to go looking for. Only in very specific situations, might there be an indication to test.

There has not been any evidence so far that any animals, including pets, that may be incidentally infected by humans play a role in the spread of Covid-19. Please share the information that a pet is coming from a COVID-19 household ahead of any visit so the veterinary staff can be prepared ahead of time. Someone who has not tested positive could bring the pet or a telemedicine consult could be arranged.

Information for this article was obtained from an article on Veterinary Information Network's Veterinary Partner www.veterinary-partner.com Covid-19 FAQ for Pet Owners by Mark Rishniw and Animals and Covid-19 www.avma.org.

To read other Pet articles visit Emmitsburg.net.

Larry's cats

Bette Brown
Frederick Friends of Our County Animal Shelter

For years, Larry's cats were living the dream. They had a stable home deep in the woods, their compassionate human 'dad,' and all the food they could ask for. A cat door allowed them to come and go as they pleased.

But when Larry suffered a serious medical emergency, everything changed—for him and for what he lovingly referred to as his "herd" of cats. With Larry in the hospital, the cats were put outside, with a neighbor named Patty feeding them.

When Frederick Friends of Our County Animal Shelter (FFOCAS) received the first email about Larry's cats, sent by a family member, we sensed the desperation. Local rescues were full and couldn't help. To make matters worse, we hardly knew anything about the cats. Were they socialized? Were they healthy? Because of his medical condition, Larry

couldn't tell us much. He thought he had at least eight cats and could remember the names of three: Camille, Tuxedo, and Norman.

FFOCAS' mission is to help Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC) save more lives. We do this primarily by fundraising to cover the veterinary procedures needed by shelter pets. Our small rescue program is a safety net for kitties who might not do well at the shelter and for whom no other rescue is available.

Though we generally don't have much funding available for rescue, 2020 was an unusual year in many ways. The lower pet population at FCAC allowed FFOCAS to divert more revenue to pets outside of the shelter, including Larry's cats.

We borrowed traps from our friends at Animal Welfare League of Frederick County. We pulled up the first day and two cats came right up to us: Tuxedo and Norman, we later found out. The welcoming committee.

Norman walked right into a carrier; all the other cats scattered and had to be trapped.

Each time we came out to trap, we asked Patty, the neighbor, to

withhold food the day before trapping so the cats would be hungry. After each trapping session, Patty would go back to feeding the kitties at the same time each day to ensure that they'd be able to predict feeding time and would therefore stay in the area.

Patty kept in touch, letting us know how many cats were still out there. She's a dog person, so tabbies became "brindles" in her descriptions. And when we thought we'd caught all the cats, Patty didn't let us off the hook. No, she said, there's one more. A big grey and white: Hank. In their foster homes, some of the cats, especially the ones we named Ralph, Barbara, and Donald, were initially almost catatonic with fear.

Hunched into little tabby lumps, they kept their heads down between their front paws. But their devoted foster mom broke through to them with a back scratcher. By serving as an extension of her hand, the back scratcher allowed her to remind the cats what affection feels like without overwhelming them with proximity. They turned out to be incredibly affectionate cats with well-oiled

purr motors. Norman, Tuxedo, and Blossom adapted relatively quickly to their foster homes. Rae, Moby, Camille, and Hank just needed a little time to come out of their shells. The one constant among all of Larry's cats is their love of human attention and affection.

Thankfully, these cats have proven to be quite healthy overall. In addition to vaccinations and other basic vetting, five of the kitties needed dental procedures, including several extractions. And Tuxedo has hyperthyroidism, a condition easily managed with inexpensive medication.

Now, at the start of 2021, we are thrilled to report that all of Larry's cats have been adopted, one by his foster mom and one with the assistance of our friends at PetConnect Rescue.

In what might be the best part of this story, the kitty we named Blossom was reunited with Larry in his

new apartment. Larry let us know that we mixed up names a bit: Blossom was actually his Camille.

We think that both Camilles are happy and don't mind the mixup. One has her dad back; the other is headed to her loving forever family.

We're glad that we were able to help Larry's cats, but FFOCAS and other area organizations don't have the capacity to help all pets in such a position. This experience has brought home to us how important it is to plan for the future. None of us, no matter how young or healthy, no matter how financially secure, can predict the future.

If something happens to you, what will happen to your pets? Please make a plan now—write it down, share it with friends and family—before you're faced with a crisis.

To learn more about the Frederick Friends of Our County Animal Shelter visit www.ffocas.org.

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A letter to my horse



Wesley and I love jumping fences at Mike's farm.

Emma Simmons

Dear Wesley, will you be my Valentine? I'm writing this letter to you on Valentine's Day. I won't be able to see you today because of this bad virus that is keeping so many loved ones apart. But I wanted to send you this letter so you know how I feel about you.

You are the best horse ever and I love you so much. We've known each other for about a year and a half. So I know you well by now and you know me. And I think I can say that I love everything about you. But to be honest, I knew I loved you from that first time I saw you. Love at first sight is what it's called. It was late summer when my twin sister Sarah and I came out for our first ride with you. I have to admit that I was really nervous. You were the biggest horse I had ever seen. However, it didn't take long for me to know that you were kind and gentle and that we would be best friends, that you would be my BHFF (Best Horse Friend Forever).

Let me tell you some things that I love most about you. I love the way you look, I love your amazing skills as a jumper, and I love your personality. All these characteristics together make you the perfect horse and they are why I want you to be my Valentine.

One of the things I first noticed about you when we met was how tall you are and how steady you are. Your coat and mane are the perfect colors. Bay horses have always been my favorite. Your eyes are bright and shiny, and I can see my reflection in them when I look at you. It's almost like I can see you looking at me. Even though people say that you are such a big horse for a little girl like me, I think we are great together. And even if I'm still a little small, that gives me room to grow and still fit on you perfectly.

I also love your personality. You are a sweet and kind horse. You never get upset and run around bucking and kicking up your hind legs, like another horse we all know (Scotty). You always take care of me. You don't trot away just as I'm getting on the saddle and leave me with my feet hanging loose desperately looking for those stirrups and grabbing for the reins. You always wait until I am safely on your back and ready to go before you start moving.

When we are jumping, which is our favorite thing to do, I know you try your best to clear the fence. Those times that you stopped right in front of the fence and refused to go over, I know that you had a good reason for doing this, like maybe there was a dangerous stick or big crow on the other side of the jump that you knew would make me fall.

And that one time I did fall, it was all my fault for not holding on to you like you told me to do. I remember how you stood so still when I fell so that you wouldn't accidentally step on me. You were so great to take such good care of me.

After we finish riding, I love how you stand so still for me to groom you. A lot of other horses are fidgety when they are getting groomed and just want to get their dinner. But I think you enjoy that quiet time we have together because you stand so still as I'm giving you a bath and brushing you. And I know all those times that you pooped in the wash stall just after I had cleaned it, were just accidents. And, as we all know, accidents happen.

And I think that one of the things I love most about you is how you eat. First, when I give you an apple, you are so gentle as you take it from my hand, always careful not to nip my fingers. Then as you are munching on it, you squirt bits of apple and apple juice all over me. Some people may not like this, but I think you are making sure that I smell nice for the ride home. When I give you your dinner, you never push me and grab for the feed from



Wesley & I make a great team.

me before I put it in your bucket. You are a gentleman horse and step back for me to serve the food. And the sounds that you make when you eat are so sweet. And when you spill your food all over the stall floor, I know it's because you just lifted your head quickly to make sure you tell me thanks for the great ride before I have to leave for home.

Yes, Wesley, I do love you so much. Everything about you is just perfect.

To help show you how much I love you, I wrote a poem for you on this special day.

*You are kind and you are
brave
Bold and fast
You always amaze.*

*Oxers and Xs and verticals too
Higher and higher
You always come through.*

*You keep me so safe and hold
to me fast
Canter and gallop
You're always steadfast.*

*You are my Wesley so this I
must say
Will you be mine
This Valentine's Day?*

*You help me through hard
training days
Strong and powerful
Encouraging with your neighs.*

With much love,
Your girl Emma

PS: Do you mind if I ask my
Dad to be my Valentine too?

To read past articles by Emma Simmons visit the Authors Section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Planning for the Inevitable: FAQs

Mark Propheer

Catoctin Advisors is a Thurmont-based consulting business that offers estate readiness planning, estate administration, and budgeting and bill-pay support to survivors. Each month we answer common questions about end-of-life issues.

Q. Q. What is the best first step to getting an estate in order?

A. Everyone is going to have a different situation, so there is no single road map to follow. People with a lot of assets will make different choices than neighbors with fewer assets. Families with minor children will have different priorities than couples with adult children or no children. Those are just two variables but there obviously are others. However, there are three documents you can create that will be a huge benefit to you and your survivors. The first is a Will, which we addressed in Janu-

ary. A Will lets you choose how your assets will transfer after your death. If you die without a Will, the government will follow its protocol to distribute your property, which may not match your specific wishes.

The second is an advanced medical directive, often called a Living Will. It outlines how you want to be treated by doctors if you become incapacitated by an illness or accident and suddenly are unable to make choices for yourself. Generally speaking, medical professionals follow a basic code of treatment based on doing all they can to minimize suffering and save a life. If you've been severely injured in an accident or from a heart attack, just to choose two examples, the doctors treating you – again, in general – will do all they can to keep you alive. We usually would agree that is a good thing; however, there may be extenuating circumstances that would

change your quality of life after the event. Perhaps if you were able yourself, you would instruct the doctors not to deliver the treatments. Or, perhaps you are a widow with three children – you become incapacitated and each child is advocating for a different treatment. If you have a medical directive or Living Will, that document – your choices – will become the road map the medical staff follows. The directive only is relevant/functional if you become incapacitated – until that time you would direct your own care.

The third document is a Power of Attorney. A Power of Attorney grants a specific person the authority to make financial, legal, and/or health-care decisions for you when you no longer are able. Most people simply don't want to think about death or dying, but ignoring it doesn't make it less likely. "Preparing your estate is a real act of love—not for you, but



for your family," says Chas Rampenthal, general counsel for LegalZoom. "You're telling them straight up, 'I'm not going to put that burden on you to figure out what I wanted. I'm going to tell you what I want, so you don't have to worry about it.'"

For more information about Catoctin Advisors, visit our website (www.catoctinadvisors.com) or send email to doug@catocinadvisors.com. We're happy to help you. This is not offered as medical or legal advice. If you want to meet with a lawyer I can connect with someone.

Milestones to keep in mind

Ryan Fox

Well, 2020 sure was a year to remember.

Now that we have jumped into 2021, we will each gain another year of life experience that will likely be important to our financial planning. For example, my wife hits a milestone birthday this year and I know if I fail to recognize her birthday, my family finances are in deep trouble! I won't forget, as I thankfully fall on the side of planning far, far ahead for most things. That includes retirement planning dates that might be helpful to readers.

So, is this the year you turn 50? From age 50 until retirement, this is when a worker can participate in the "catch-up" provisions for a retirement plan and sock away some extra money.

For 2021, someone 50 or older can save an additional \$6,500 in a 401k for a maximum of \$26,000 and an extra \$1,000 into an IRA for a maximum of \$7,000. That is \$33,000 of possible retirement savings which can supercharge retirement balances, reduce taxable income, and help

those who might feel a little behind in retirement funding.

How about someone turning 59 ½ this year? This is the earliest age when someone can start withdrawing money from a retirement account like an IRA or 401k without an early withdraw penalty. This isn't a great option for someone who is still working as those assets are designed for true retirement needs. But age 59 ½ is an important milestone.

There are other options to actually withdraw funds before age 59 ½ but this article is meant to be a brief overview, versus getting too far down the path of technical issues. If you want more info on the technical stuff, just let me know via a phone call or email and I'm happy to share.

What are 62, 66 to 67, and age 70, Alex? The answer would be "critical Social Security dates for most people."

We work for decades and then have to figure out to start as early as age 62, at our full retirement age of between 66 and 67 for most people, or to be handsomely rewarded with the biggest benefit possible at age 70. Or somewhere in between these ages.

career workers, hitting age 65 is the target because of the expense of health insurance prior to Medicare.

The age of 72 is the new 70 ½ in terms of RMDs or required minimum distributions from a traditional IRA account. RMDs were waived last year and the date was changed to age 72 now for most people. This is a calculation of year-end IRA balance and age to determine how much needs to come out of an IRA account each year.

Something that might be enjoyable in all of this is reading your lifetime earnings reported on your Social Security statement.

Literally a lifetime of reported income is listed year by year. For me,

this includes the good old days of summertime high school lifeguarding followed by waiting tables for Bill Wills at the former Gingerbread Man restaurant, now Gettysburg Eddie's, when I was home from college.

I bet each of us has interesting reflections when that earnings column is reviewed for our own lifetimes.

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HEALTH NOTES

Show yourself some love

Heidi Winkler
Frederick Memorial Hospital

A little self-care goes a long way. It can lead to better physical, mental, and emotional health and improve your overall well-being. Just a few changes in your habits can boost your health inside and out. Here are a few ways you can put your self-care front and center this month.

Schedule a check-up with your doctor.

Regular check-ups may not seem necessary if you have no health issues. But your primary care provider can help you maintain a healthy lifestyle and catch health concerns at early stages before they become serious. Regular check-ups and well visits are proven to help you live a longer, healthier life. Don't have a doctor? Make an appointment with a Frederick Health Medical Group Primary Care provider.

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appointment, we'll call you. Visit [FrederickHealth.org/GetCare](https://www.frederickhealth.org/GetCare), fill out the form with your preferred location, provider, and time, and we'll call you within 24-48 hours to confirm your appointment. It's that easy! Our Primary Care providers will connect you with specialists and services you may need, like well-woman visits, annual screenings, prevention programs, and more.

Learn your family's health history.

The health of your closest relatives influences your health a lot. Certain medical conditions can be passed down from parents to their children. It's important to ask questions about your family's health. This will help you to identify your own risk factors and schedule appropriate screenings. A genetic counselor can help you collect this information and determine the tests you need based on your history.

Schedule your screenings.

Everyone should have individual screenings by certain ages. These include screenings for both

men—diabetes, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer—and women—cholesterol, breast cancer, cervical cancer, osteoporosis. Recently, we shared a health maintenance checklist for 2021. Give it a read and talk to your doctor to figure out the screenings best for you in the coming months.

Don't neglect your mental health.

Did you know your mental health can affect your physical health, too? Mental health issues are linked to many other health conditions, like respiratory disease, heart disease, and risk for cancer. In the winter months, many people are also at risk for seasonal affective disorder (SAD) or a type of depression that comes and goes with the seasons. In addition to our Behavioral Health services, Frederick Health offers many integrative services like mindfulness, meditation, and yoga that reduce feelings of stress and anxiety, increase mental and physical well-being,



and support healing and recovery processes for other conditions.

Quit smoking.

On average, smokers die 10 years earlier than nonsmokers. Smoking is the #1 risk for many health conditions, including lung cancer. One foolproof way to better your health? Quit smoking immediately. If you're ready to quit but need a little help, our Freedom from Smoking program is a 6-week, 6-session step-by-step process to help you quit for

good. If you have a long history of smoking, you may be eligible for the Frederick Health Lung Cancer Screening Program. Remember, early detection is your best defense against cancer.

Watch your weight—maintain a healthy diet and stay active.

Eating a balanced diet and getting at least 20-30 minutes of moderate-intensity activity each day offer countless health benefits, like helping you maintain a healthy weight. Good nutrition is good self-care. It benefits your stress, mood, digestion, and overall health. Similarly, physical activity has many of the same effects. Our Medical Weight Loss Program and nutrition counseling service are available if you need help making health and lifestyle improvements. Our partners at LiveWell Frederick offer nutrition and physical activity resources to help you take good care of yourself—with options that fit lots of different lifestyles and schedules.

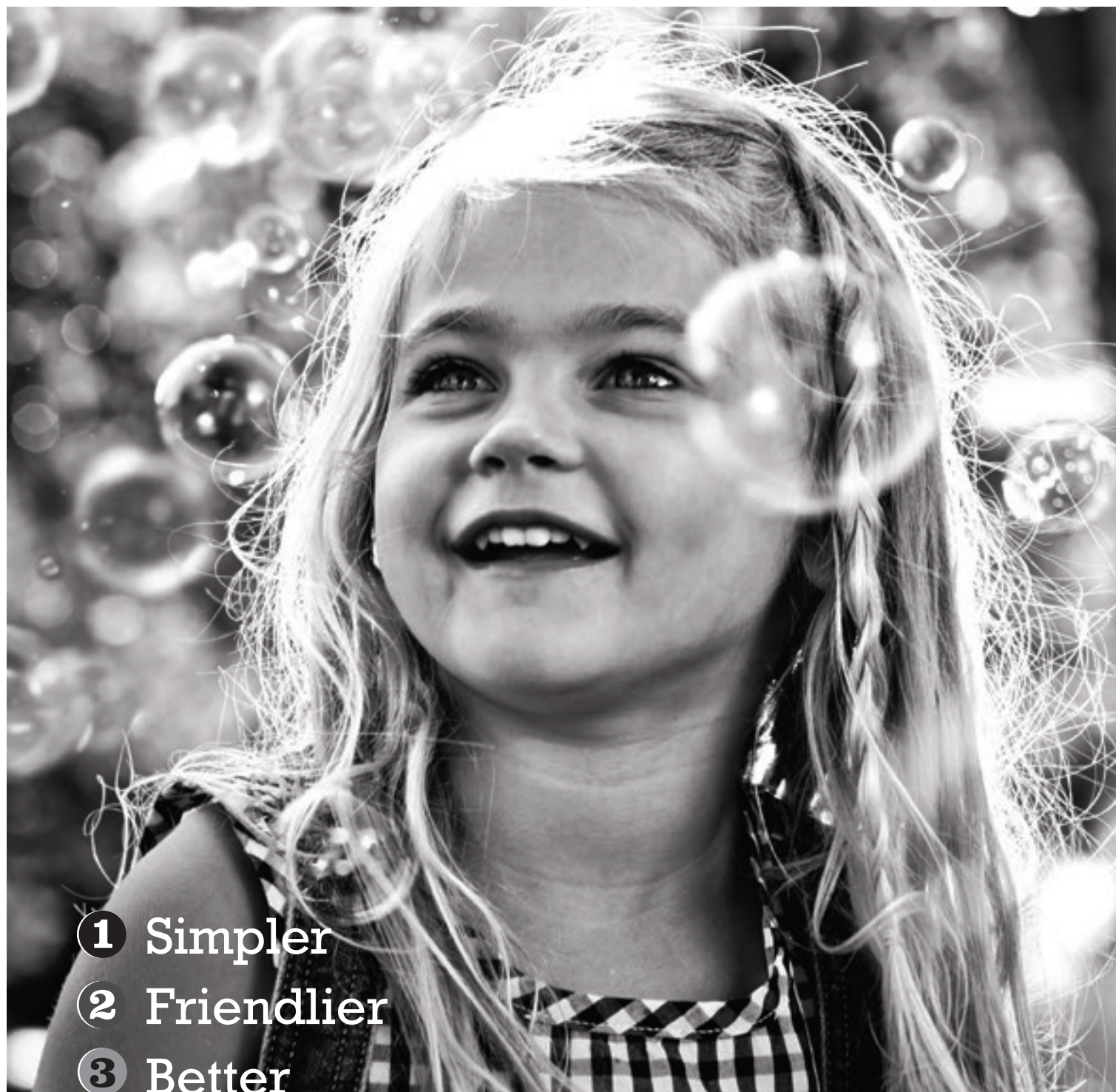
Sleep well.

Getting a good night's sleep has a profound impact on your health. If you're not getting the recommended 7-9 hours of sleep each night, you might experience depression, anxiety, poor cognitive function and memory, and more. For a restful night's sleep, start a bedtime routine and stick to it. Create a peaceful sleeping environment. Reduce daytime napping and try to clear your mind before going to bed. You can find more tips like these here. If you're struggling with something more severe at night, like obstructive sleep apnea, there is help. Make an appointment with one of our Sleep Medicine providers or talk to your primary care provider.

Treat Yourself!

Self-care has so many powerful benefits! In addition to the services and tips mentioned above, many of our Frederick Health Rewards vendors offer discounts on local services to help you take an active role in your health and well-being—from discounts on fitness and virtual cooking classes to massage therapy, healthy food, and more. There's something for all lifestyles and schedules. Plus, becoming a Frederick Health Rewards member is free! Become a member today by visiting [FrederickHealth.org/Rewards/](https://www.frederickhealth.org/Rewards/)

Now is the time to take your health into your own hands and show yourself some love this Valentine's Day. We want you healthy, Frederick. Visit [FrederickHealth.org](https://www.frederickhealth.org) today to learn more.



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Thurmont Masons celebrate 150th anniversary

The Thurmont Masons, properly known as The Acacia Lodge #155 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, will be celebrating their 150th anniversary this month. However, many readers may be unaware of who the Masons are and what they do. The Masons have a long and storied history that officially begins with nationally organized freemasonry in England in the early 1700s, but unofficially freemason societies existed long before. The Masons first came to Maryland in the mid-1700s and to Frederick County in the later parts of the 1700s. The Acacia Lodge #155 in Thurmont was officially constituted on March 31, 1871. Currently comprised of nearly 100 members, the Masons of Thurmont will celebrate their 150th anniversary on March 31.

The Thurmont Masons and Freemasons everywhere believe in three principle tenets that represent a way to achieve higher standards in life: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Brotherly Love is the belief that “every true Freemason will show tolerance and respect for the opinion of others and behave with kindness and understanding.” Relief is the principle that “Freemasons practice charity and care for their own as well as the community as a whole both by charitable giving and by voluntary work as individuals.” Finally, Freemasons strive for Truth, “requiring high moral standards and ethical conduct at all times.”

With regards to personnel, the Freemasons have a variety of different officers, each with unique authority and title. During the group’s meeting in early January, officers were duly installed and invested for 2021. The senior officer and leader of a Masonic Lodge is known as the Master, normally addressed and referred to as the “Worshipful Master”. Rick Boyle serves as the Worshipful Master of the Thurmont chapter. As Worshipful Master, Boyle chairs all business of the lodge, is vested with consid-

erable powers without further reference to members, and presides over rituals and ceremonies.

Buzz Murdorph serves as the Senior Warden of the Thurmont Masons. The Senior Warden is the second highest officer in a Masonic Lodge and is the Master’s Principal Deputy. Duties and authorities vary for the Senior Warden from chapter to chapter. Some Constitutions allow the Senior Warden to serve as acting Master should the Worshipful Master be absent at a meeting or event, although other Constitutions only allow for Past Masters to serve as acting Master. Thus, the Senior Warden could only act as acting Master if he himself was a Past Master. Another aspect that varies from chapter to chapter is the presumption of the role. In some chapters, it is the presumption that the Senior Warden will become the next Worshipful Master. Finally, the position itself is determined differently from chapter to chapter: in some, it is an elected role, while in others the role is appointed by the Master.

The third and final principal officer is the Junior Warden, a position held by Rob Reid in the Thurmont chapter. The Junior Warden is charged with supervision of the meeting Lodge while it is “at refreshment”, meaning it is in recess for a meal break or other reason. Similar to the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden has the authority to serve as acting Master in some locations if both the Master and Senior Warden are absent. Also similar to the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden is an elected officer in some jurisdictions and an appointed position in others.

Two positions that are commonplace in most organizations are Treasurer and Secretary. The Thurmont Masons also have a Treasurer and a Secretary, with the positions currently being held by Bobby Keiholtz and Bob Koons, respectively. As with most organizations, the role of the Treasurer is to keep the accounts, collect annual dues from members, pay bills, and complete other mon-



Thurmont Mason officers for 2021. Front row: Colt Black - Senior Deacon, Rob Reid - Junior Warden, Rick Boyle - Worshipful Master, Wes Evans - Junior Stewart, Past Master Brian Speck. Back row: Roal Davis, John Hagemann - Marshal, Buzz Murdorph - Senior Warden, Bob Koons - Secretary, Randy Stidom - Junior Deacon.

etary duties as necessary. Similarly, the Secretary’s role includes issuing the summons to inform members of upcoming gatherings, recording meeting minutes, completing Statistical Returns to the Grand Lodge, and advising the Worshipful Master on matters of procedure.

Lodges generally have two Deacons, titled the Senior Deacon and the Junior Deacon, and two Stewards, titled the Senior Steward and the Junior Steward. In Thurmont, Colt Black serves as the Senior Deacon, while Randy Stidom serves as the Junior Deacon. The main duties of a Deacon are to conduct candidates around the Lodge, speak for them at certain ceremonies, attend to the Worshipful Master as needed and relay order from the Master to the Senior Warden. Additionally, the Junior Deacon is sometimes given the duty of guarding the inside of the main door of the Lodge. The roles and duties of Stewards varies significantly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but can include

such things as filling in for an absent Deacon, assisting Deacons with conducting candidates around the Lodge, and serving wine during a meal after a Lodge meeting. In Thurmont’s chapter, Cliff Drumheller serves as the Senior Steward and Wes Evans serves as the Junior Steward.

Bruce Campbell, a former Worshipful Master of Thurmont’s chapter, serves at the Tyler. The job of the Tyler is protect the entrance to the Lodge from the outside with a drawn sword, ensuring only those authorized are able to enter the meeting Lodge. The Tyler also typically prepares the room before a meeting and takes care of storage of the regalia after a meeting. Walter Barlow serves as the Chaplain of the Thurmont Chapter. The Chaplain’s duty is to lead non-denominational prayer before and after meetings and prior to meals. Typically, the position is held by a clergyman who is a brother of the Lodge. The final officer position in the Thurmont Lodge is the Marshal, a position that is currently held by John Hagemann, who is also a former Worshipful Master. The Marshal is charged with ensuring proper procedure is followed and performing flag and other ceremonies.

As for what the Thurmont Masons do in the local area, they support and sponsor a number of organizations, including Catocin Youth Association Basketball, Sea Scouts Troop 1011 Sea Base Crew, the Thurmont Maryland Regional Library (for which the Masons laid the cornerstone for the new library in 2008), and the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library. Per the Thurmont

Masons, “we participate in dedication of buildings, parades, as well civic activities. We are involved in many programs that help support the growth of our community and surrounding areas in a positive way for the betterment of mankind.”

Local-area students may already be familiar with or be interested to know that the Masons sponsor several scholarships. The Catocin School Direct Scholarship is currently accepting applications through May from Seniors from the 2021 Catocin High School Class. All seniors are encouraged to apply for scholarships worth up to \$5,000. The Thurmont Masonic Lodge offers two Scholarship Awards each year for High School Seniors. Two other scholarships offered by the Masons are the Mary and Robert Rensberg Memorial Scholarship Award and the Bernhard “Bernie” Cohen Memorial Scholarship Award. The Rensberg award is for continuing education students in college and the Cohen award is for participation in the community and/or school activities and in need of financial assistance. Per the Thurmont Masons, “We are here to support our communities and the surrounding areas of Thurmont, Maryland. New Candidates to the Craft are always welcome!”





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HISTORY

Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman

Chapter 30 The Romany Players

It is indeed quite a task for the younger generation of Thurmont to visualize just what the older generation of citizens did for entertainment. Little do they know that some 38 years ago a number of citizens got together and formed the very first theatre guild in Frederick County, and produced some of the finest stage productions in this part of the country.

Organized in 1929, The Romany Players produced many out-standing productions which gained for them a reputation of high standing, not only in Frederick County, but throughout the state as well.

In 1933, the Romany Players produced a three-act comedy entitled "It Happened in Hollywood." This play turned out to be one of the best performances ever presented by the local group. Produced by special permission of the Dramatic Publishing Co. of Chicago, it was built around the ever-amusing theme of mistaken identity.

The guild worked extra hard on this production and in addition to the comedy, they also presented special choral numbers, dancing acts, special readings and several musical

selections by a local group known as the "Blue Ramblers of Thurmont."

The chorus, directed by Miss Helen Keefer, consisted of Jeanette Sigafoose, Charlotte Creager, Margaret Krone, Kitty and Ruth Taylor, Betty Lee Creeger, Ruth Creeger, Mary Barbara Baxter, Jean Fraley and Becky Eyster, all of the Thurmont High School. Several girls dressed as men and took their part well. The humorous readings were given by Margaret Sherwood. A special dance number was given by John Keefer and Jeanette Sigafoose. Music before the show and during the brief intermissions was furnished by the Blue Ramblers, a local dance band who also provided music for an in-formal dance that followed the play.

Ushers, garbed in Gypsy costumes, included Ruth Kelly, Evalene Finneyfrock, Louise Brown and Katherine Roddy. Head usher was Mr. Ray Taylor, a member of the guild. Tickets for the productions staged by the Romany Players were sold at Carback's Drug Store and the store was the center of attraction when tickets would go on sale. The admission price to this top entertainment was 35c for adults and 25c for children.

"It Happened In Hollywood" was directed by H. O. Miller, editor of the Catocin Clarion, and the cast of char-

acters included Grace Kelbaugh, Ruth Krone, Ethel Lewis, Helen Keefer, Margaret Sherwood, Blanche Beard, P. D. Ewing, Lloyd Mackley, Paul Stottlemeyer, Edward Moser, Earl Kelbaugh and Dr. A. D. Flory, all very able thespians. Furniture and props for such productions were supplied by Michael Creager and Son.

In 1933, Dr. Flory became President of the Romany Players, which at this time boasted a membership of 45 active and 25 associate members, each capable of excellent interpretations of the roles assigned to them. Other officers included, Grace Kelbaugh, 1st Chairman; Harry Miller, 2nd Chairman; Ruth Krone, Secretary; Helen Keefer, Assistant Secretary; Allen Creeger, Treasurer; and P. D. Ewing, Librarian and Property Custodian.

Just as the Shady Grove Music Fair today draws large audiences for each production, the Romany Players, in the early Thirties, would pack 'em into the old Town Hall for each performance.

As the community grew and other forms of entertainment found their way on to the local scene, Frederick County's first theatre guild, soon became a part of the passing parade.

Today the Romany Players are but a page of recorded history, yet there are still a few of our citizens who clearly recall, the thrills and the excitement on opening night and the stage manager's call — "Places everyone, Curtain going up!"

Chapter 31 Jungleland Snake Farm

Located approximately two miles south of Thurmont on US Route 15, Jungleland Snake Farm takes its place as one of the finest tourist attractions of its kind in this area. This year marks the 34th season in exhibiting some of the world's largest and deadliest creatures of the reptile family. This unusual business was started by the late Gordon Gaver and is presently owned by Richard Hahn and Dr. Wayne Drda. The history of Jungleland dates back to 1910 when Gaver was a young lad only six years old.

Born on February 22, 1904, the son of the late Dr. William and Laura Gaver of Mt. Airy, young Gaver became interested in reptiles when he was very young and collected all kinds of snakes and frogs which he kept in his father's stable where he would display them to his many friends. His father died when he was only



The entrance to the Snake Farm, later know as Jungleland, and now home to the Catocin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo.

six years old and the family then moved to Frederick, where young Gaver completed his schooling.

In 1924 he accepted his first job as a technician's helper in the experimental laboratory of the Gulf Refining Company at Port Authur, Texas. Two years later Mr. Gaver went to New York City where he landed a job with the Munson Steamship Lines as a claim agent, a job which he held for almost five years. During the last few months with Munson he was given an assignment aboard a passenger ship and made a trip to South America.

In 1930 he entered the real estate business in Elizabeth, New Jersey, a job which he enjoyed very much. All the while his interest in reptiles never ceased for he collected them whenever and wherever possible. Finally this interest became so great that he decided to do something about it. He tried to seek employment at the Washington Zoo and even made a trip to the Museum of Natural History in New York City, but met with no success.

After serious consideration he decided to go into business for himself. In 1933 he rented an old frame school building, located about one quarter of a mile south of what is now Boston's Garage on US Route 15, and opened his exhibition of reptiles to the public on March 15, 1933.

The public was attracted to this unusual exhibit and it soon became very popular with the passing tourists.

In the fall of 1936 he purchased a ten-acre tract of land about two miles south of Thurmont and constructed a large exhibition building to house his ever-increasing collection of reptiles. In the spring of the following year he opened the season at this new location under the name of "Jungleland Snake Farm" — a name which Gaver himself originated.

Business was very good during the next three years, but, as usual, all good things must come to an end. By the

fall of 1939 the war clouds were gathering over Europe and business began to drop off considerably. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, business grew worse as gasoline was rationed. In the spring of 1942 Mr. Gaver closed the farm and accepted a job with Fairchild Aircraft Division as an inspector. He remained with Fairchild until the close of the war and in the spring of 1946 he re-opened Jungleland, adding many new features.

A large outside snake pit, 18' by 36', was constructed which added much to the displaying of his still rapidly growing collection of rep-tiles. He purchased a few Rhesus monkeys and housed them in a large wire cage that always attracted the many visitors to the farm. Business during the post-war years was good and soon Gaver's plans called for the construction of several more pits to house the lizards and alligators that had arrived from Florida.

In 1953 a baby chimpanzee was purchased and a special house was built for the chimp. Another pit was added to display the large collection of rattlesnakes. It was in this pit that one of Jungleland's employees, Author Germand, performed the dangerous task of milking the venom from the rattlesnakes and other poisonous rep-tiles. This feature, usually performed on weekends, drew many large crowds.

Jungleland soon added its own concession stand, where visitors could purchase soft drinks to quench their thirst, biscuits for the monkeys, and peanuts for the chimp.

During the height of the season, Mr. Gaver employed five regular workers and several part-time employees. In the winter months when Jungleland was closed, Mr. Gaver planned for the coming season, making repairs and building new cages. He also traveled extensively, visiting such countries as France, England, Germany, Holland, Belgium and Africa.

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He visited zoos in these countries, obtaining ideas for further attractions at Jungleland. Through the years he built one of the finest collections of reptile books in the country.

As an authority on snakes, Mr. Gaver had this to say when any-one asked him what to do if bitten by a snake: "Remain calm, sit down; remember that hardly anyone dies of snake bite in the United States; less than six in every hundred cases.

"Take a handkerchief, a tie, a piece of rope, or anything that could be used to make a tourniquet, and tie it near the bite, between the bite and the heart. Tighten it with a pencil or a piece of wood. Try to make incisions into the fang punctures; use a razor blade or sharp penknife. You want free bleeding. Then apply suction by mouth. Snake poison is harmless in the mouth, or even if swallowed. It only acts when injected into the skin tissue.

"It is important to make sure it was a poisonous snake that bit you. A harmless bite shows rows of punctures like pinpricks that bleed very freely. The bites of most of our American poisonous snakes — such as Rattlesnakes, Copperheads and Cottonmouth Moccasins — are painful, swell and discolor, but do not bleed freely.

"Snakes are shy retiring creatures and wish to escape being molested. No matter how much you fear snakes, they are more afraid of you than you are of them. Usually they will get away as fast as they can to some hiding place; at most they will remain lying where you happen to come upon them. They will not come after you. Like every rule, this one is generally true, but it has its exceptions."

Mr. Gaver loved to talk about reptiles and often spoke of the Mambas in Africa; the King Cobra of the Orient; the Giant Brown Snake of Australia. These, he said, have been known to attack seemingly without a cause. All of these are deadly poisonous. In the United States, oddly enough, some of the harmless forms, like the Black Racer and the Coachwhip, will occasionally get up enough courage to actually "attack."

In 1962 Mr. Gaver was bitten by a King Cobra, a very poisonous snake, and rushed to the hospital for medical treatment. A special serum was rushed from the Washington Zoo by the Maryland State Police, and arrived in time to save Gaver's life. It was his own action, by remaining calm that was largely responsible for his quick recovery. When asked if the experience had changed his love for reptiles, he was quick to reply, "No indeed."

Reminiscences of Keysville

March 4, 1921

I started my career as an American citizen in 1862 in the vicinity of Keysville, here with a number of other boys became familiar with every foot of land and running stream within easy reach, and there for how many memories by-gone days and of hour spent usefully and uselessly.

Those spent usefully are pleasant to think of, but not so the other. I remember the old store, or only loafing place in Keysville, where we were expected to visit each evening and spend a few hours until Captain Pool would say "well boys, time to adjourn" and lead in old 'watch' the dog. He had no further need to ask for the use of the store boxes we were occupying.

William Fogle, our old shoemaker, would make our shoes so strong they were seldom worn out until they got too small, then a younger brother would tackle the job and sometimes succeed. You do not need a younger brother, this day, to keep the shoes from going to waste.

At the height of the 1963 season, Jungleland featured one of the largest and finest displays of snakes and reptiles in this section of the country. Visiting Jungleland, the visitor beheld the following: Indian Hooded Cobras, a 14-foot King Cobra, Russell's Vipers, Banded Krait, Gaboon Vipers, Ball Pythons, Regal Pythons, Diamondback Rattlers, Cottonmouth Water Moccasins, Coral Snakes, Copperheads, Merian Beaded Lizards, Gila Monsters, Black Snakes, Florida Alligators and Crocodiles, Sooty Mangley Monkeys from Africa, Rhesus Monkeys from India, Spider Monkeys from South America, a Chimpanzee, and a 125-pound Galapagos Tortoise.

On occasions, Jungleland was the scene of picnics, family outings and in 1949 was host to the State Convention of the Circus Fans Association of America.

Mr. Gaver was always making plans for the future and often dreamed of building a monkey mountain, such as the one featured zoo and a miniature railroad which he often thought of naming "Jungleland Express." These and many other plans, however, never materialized, for Mr. Gaver died in the summer of 1964.

On August 1st following a busy day at Jungleland, Gaver was stricken

I still remember the old log school house with long benches, no backs to lean against, where I started my school days, and how proud we were when we moved to the new one now serving the same purpose. Under the instruction of our kind, yet firm old school teacher, Clarence Reindollar, I finished. He could use that four foot of second growth Hickory with a wonderful amount of persuasion. Some of the boys seem to get more of it than their share, but in latter years they declared they did not steal any - it all belong to them.

Well boys, those were the wonderful days, but let me say that we boys of 1862 are getting up to the top shelf, where we will not be called for so often, and that we should value time as we value dollars and cents, which are convenient to have but not so valuable as a full and sufficient preparation for that last call coming from that mysterious beyond. If we have that assurance, we can say truly that life has not been a failure.

Interested Reader

with an apparent heart attack and died moments later. As a result of his death, Jungleland was closed and his prize collection of animals and reptiles was given to the Washington Zoo. This was Gaver's own wish, for he always provided for them, even in his will.

In the spring of 1966, the property was sold to Richard Hahn and Dr. Wayne Drda, who planned to continue the business. After several months of cleaning and repairing, Jungleland re-opened under the new management and today does a thriving business on the passing tourists.

With the skill of surgeons and the flair of showmen, Hahn and Drda perform weekly milkings of the highly poisonous rattlesnakes and on occasions, the deadly poisonous "King Cobra." His plans for the future included a children's one of the most valuable varieties of reptiles at Jungleland, is milked every five weeks. The venom is sold to a Baltimore research lab-oratory.

Hahn and Drda, shod in heavy boots and armed with poles, climb into the snake pit and select a likely serpent. Hahn then throws the snake's tail under his arm so that it can't slither out of his grasp and, holding the head in one hand, gently applies pressure to the venom glands with his index finger. One drop at

Bruce Toma



Bruce Stuart Toma, 71, of Carroll Valley, passed away on January 30 at his home following a long and valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Born November 8, 1949 in Allegan, MI, he was the son of the late Daniel and Catherine (Binckes) Toma. He was the devoted husband of Sally Ann (Vinson) Toma, to whom he was married for 41 years.

Bruce was a pilot in the United States Air Force, serving 20 years of active duty. Upon retiring from the military, he became a commercial pilot with United Airlines for 20 years. He was a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Chambersburg. He loved riding and racing motorcycles, flying airplanes, sky-

diving, and sailing. If it was fast and dangerous, you could count Bruce in. He loved animals and was active with the East Coast Exotic Animal Rescue in Fairfield. More than anything, he loved spending time with family and friends.

Surviving, in addition to his wife Sally, are daughter, Catherine Toma (Rob) of Paden, OK; siblings, Carl Toma (Shirley) of Prescott, AZ, Karen Calhoun (Warren) of Queen Creek, AZ, and the Rev. Jim Toma (Barbara) of Huntington Beach, CA; brother-in-law, George Vinson of Frederick, MD; grandchildren, Nina and Penelope McKlin, and Kelsey McGarity; and several nieces and nephews.

Due to the COVID pandemic, a time of remembrance and celebration of Bruce's life will be scheduled at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home in Emmitsburg.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society-Pancreatic Cancer Research, 405 Williams Court, Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21220, or East Coast Exotic Animal Rescue, 320 Zoo Rd, Fairfield, PA 17320. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.myersdurborawfh.com.

a time — enough to kill a small child — the clear poison trickles into a vile below, until may-be a half ounce — enough to kill 15 adults — glistens in the glass container. Watching Hahn, the tourist notes beads of perspiration glistening on his brow. Should the snake bite him, Mr.

Hahn, who has no immunity to the poison, would die instantly. Hahn, like Mr. Gaver, became interested in snakes when a child, but has never been bitten by one of his poisonous pets.

continued next month

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Setting the record straight - founding of Taneytown, 1762

David Buie

The date 1754 is recorded as the founding date for Taneytown, but many argue the date for the founding of Taneytown should be 1762, for this is when the first land sale officially took place. To set the record straight, L.H. Diehlman of the Peabody in Baltimore insisted that the Carroll Record editors publish a copy of the article, "The Founder of Taneytown" in the April 7, 1916 issue. "The Founder of Taneytown" was written by G.A. Tawney, a professor at the University of Cincinnati, and appeared in the March 1916 edition of the Maryland Historical Magazine. The original article contains a footnote, "This date is engraved on the stone beneath a second-story window of the Elliot Hotel in Taneytown where it is visible from the street (1762)." Due to the information contained in the article, it is being presented in its entirety.

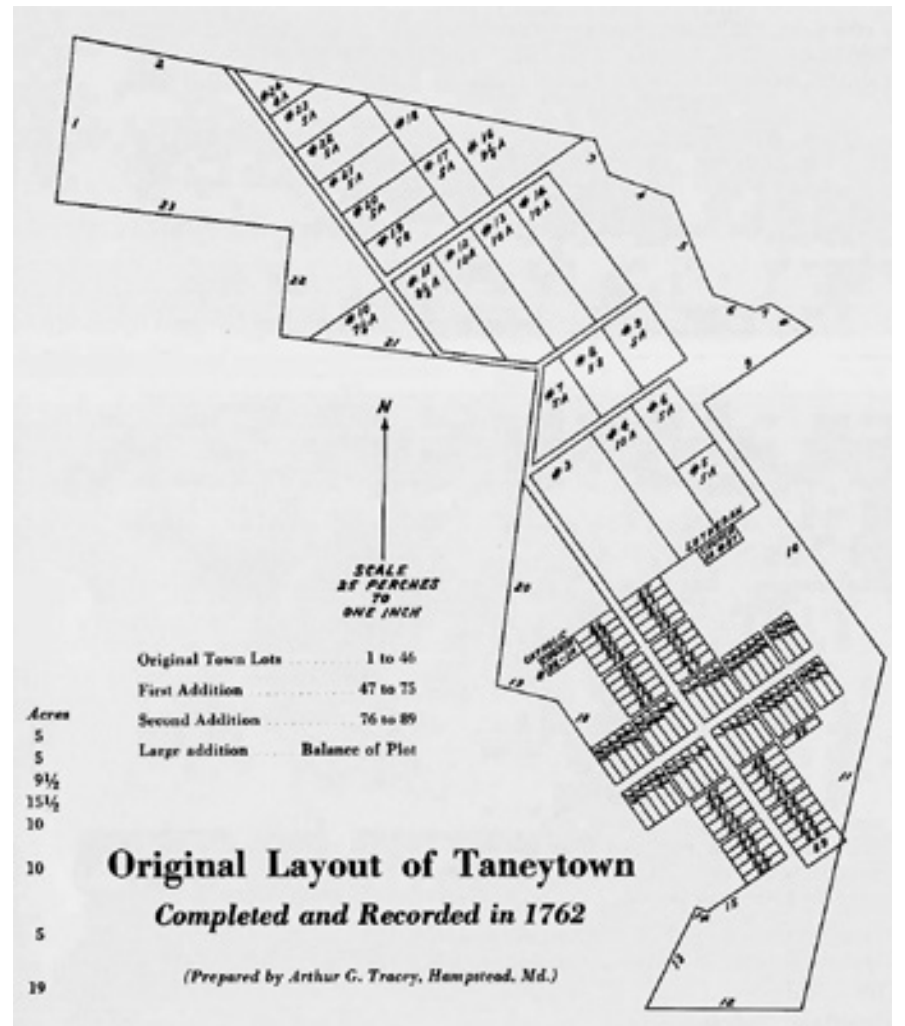
"In the History of Western Maryland, Scharf states that Taneytown was laid out about 1750 by one Frederick Taney, who came from Calvert County. But I am convinced that both the date and the person are wrongly given, while the only Frederick Taney living at this time, of whom I find traces, spent most of his life and died in Frederick County. Among the land records of Frederick County, liber H,

folio 151, under date 1st May 1762 is an agreement between Raphael Taney (of St. Mary's County) and the Province of Maryland, according to which the former has laid out a parcell of lots of ground to the number of Forty-Six Lots containing half an acre to each Lott on his part of a Tract of Land Commonly known by the name of the Resurvey on Brothers Agreement."

He obligates himself to make-over to each purchaser (or lessee) his lot or lots by deeds of conveyance by 1st May 1765, or else forfeit £500 to each purchaser, provided the purchaser improves his lot by that date with a good dwelling house well "duftailed" and shingled, in size at least 24 ft. by 20 ft. and possessing a stone or brick chimney. The purchaser, moreover, is to pay a yearly ground rent of two shillings sixpence. Raphael Taney of St. Mary's County gives a bond in the sum of £1000 for the faithful discharge of his obligations under the agreement. This became Taney's Town.

In liber H and liber J are records of the sales of these lots (or leases) "in Taneytown on the main road that leads from Frederick to York," (but the place is also referred to as Tansy's Town). By the next year, the number of lots had increased from 46 to 76; Raphael Taney was charging a bonus of 35 shillings on each lot leased, and the ground rent had

increased to three shillings and six pence per annum on each lot. Some of the persons to whom these lots were leased were Jacob Koontz, George Seagler, Joseph Groves, George Hocker-smith, Christian Bowers, Thomas Kenard, Abraham King, Christian Hemper, Henry Brothers, Ulrich Hoover, John Hoover, Augustus Sharer, John Weaver, Emrick Potts, Richard Vandeker, John Oliver, Michael Kuner, George Clarke, John H. Rosenpelt, Conrad Hockensmith, William Mumford, Jacob Richards, John Shrier and N. Huber, John Weiner, Francis Hammon, Michael Lavelly, Michael Taner, Philip Smith, Samuel Emmett, Stifie Lewis, Andrew Sharron, Conrod Bonner, Jacob Good, Simon Slyder, Peter Hoffman, George Sexton, George Sigler, John Stevenson, Archibald Crawford, John Fletcher, Mark Alexander, Henry Obleman, Caleb Wilson, and Catherine Toms. In several instances more than one lot was disposed of at once to a



Original Owners of Lots in Taneytown which was completed and recorded in 1762. The map appeared in the Program for the Bicentennial Celebration of Taneytown in 1954.

single party, while several persons bought more than once.

This Raphael Taney, who died 1791, married Eleanor, the Sister of William Digges. To the brothers-in-law was patented in 1754 the tract of land embracing some 7,900 acres and known as Brothers Agreement. The Michael Taney, who died 1743 and was the great-grandfather of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, was the brother of the Thomas Taney who was the father of Raphael. This Michael and Thomas were grandsons of the Michael Taney who died 1692 after being sheriff of Calvert County during the stormy period of 1687-89.

If further evidence were needed to determine who laid out Taneytown and gave the place its name,

there is in the land records of Carroll County at Westminster a plan of the town described, Raphael Taney to Joseph Good. Received May 12, 1762, to be recorded and the same day recorded in Liber N, folios 83, one of the Land Records of St. Mary's County and Examined per Timothy Bowes, Clerk."

This concludes part two in a yearlong series that will cover the chronological development of Taneytown and its citizens. Next week I examine Taneytown and the American Revolution.

David Buie is a Taneytown Resident who has a passion for Carroll County and its place in history. For more information on the history of Taneytown, visit Downtown Taneytown on Facebook.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

March 4

Cement Plant Reopens

The Tidewater Portland Cement Plant in Union Bridge, which reduced to part time December 6, and which has been completely closed for the past month, resumed operation on Monday with about 200 men. IN another week the plant is expected to be in day and night operations, with 333 employees. It is stated that a demand is developing for the products of the plant. A general cut of about 20% has been made in the wages of employees. During the war, wages were increased until employees average from 4 to 8 dollars a day. Under the new scale the same men will make 3 dollars to 5 dollars a day.

Deaths

After eating a hearty supper Wednesday evening, Albert Smith, 63, of Liberty Township went to his bedroom and suffered a stroke of apoplexy. He was found on the floor in a serious condition by his wife and died Thursday morning as a result of the stroke. Mr. Smith for many years was a butcher in Emmitsburg until he moved Liberty Township where he farmed. He was a school director in Freedom townships for several terms.

Effie Eyler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Eyler, of Fairfield, died from pneumonia aged 1 year, 7 months, 4 days. Miss Anna Bupp, aged about 14 years, died at the home of her parents in Fairfield last Friday afternoon from heart disease.

Study Shows Women Get Lazy In Summer

Following an extensive study commissioned by the Emmitsburg Chapter of the Former-Former Boozers Association, the Anthropology Department at the University of Harney determined, that as a rule, women do not show great activity during hot weather (not that men needed a study to tell them that). The study showed that some women however become so lazy that they will not even bother to swat a fly that lands on their face. The sight of women doing nothing but gossiping on the party line can only be removed from a man's mind by drink. Hot weather is worse for women than

cold weather, for during the winter months a woman will busy herself to keep warm, doing such things as chopping wood, washing clothes, cleaning the house, cooking vittles, &c., the things any reasonable man expects of his woman.

March 11

Gem Theater Disputes Film Quality

It seems as though someone was not pleased with our show a short time ago. We do not blame them for some have not been as good as they should've been, but it was not our fault. We often buy a "cat in the bag" for which we can only take a salesman's word for it that it is good. As for the cheap stuff referred to in this paper, would like to say that we are not buying cheap films, nor are they old ones, yet some of them are in bad condition. Several people have asked why we do not show Paramount pictures. Some think it is because of the cost, but it is not. We can buy Paramount films for the same price as we are paying for Fox. Our reason is this. From what we remember at Paramount pictures in this place, they never continue to hold the patrons, and we cannot cancel a contract with a company when service becomes bad without losing a large deposit. We have tried to get pictures that please, but everybody does not like the same kind of picture. If you are not pleased with our shows please tell us. We will appreciate it. If you are pleased will be glad to know it so we know what kind of films to buy.

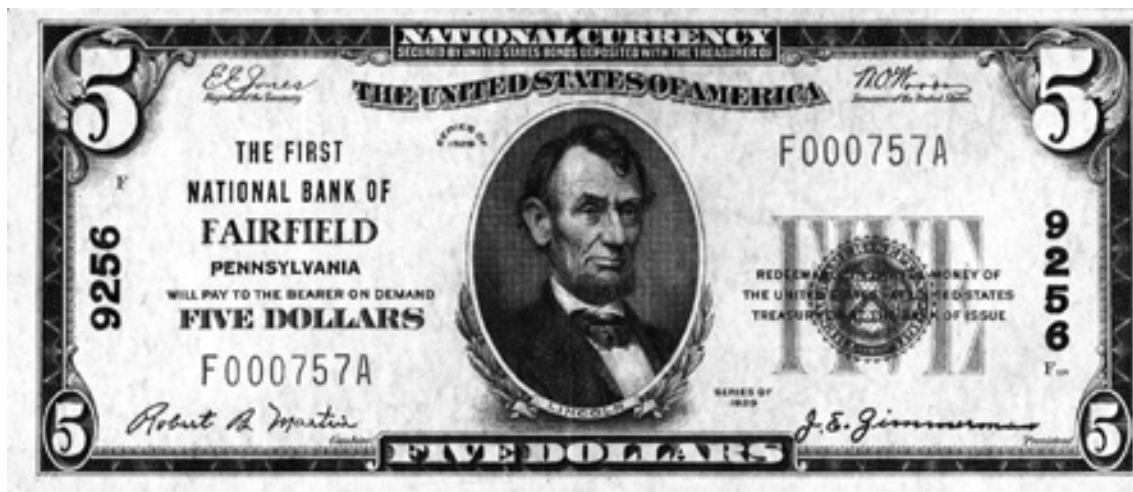
Hand Caught In Washing Wringer

Five stitches were required to amend the cut in Joseph Redding's hand after it was caught in the washing machine wringer. Joseph is a 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Redding, who live in the Blackhorse Tavern building along the Fairfield Road at Marsh Creek.

March 18

First Thunderstorm

On Wednesday afternoon the first thunderstorm of the season passed over the area. A heavy wind came



with the rain and caused damage at various places. To the west of Thurmont on the Harmon property, the barn and other buildings were wrecked by the storm. Stephen Green who now owns the property, took shelter in the barn as the rain approach. When he heard the timbers cracking he hurriedly got his mules out of the stable and in a moment the structure was destroyed. In other areas, barns were un-roofed or blown down, trees uprooted, telephone lines and homes damaged. In Taneytown, a shed in which a number of workmen took shelter was blown over. Two men were injured and a mule injured so bad that it had to be killed.

Garage Wrecked By Fire

The Rocky Ridge Garage, owned and operated by Edward Valentine, one of the largest establishments of its kind in that portion of the county, was totally destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon. Two large army trucks, a Studebaker ambulance, a black roadster, Indian motorcycle and a large quantity of machinery equipment was also destroyed. The loss is estimated at about \$10,000. The fire broke out at noon and fanned by a stiff breeze from the west, the flames rapidly involved the frame building.

The fire originated from backfiring of one of the large trucks. Workmen had partially dismantled the truck for the purpose of repairing it when the engine on the machine was started. It immediately backfired and almost in an instant the flames leapt out on every side and communicated to the building. The other trucks and the cars were in the rear of the building and on account of the way being blocked could not

be gotten pass the dismantled truck. The winds from the thunderstorm that hit the area carried sparks to the adjoining residence of Mr. Valentine and two or three times the house was set on fire. The stable of Mr. Wetzel also caught, but both were saved by the quick action of people who had come to help.

Fairfield Bank Buys New Site

The Directors of the First National Bank of Fairfield have purchased a lot of ground on Main Street upon which they intend to erect a new bank building. The lot, 40' x 90' in dimension, is one of the most beautiful and centrally located sites in the borough of Fairfield, and was chosen only after considerable reflection by the banking officials. The Bank directors will decide at a later date the exact time and the exact size of their new building.

March 25

Heavy Damage to Fruit Crops

Freezing temperatures that range from 12 to 22° above zero throughout the Adams County fruit belt, probably heavily damaged the peach and early fruit crops. Cherry, peach, pear and some plum trees were in bloom when the cold wave, following a thunderstorm struck the county. While orchard man are fearful the next few days will reveal enormous damage to the peach and early apple crops, they are hopeful the wind, which blew steadily throughout the night, greatly lessened than the injury to the trees. It was said at the lowest temperature recorded was 18°, which ordinarily would kill all blossoms. However, buds have been known to endure temperatures as low as those pre-

vailing Monday night without serious injury. At noon, Monday the temperature hovered around 80 degrees. During the next 12 hours the temperatures dropped as much as 60 degrees.

Keymar and Rocky Ridge Stations Robbed

Station thieves along the Western Maryland Line got in a fair night's work Tuesday, not so much in valuables lifted as in ground covered. Thieves broke into the railroad station at Emmitsburg Junction, pried open the door to the ticket office and ransacked the place. Papers and office furniture were turned upside down and all the drawers removed. A sack of 300 pennies was taken out of the money drawer and the station master's overalls stolen. Not satisfied with the small loot the thieves robbed the chewing gum machine and got some loose change from it. They departed, possibly on a hand-car, and smashed into the Western Maryland Station at Keymar.

Railroad police went to the scene of the robberies and investigated. Wednesday Clarence Reeseman, 24 years old, who is believed to be a member of a gang that broke into the stations, and who has been implicated in numerous robberies committed in the mountain beyond Thurmont during the past winter, was arrested by railroad detectives and committed to jail. The prisoner is a brother of Percy Reeseman and a son of David Reeseman, arrested several weeks ago charged with looting meat houses in the neighborhood of Thurmont.

To read past editions of 100 Year Ago this Month, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COOKING

Spring's hope

Rheta Thola
Hollabaugh Brother's
Farmers Market

March always holds two important dates for me: Daylight Savings Time, and the First Day of Spring. I am not excited when Daylight Savings Time comes into play, especially as a mother with younger children. But the first day of spring really does excite me. As the spring of 2021 comes into view, I find myself reflecting on last year's spring.

To say that last year was very "unusual" is quite the understatement. Last spring, my family, like every family, was affected by the COVID-19 shutdown. It was sudden and unexpected. Things changed so quickly as my children's schools closed, as our church closed, and all our plans were cancelled. Then my son and I both became sick. It turns out that we did not have the corona virus, but an assortment of other viruses and it was a few months before both of us were completely better.

During those months of cancellations and sickness, keeping our hope proved to be a challenge. We learned very quickly that many of the things that we took for granted held a lot of meaning. Our lives prior were filled with things that we enjoyed going out and doing. We missed driving to different places and exploring different stores and fun activities to do with our children. We missed attending services at our church as we participated in Great Lent and prepared for the coming of Easter. And we even missed our dentist appointments – now that is saying something!

But thankfully, it was still spring outside. Spring did not get cancelled and we could not miss it. Spring always brings hope to my mind. Although autumn and winter are probably my two favorite seasons, I still long for spring. After the long quiet of winter, I am ready for the zest that spring brings. I love seeing the trees with green gradually peaking out of their branches. I love the increased busyness of birds, squirrels, and bees. It feels like all of nature begins to embrace renewed life when spring arrives. It is as if the thing that they hoped for has arrived.

The hope of spring added joy to our family last year when things were tough. We would sit outside and enjoy reading books together. Sometimes we would buy donuts and coffee and then drive to someplace with a view and enjoy the sounds of nature. We would bring nature inside with us with beautiful flowers to decorate our at-home church. We would go for morning walks and enjoy seeing everything gradually reawaken.

Lime and Basil Pie

Ingredients

- 1 package (8 ounces) reduced-fat cream cheese
- 1 can (14 ounces) fat-free sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tablespoon grated lime zest
- 1/2 cup lime juice
- 2 large egg yolks
- 1/4 cup minced fresh basil
- 1 graham cracker pie crust (9 inches)
- Sweetened whipped cream or creme fraiche, optional

Preparation directions: Preheat oven

to 325°. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth; gradually beat in milk. Add lime zest, juice, and egg yolks; beat just until blended. Stir in basil. Pour into crust.

Bake 15-18 minutes or until center is set. Cool 1 hour on a wire rack. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. If desired, serve with whipped cream.

Creamy Spinach and Mushroom Lasagna

Ingredients

- 9 lasagna noodles
- 1 (15-ounce) package whole milk ricotta
- 2 (10-ounce) packages frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 3 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- 3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan, divided
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves

For the sauce

- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 pound cremini mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 onion, diced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 cups milk, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- Pinch of nutmeg

Preparation directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. To make the sauce, melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add garlic, mushrooms and onion. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 3-4 minutes. Whisk in flour until lightly browned, about 1 minute. Gradually whisk in milk, and cook, whisking constantly, until slightly thickened, about 2-3 minutes. Stir in basil, oregano, and nutmeg until fragrant, about 1 minute; season with salt and pepper, to taste; set aside. In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook lasagna noodles according to package instructions.

Spread 1 cup mushroom sauce onto the bottom of a 9x13 baking dish; top with 3 lasagna noodles, 1/2 of the ricotta cheese, 1/2 of the spinach, 1 cup mozzarella cheese and 1/4 cup Parmesan.



Lime basil pie beautifully balances the flavors of the lime and basil.

Repeat with a second layer. Top with remaining noodles, mushroom sauce and cheeses. Place into oven and bake for 35-45 minutes, or until bubbling. Then broil for 2-3 minutes, or until top is browned in spots. Let cool 15 minutes. Serve, garnished with parsley, if desired.

Lemony Spring Pea Pasta

Ingredients

- 1 onion finely chopped
 - 3 garlic cloves minced
 - 3 cups frozen peas
 - 1 cup heavy/whipping cream
 - juice and zest of 1 lemon
 - 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
 - salt and pepper to taste
 - 1lb pasta of your choice
- Preparation directions: Bring a large pot of salted water to the boil and add the pasta. Sauté the onion and garlic in a splash of olive oil until soft and translucent then add the peas and lemon zest. Pour in the cream and allow to simmer for a few minutes until the sauce coats the back of a spoon easily. Add lemon juice (start by adding half first as lemons can vary and you don't want the sauce to be too acidic) and season to taste.

Drain the pasta, reserving 1 cup of cooking water, and add the pasta to the sauce with the Parmesan. Pour in some of the reserved cooking water and stir to coat the pasta in the sauce. Add more cooking water if necessary. You want the pasta to be creamy and glossy. Serve

with extra grated Parmesan cheese and lemon for squeezing.

Spring Onion and Chive Pizza

Ingredients

- 1 bunch fresh chives, chopped
- 3 spring onions or scallions white and light green parts only, sliced in half lengthwise and then cut into 2-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil plus more for drizzling
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 (14- to 16-ounce) ball pizza dough
- 1/3 cup heavy cream, divided

Preparation directions: Preheat the oven to 500°F (if using a baking sheet) or as high as it will go (if using a baking stone/steel; place the stone/steel in the oven before you start preheating). Place the chives and spring onions in separate bowls and add 1 tablespoon of olive oil to each. Toss to coat, then season the chives and spring onions with a pinch of salt and a grind of pepper; toss again. If you're using a baking stone/steel, turn the oven to Broil on high.

Stretch or roll out your dough to a 12-inch circle, then transfer it to an oiled baking sheet or a lightly floured pizza peel (if using a baking stone/steel). Drizzle the dough very lightly with olive oil and use a pastry brush to spread the oil all the way to the edges of the dough. Scatter the spring onions, then the chives. Drizzle half of the cream evenly over top.

Transfer the pizza to the oven and bake until the crust is golden and the cheese has browned in spots—8 to 10 minutes on the baking sheet, 6 to 8 minutes on the baking stone/steel. Remove the pizza from the oven, and immediately drizzle the remaining cream evenly over top and season with a pinch of salt. Let the pizza sit for 5 minutes or until the cream has congealed, then slice and serve.

Upcoming Events

St. Patrick's Day Program – Saturday, March 13th 10 – 11:30 a.m. Cost \$10. Pre-registration required.

Mini Maker: Spring Fun – Saturday, March 27th 10 – 11 a.m. Cost \$7. Pre-registration required.

Family Cooking Class: Apple Pie – Saturday, March 27th 12:30 – 2 p.m. Cost \$45. Pre-registration required.

For more information about these events, call Hollabaugh Bros at 717-677-8412 or visit our website at www.hollabaughbros.com



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MOM'S TIME OUT

A tough decision

Mary Angel

It is an age-old question...is it more difficult to be a stay-at-home mom or a working mom? This really is a very simple question with a simple answer that has been asked by almost every woman I know. We women spend so much time wrestling with this, when the bottom line is that the more difficult career path is to be a working mom...wait...no, it's being a stay-at-home mom...or did I have it right the first time?

I guess it really isn't that simple after all. As I was considering this topic, I polled a bunch of women who all chose different paths. The simple answer turned out to be that what ever path they had chosen; they definitely felt the other path was much more challenging. I guess the old adage isn't true; the grass on the other side of the fence isn't greener, but more challenging.

The ladies I spoke to who had chosen to go back to work after having children were mostly struck with mommy guilt about returning to the workplace and leaving their children with someone else. This guilt was somewhat alleviated if the caretaker was a relative or close family friend. Many of these women felt their kids were actually in better hands from a sanity standpoint. A few of them mentioned that they felt they could be so much more attentive and compassionate when they left the house for a while. As a

mom who has made both of these choices at different times in her life, I really do understand this. There were definitely days when I was overwhelmed being a stay-at-home mom and the bottom line was that I needed a break. Sometimes, moms in both of these worlds forget that it is important and acceptable to ask for help and take a break for themselves. If you don't recharge your battery, pretty soon it will be empty and you won't have anything left to give the ones you so desperately want to care for.

The ladies who chose to stay at home with their kids can be a little crazier. Wait a minute; don't start sending me letters asking me why I would say that. I have had a lot of friends over the years who have been stay-at-home moms and they all have to have a little crazy in them to deal with the day in and day out bumps in the road of being home with kids all day. I am not pointing a finger, but on the contrary, I am handing out verbal awards for embracing the crazy. You have to admit, that spending every waking minute with small children is a roller coaster ride of epic proportions. Not only that, but it is a ride you have never been on before (even if this is not your first child).

I know after my first child, I thought I had it all figured out and then with each consecutive one there were new challenges. Being a stay-at-home mom doesn't

mean that you avoid the mommy guilt, it just means it is pointed in a different direction. With this life choice, the guilt comes when you realize you are no longer contributing to the family budget. For some of my mom friends, they planned ahead and were prepared for the single income challenges. For others, they didn't even give this a thought and had grand dreams of all of the outings and field trips they were take their kids on, until they realized it wasn't in the budget.

The key to which one of these choices is the correct choice really is a simple thing. The key is to discuss the pluses and minuses with your spouse and make an educated team decision. For some of you, there is no doubt that you and your whole family will be much happier if you are able to leave the house for work (even if it is just for a few hours each day). For others, the thought of leaving your child with anyone other than yourself is gut-wrenching. With both of these decisions will come an adjustment period.

The adjustment for those of you who return to work will most likely be tears when you hand your baby off to even the most qualified caretaker and these tears may last for a few weeks or more. There is also the fact that you have been off work on maternity leave for 6 - 8 weeks. As time passes, you will settle into your new role as a working mom and you will rock it. This was the right decision for you.

For the other group of ladies



Thanks to the internet, parents no longer are having to choose between being a stay-at-home parent or a working parent - they can be both.

who decide to jump into the stay-at-mom world with both feet, you might have second thoughts now and again. You might also have tears over your decision and a feeling of loneliness as you get used to not being around adults during your normal work day. You will meet other moms in your stage of life (maybe at preschool or play groups) and they will be your support team. Remember to take some time off, whether it is time when the smalls are sleeping or girl's night out or a date with your hubby while the grandparents get some grandbaby time.

Now, I think you probably real-

ize how simple this decision really is. The answer is to do what is best for you and your family. Another key to this decision is realizing it is temporary. You may decide to go back to work when the kids start school or you may decide to leave the workforce in a few years and homeschool...you never know. There is a lot of life ahead of you and the sky's the limit! This decision is a small start to a wonderful lifetime of love and the best news is that there is no wrong choice!

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



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SCHOOL NEWS

FCPS students return to classrooms

Edison Hatter

The familiar first day of school butterflies were felt by many students recently as they returned to classrooms in-person on Tuesday, February 16 for the first time in nearly a full year. So far, the hybrid model of learning has gone smoothly with no significant issues. Approximately 55% of students have opted to participate in the hybrid model, while the remaining students have opted to remain entirely in an online learning environment. Given the layout of the hybrid model, this means that only approximately 25% of students are in the building on any given day, allowing for ample compliance with all current guidelines from the Frederick County Health Department.

While all systems seem to be running successfully now, there were a few snags prior to the implementation of the hybrid model. Originally, the hybrid model was planned to begin at the end of January but was delayed by two weeks due to poor health metrics and guidance from the Frederick County Health Department. At the time, it was possible that the start of the hybrid model could be pushed back even further, a possibility that was strongly endorsed by the Frederick County Teachers Association. Once it was announced that the hybrid model would begin on February 16 without further delay, the Frederick County Teachers Association quickly issued a statement expressing no-confidence in the Board of Education and Superin-

tendent Theresa Alban.

The Association called the decision “reckless” and cited health concerns, including rising COVID-19 cases and slow vaccine rollout in the county. In response, the Board of Education issued a statement expressing disappointment in the Association’s no-confidence vote but reaffirming that the Board and Superintendent stand behind their actions. The statement from the Board of Education reads in part, “We have confidence in the FCPS hybrid learning plan, one that follows all health and safety guidelines from the Frederick County Health Department, Maryland Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

Two important bills worth paying

attention to in the Maryland Statehouse and Senate are House Bill 496 and Senate Bill 245, both of which deal with the topic of School Resource Officers (SROs). The house bill seeks to completely eliminate SROs in favor of more counselors, psychologists, and social workers. The Senate bill doesn’t go quite as far, but does restrict school building access to SROs, disallows SROs to partake in disciplining of students, and requires SROs to be in plain clothes and not in uniform.

State Senator Ron Young (D) expressed support for the Senate bill, while remaining unsure on the House bill. However, Young, along with several other politicians, believes that the use or non-use of SROs is a decision that should be left up to local school districts to make.

State Senator Michael Hough (R) criticized the House bill and does not expect it to pass. Hough believes eliminating SROs would be a bad decision, as they play an important role in schools. Specifically, he made reference to the Catocin High School shooting plot a few years ago and the important role law enforcement played in stopping it.

On the State House side, Frederick County Delegates Jesse Pippy (R) and Barrie Cillaberti (R) both opposed the bill and the removal of SROs, while Delegate Carol Krimm (D) wants to hear from the local community and see the final version of the bill before making a decision. At this point in time, both bills still remain in preliminary stages. Both bills have received hearing within their respective State House and Senate committees, but no votes within the committees have been held yet.

COVID shuts down FASD’s secondary school

COVID-19 cases at the Fairfield Area School District middle school have once again resulted in a temporary, three-day shut-down to allow school staff to cleanse the building involved, and 80 individuals have been quarantined as the result of possible exposures to infected persons.

District Superintendent Michael Adamek notified parents in a letter dated February 8, stating, “It is with a heavy heart that I’m writing this letter to all Fairfield families that the secondary (5th grade through 12th grade) will be moving to virtual-instruction, starting tomorrow.”

The superintendent wrote that

the number of COVID cases which have been reported within a 14-day period “is at a level that we need to close the school.” The middle school closure was to have been closed from February 9 through February 11. In addition, he said, all other school athletic activities were also cancelled until February 12. If another individual could have tested positive for COVID during that timeframe, the closure would be extended.

“The elementary (school) ... thankfully ... will continue in-person instruction during this time-period,” Adamek stated. The elementary school is held in a building separate from the

secondary school building and was not impacted by the COVID count.

In the letter, the superintendent requested families to continue following the Center for Disease Control’s guidelines and closely monitor family members for any potential symptoms of COVID.

At the February schoolboard work-session, Adamek stated that 80 students and/or staff were quarantined either because they had tested positive for COVID or have been potentially exposed to someone who was infected as of February 8.

Again, as of February 8, three individuals in the elementary school have

tested positive for COVID, while two individuals in the secondary school have tested positive. As a result, 56 individuals have been quarantined because of potential exposures in the elementary school, while 23 have been quarantined at the secondary school. Those quarantined include one member of the school administration.

Relating to keeping track of the district’s COVID cases and associated quarantines, Adamek discussed that the schoolboard administrative staff have now created a COVID “dashboard” which is publicly accessible to see where the current COVID numbers are ... at any given moment.

The FASD COVID-19 Dashboard is located at fairfieldpaschools.org/Page/2556.

Adamek said staff would try to update the page twice-a-week or more frequently ... as circumstances should dictate. “If we get new cases, it will be updated daily,” he stated.

As far as getting the students back into the schools for in-person instructions, he said there are several options the schoolboard could consider if the number of confirmed COVID cases allowed, including having students attend classes five days a week, spending half of each day in-person, and the other half virtually from home.

The schoolboard will be discussing all options at upcoming meetings.

FCPS COVID update

Karen Yoho
Frederick County School Board

For the Frederick County Board of Education, our current mission is to try to help our school personnel get vaccinated. We’ve asked our delegation to bring a mass vaccination site to our county as a gate-

way to western Maryland. While the CDC does not make vaccination a requirement for reopening schools, we all know how much better it will be once this goal is accomplished.

When the CDC released updated recommendations, our board spent hours over a weekend putting together a statement via email. This was after

Superintendent Alban had a lengthy conversation with Dr. Brookmyer of the FC Health Department.

The five mitigation strategies haven’t changed. They still recommend good hand washing and respiratory etiquette (I was told this is covering your sneeze/cough when I asked), cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, contact tracing, and the two most important, proper mask-wear-

ing and physical distancing. When these are done properly, school buildings can be reopened safely. As long as distancing is a priority, it will be difficult to get more students into the buildings at the same time, but I’m one board member on a team of seven. I think it is likely that we will discuss creative ways to safely increase student attendance in the near future.

Through the (too many) months I’ve written about our school system and Covid-19, many heart-wrenching and difficult decisions have had to be made. If this were just about our staff, that would be the easiest call in the world. Work from home until all are vaccinated! But being a board mem-

ber is a balancing act of competing wants and needs. The only easy part is that we must always keep the students as the focus and try to do what is best for them. Prior to a year ago when the pandemic began to become a reality, being a Frederick County Board of Education member was not only rewarding, but incredibly fun. We used to receive all sorts of invitations to a variety of events. And, amazingly, it was so appreciated when we showed up. The gratitude was on my part to be able to experience so many different activities going on all the time as part of our school system.

Having been a teacher here myself,
continued on next page

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LIBRARY NEWS

Calendar of Events

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

While the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library's doors are open, they have less hours but may be available to bring out materials to your car during closed hours. Please call to make arrangements. The library's new hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-6 p.m., Wednesday 4-7 p.m., 2nd & 4 Saturday of the month 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Library is closed on Monday and Friday.

While the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will only be hosting its Saturday Story and Craft Hour, where members can listen to a good book and make a really fun craft, and then spend some quality time with Wee Build Imagineering, other virtual events will be taking place across the library system that members can join in on live on the systems Facebook page. These include:

Adult Story Time with Joan - Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 7 p.m. Joan will be sharing short stories from several books virtually.

In the Kitchen - Wednesday, 1 p.m. Weekly program of recipes that are delicious and easy to prepare. Prior pro-

grams are also available.

Musical Thursday with Dave - Thursdays, 3 p.m.. Join Dave and his friends and listen to music from many different styles and genres.

Family Friendly Friday Night Fun - Friday, starting at 7 p.m.. Family Friendly Friday Night Fun can be a little bit of everything. Poetry, Music, or something else.

Saturday Story & Craft - starting at 11 a.m. Listen to a good book and make a really fun craft. Then spend some quality time with Wee Build Imagineering, there are no limits to your creativity!

To join these events live, on line, or learn more about them, visit the Franklin County Library System's website at www.fclspa.org/events, or you can call the library at 717-74-2240.

Frederick County Public Library

Welcome Spring! Spring will hopefully usher in more opportunities to connect with each other and our communities with warmer weather and

longer daylight hours. Library staff at the Emmitsburg Branch and Thurmont Regional Library greatly look forward to this as well, and we continue to invite you to access our library services through curbside pick-up and Personalized Picks, as well as informational needs through phone service and our chat service. We have also added a few additional services and resources.

Patrons are now able to request Book Bundles to assist them in book clubs. Library staff will hand select multiple copies of a title based on your preference and have them available for pick-up to distribute to your group. Also included will be discussion questions and tips to share with your group. To request books, visit FCPL.org/PersonalizedPicks or call your local branch for more information. In addition to our regular collection of Launchpads, FCPL has now added Reading Academy to the Launchpad collection. Reading Academy offers a gamified learning experience to our younger patrons who are starting to read. These are preloaded tablets, no internet required, that help with mastering reading, writing, and vocabulary skills

to get your child excited about reading.

In preparation for tax season, VITA is once again offering tax assistance to our Northern County residences. Please call 301-471-5757, Monday through Wednesday, 10 am-5 pm, and leave a message asking for an appointment. Calls will be returned Wednesday and Thursday each week.

All of the staff at the Emmitsburg Branch Library and Thurmont Regional Library look forward to connecting with you, and want to remind you we love suggesting new books to read, movies to watch, or music to listen to. We also love helping with any informational needs you have and providing virtual content, check out our virtual calendar at FCPL.org for the most up to date information. Call Emmitsburg Branch Library, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 301-600-6329 or Thurmont Regional Library, Monday-Saturday at 301-600-7200, from 10 a.m. -5 p.m. for reference help, account help, and anything in between.

In addition, we invite you to attend one of our many virtual programs offered throughout month. All pro-

grams are virtual and can be accessed through FCPL.org. March programming includes these activities listed below, and more are always added so visit FCPL.org often!

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Teen Yoga, 4 - 4:45 p.m.

March 2, Read Across America Day: Mini Scrapbooks, 10-10:15 a.m.; Read with FCPL staff, 12-12:15 p.m.; Story Explorers, 3-3:15 p.m.; Where in the USA is Carmen Sandiego?, 4-6 p.m.

March 4, Teen Library Council Meeting, 6 - 7 p.m.

March 14, Teen Art Contest, All Day.

March 15, Women's History/Women's Author Discussion Pane, 12 - 3 p.m.

March 16, Stories from Norway, 1 - 1:30 p.m.; Teen Game Night, 4-5 p.m.

March 17, Author talk with Kate Albus, 1 - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22, Beginner's Dungeon and Dragon, 4 - 5 p.m.

March 26, Wild Weeds that are Edible, 1 - 2 p.m.; Life Hack Series: Resume Tips & Tricks, 4 p.m.

March 30, Marbling Art, 1 - 1:30 p.m.; Dungeons and Dragons: Let's Play!, 4 - 6 p.m.

continued from the previous page

my former peers may not be quite as welcoming as they once were. Then you hear a statistic from a group of board members from other counties showing that Maryland is in the bottom portion of states with students back in physical classrooms. It's hard to know whether to be proud that

we've prioritized safety for students and staff or feel guilt at letting our students down. Of one thing I'm sure - there will be no end to the studies conducted and research papers written about what we come to understand of students and learning during a pandemic. I have a few theories myself that I will be happy to share over a cup

of coffee, or a drink of your choice, when we can once again meet in person safely.

A current challenge for our board is whether to allow spectators at sporting and other extracurricular activities. The Return to Play Committee will be presenting at our next board meeting. The supporting documentation seems

to indicate options for limited spectators. I know this would make parents incredibly happy, we've received plenty of emails about it. We'll have to see how this can be done safely.

One of the many things I've learned as a board member is that there are usually two sides to everything. That hasn't changed with COVID-19.

When the headline says that there was an outbreak on the very first day of hybrid instruction, you have to ask yourself how at least two people came down with COVID-19 after only being around each other one day. Remarkably, since most of us had concerns, there were no cases reported during the wrestling season.



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Given March is home to the feast day of St. Joseph; we asked our writers to reflect upon the importance of fatherly figures in their lives.

Freshman

The noble man

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2024

There are some intrinsic elements of fatherhood that cannot be substituted or detached. These elements are found in particular virtues, qualities, and in the very nature of manhood itself. There are many that go overlooked now because our day-to-day life is remarkably easier and less life-threatening than, for example, the life of a settler called to protect his family from the harsh conditions of the wilderness. A father, then, might not be necessarily a human being who is intrinsically “brave” anymore. The vocation of fatherhood used to naturally entail this virtue, which implied that the man would be willing to step into any fight or fire to protect his family. Does life still challenge the modern-day American father in this heroic way? Though some modern-day occupations carry heavy risk to those in such fields, overall the conditions are less harsh. And yet the inherent noble virtues remain, and continue to necessitate the vocation of fatherhood.

For example, the virtue of bravery

is still essential to the life of a father. I do not think that the virtue of bravery is totally lost to fathers simply because our conditions of living have improved significantly over the years. Rather, I think they are more often called to the bravery of being “unpopular” in modern circles. And what could make a father “unpopular?” His embrace of masculinity to serve his family better.

It is no easy thing to go against the progressive crowd, which calls for total equalization of men and women. They do not believe in men holding doors for women anymore. They hate the term “ladies first.” A stay-at-home mom is becoming less and less encouraged, and the man providing for her and their children is facing a similar ridicule. Masculinity threatens the progressive movement because it empowers men where they thrive most: in embracing their natural strength, protectiveness, leadership skills, and competitiveness. Fathers who embrace their masculinity use these natural tendencies to the benefit of their families, not for their own personal gain. They are motivated by their desire to provide for their families, thus wanting to do well in their occupations. Their leadership skills and competitiveness equip them to go far in the workplace.

Among the man’s natural qualities, his protectiveness over his family orients his physical strength for their benefit. Although the modern-day man is not faced with as difficult survival conditions as in the past, he sometimes is faced with intruders, criminals, and unexpected dangers from which he must protect his family. Consider a father rushing into a burning building because he knows that his child is inside. He thinks nothing of his own potential jeopardy—rather, he employs any and all strength he has to rescue his child. Employed righteously, the qualities of masculinity help a father to provide and care for his family better.

Another virtue that cannot be understated is faith. While faith is definitely important for both men and women, it is a father’s responsibility to set the example in the home for his children. That is why this virtue puts particular responsibility on the father, who leads his family in daily prayer, and demonstrates the importance of a relationship with God by driving his family to church on Sundays. Further, since no family is without hardships, a father who exercises faith in times of trial provides an encouraging example for his children. A father’s ability to

exemplify hope in such times is invaluable. If he practices this virtue, his children will mature with a deeper sense of family life encouraged by hope and optimism. The children will be able to look back at their father as a role-model during their own trials in life, and say, “my father handled that with grace, faith, and hope. In my trials now, I know I can do the same.” A family environment steeped in purpose provides the children with a deeper sense of hope and optimism.

Love is the most important aspect of the vocation of fatherhood. A father’s love for his children is seen in how he is understanding and responsive to his child’s needs, wants, and struggles. It is also seen in his faithfulness and attentiveness to his wife. He puts her needs above his, and works with her as a team in guiding their family. He joyfully helps his wife with chores, such as cooking, cleaning, repairing parts of the house, maintaining vehicles, and yardwork. This father lovingly sets boundaries and sometimes tells his children “no” so they will not always expect instant gratification in life. He prioritizes time with his family over time in his “man cave” when he is home from work. Sports and hobbies pale in comparison to the joy found in taking his children to a playground and to taking his wife on a date. A father who spends

time with his family creates irreplaceable memories that a child will cherish for the rest of his or her life.

Being a father is no easy calling. To this day, the vocation entails specific and irremovable aspects in order for the family to function healthily. The father practices bravery in his daily life, unafraid of humbling himself as he holds the door for his wife and children to walk through. Further, he is called to orient his masculinity toward the benefit of his family, rather than toward personal gain and exaltation. Having faith is crucial for teaching his children to value morals and optimism, especially in times of trial. And a father responds wholeheartedly to the call to love his family unconditionally and unchangingly. Putting aside his own interests for his family, he teaches them the intrinsic value of family life and how to spend precious time meaningfully.

How beautiful are these aspects of fatherhood, how encouraging and inspiring are they! Indeed, fathers are heroic. They are irreplaceable. May this vocation never be neglected, devalued, or understated. It is a good thing to be a man; it is a noble thing to be a father.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

Father of none

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023

We are all called to fill specific roles. At one moment, I am a daughter, sister, friend, and mother without having any biological children of my own. Human life is relational, meaning we are called to be different things for different people. I can see this within my own life; when I’ve been surrounded by younger girls, I feel instantly pulled to “mother” them. I’m not raising them or bringing them into this world, but I am mentoring them and guiding them as a mother does but in a way that maybe their mother can’t. I imagine it would be similar for men, who at the same time are sons, brothers, and fathers.

The saying “it takes a village” is often misunderstood. The community should not bear the weight of raising children in place of parents. However, to assume that only a parent will have an impact on the child is an assumption that takes for granted the relational aspect of human life. I am greatly impacted by the community in which I was raised, even if no one made it their goal to influence me in that way. It would also be naïve to assume that two parents by themselves can handle the weight of a child’s entire life. There are some things that parents can’t do. This is no fault of the mother or father; we cannot be all things to all people all the time and possess all the knowledge necessary for every situation.

There are some things you don’t want to talk to your parents about; dating, for example, requires a different role and a different person. This

is where I can become a sister to girls I share with whom I share no blood relation. This is where men can be brothers, fathers, friends, and sons. The family may be nuclear, but it is not an organism that lives separate. It is in conjunction and communication with the world around it.

I am never just one thing, I am a composite of relationships past and present that have shaped me, for better or for worse, based on the role that I played. Over the course of time, I can be a mother, sister, daughter, and friend to the same person. Sometimes I need the loving guidance of a mother; sometimes I have that loving guidance to impart on someone else. Other times, I am just a friend or a sister, equal in the amount of wisdom we have to give and take from each other.

While these relationships are especially obvious between the same genders, it can be equally important across the sexes. However, it can be harder. I can list the men who have served as a father to me without being my biological dad: teachers, priests, and mentors come to mind. However, those relationships have been immensely more difficult than my relationships with metaphorical mothers. It requires a type of openness, honesty, and vulnerability to allow yourself to be fathered as a woman or to be mothered as a man. As a woman, it is harder to perform a motherly role towards a male instead of a female. I don’t know why, but I think I can guess.

In female to female relationships, I know the type of knowledge she is looking for and I know the type of wisdom I have to provide. These either match, or don’t match. For example, when a female friend is going through a breakup of any kind, I know I have experiences that have given me wis-

dom I might be able to give her and I’m familiar enough with the female mind to know what she most likely needs right now.

With men, I have absolutely no clue what a man might need or want in any situation. It is the age-old story of women confusing men and men confusing women. “I don’t understand you,” we say to each other. “You don’t make any sense.” This is all true. There is a greater unknown in dealing with the opposite gender than there is in dealing with the same and with the unknown comes fear and with fear comes doubt. This is a topic that has come up in many of my courses over my almost two years here at the Mount and it’s one I continue to wrestle with. As social creatures, when relationships are hard, life is hard. It’s an important facet of our lives that deserves discussion.

My parents raised three daughters and two sons. I love my father. I also know that when it comes to my mind and emotions, he has absolutely no idea what to do. My mom can guess since she, too, was a teenage girl with a flair for theatrics. But my dad is lost, as any father would be. The same can be said about my sisters and the same can be said about my mom towards my brothers. As relational creatures, it can put a lot of stress in our lives when our relationships aren’t easy—and they never are. Despite our similarities, we can never truly understand each other because we can never truly know each other, not fully and completely. There is always a part of us hidden, even to ourselves. It is this unknown that makes relationships complicated and with the more unknowns, there are arises more complications.

So, when we look at our world and see daughters wounded by fathers and sons wounded by mothers or any com-

bination of these, we aren’t surprised. Deeply saddened, but not surprised. What the human heart seems to be in longing for is guidance. Knowledge. Understanding. In these moments of need and confusion, I turn to the people around me. For advice, I go to friends. For mentoring, I go to professors. For love, I go home. But we would be denying ourselves a fundamental part of our lives if we were to

close ourselves off from the relationships we have with others. Fatherhood and motherhood are necessary parts of human life and they are not limited to only those who we share biology with. We can be fathers and mothers to those around us. We should be fathers and mothers to those around us.

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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HONORING FATHER FIGURES

Junior

A new inheritance

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

In the first line of one of his sonnets, William Wordsworth exclaims, "Father! To God Himself we cannot give a holier name." In these few words, the poet suggests two profound things about fatherhood. First, God the Father is the ultimate model for all men who fulfill a paternal role. Second, it is the responsibility of these same men to look to Him for guidance and direction.

In this month of St. Joseph during the year of St. Joseph, it seems appropriate to point to this foster-father of the Son of God as the first creature to acknowledge and live out these two truths so intimately. We know very little about St. Joseph and it is precisely because of this dearth of knowledge that we learn so much about fatherhood.

St. Joseph is silent throughout the Gospels. We hear from his spouse every once in a while, and from his Son with much more regularity. This indicates something distinct about the paternal posi-

tion: it is a position much more about action than about speech. Because of the amount of time a father and his son spend together, the son knows almost immediately if his father's words deviate from his actions. Fatherhood is a perpetual examination of consistency. Because the practice of virtue is made evident in action and not by convincing, the father is infinitely more interested in the stuff of his action than the fluff of his words.

The deafening silence of St. Joseph indicates the humility of a mere creature constantly amazed by the Divine Wisdom and mute in His presence. St. Joseph embraced his place as the earthly father of Christ and in that way allowed his own action to serve as a constant educational tool for his Son. For Christ, assuming the lowliness of human flesh meant simultaneously assuming a position of obedience to his earthly father. It was because of this obedience to St. Joseph that Christ "advanced in wisdom and age and grace with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

St. Joseph was the silent teacher who taught Christ how to be a man. Instead of telling him the best way to spend his brief pilgrimage on earth, he showed him with the tenderness

he demonstrated with the Blessed Mother, his diligence in the workshop and his pious deference to the divine will during prayer at home and in the synagogue. Our Lord could not have been convinced of the merits of these earthly goods but had to have been shown them with patience and paternal love.

It has been relatively easy for me to reflect on the probable characteristics of St. Joseph because of my own experience with the certain characteristics of my dad. I don't have to refer back to notes or a glossary of vocabulary under "preferable paternal attributes." On the contrary, these ideals are so engrained in my mind because they are so tied in with my own experience.

It's a common notion for persons to identify their parents or children or dogs as the "best" ones out there. I think there's something appropriate about that and I wouldn't say that those persons should be accused of being clichéd. With that said, I can say with confidence that my dad is the best one out there. This is true, at the very least, because he was the one who was given, is given and continues to give himself to me. His constant gift of himself throughout my life has meant that he did

not passively accept his responsibilities as a father but embraced them without reserve.

Consistent with the silent teaching of St. Joseph, the only things I know about fatherhood I know because of my own dad. Other than recalling fond memories from my early childhood, I don't remember him ever explicitly telling me anything about what real fatherhood is. I certainly don't regard this as an absence in our relationship; on the contrary, I view it as a strength. Real relationships require vital communication through nuance and knowledge of the other person. We never have needed to sit down to have a conversation about real fatherhood because we've been having it for the past 21 years.

I know that my experience and life with my dad has been a unique one to the extent that everyone's experience and life with their father or those men who play a paternal role in their lives is unique. At the same time, I know that I am incredibly blessed with the father that has been given to me and I could not be more grateful. We have been told since we were young that God made us in the exact right moment at the exact right place. Throughout the

troubles, desolations, frustrations and humiliations of my life, that truth I have been told since I was a young boy becomes even clearer when I have been able to share that time with my dad. This truth is more pleasantly clear through the good times, of course. One of the gifts that my dad has shared with me and my mum, though, is an attitude that sees a very blurred line between the good times and bad times. For years, he has incarnated the words of St. Augustine that I always love to cite: "Bad times, hard times-this is what people keep saying; but let us live well, and times shall be good. We are the times: Such as we are, such are the times." He has been and continues to be a solid rock on which my mum and I have leant throughout the years.

I am so grateful for all of the gifts that my dad has given me; the only recourse I have to repay him is to try to imitate him in any way that I can so that the gift can be passed on beyond his or my years. While this inheritance is one with more responsibilities that I can number, I have a pretty incredible model from which to work.

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

Senior

Mr. Mom

Angela Guiao
MSMU Class of 2021

One of the most prominent memories I have from my childhood is walking out of my elementary school after a taxing day in kindergarten. The kindergarten classroom had a door that led out to the front garden of the school, and the parents usually gathered around there near the end of the day to pick up their kids. I don't remember what was going on that specific day, but it was particularly busy. And I distinctly remember, while scanning the crowd for my mom, watching my best friend, Alice, run towards her dad. He picked her up and placed her on his shoulders, and together they laughed as they made their way to the car.

This was the first time I truly realized that I didn't have a dad.

As I grew older, I would be periodically reminded of the fact that I didn't have a dad in my life. Yearly, I'd remember every Father's Day when my teachers had us make cards for our dads, and I realized I had no one to give mine to. I'd be reminded each summer when my mom would refuse to travel anywhere further than an hour away (unless we were with a group of people) due to the fact that she was frightened of what might happen to two women if the car broke down.

When I was younger, I remember often wondering how different my life would be if I had a dad. Perhaps, if my mom had someone to help her with the bills, I would have my own room. Or maybe if I had a dad,

my mom wouldn't have to work so much, so she wouldn't be so tired or short tempered all the time. I always wondered how much I was missing, and I had always assumed my life would be better if only I had a dad.

And perhaps that is true. But, as I look back now, I realize that I have a pretty good life.

I didn't have a dad, but I always felt loved. My mom loved me so much, her love probably equaled that of ten people. We didn't have much money, but she always bought me the things that I wanted. I never realized we were poor. She never had much time, and she was chronically tired, but she made every single piano recital, graduation, and school play.

I didn't have a dad, but I have a mom.

My mom taught me how to ride a bike. And she spent weekends with me at the park when I wanted to learn how to play tennis and softball. She enrolled me in dance classes and soccer lessons, ballet and piano, and she always wanted to take me to them herself. And like clockwork, she'd always be waiting when I was finished.

My mom taught me multiplication and division. She would come home at 11pm, and we'd go through flashcards until I fell asleep. Then she would tuck me in and get ready for bed. Then in the morning, I'd wake up to breakfast already made and my lunch ready for me to take to school. Sometimes, I'd wonder if she even went to sleep.

It was my mom that took me to Freshman orientation. It was also her who dropped me off my first day here at the Mount. And it was my mom who I called every day because now I was at school, and

she was all alone.

My mom sacrificed everything for me. She spent day-in and day-out at work. She spent all of her money on me. She has been planning out how to make sure I get into college since the minute I learned how to read.

But she was also there when I had my first crush. And when I had my first boyfriend. I always heard that dads were supposed to be overprotective. That no boy was ever good enough for their daughter. If that is how dads are, then my mom embodied the spirit of three dads during my adolescent years.

Every year, I was my mom's Valentine's date. She would buy me chocolates and stuffed bears, and we'd go out to eat at a fancy restaurant while dressed in our Sunday best. She'd surprise me with little notes around the house. And she'd take me to the movies twice a month for "date night". She used to tell me, "One day, you will be doing this with your husband instead of me. Make sure he treats you this well." She taught me the importance of being able to depend on yourself. She showed me how to love unconditionally and reminded me never to accept less than I deserve.

Now, in no way am I saying that we don't need dads. I don't know what it means to have a dad. I don't know how different my life would be. I don't know how having a dad would have shaped my life. Maybe it would be different if I was a boy. Or maybe I wouldn't feel this way if my mom wasn't this strong. All I do know is that I was a happy kid. And I attribute that to the love of my parent.

I do know that I have a good life, and that is because of my mom. I can't say that my life would be any

better or any worse if I had a dad, but I can say that I was loved just as much as any child with two parents.

My mom is a strong woman, so I became a strong woman. And though I don't know much about dads, I'd imagine all dads would want their daughters to grow up as strong women. So, in that sense, she succeeded. Because, in the end,

all any parent wants, moms or dads, is for their children to grow up happy and loved. And that is exactly what I did.

My mom is the best dad in the world.

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

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HOME DECOR

Spring design trends

Jess Crawford
The Mill in Keymar

What a Winter! It's been several years since we've seen a Winter with so much snow and so many snow days. If you're anything like my family, I'm sure you're feeling a little bit cooped up and ready to welcome Spring, or at the very least, signs of it. I'm looking forward to the crocus and daffodils popping up in my garden, cracking windows for fresh air and hearing the sweet chirp of baby hatchlings.

Don't get me wrong. I love looking out of our old farmhouse windows, at a blanket of freshly fallen, undisturbed snow, once or twice a winter. It's very romantic and peaceful. But at this point, I think it's safe to say, I've enjoyed enough of this scene. The dressing and undressing my kids in and out of layers and layers of snow clothes endlessly. And cleaning up wet puddles of melted snow around the house that's been dragged inside. I'm ready for a bit more sunshine and longer, greener days.

Most of the vendors at my shop have now made the switch to Spring. There's still some snowy evergreen sprays here and there. But I've seen much more color and brightness and bunny-everything entering the shop over the past couple of weeks. As if we

all are thinking we can collaboratively wish away Winter, and usher in Spring. In all fairness, Easter is in about a month, and since I was a little girl, that has always felt like the turning point for the first real bit of Spring.

As part of doing my due diligence for work, I like to spend time here and there over the year researching and looking up what's trending. In terms of styles, design, colors, etc... In looking into Spring trends this year, I was intrigued by the colors that Panatone was trending for the next season. Panatone is a company that sets a lot of the tone for trends in the design and fashion based industries. The colors that they have voted as on-trend for the season are an interesting mix. Looking at the color palette, at first glance, there's a considerable amount of vibrant colors: a deep pink (Raspberry Sorbet), bright yellow (Illuminating), bright, deep blue (French Blue), a muted Kelly green (Mint) and even a bright, dark purple (Amythyst Orchid).

And then tossed into the mix are some more muted, yet still quite colorful tones. A periwinkle blue (Cerulean), which is nothing like the Crayola crayon with the same namesake. And this I am an expert on, as it's been my lifelong favorite crayon color. However, I digress. Pantatone also mixed in a soft orange (Marigold), light

minty green (Green Ash) and a blush coral pink shade (Burnt Coral). They also voted and provided a few "classic core colors": a charcoal shade (Inkwell), a pale peach color (Buttercream), a sand color (Desert Mist), a neutral and light brown-green (Willow) and lastly a steel grey (Ultimate Grey).

I'll admit, when I first researched this color palette, it took me a few minutes to appreciate it and breathe it in. It felt like a lot. And a little bit all over the place. Then I stared and reflected and pictured each color as an item in my home. How would or could I utilize these colors in my home? Would they jive well together, or would they need to be utilized in separate spaces? Upon reflection, first let me say, I think these colors are a perfect cure for the past year that we've all experienced. It is no accident that they selected so many vibrant colors. It's widely accepted and believed that bright, cheerful colors affect moods in positive ways. They lift spirits and joy, and I am certain that's why so many vibrant shades were presented on this year's trending color palette.

I am also a firm believer in intermingling bold and bright colors with natural neutrals and then pops of patterns and textures. This allows you to use color and texture in your home without it being overwhelming or too much. This season's color palette is pretty perfect for that. Bursting with bold, bright tones, softer ones to offset, and then standard and tried and true neutrals.

Bohemian is an extremely pop-



Antique Victorian couch in a burnt coral shade with natural basket wall and bohemian elements.

ular up-and-coming trend. This style mixes lots of colors and textures with unique, natural textures. This color palette would help make a great boho inspired space. That could mean painting an accent wall or statement piece of furniture in one of their bolder choices, and offsetting with something in one of the softer, complementary tones. For instance, a bold patterned chair, incorporating some of the brighter tones. And then offset with a more soft or neutral throw, small area rug or pillows. You could accompany this with some natural reed blanket baskets off to the side, and a basket wall in the background.

Basket walls are a personal favorite of mine.

These on-trend colors remind me of a space in my own home that I'm currently brainstorming and developing. I have hunted and found a gorgeous late-1800's velvet Victorian loveseat in a gorgeous, rich coral. I'm pairing it with a vintage upholstered wing-back chair, that's a charcoal black with a beautiful, ornate bird print silhouetted against the black. The birds themselves are a pale pink and mint color. I'm flanking the chair with a natural, vintage rattan etagere. And behind the coral loveseat, I'm planning on a vintage basket wall, with an ornate jute rug at the feet of the loveseat. The accent walls surrounding these pieces will be painted in a deep midnight blue. And we'll be suspending a gorgeous two-tone natural caned and deep blue velvet pendant light from the ceiling. While it's not exactly the color palette Panatone put together for design this season, I can sense the overlap and am reigning in inspiration from it.

If there's a time to surround yourself with cheerfulness, brightness and joyfulness, this is it. Not only are we hopefully, fingers crossed, at a turning point for the world we've been enduring and surviving for the past year, we're also at a change of seasons. I say, go for it. Buy that bright yellow throw and pillow set, paint a wall a bold and fun color, snag a fancy and regal statement chair, purchase a one of a kind piece of furniture, dare to use a funky pattern or even wallpaper. Ever feel like you need a hand or someone to bounce ideas off of? Stop by the shop, we're always happy to help you put a space together. We're open every weekend, Friday-Sunday. Be sure to check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for regular shop updates.

To read past Home Decor articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Cooperstown dreams park

A local group of eleven players and three coaches from Thurmont Little League have teamed up to plan the baseball trip of a lifetime in August 2021. The team consisting of players ages 10 to 12 will participate in the prestigious Cooperstown Dreams Park Tournament in Cooperstown, New York. This tournament is well-known nationwide and attracts hundreds of youth baseball teams each summer.

This annual event has a long waiting list and is difficult to get into. However, with the help of Coach Jeff Potter from the Potter Baseball Tour, the team was able to secure a spot in this summer's event. The team will play under the name Potter Pirates Black. Thurmont Little League has partnered with Potter Baseball on several activities over the past few years

including a charity kickball tournament to benefit the Fuse Teen Center and a painting project on the exterior of the Thurmont Food Bank. They are excited to partner with Coach Potter and his organization again for this amazing opportunity. The local team will consist of players Jay Code, Brennan Conrad, Chase Cregger, Carson Fry, Mason Hewitt, Lane Koenig, Nathaniel Morlan, Justice Myers, Theron Rolko, Hunter Sanbower and Tanner Shorb. Manager John Code and assistant coaches Keith Myers and Chris Morlan will accompany the team to Cooperstown along with umpire Blaine Young and Coach Potter.

Players and coaches get to stay on-site for a week, lodging at Baseball Village. They will be spending quality time together, meeting

players from all over the country and of course playing a lot of baseball. They will be provided with daily meals and custom uniforms for the tournament. The team will get to partake in an Opening and Closing Ceremony, skills competitions, and a minimum of seven games. Other benefits include Pin trading, personalized baseball cards for the players, tournament rings and a trip to the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum. There will be digital webcasts of the games and highlights as well for those wishing to follow along at home.

The trip comes with a hefty cost, so the team is fundraising and seeking support from the community to help them fulfill their dreams. They are asking the community to consider supporting the team at a fundraiser or by donating

to the group. Many efforts are already underway such as Roy Rogers and Thurmont Kountry Kitchen donating a portion of their proceeds from scheduled fundraiser nights. In addition, there has also been a Pampered Chef Party fundraiser and a Super Bowl grid fundraiser

in support of the team. A Go Fund Me has also been established as a method of collecting online donations. For more information on how you can help support this worthy cause, please contact team manager, John Code at jcode8@yahoo.com.

Catoctin Mountain Park seeking input on trail system improvements

The National Park Service wants to hear from you as we develop a plan to improve trails at Catoctin Mountain Park. They are developing a comprehensive trail system plan to provide guidance for enhancing the park's trail system and the visitor experience, while continuing to protect natural and cultural resources.

Catoctin Mountain Park currently has 25 miles of developed trails that provide several scenic viewpoints, universally accessible trails, and six miles of horseback riding trails.

A comprehensive trail system plan would provide park managers with a long-term management framework to: manage and maintain existing trails; add new trails and access points; close or realign existing trails; and create trails that are universally accessible.

Public participation is vital to the planning process.

How you can participate:
Attend the public meeting:
A live, virtual public meeting will be held on March 10 from

6 to 8 p.m. To join the meeting on your PC virtually send an e-mail to Peggie_Gaul@nps.gov for an invite. To participate on a phone call 877-286-5733 and enter conference ID 71676020#.

To provide comments online or get additional information on the project, visit the NPS planning website at: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/cato_trailplan.

If you prefer to mail your comments, make sure they are postmarked by April 10, to receive consideration. Mail comments to: CATO Comprehensive Trail Plan, 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont, MD 21788

Public comments may also contain marked-up park maps to illustrate ideas. Park maps can be found at: www.nps.gov/cato/planyourvisit/maps.htm.

A recording of the meeting and meeting presentation materials will be available at www.parkplanning.nps.gov/cato_trailplan after the meeting.

For additional information call 301-663-9330.

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LOCAL ARTS

A look at the Art Alliance of Greater Waynesboro

Sarah Muir
MSMU Class of 2019

The Art Alliance of Greater Waynesboro (AAGW) has been a fixture in the Waynesboro community for almost nine years. It has been the source of several revitalization projects. Its efforts have beautifully drawn together local business, local politics, and—of course—local artists to grow a vibrant arts community in downtown Waynesboro.

AAGW was founded in September 2012 by Andrew Sussman as a project to promote economic development through promoting the arts. Since its inception, it has become a certified non-profit encompassing Destination Arts!, Destination INNOVATION!, and Music Makers: Our Community Music Center.

Destination ARTS! was the first initiative launched by the AAGW. It began as a community revitalization project to turn Waynesboro into a thriving arts destination. While the original plans were for a 15-week display starting July 2013 and ending in October of that same year, the overwhelming community support brought Destination Arts! back as a permanent fixture to downtown. Seven buildings on Main Street were renovated and converted into curated art galleries, and an additional eight storefront windows were filled with art. Over 1,600 pieces were on display that year, and the event featured

more than 120 artists.

The project was a success! After the event, The AAGW rented the seven buildings and the five remain galleries. Gallery 50 (still operated by AAGW), 42 West Arts Co-Op & Gallery, Gallery 35 East, Walnut Street Studios, and the Ceramics Arts Center are still displaying and selling the thousands of pieces from local artists along with providing classes and workshops for those wanting to explore their creativity.

Destination INNOVATION! It began in 2015 as AAGW sponsored program to grow Destination ARTS! and incorporate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). This new branch of the initial enterprise featured technological advancement displays manufactured by local industries, everything from 3D printing, to robotics, to solar panels and escape rooms. The project even included historical presentations featuring Waynesboro's past. In 2018 AAGW partnered with Beacon House Inc to promote STREAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) to those children interested in engaging both sides of their brain.

Music Makers, located near Gallery 50, started in 2016 as a collaborative effort of Cumberland Valley School of Music and AAGW. It has since become a much-loved cornerstone of the Waynesboro arts community.

During a regular schedule, it provides Live Music Fridays and Open Mic sessions and a space for children and adults to learn, experience, and enjoy music.

Since COVID began last year, the AAGW has been keeping busy and making sure art programs are accessible to the community. In partnership with Main Street Waynesboro, they hosted five Facebook Livestream specials and Virtual Happy Hours featuring local musicians. They have also been promoting the galleries and ceramic studios. Last summer, they were able to host outdoor music events at Main Street Park, where people could spread out and enjoy live music at a safe distance. The Songwriters Forum has been able to keep the inspiration flowing monthly Zoom meetings and outdoor, socially distant get brainstorming sessions.

Like a great many people, tired of snow and ice, the AAGW is excited for warmer weather, "[It] will allow us to have Live Music Fridays outdoors at Main Street Park so that more people can enjoy music safely and can support local musicians," said Jessica Sensenig, the Marketing Director of the AAGW, "We are [also] looking forward to having photographer Audrey Rouzer back sometime this year for more Introduction to Photography classes. Warmer weather will also provide safe options to meet for Songwriters Forum, Writers Forum, Open Mic Nights, and more."

The AAGW have also discussed ways to hold Jammin' in the Park safely and Waynesboro's Got Talent later this year.

Meanwhile, Gallery 50 has



Gallery 50 and Music Makers in downtown Waynesboro.

an online shop that launched in 2020, and patrons of the arts are invited to browse, shop, and order pick-up for over 300 items created by local artists.

"Though this time, we also continued sharing videos and streams from local musicians and news from downtown galleries and ceramics studios, and any arts-related posts to maintain that connection with our community and support our local artists, musicians, and arts businesses...And we continue to adapt, brainstorm, and push forward because we know how important the arts are to expressing ourselves, connecting with each other, finding joy, and healing during these times."

The arts have survived the past year due to loyal patrons and donors. The AAGW is no exception. "As a non-profit organization, we rely on the support of our community," remarked Sensenig, "Most of our programs are free of charge, and much of the work is done by a dedicated team of volunteers. Donations help us continue offering community arts programs and help

us pay our expenses...Of course, donations are not the only way to show your support! Shop at Waynesboro's downtown galleries and ceramics studios, join us safely when we hold live music events again, and follow us on social media. And if you're looking for a quiet arts spot to volunteer, we are always welcoming new volunteers, especially to open and close Gallery 50."

AAGW does a great deal in supporting and promoting classes from other galleries, organizations, and ceramic studios. For instance, Walnut Street Studios, in partnership with Antietam Art Glass, is planning more stained glass art classes as well as pottery classes that will, of course, keep participants safe. The Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies has offered pick-up pottery projects and socially distant pottery classes; the next one is March 7. New guest art exhibits are still being put on display at the 42 West Arts Co-op, and Gallery 35 East has newly commissioned pieces from the artist Linda Shelbert.

The Cumberland Valley School of Music is another organization with strong ties to the AAGW. On March 20, from 9 AM- 4 PM, they are holding a Preformathon, an all-day recital fundraiser to help students raise money through scholarships. One of the hosts of the event is the Music Makers: Our Community Music Center. All students from the Cumberland Valley School of Music are allowed to register at cvsmusic.org, and you can tune in the day of via Livestream on the CVSM YouTube channel.

Art is the heartbeat of a community and Waynesboro is a wonderful and rich community of art and artist of all varieties, and this is due in no small part to the Art Alliance of Greater Waynesboro. As the temperatures warm up and normalcy appears to be on the horizon we can look forward to more events, until then delve into your local arts community, like the AAGW, and see the safe and fun events for you and your family to enjoy!

For more information on the museum or our research projects please contact info@catocctinfurnace.org or call 240-288-7396.

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Preserving the local arts in strange times

Tristan Anderson
MSMU Class of 2024

While it is difficult to pinpoint what exactly makes the arts as magnificent as they are to the human experience, it is hardly difficult to establish what primary principle makes them so attractive to us all. Art, at the end of the day, is created for presentation. Whether theatre, sculpture, writing, painting, or any other art, it cannot be legitimately enjoyed if there is not a soul able to view it. What happens, then, when that social presentation becomes increasingly difficult if not impossible entirely? This pandemic, unfortunately, has forced us to ask such questions. At the same time, it has shown us the resourcefulness of the human spirit through the methods used to counteract these challenges.

The local Adams County Arts Council, founded in 1993 but continuing strong to this day, has spearheaded a position at the forefront for the preservation of the arts during this strange time. Starting initially with a group of grassroots organizers, it has grown to an institution with more than 300 members that both encourages the community to become involved in the arts and educates them on how to do so. Like any organization, this strange time has forced them to fully embrace the natural creativity of the human mind. From the testimony of Leona Rega, Executive director of the council, the challenge of this pandemic has not only been overcome by the council, but even been a source of growth.

"We're really focusing on day to day operations," Rega said, describing the current state of affairs at the Arts Council. Well-renowned for their classes across disciplines which range in subject matter from cooking pizza with professional chefs to oil painting under the tutelage of experts, there has been no desire to slow the speed of work. "Regardless of what the future holds, we have adapted so well to have classes in the new environment that some practices will be continued going forwards," Rega sug-

gested. She mentioned that Zoom and social media have become primary means for continuing these classes, providing opportunities for the community to immerse themselves further. Cooking, painting, drawing, and even fitness classes have transitioned to Zoom, with instructors presenting their skills and training attendees through a screen. Rega stressed the fact that classes are still imbued with a personal touch, stating that "All the classes are live, the instructors present real-time. It's very interactive."

Adding such virtual offerings to the playbook has proved to be a great boon for the Adams County Arts Council. In the case of the interactive classes, the pandemic restrictions and stresses have certainly not held back anyone from participating in the arts. "The virtual piece has allowed people to engage during a time they might otherwise not be able to," Rega suggested. For some classes that require specific elements to participate in, the council has experimented with creating packages for participants to stop by and retrieve, with the effort resulting in a great success. In addition to growing participation amongst the local communities and likely resulting from the simplicity of doing so, residents both nearby and distant have started to participate in the various classes, spreading the value of local arts far and wide. Even with the consideration of the positive aspects of the transition to online participation, however, there are negative developments still being worked out of the system. Technical challenges have predictably arisen, and with not all students being adequately tech-savvy, not all classes have been executed seamlessly. Acknowledging that fact, the staff of the council are more than optimistic, confident that such issues will be resolved as time passes and both provider and participant become more experienced with the system.

Not limited to classes, the Adams County Arts Council maintains a vivid art gallery for the community to enjoy. Unsurprisingly, this

institution has faced some significant challenges since the fateful month of March last year. Just as the classes so critical to the appreciation and furthering of the arts have been resourcefully preserved by the organization, so also has the art gallery been sustained. "We've done everything from no one in the building and completely virtual to small groups and the virtual component," Rega explained. Initially, at the beginning of the pandemic, the gallery was entirely closed to visitors. Works were made visible to the community through presentations on social media and other such applications, a well-received measure that retained the most critical aspect of artistry. As restrictions waned, however, the gallery was once again opened at a limited in-person capacity. At the current moment, either option is open. The online art gallery exhibitions are accessible through the organization's website, as well as in-person exhibitions scheduled in advance.

The arts council certainly deserves credit for working to preserve the important act of displaying visual art to the public. In fact, officials at the organization have mentioned intentions to continue the involvement of the art gallery in the "First Friday" tradition. "We're still receiving new artworks and we will be participating in First Fridays," Rega stated. Displays are scheduled to be listed at the art gallery for nearly an entire year, whether in-person or online. Regardless, the arts council is diligently working to preserve the presentation aspect so vital to the value of artworks. At the time when this article was written, the listing for future presentations included a series of artworks by local high schoolers on display in the reception hall in addition to an exhibition focused on the work of instructors from programs offered by the council. Later in the year, other exciting events such as a juried art exhibition and a recyclable art competition are scheduled that permit community involvement.



On March 5, the Adams County Arts Council will celebrate this year's 1st 'First Friday' with an exhibition of works by the Foothills Artists, ten local artists who live in Carroll Valley/Fairfield area.

This effort to encourage community involvement in the arts connects to the mission of the Adams County Arts Council in the future, especially after the nation and local areas have begun to return to normalcy. Centered around further uniting the community after a troubled time yet also fostering a greater local love and support for the arts, the council intends to expand their operations. "The focus for the new year is to reach more of Adams County as a whole," Rega suggested. Though the council does run wonderful programs, many of which are now receiving participants outside of the county, officials from the organization stress that involving locals is not always simple. Part of this objective is the gradual expansion of familiarity with the arts council, in addition to the production of more classes and programs to interest other individuals. As a result, readers are encouraged to like the Facebook page and if they have any artworks or particu-

lar talents, to consider listing a work in the gallery or volunteering to teach a class for the council. "We're always in need of volunteers," Rega mentioned, expressing the importance of community support.

It is just this close involvement with the community that has allowed the Adams County Arts Council to persevere through the challenges offered by the COVID pandemic. Through producing excellent classes for those able to participate at home, maintaining a space for the presentation of visual art, and making these experiences accessible to the public, the council has preserved the arts in what could otherwise be a dangerous time for them. More than that, all of this activity may very well be a small blessing in that it keeps one small element of near-normalcy in which we can all revel.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Thurmont Little League seeking volunteer umpires

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

The Catoclin community is eager to get back to the fields as the 2021 season of Thurmont Little League (TLL) starts up, entering into the league's 70th year of baseball. TLL is proud to support young athletes of the greater community, as the area for the league reaches the Mason Dixon Line (Taneytown to Cascade) and south (Mountindale to New Windsor) with Devilbiss Bridge Road as the boundary. Registration for team members concluded February 21st, while the league is always seeking umpires.

"We umpire because we love the game, we love the youth, and most of all, we love seeing the community being brought together at the Little League organizations." Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) Blaine Young expressed. "It's something that I think everybody should try if they have any interest in baseball, and especially if they have any connection with youth that's involved in baseball. It's just a rewarding experience that gives them the best view of the game and the best experience, honestly, because you see every detail of the game as it goes by."

Little League is always promoting this opportunity to give back to the community and support the community's young athletes. Volunteer umpires are welcome at any time as there is no deadline to sign up. The league accepts any man, woman, and person of age 13 and older, now allowing junior umpires (ages 13-17), who are able to umpire one level lower than their age. High schoolers are encouraged to look into volunteering and try it out, which could make a great opportunity to fulfill any required service hours for academic programs. To sign up, email the league at theTLL-network@gmail.com or contact Young, whose contact information can be found at the TLL website, tlbaseball.com/umpires. You will receive an invite through email with a background check to complete, and that is all that is required. Everything else



Thurmont Little League celebrates their 70th season.

is taken care of, as you will be guided through the process. You will quickly train and attend early games where there will be more than one umpire on the field. A shirt, hat, and gear will be provided, and it is requested that you wear a grey pair of pants to match the umpire crew—called the "blue crew" or "blue team." There is always ample gear to use. The league will provide you with all of the necessary tools to do the job, and you can start out at bases if not yet comfortable at the plate. TLL always strives to have an experienced umpire with a newer one for guidance and clarification.

If you are interested in umpiring for Thurmont Little League regularly, you may consider attending Little League clinics in various region headquarters, but it is not required. Participants stay at dormitories and train for a week at professional stadiums. You might also decide to become a member of the Maryland State Umpire Association (MSUA). The association is all volunteer-oriented by umpires that have been active in Maryland for a long while. It offers lifetime memberships for one initial fee, or you can choose to pay a small annual fee. These fees cover the cost of their clinic. MSUA hosts online training and on-location clinics for umpires, as well as offers training resources and a group of people to communicate with. It is not mandatory to attend clinics or join the

MSUA in order to umpire for TLL. Volunteers also do not need to commit to umpiring for a quantity of games, and anyone is encouraged to try it out and consider returning. "Being an umpire is about coming out and giving it a shot," Young explained, "and if you like it, attend some clinics with us."

Umpire-in-Chief Blaine Young has a long history with Thurmont Little League. He played baseball on the very fields used today in Thurmont as a child until early high school. Several years later, he began to volunteer frequently when his children were involved in the league. He stuck to volunteering and later attended a clinic to umpire regularly. Young has been a lifetime volunteer member of the Maryland State Umpire Association for about 10 years. "It's a nice thing to belong to and to attend these clinics," he stated. "It's a great brotherhood, both at the state-level as well as with the various regional headquarters. They have very nice facilities and very nice people to be associated with." Young has been umpiring for TLL for about 15 years now in addition to volunteering for separate games. "It's a great experience to see every aspect and every player—some giving their all, some feeling discouraged, some needing a boost—and it's rewarding when you see good things happen on the teams," he said.

"Sometimes we'll throw a remark to a kid to help them out," Young stated

Thurmont Little League 70 years and going strong

As the 2021 spring season approaches, Thurmont Little League is looking to the future, but reflecting on the past as well. This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the league and although COVID-19 restrictions will not allow for the grand celebration deserving of such a milestone, the Board of Directors is still working hard to plan an exciting year for players, coaches, and families. The league is looking for information to recognize any past Board Presidents from the 1950's-2000s. Additionally, anyone with photos from the 1950's-1990s, especially from league championships, please feel free to pass them along to current President, Keith Myers (keithmyers07@gmail.com).

After an offseason filled with field renovations and improvements to the grounds, the league is now moving forward full speed ahead for its opening day festivities. This year it will be held on Saturday April 10.

There is still lots of other work to be done before the season starts. Evaluations for the Minor and Major division will be held along with a draft for each. Fundraising efforts are continuing as well, with

the league accepting donations for its annual basket raffle and continuing to sell spirit wear items, such as t-shirts, hats, and hoodies. The league is once again selling discount cards which are always a popular item. For \$10 you can purchase a card for unlimited usage at many of your favorite local restaurants, everything from a free drink to 20% off your order. Please contact the league on Facebook or by email at tlnetwork@gmail.com for more information. Finally, a fundraising night will be held at Roy Rogers on Friday, March 19 with proceeds from drive thru orders going to the league. Come on out for a great meal to support Thurmont Little League.

As always, the league is continually looking for volunteers to help with coaching, concessions, and umpiring. An Umpiring Clinic will be held at Leisner Field on Sunday, March 21st at 9 a.m. with lunch provided. If you are interested in seeing what is involved, please make plans to attend. This is open to all adults and youth ages 13 and up. Please contact Umpire in Chief Blaine Young, beyoungjr@comcast.net for more information.

while discussing the role of umpires. "We're very careful not to coach a kid—we're umpires, not coaches—but they recognise that we are there to help. We're not just there to judge the game, but also to see the game through in the best way for the youth." Umpires are responsible for looking out for the safety of the participants, and will attend to the coach and the players in the manner that they see fit. Once the initial home plate meeting is held, the umpire is then in charge of the game completely and has all control. If there are unsafe weather conditions or a pub-

lic safety situation that affects gameplay on the field, the umpire can make the choice to clear the field and move the players and coaches to a safer place. After safety, an umpire's next priority is to uphold the application of Little League and softball rules. They will ensure that both sides have an equal chance without an advantage.

Eric Myers joined the "blue crew" last year and is returning for another exciting season of Little League. "2020 was my first year umpiring, and I was admittedly a little nervous about picking up all the nuances of the rules," Myers expressed. "But there are so many great resources that the entire Little League provides online. Plus, there have been a number of clinics online during the pandemic, and even some hands-on clinic opportunities." The online clinics as well as other information regarding umpiring can be found at tlbaseball.com/umpires. Myers and his family have been a part of the Thurmont community for many years, and he finds volunteering for the league to be a great way to give back. "Umpiring is a good way to stay involved in baseball and in the community. Being a big sports fan, it's one of my favorite ways to volunteer because I get to see competitive games and great young talent on the field." Myers also encourages locals to look into it and give it a try. "If you're somebody that enjoys helping our community or enjoys baseball, umpiring is a great way to get involved." Myers recommended. "We're there to help support the kids and help them enjoy one of America's greatest pastimes."

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MOUNT SPORTS

Mount bowling looks to continue a hot start

Samuel Barber
MSMU Class of 2022

The casual sports fan usually looks to conventional, mainstream sports like basketball and football to find success stories. It is always important to tune into the sports that do not garner the attention of the greater population. Bowling is seen to most people as a leisure activity; however, it is far from that. The athletes within the bowling community display a high level of athleticism and skill. Mount St. Mary's University is one of the handful of institutions across the country that sponsor bowling as a varsity sport, and the team has certainly lived up to the hype. Despite being a relatively new program, the bowling team has quickly become one of the most beloved teams on campus with fellow athletes, administrators and coaches.

The program, which is in its third season at the Division-I ranks has seen tremendous growth throughout its young, but rich history. The Mountaineers, who are members of the Northeast Conference (NEC), are currently ranked seventh in the latest National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTPA) rankings. This is the highest ranking in school history. Success seems to be long-term as they will return all bowlers next season, as this a junior and sophomore laden team.

Mount St. Mary's brings such a fierce presence to the lanes thanks in part to the junior quartet that is spearheading scoring. Rebecca Dodson has not only taken the NEC by storm but the entire country as well. Her bowling prowess has extended to both the Baker and Traditional games. A Baker game is where five bowlers compete together under one game. Within this playing style, Dodson allotted just south of 21 points per frame (PPF) while carrying a 96-percent overall fill percentage. More impressively, Dodson has also tallied 135 strikes on the year, which leads the team.

Tamera Stanton, a Baltimore, Maryland native, has also her fair share of high-praising accolades. During the 2019-20 season, Stanton bowled more frames (1,124) than any other Mount bowler, this jaw-dropping stat line led her to an Honorable Mention All-American from the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA), as well as earning All-NEC second-team honors. In the midst of her junior campaign, grabbing spares seems to be her specialty, as she has raked in a total of 89.

Amanda Yeung and Danielle Milo have shown tremendous growth as the season has progressed. Yeung, a sophomore from Delaware, is averaging nearly 19.6 points per frame in a Baker game while elevating her playing style in the Traditional game, coming in at 19.9PPF. Meanwhile, for Milo, she is thriving in multiple statistical categories. With a 91.7-percent single-pin spare conversion rating, she joins a host of her teammates with conversion percentages above 90-percent. The junior put together her best performance at the Mount Shootout by bowling an average of 20.02 PPF back in mid-January.

Although the talented juniors and sophomores have built the founda-

tion of the program, it is vital that the younger classes maintain the high levels of success while also building longevity within the team. Alyssa Alexander has seemed to adjust smoothly to the college ranks as the freshman has brought her talents from the West Coast out to the East Coast. A California native, Alexander has lit up the lanes by raking in 113 strikes, as she is undoubtedly the most talented bowler from the Class of 2024. Katherine Corbin also appears to be able to build on some hidden potential. A strong outing in the Traditional game at the Northeast Invitational is something that will surely have fans and teammates alike excited for the future.

What sets this team apart from most top teams in the country is that their success levels extend well beyond an individual standpoint. This is a team that encompasses it all. In a turbulent 2020-21 season, the Mountaineers have managed to compile a record of 28-9 overall and a 7-5 conference mark. Within the 28 wins, Mount St. Mary's has grappled in plenty of Top-25 wins. The team began their season with the Mount Shootout, which saw the Mountaineers earn a 4-0 sweep of previously #17 Delaware State en route to a 7-0 start to the season.

The emphatic month of January continued at the CSU Lady Eagles Invitational in Baltimore, which was a homecoming event for Tamera Stanton. The Mountaineers carried a record of 3-1 at CSU, which included a dominating near 100-pin victory over #8 North Carolina A&T University. Through the month of January, Mount St. Mary's compiled an impressive 10-1 record, with their only

loss against #17 Delaware State.

With a season record of 10-1, the Mountaineers would begin the month of February at the Northeast Invitational hosted by Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, PA. The team saw its highest level of competition in Philadelphia, as they bowled versus four ranked opponents. Victories over #13 North Carolina A&T and #17 Duquesne highlighted a 7-2 combined effort through Baker and Traditional game styles. More importantly, the three-day event offered plenty of opportunities to boost their conference standing as two other NEC teams were in attendance (Duquesne and Long Island University). Mount St. Mary's finished a perfect 2-0 versus the two schools.

Much like the latter portions of the Northeast Invitational, the past two tournaments have provided plenty of chances to rake in multiple conference wins while also boosting their standings heading into the final stretch of the regular season. At Wagner Weekend, which was hosted by Wagner College, the Mountaineers saw impressive performances from Dodson and Stanton which powered the team to key victories over the Seahawks, Sharks and Saint Thomas Aquinas College.

During the regular season, the NEC puts on a series of NEC meets where fellow conference foes play against one another. This is somewhat of a precursor event to the real conference meet, which is at the end of the season. The first NEC Meet saw mixed results from Mount St. Mary's. Some may say that it was their poorest outing of the regular season. After racing out to an unblem-



Mount St. Mary's University is one of the handful of institutions across the country that sponsors bowling as a varsity sport. The team has certainly lived up to the hype, especially Junior Rebecca Dodson who has earned a First Team selection from the NEC!

ished conference record, a 5-5 outing saw the team fall to the middle of the conference. Key losses against the likes of Saint Francis (PA) and Sacred Heart were the center point of the event.

Although team success firmly lies on the athletes, the team will only go as far as the coaching takes them. Mount St. Mary's has one of the best coaches in the business with third-year head coach Kenneth DeGraaf. DeGraaf has seen a plethora of success in the early portions of his coaching career. During his inaugural season, he guided the Mountaineers to as high as 19th in the nation. Over three seasons,

the Baker conference matches have been where the Siena Heights alum has been most successful while bringing in a combined record of 58-30 and a 151-72 overall record.

With their seventh-placed ranking in the latest NTPA rankings, Mount St. Mary's is the highest-rated team from the conference. Duquesne University is 17th, Fairleigh Dickinson comes in at 20th while Sacred Heart rounds things out at 21st.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Being healthy



Renee Lehman

The following article is the first part of a two-part series on health. This article will be addressing issues with our health care system, and different perspectives on how our genetic code plays a role in our health. The second part (in April) will be focused on practical applications of Traditional Chinese Medicine to enhance your health accountability.

The United States spends more than any other country on healthcare (\$11,172 per person/year). Health care spending increased to \$3.6 trillion in 2018, about 17.7 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP). Even with this high level of spending on health care, the USA ranks 28th out of 40 in life expectancy (78.7 years) within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member countries. Meanwhile, Japan, spends \$4,766 per person/year (close to \$7,000 less per person than the USA), and has the highest life expectancy among the OECD nations (84 years). Keep in mind that the average cost of healthcare per person/year (per capita) is \$3806 for

the rest of the developing world (www.oecd.org; accessed on February 18). (As a side note: The mission of the OECD is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.)

Where did this \$3.6 trillion go? The spending can be broken down into the following categories: Hospital Care - 33% of spending; Physician services - 20% of spending; Retail Prescription Drugs - 10%; Other Health Care Services - 5%; Nursing Care Facilities - 5%; Dental Services - 4%; Home Health Care - 3%; Other Professional Services - 3%; Durable & Non-durable Medical Products - 4%; Net Cost of Health Insurance - 7%; Government Administration - 1%; and, Government Public Health Activities and Investments - 5%.

Also, of the \$3.6 trillion, \$1.5 trillion, is directly or indirectly financed by the Federal government. In other words, the Federal government dedicates resources of nearly 8 percent of the economy toward health care. Increased health care spending does not always result in better treatment. Often, in countries that spend more, people are opting for

expensive tests and elective procedures that drive up costs. In fact, according to the OECD, several factors influence the spending on healthcare:

How medical services are used: Expensive diagnostic procedures and elective surgeries, like MRI scans and corrective knee surgeries, drive up health care costs.

High costs of drugs: In the U.S., drug costs are more than \$950 per capita (the largest amount when compared to the other OECD member countries).

Poor health-related behaviors: Excessive alcohol consumption, tobacco use, poor nutrition, and poor exercise, increase health problems.

Pause for a moment to digest the above information. . .

Often poor health-related behaviors/lifestyles are the root cause of many chronic diseases (such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, to name a few). Wow! Who knew?! But now you may ask, "What about the relationship of your genetic code to disease?" There is much talk about genetics/genetic code, and the causes of disease. You may ask, "Aren't my genes a key determinant for chronic illness?" Well, maybe. Let us look at a few perspectives on how the genetic code can be evaluated/used for potential health care interventions: The Human Genome Project, Biotechnology, and the Traditional Chinese Medicine approach.

First, The Human Genome Project (HGP) . . .

Completed in 2003, the HGP was a research project aimed at deciphering the make-up of the entire human genetic code (genome). It was believed that having the complete sequence of the human genome would be like having all the pages of an instruction manual needed to make the human body. The HGP discovered that there were around 20,500 genes that made up human DNA. Now the challenge to researchers and scientists is to determine how to read the contents of all these pages and then understand how the parts work together and to discover the genetic basis for health and the pathology of human disease. In this respect, genome-based research will eventually enable medical science to develop highly effective diagnostic tools, to better understand the health needs of people

based on their individual genetic make-ups, and to design new and highly effective treatments for disease.

Then, through the understanding at the molecular level of how things like diabetes or heart disease or schizophrenia come about, we should see a whole new generation of interventions, many of which will be drugs that are much more effective and precise than those available today. What do you notice about the above statement from the HGP? A primary focus of this research is toward developing treatments for diseases.

Another new technology being researched to treat disease is Biotechnology. Recently, there has been more coverage in the media about the use of biotechnology in healthcare. What is biotechnology? Biotechnology is defined as: the manipulation (as through genetic engineering) of living organisms or their components to produce useful usually commercial products (such as pest resistant crops, new bacterial strains, or novel pharmaceuticals). Biotechnology, is the use of biology to solve problems and make useful products. The most prominent area of biotechnology is the production of therapeutic proteins and other drugs through genetic engineering. How did biotechnology really take off?

In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court, in the case of *Diamond v. Chakrabarty*, ruled that "a live human-made microorganism is patentable subject matter." This decision spawned a wave of new biotechnology firms. Today, biotechnology researchers seek to discover the root molecular causes of disease and to intervene precisely at that level with the use of gene-therapy and the development of traditional pharmaceuticals that stop the progression of a disease.

So, to create drugs for treatment of disease, researchers have been looking to our genetic code for answers. This is good, and, it is only one perspective about how to work with our genetic code.

So, lastly let us look at some basic concepts in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). This portion of the article is a primer for the Part 2 article of Being

Health-Accountable.

In TCM, the Yin - Yang symbol consists of a circle divided into two teardrop-shaped halves - one white and the other black. Within each half is contained a smaller circle of the opposite color. No matter where you bisect the diameter of the whole circle, each half will always contain some Yin and some Yang.

Everything in the Universe contains Yin and Yang. They are two opposite yet complementary energies. What does this really mean? Although they are totally different—opposite—in their individual qualities and nature, they are interdependent. Yin and Yang cannot exist without the other; they are never separate. For example, night (Yin) and day (Yang) form a simple example of the Yin-Yang pairing. Night looks and is quite different than day, yet it is impossible to have one without the other. Both create a totality, a complete whole!

So, returning to the discussion of our genetic code, based on the principle of Yin and Yang, if our genes have the genetic code for disease, then it also has the genetic code for no-disease. This is Yin-Yang, and a more positive way to look at our genetic code! Even Epigenetics research has discovered that "your genes are not your destiny." Dean Ornish, MD has stated, "Treatment of these and other chronic diseases account for 75% of our healthcare costs, and yet they are preventable or even reversible!"

Next month's article will continue the TCM perspective of our genetic code and the prevention of disease. It will be focused on exposing you to ways to being more accountable for your health, learning how to focus on health instead of disease, and learning ways to tap into the wisdom of your genetic code for healing.

"The best doctor concentrates on prevention instead of fixing disease." - Nei Jing (475-221 B.C.)

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist, physical therapist, with over 34 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Sunshine and fresh air

Linda Stultz

The winter months may make it hard to get outside for some exercise. Taking a walk in the brisk cold air of winter is refreshing and helps burn a few extra calories. Just thinking about going out in the cold may make you decide to skip your daily walk but that is not the thing to do. Bundle up and get out in the fresh air. Once you decide you are going to take a walk every day and you stick to that commitment for a few weeks I think you will actually look forward to it. Starting and keeping a good habit takes at least six to eight weeks to become a true habit. Bad habits are much easier to stick to but you usually don't benefit from them.

Call a friend or family member if you like to have someone to walk with. Sometimes having someone to depend on or who depends on you can make it easier. I know we need to keep our

distance from those who do not live in our house but taking a walk outside it a great way to connect with someone else and still be able to keep a safe distance. If you are someone who likes to walk alone you just need to find a time that works for you and commit to walking everyday.

Always check with your doctor if you have any health conditions before you start a walking routine. Walking is usually the best way to start getting a little exercise if you have not been active. Find a safe place to walk where you can go at your own speed and work up the speed and distance when you feel ready. It may be tempting to stroll and that may be the speed you should start but try to push yourself a little after a week or two. Getting your heart rate up is good for your whole body and will make your heart happy.

Walking in the fresh air and sunshine is a great way to wake up and keep a brisk pace. We all

need to get some vitamin D and spending 10 to 15 minutes in the sun each day is a great way to do that. Sun protection is important and we need to limit our sun exposure but getting out in the morning sunshine for a few minutes before the sun's rays are too strong will be safe. I realize cold air may not be advisable for everyone. People with some health conditions may need to take extra care from the cold.

That is something you may need to talk to your doctor about. If you are not able to walk outside when the weather is cold maybe you can walk on a treadmill, ride a stationary bike or find an inside facility where you can walk. Walking is a fun and great way to start an exercise routine. Once you decide you would like to challenge yourself a little more you may decide to add some other exercises that you enjoy. Swimming, hiking, biking, weight lifting, cardio or whatever you like will be easier to add to your routine for better health.



Whatever you decide is the strenuous to start with. If walking exercise you will stick with is the one for you to start with. I suggested walking because it is something we do anyway and is not doing, find an exercise that fits your ability and life. Remember, moving is the important thing.



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of March

Professor Wayne Wooten

For March 2021, the moon is waning gibbous in the morning sky as the month begins, reaching last quarter on March 6th. The waning crescent in the predawn is just west of Saturn on March 9th, then south of Jupiter on March 10. It is new on March 13th, and Sunday March 14th sees the return of Daylight Savings Time. The waxing crescent passes south of Mars on March 19th. The Vernal Equinox begins spring on March 20th at 4:37 AM CDT. The first quarter moon is on March 21st. The full moon, the Paschal Moon, is on March 28th, so the following Sunday is Easter, April 4th for this year.

Mercury and Jupiter have a close conjunction in the dawn on March 3rd, but the innermost planet is too close to the Sun by midmonth. Venus too lies too close as well, reaching superior conjunction behind the Sun on March 26th, and will return to the evening sky by the end of April. Mars is the only evening sky planet, well up in the west in Taurus. It passes seven degrees north of similarly orange and bright Aldebaran in the eye of the Bull on March 20th. Brighter Jupiter and fainter Saturn are in the dawn, with Saturn 12 degrees west of Jupiter at month's end.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. South of Cassiopeia is Andromeda's hero, Perseus. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the



On Feb 18, Perseverance, the newest Mars rover, successfully landed. It boasts a decal, like those seen on the back windows of cars showing family members, depicting its size relative to the other four rovers NASA has successfully landed.

eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. At Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light-years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group.

East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky in the northwest. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the

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

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the southern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. How bright does Betelgeuse appear to you tonight? In 2019-20, this famed supergiant had expanded and cooled, forming a dust envelope that has darkened much of its southern hemisphere it to less than a quarter its normal brightness in visible light. As of February 2021, the dust has dissipated, and it is back close to its normal brightness as the alpha star of Orion again.

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

In the east are the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and

minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky as darkness falls. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from West Florida.

When Sirius is highest, along our southern horizon look for the second brightest star, Canopus, getting just above the horizon and sparkling like an exquisite diamond as the turbulent winter air twists and turns this shaft of starlight, after a trip of about 200 years!

To the northeast, look for the bowl of the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Here it sits unmoving 30 degrees high in our northern sky locally. If you take the pointers of the Big Dipper's bowl to the south, you are guided instead to the head of Leo the Lion rising in the east, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". The folk wisdom that "March comes in like a Lion" probably refers to the head of Leo rising just after sunset in early March below it).

Our highlight for March lies in the faint constellation Cancer, midway between the Gemini to the west and Regulus east of it. Almost directly overhead when darkness falls at month's end, look under dark skies for a faint blur of light in the middle of the four stars that make up the crab's body. This is the Praespe, or Beehive, cluster, M-44, familiar to the ancients. Its blurry appearance lead Charles Messier to include it in his catalog of things that look at first like comets, but do not move and are far away among the stars and galaxies. Now check it out with binoculars, and resolve it into dozens of stars, hence the "Beehive" title. This historic shot by Merry Edenton Wooten shows the Beehive cluster to the right, resolved into slightly trailed stars

in the 30" exposure, with blurry greenish Comet Iras-Arika-Alcock passing to the left of the constellation's quadrilateral. At this time, this comet was making the closest approach of a comet to our planet in the 20th century, only three million miles away, and so close its motion could be tracked minute by minute with binoculars! The comet was also then passing directly behind earth on the ecliptic, our orbital path around the Sun. Had this several mile wide ball of ice reached that point only 2 days earlier, it would have collided with the earth, perhaps destroying civilization! Close call.

If you follow the handle of the Big Dipper to the south, by 9 PM you will be able to "arc to Arcturus", the brightest star of Spring and distinctly orange in color. Its color is an indication of its uniqueness. Its large speed and direction through the Milky Way suggests it was not formed with our Galaxy, but is a recent capture from the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a smaller satellite galaxy now being assimilated by our huge spiral galaxy. Many of its lost stars, like Arcturus, follow a band across the sky at about a 70 degree angle to our galactic plane. Arcturus is at the tail of kite shaped Bootes, the celestial bear driver chasing the two bears from his flocks. Spike south then to Spica in Virgo. Here appearance to the Greeks marked the time to plant, for they associated Virgo with Persephone, daughter of Ceres of the Harvest, returning from six months underground with Pluto to now bless the growth and greening of the upperworld. So when Spica rises now at sunset in the SE, it is time to plant your peas! Likewise, when Persephone goes back down to Hades and disappears in the sun's glare in September SW skies, it is time to get your corn in the crib! This cycle of planting and harvesting by this star goes back to the dawn of civilization.

To read past editions of the Sky at Night, visit emmitsburg.net

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May the blessings of St. Patrick behold you.

—Old Irish Blessing

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Windy, chilly (1, 2) Milder, fair (3, 4); rain, snow in the western part of the region (5, 6) turning breezy and colder (7, 8, 9). Fair and milder (10, 11, 12) with more rain (13, 14, 15) turning breezy again but colder (16, 17). Fair and mild (18, 19, 20) with snow and wind (21, 22, 23); Fair and milder once again (24, 25, 26) with yet more snow in the west (27, 28, 29) ending the month breezy and cool (30, 31).

Full Moon: The Full Moon for March will occur on the 28th. Many tribes of Native Americans referred to it as Worm Moon because of the abundance of earthworms beginning to appear because

of the softening of frozen soil from the warming temperatures. It has also been referred to as Sap Moon because sap would begin to rise and run during this time of year.

Special Notes: Don't forget to reset all of your clocks and watches when you 'spring' ahead an hour on Sunday, March 14th at 2 a.m. when Daylight Saving Time begins. The Vernal Equinox will occur Saturday, March 20th that signals the arrival of Spring! "Go fly a kite" during this windy month. Nothing is as exhilarating except maybe flying itself! Check out some of these classic designs you can make at home at www.my-best-kite.com.

Holidays: Passover begins at sunset on Saturday, March 27th. Palm Day is on March 28th. And don't forget to wear green in honor of St. Patrick, on Tuesday, March 17th.

The Garden: March is prime time for feeding shrubs and perennials that bloom in the Summer months.

Start slow-growing and cool season seeds such as onions, leeks, parsley, celery, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, eggplant and peppers. If you did not do so in February, apply a pre-emergent herbicide (that prevents crabgrass) to established lawns before March 15th.

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

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"There is more to be learned by listening closely and keeping an open mind, even though you often don't agree with the speaker"

COMPUTER Q&A

Does your computer need maintenance?

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Repair

Most people won't go for an extended time without getting their vehicle maintained. While it may not be quite obvious to maintain your computer if you aren't the most tech-savvy and haven't had maintenance you should consider it! As you use technology, devices become bogged down and inundated with updates, pop-ups, and other annoyances that if fixed, would reduce stress and increase productivity! It's not that the physical devices are no longer working properly, it's more so like changing the oil in your car, it will continue to run when it's low or dirty but it won't run well and bigger problems could arise that may be avoidable with regular care. We've included information about a few of the things that we at Jester's Computer Services recommend you maintain and are included in our clean-up service which we offer for a discounted price every March and September.

Unwanted Programs whether installed intentionally or not are often set to run at startup which can hinder performance. If you allow children on your computer, you may not know what the programs are that they have installed or whether if that software could cause harm to your device. Sometimes you can just uninstall the program but other times it may take a skilled technician to locate and remove malicious software. Many of these programs run in the background using up your computer's resources which can also affect your internet connection data usage and speeds.

Updates are important to keep your device running smoothly. Updates help to ensure that any security risks that have been found and resolved are applied to your device. If your programs are out of date they may not function properly and sometimes they can even negatively affect the performance of your computer. Many dislike updates because the result can sometimes include change however, you have to weigh it out which is worse, a little change, or keeping your device at risk? During our Clean-up, we update both your operating system and popular software to the latest versions.

Hardware, or your device's physical equipment, can wear out over time. Most commonly we see hard drives (where all your personal data is stored) fail after 5-7 years but they can certainly break down sooner. When you have your computer maintained, good technicians will check your hard drive to see if any corruption is found and if necessary, recommend a replacement before any data is lost.

Temporary files that can include files you opened but did not save, old update files that no longer have a use and temporary files created while browsing the web. None of the aforementioned include your personal data files and are simply taking up storage space on your hard drive. Data files won't slow your computer down but they do take up storage space and when a hard drive becomes too full the operating system will stop functioning properly.

Registry errors can be caused when you install and then uninstall a program or perform software updates. Since

both happen regularly, these errors are unavoidable. You may not even notice that there is a problem but once the errors are resolved, background operations can run more smoothly resulting in a better user experience. Even with yearly maintenance most computers we see accumulate over a thousand or more registry errors, just another example of why regular maintenance is a good idea.

Malicious software that is installed on your device may not be obvious to the average user. While viruses and potentially unwanted programs can appear unexpectedly on your computer, often users unknowingly allow them in. An active antivirus no matter how good, won't always prevent a user from installing software that could have legitimate purposes but that most would consider an unwanted or malicious program. At Jester's Computer in addition to our technicians removing any viruses or malicious software we provide educational materials to help you prevent common issues and, for those than need more help, we offer one-on-one remote support for both computers and mobile devices.

Pop-ups, errors & conflicts that you encounter can often be resolved by regular maintenance

as well. Often, we remember how simple computers used to be while ignoring how frequently we use and rely on our devices today. Since most of the things we use computers for also incorporate using the internet, maintenance is more vital than ever before.

If you haven't had your computer maintained in the last year, Jester's Computers would love to support your technology needs! All September long you can take advantage of our clean-up special which provides a \$20 discount off our regular \$99 price. To reach us find us online at www.jesterscomputers.com on Facebook or by calling us at 717-642-6611. We are open 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday with extended hours until 7 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Due to COVID-19, we are scheduling contactless pickup and drop-offs to our shop by appointment only. Most of our services are completed within 24 business hours or less!

If you find yourself with technology questions or are looking for computer repair or support, contact Jester's Computer Services located in Fairfield. You can reach us at (717) 642-6611 on our website www.jesterscomputers.com.



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HUMOR

Totally useless facts for you to know

The citrus soda 7-UP was created in 1929. "7" was selected because the original containers were 7 ounces. "UP" indicated the direction of the bubbles.

Mosquito repellents don't repel, they hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito sensors so they don't know you're there.

Dentists have recommended that toothbrushes be kept at least 8 feet away from toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as substitute for blood plasma.

American car horns beep in the tone of F.

No piece of paper can be folded more than 7 times.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

1 in every 4 Americans has appeared on television.

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are 50 years of age or older.

The 1st product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.

A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brother's 1st flight.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

The 1st CD pressed in the U S was Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA".

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.

The 1st owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer.

Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

Betsy Ross is the only real person to ever have been the head on a PEZ dispenser.

Michael Jordan makes more money from NIKE annually than all the NIKE factory workers in Malaysia combined.

Adolph Hitler's mother seriously considered having an abortion but was talked out of it by her doctor.

Marilyn Monroe had 6 toes.

All US presidents have worn glasses. Some just didn't like being seen wearing them in public.

Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

The sound of E.T. walking was made by someone squishing her hands in jelly.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time television were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

Coca Cola was originally green.

Every day more money is printed for monopoly than the US Treasury.

Men can read smaller print than women, women can hear better than men. Women can also smell better than men.

Barbie's measurements if she were life size: 39-23-33.

Cost of raising a medium sized dog to the age of 11: \$6,400.

Average number of people airborne over the U.S. during any given hour:61,000.

The world's youngest parents were 8 & 9 and lived in China in 1910.

The youngest Pope was 11 years old.

First novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer

The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile national monuments.

"I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

The term "whole 9 yards" came from WWII fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the 50-caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got the "whole 9 yards".

The Interstate system was designed so that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies. The Interstates official name is The National Defense Highway System.

The cruise liner Queen Elizabeth II moves only 6" for each gallon of fuel that it burns.

The nursery rhyme Ring Around the Rosey is a rhyme about the bubonic plague. Infected people with the plague would get red circular sores (Ring around the Rosey...). These sores would smell very bad so people would hide flowers on their bodies in an attempt to mask the smell ("pocket full of posies..."). People who died from the plague would be burned to reduce the spread of the disease ("ashes, ashes, we all fall down").

Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.

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The 57 on the Heinz ketchup bottle represents the number of Varieties of pickles the company once had.

The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.

The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer. Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

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All US Presidents have worn glasses. Some just didn't like being seen wearing them in public.

Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

The three most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca Cola, and Budweiser, in that order.

Average life span of a major league baseball: seven pitches.

A duck's quack doesn't echo and no one knows why.

Richard Milhouse Nixon was the first US president whose name contains all the letters from the word "criminal." The second? William Jefferson Clinton.

Great Predictions by Experts (of their day)

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 15 tons." Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of Science, 1949.

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HUMOR

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year." The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957

"But what ... is it good for?" Engineer at Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us," Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?" David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

"The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible," A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)

"Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?" Harry M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927.

"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper," Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind."

"A cookie store is a bad idea. Besides, the market research reports say America likes crispy cookies, not soft and chewy cookies like you make." Response to Debbie Fields' idea of starting her company, Mrs. Fields' Cookies.

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out." Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895.

"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this." Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives or 3-M "Post-It" Notepads.

"So we went to Atari and said, 'Hey, we've got this amazing thing, even built with some of your parts, and what do you think about funding us? Or we'll give it to you. We just want to do it. Pay our salary, we'll come work for you.' And they said, 'No.' So then we went to Hewlett-Packard, and they said, 'Hey, we don't need you; you haven't got through college yet.'" Apple Computer Inc. founder Steve Jobs on attempts to get Atari and H-P interested in his and Steve Wozniak's personal computer.

"Professor Goddard does not know the relation between action and reaction and the need to have something better than a vacuum against which to react. He seems to lack the basic knowledge ladled out daily in high schools." 1921 New York Times editorial about Robert Goddard's revolutionary rocket work.

"You want to have consistent and uniform muscle development across all of your muscles? It can't be done. It's just a fact of life. You just have to accept inconsistent muscle development as an unalterable condition of weight training." Response to Arthur Jones, who solved the "unsolvable" problem by inventing Nautilus.

"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy." Drillers who Edwin L. Drake tried to enlist to his project to drill for oil in 1859.

"Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau." Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1929.

"Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military value." Marchal Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Superieure de Guerre.

"Everything that can be invented has been invented." Charles H. Duell, Commissioner, U.S. Office of Patents, 1899.

"Louis Pasteur's theory of germs is ridiculous fiction". Pierre Pachtet, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, 1872

"The abdomen, the chest, and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon". Sir John Eric Ericksen, British surgeon, appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to Queen Victoria, 1873.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895.

"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this." Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives or 3-M "Post-It" Notepads.

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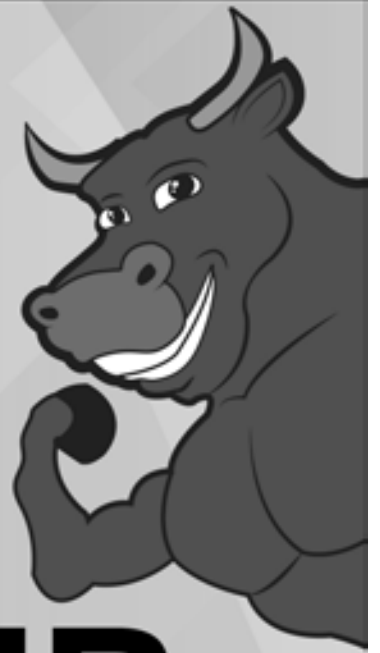
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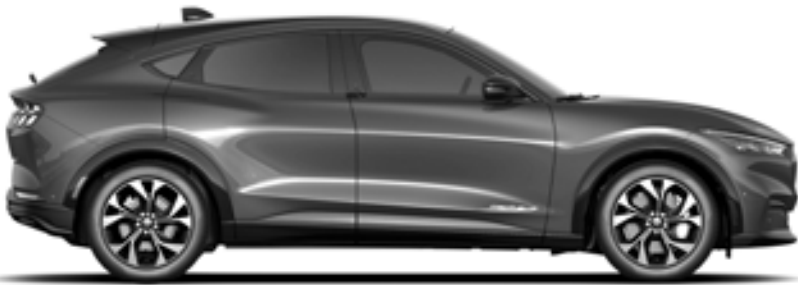


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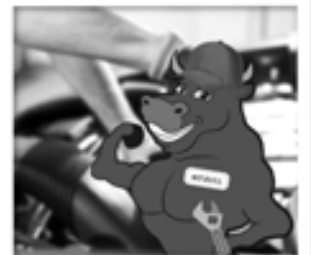
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