

Woodsboro - Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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EDC to host first Walkersville business showcase

On Saturday May 4th, the Walkersville Economic Development Commission (EDC) will host their first pop-up event in conjunction with the opening day of the Walkersville Southern Railroad (WSRR), aptly dubbed: "Pop Up on Penn."

Our beloved WSRR is not only a favorite among locals, but it also brings in thousands of visitors a year to the Town. "There is no better a location for an event to highlight our businesses and organizations in the Town than right there at the train station," said Kelly Renehan, head of the EDC. "Pop Up on Penn" got its name not only for its location on Pennsylvania Ave, but the history of the WSRR being part of the Pennsylvania Railroad, dating back to 1872.

The idea for a pop-up event came from a networking session with local small businesses hosted by the EDC. Local businesses, the Walkersville Business and Professional Association (WBPA), and the EDC brainstormed events to draw attention and new interest to the companies in the Town.

The purpose of the EDC is to

work toward attracting new businesses while retaining existing businesses and to improve economic activities benefiting the local businesses and residents. "Economic development is more than just having more businesses; the goal is to ultimately diversify and strengthen the overall local economy," said Renehan. "Doing so brings in more jobs and improves the quality of life for residents and businesses alike."

"Walkersville has a wide variety of businesses and half of the EDC's purpose is to promote their mission to ultimately strengthen their success and therefore secure their longevity to the community. The other half is to work with the Town's sister departments and the private sector to market the Town of Walkersville for new business additions."

The event is the first major business development event the EDC has held since it was initially established in January 2022. Following its establishment, the EDC focused its efforts on the development of a business directory for the Town's website.

The six-member commission



Walkersville is not only a great place to live, but also a great place to start a business.

meets monthly to discuss ways to highlight and support the local businesses, such as ribbon cuttings, social media mentions, or face to face visits to discover any needs they may have. The EDC also works closely with the WBPA to maintain multiple avenues of communication with business owners and advocate or assist in any way possible.

According to Bob Sussman, past President of the WBPA, the WBPA offers its members local networking opportunities. "If you [EDC] get the businesses established," Sussman told the members of the EDC at their first meeting, "send them our way and we'll create chances

for them to network through the WBPA. You get them in, and we'll keep them going."

In addition to working hand in hand with the WBPA, the EDC also works with the Frederick County Office of Economic Development to ensure there is no duplication of effort. "Every group brings something good to the table, and we all need to work together," said former Town Commissioner Michael Bailey, who spearheaded the reestablishment of the EDC.

Come by to Pop Up on Penn to meet the members of the EDC and WBPA and support your local small businesses.

Path forward on lead pipe inspection uncertain

For those who showed up at the Woodsboro April Town Council meeting in hopes of getting clarification on how the Town was going to address the State mandate to identify homes

connected to the Town's water systems with lead pipes, came away empty handed – but not due to the lack of effort on the part of Burgess Heath Barnes and Commissioner Bill Rittelmeyer.

Barnes said that he has been researching the requirements placed on municipalities to identify homes and about the only thing he knows for sure is that the Town is required to submit a report by October 16th listing what material, e.g. copper, lead or galvanized steel, is used to connect every home to the town's water system.

"I honestly don't know how we are going to do the survey or how much it is going to cost the Town," Barnes said. "The one thing I do know is, as of right now, there is no requirement – yet – that will require a homeowner to replace any lead pipes we find between the shutoff valve outside a home and the water meter in the house."

In response to a question asked by a resident, Barnes clarified that

the State mandate is limited to only inspecting the pipes up to the water meter: "We are not required to inspect all the piping in the house," he said.

Rittelmeyer, who raised the alert on the issue at the March Town Council meeting, reiterated that while the Town had to report on the material used to connect all homes, no matter what their age, the only homes that needed to be inspected were homes built before 1972.

Fortunately," said Rittelmeyer, "most of the homes in Woodsboro are in developments that were built after 1972 and long after the State had banned the use of lead water pipes; however, almost all of the homes on Main Street, 2nd Street, and Creagerstown Road – the old town portion of the Town – were built long before the new codes went into effect, and we have no idea what types of pipes are in use to connect those homes to our water system."

Up until 1952, when the Town built the present water and sewer system, each house and building in the Town was on its own well and septic system. A majority of these homes used lead water pipes to



To accomplish the mandate to identify all homes with lead water pipe connections, all homes in Woodsboro built before 1973 will have to be entered to inspect connections to the Town's water system.

connect the wells to the homes due to their ability to withstand corrosion. When the Town installed its water system, it often connected to the existing lead pipes.

Woodsboro must identify the composition of the lines to every

house in the Town's water service system and categorize the service line material as "Lead", "Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR)", "Non-lead", or "Lead Status Unknown", Rittelmeyer stated.

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WOODSBORO / UNION BRIDGE NEWS

Town opts not to apply for POS grants

The Town Council unanimously agreed not to apply for State Project Open Space (POS) grant money this year based upon the recommendation of Burgess Barnes.

Barnes told the Council that the State funding for the project is the lowest he has seen since he's been Burgess. The funding available for all of the Towns in the County this year is only \$469,000, and when divided among 10 Towns, Woodsboro could, at most, receive \$42,000. Since Woodsboro is one of the smaller Towns and there are a number of projects already underway in the larger Towns, Barnes doubted that the Town would squeeze out even \$10,000, if anything at all.

In support of Barnes' proposal, Commissioner Bill Rittelmeyer commented that when he was the Town's Burgess, Towns would routinely "pass" on submitting requests for grant monies to allow other Towns access to

larger grants to finish higher cost projects. Now it seems, everyone is always submitting a grant request, which is making it increasingly harder to get any project done.

Project Open Space funding can only be applied to new projects, not maintenance costs of existing projects. "As we have no new projects on the books right now," Barnes said, "we would have to come up with something first, then put the grant request together, then sit in a room with all the other Towns and argue for the money."

"Let's be honest," Barnes said, "we've been very fortunate over the past four years. We've received over \$600,000 in POS funding which we've put to use building the skateboard park, and the Bandshell and bathrooms in the park."

"We've more then gotten our share of POS funding, let other Towns now get what they need for their projects," Barnes said to an approving Council.

In a related topic, Barnes told the Council that he has been notified by the contractor who is building the new bathrooms in the park that the cost is going to be higher than expected.

"Fortunately, we overestimated what it was going to cost us, so we have excess POS money to cover the cost. All it means is that some of the other minor things we had hoped to do in the park will not get done this year."

The increase in the cost of the bathrooms, Barnes told the Council, was due to the County requiring the bathroom be designed by an architect, whose plans would then have to be approved by the County Office of Permits.

"Honestly, all we had planned to do was build a cinderblock building and put in five toilets, why we need an architect to design the layout of five stalls is beyond me."

Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

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Woodsboro News-Briefs...

Vote on Approving New Town Hall Set For May 2

Burgess Heath Barnes told the Town Council that he has been notified by the selected architect and builder of the new Town Hall that they are finalizing the cost estimate and will be ready to present to the Town at the end of April.

Barnes suggested that the Council meet on Thursday May 2nd, as opposed to its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 14th, to fast track the approval of the final design for the Town Hall and its cost.

The Council's approval will allow the contractor to get a two-week jumpstart on acquiring all of the necessary County permits to start actual construction.

When beginning the process several years back to build its first Town

Hall, the Town was prepared to spend \$800,000. That estimate, however, was blown out of the water when the bids came in, the lowest bid being \$1.6 million. As a result, Barnes and the Council have been actively reevaluating what amenities are needed to create the type of Town Hall they envisioned while reducing the price tag down to a level that the Town can afford.

Barnes noted that the builder and architect had recommended several changes to the original design that were major cost savings that will help get the total down to its \$1.1 million goal.

Town To Interview New Street Sweeper

Commissioner Cutshall informed fellow Councilmembers that he has scheduled an interview with a street

sweeping company to discuss performing that task for the Town going forward.

The interview comes on the heels of the revelation at last month's meeting that the street sweeping service that the Town had contracted with in 2021 had stopped coming last spring, with no prior notification to the Town or reason given.

Cutshall said that he will be asking for a price quote to have the streets swept at least every three months.

Barnes asked Cutshall to request an estimate by the end of April so that the Town can build it into its FY-25 budget.

The Town's now AWOL street sweeper had given the Town an estimate for \$1,440 to \$1,920 per sweep. As the sweeper will be rented by the

Union Bridge News Briefs...

At its March 25th meeting, the Union Bridge Town Council heard the Fiscal Year 24/25 proposed operating budget introduction.

Several work meetings went into the draft budget that includes expenditures and revenue of \$1,174,714, according

to Mayor Perry Jones.

The Town tax rate is proposed to remain at 35 cents per \$100 of full value assessment of property in Town. The personal property tax rate is proposed to remain at 75 cents per \$100 assessed value, he said.

Copies of the proposed budget are available for review at the Town Office and more information about the proposed budget can be found by contacting the Union Bridge Town clerk at 741-775-2711.

In other business, Town Attorney Mandi Porter introduced updates to the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2030.

The purpose of this program is to provide a useful guide for planning and budgeting as it anticipates future projects and areas of focus for the Town

while keeping the best interests of the Town at the forefront, she said. She continued to say that a great deal of time went into developing the plan and seeing what projects the Town needs to prioritize.

According to Porter, a notable aspect of the CIP has been the inclusion of big-ticket Town projects. Moving forward, the Town is looking to change the policy to a "strictly pay as you go basis" by securing grant funding before initiating the spending of Town money on larger projects, she said.

"At least since I've been here, the Town has spent a lot of money and time on big projects. It just seems

everything that needs to get done has just come all at once," Porter said.

One priority project for the Town over the last several years has been locating and purchasing land for a wastewater treatment plant. Looking at the CIP right now, funds have been budgeted for the purchase of 6 of the 12.2 acres needed at this time, she said.

Requests for proposals are currently being prepared for engineering services for the new wastewater treatment plant. The State requires the Town to competitively bid for the services, according to Councilmember Brett Grossnickle.

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Path forward on lead pipe inspection uncertain

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Because Maryland banned the use of lead water pipes in 1972, the MDE Lead Pipe Inventory criteria calls for Towns to prioritize the inspection of water pipe connections for homes built before 1972. However, the inventory still requires a certification for all homes, which will require the Town to document that homes built after 1972 were built to the updated code.

One of the options Barnes pro-

posed is to provide documentation for all homes constructed after 1972 as proof of the absence of lead, and then simply list the status of the rest of the homes in Town as "Lead Status Unknown" on the report.

"That will at least allow us to meet the October report deadline and give us time to formulate a plan to inspect all the houses that do need to be inspected next year. The Town is required to send the State an updated report every year," Barnes noted.

Once the inspection process

does get underway, the Town must notify the homeowner if they discover that their connection to the Town's water system is through lead pipes, with a recommendation to replace the pipes. Replacement, however, will be at the expense of the homeowner.

"Every year we must notify the owners of homes with lead pipes, as well as the State. How long that will go on for before the State takes actions to require the removal of the pipes and who will have to pay for it, is anyone's guess," Barnes said.

WALKERSVILLE NEWS

Town Council votes "No" to growth

Walkersville residents showed up in force to state their objections to inclusion of future developments at the draft Comprehensive Plan public workshop review meeting. The center of their ire was the inclusion in the Plan for the eventual development of the 115-acre Staley property.

Many shared stories of flooding basements, sink holes and other natural disasters that already plague them. Resident Linda Grossnickle asked, "What will happen to the existing homes when the land that once soaked up water runoff is covered in asphalt, concrete and houses?"

Commissioner Michael McNiesh pointed out that the projected 400 homes to be built on the Staley property did not match the description of "low growth," which assumes a rate of 200 units over 20

years with a population increase of five percent.

An increase in traffic was also a major concern for residents. They questioned the quantity of vehicles a 400-home development would bring and the impact they would have. "If every home has two cars, that's at least 800 more vehicles on the road," said Grossnickle.

Commissioner Gary Baker argued, "I don't see this being the magnitude that everyone is projecting," he said. "You are not going to see all of these cars pulling out onto Devilbiss Road all at one time."

"With the farming equipment, construction vehicles, and personal cars, I fear for everyone's safety," said one resident, which was echoed by others.

Concern over the already overcrowded schools was abundant at the meeting. Residents asked what

would happen if a 400-home development was built and what it would do to the Town if nothing was done about the schools first.

Carrie Pollock, a lifelong Walkersville resident, spoke of a lack of adequate bathroom resources in schools and poorly maintained conditions, leading to leaking roofs and extreme temperatures in the buildings. "The Town's school facilities are not adequate to meet the needs of its current residents. Please don't add 400 more. By saying yes to this Staley development, you are essentially saying no to a safe learning environment and the success of our children," she said.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis pointed out that the County's APFO (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance) would prevent a large development from being built at this time. "This

won't destroy the Town," she said, "just because it's in the Plan doesn't mean it will happen anytime soon or at all." Baker agreed with Brodie-Ennis that a development that is 15 to 20 years away would not ruin Walkersville.

Chairman of the Planning Commission David Ennis spoke on behalf of Commission members explaining highlights of their recommendations, a result of a three-year long effort. Ennis asked the Council on behalf of the Commission to request Frederick City to allocate funds from their school mitigation fees to be used to update Walkersville schools. "Since many Frederick City residents attend Walkersville schools, it makes sense that those fees can be used for our schools to be upgraded," he said.

Brodie-Ennis was concerned about a future with no growth at

all. "I have concerns about not having homes for our children to move into or businesses not coming to be because this Town isn't growing residentially at all."

Planning Commission member Russell Winch, who was the only Planning Commission member who voted against the draft Comprehensive Plan, pointed out that, "the residents overwhelmingly do not want growth. What problem are we trying to solve by growing? I can't think of a single problem that we have that requires more development." He asked the Council to send the Plan back to the Planning Commission to adopt a no growth policy.

Despite having 90 days to review the Plan and decide to approve, modify or reject it, the Council voted to send it back to the Planning Commission to modify the Plan to keep the Staley property as it is currently zoned, industrial agriculture, in a vote of 3-2.

Semi-annual water assessment fee adopted

The Town Council approved extending the semi-annual water assessment fee of \$100 - two payments of \$50 - until the Council can decide between keeping the fee long term, raising the water rates, or a combination of both.

The fee was first applied to water bills in 2020 when the new water treatment plant was opened and it expired at the end of 2023 with nothing to replace it. The revenue from the assessment was used to pay down the principle of the 30-year loan of \$7.3 million that the Town received from the State for the plant's construction. This year alone, the Town must pay back \$286,886.

Originally the fee was \$50, calculated by dividing the yearly loan repayment amount by \$3,000 (the approximate number of water customers at the time). In 2021, the fee was increased to \$100 per account.

The benefit of the assessment fee was clearly seen when looking at the actual FY-23 revenue, which was \$1,599,614 and expenses were \$1,632,533, leaving a difference of negative \$32,919. If the assessment fee was not used, the Town's revenue would have been \$1,295,714, the expenses \$1,632,533 and the difference a whopping negative \$336,819.

Commissioner Mike McNiesh proclaimed his dislike for the fee, stating that the original purpose of the fee was to bridge the gap until the Town could determine the operating costs of the water plant: "We've had a couple years to figure the costs out and I think it's time to raise the water rates. We don't want to, but people who use more water should be paying for what they use because it isn't fair to those that use less water to pay for others to use more."

He was adamant that something be done before the next election, claiming "We need to take ownership of this and not pass it down to the next board."

Commissioner Betsey Brannen said she didn't want to raise water rates but felt that both raising rates and having the fee needed to hap-

pen: "I don't like it, but I think we need to do both," she said.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert pointed out that the fee doesn't cover increased staff salaries or replacement parts. "I think we all understand we need to raise the rates," he said, "The assessment fee was just to repay the water plant loan. The water rates pay for operating expenses."

Town Manager Sean Williams agreed, explaining that the fee almost perfectly covers the state loan. It does not cover the money loaned from the general fund to the utility fund

that helps cover water plant operating expenses in excess of the revenue raised by the base water rate.

In stressing the implications on not ensuring the water rates cover actual costs, Williams pointed to the recent public uproar in Emmitsburg when the Town was forced to implement a series of yearly 33% rate increases after failing to ensure that water rates cover the actual costs of water for years. Walkersville has not raised its rates since 2016, other than the special assessment fee.


One option that the Council is considering is revoking the assessment fee entirely and rolling it into general fees. It has also been suggested that changing billing from semi-annual to quarterly billing will lessen the financial impact on residents.

Williams suggested that the best option for the Council at this time would be to continue the fee for a little while longer to allow Town staff and the Council to develop a better long-term plan.

The fee was adopted unanimously and the Council is planning future workshops to create a long-term plan.

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WALKERSVILLE INFO

Wed., May 1 - 7 p.m. - Parks Commission Meeting
Sat., May 4 - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Pop-Up On Penn Event
Tues., May 7 - 7 p.m. - Charter Review Committee Meeting
Wed., May 8 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting
Tues., May 14 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Workshop
Mon., May 20 - 7 p.m. - EDC Meeting
Wed., May 22 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting
Mon., May 27 - Town Office Closed - Memorial Day
Tues., May 28 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting

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 Walkersville:Our Town

FROM THE DESK OF...

Congressman David Trone

I hear the same things all over our state. Maryland voters are tired of being pawns in a rigged system. Tired of politicians making promises that are never kept. Tired of the PACs and lobbyists who give contributions to stop progress on the issues ravaging our communities — addiction, mental health, a systemically racist criminal justice system, and more. I'm tired of it, too. The middle class is struggling, and the average voter is left in the shadows every day. That's a big reason why I'm running for the United States Senate.

People have always asked me: why in the world would a successful businessman leave his company to run for office? My answer is simple: it's not about politics, it's about public service. I'm a public servant who knows what it's like to fight for a better life for their family, someone

who knows what it's like to struggle.

I grew up on a working farm, cleaning hog pens and selling eggs to make a living.

When I was 11, we had no working plumbing and had to use an outhouse. Then, my family lost our farm to the bank. They took our homes, our jobs, and everything we knew. So, I went back to school and started a business to help support my family.

From one small store, we've grown into the nation's largest retailer of wine and spirits, Total Wine and More. Today, we have over 200 stores in 28 states. I'm running because I've been incredibly privileged to live the American Dream. And I'm going to fight to make sure that every Marylander has an equal opportunity to live that same dream.

I'll never back down from a fight. I never spent my days dialing for dollars or seeking fundraisers. I've focused on the only thing that truly matters in this fight: the people I represent.

I'm on the mission because this is personal to me — and I know they're personal to all of you, too. When my nephew Ian died of a fentanyl overdose in 2016, I realized that no family should have to go through the pain that mine felt. So, I've worked tirelessly to make that a reality.

Growing up, my dad was an abusive alcoholic. I had many loved ones who told me that they were struggling with their mental health. When I realized that there was not even enough care available for those who needed it, I started a task force in Congress to address these problems.

When I realized that our criminal justice system was systemically racist, I focused on reducing recidivism and improving reentry outcomes for justice-impacted individuals. I launched the Trone Center at the ACLU to tackle unjust practices like cash bail and mandatory minimums, and I took that fight to Congress for the last 3 terms.

I know that folks in this community and all over the state feel left behind. They need a candidate ready to hit the ground running. And they need a candidate who knows what it takes to bring more of our federal tax dollars back to Maryland for programs and projects that will help the people here who pay those taxes.

If you look at my track record, I'm the only candidate in the race who will be ready to go on day one in the Senate. I'm the only one who has stood up for reproductive freedom 100% of the time, and the only

candidate who has stood against the death penalty 100% of the time. And while other candidates, Democrats and Republicans, talk about working on a bipartisan basis to get things done, the record is clear that I am the only one who really does it.

While my attention is on the primary, we need to think past May and worry about November. We can't afford to get this one wrong because the GOP is counting on Maryland to provide a vote to make healthcare and prescription drugs more expensive, and to make it harder for those to access Medicare and Social Security.

More than ever, it's time to send a disruptor and a change agent to the United States Senate. It's time to reject the status quo and finally put people over politics. On May 14th, I hope you will cast your vote for me — because there is more work to do.

County Council President Brad Young

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater presented the County's Proposed Budget for FY-25 on April 15. The proposed fiscal year 2025 budget totals \$981.9 million. It has a proposed property tax increase of five centers and dedicated for school construction. The proposed budget also provides for \$10 million above the State's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) educational funding requirement.

On April 23, the Council held a Public Hearing for the FY-25 Board of Education and Frederick County Gov-

ernment Budget. Following this Public Hearing, the Council held three days of Budget workshops on April 24, April 25, and April 26 from 10 to 4. During these workshops, the Council Members met with leaders from the Departments within the Frederick County Government to discuss Budget needs and priorities.

The Council will begin to discuss possible Budget Amendments on April 30. The Amendment proposal and approval process will continue after April 30. The Public Hearing for the

County's Property Tax Rate will be held on May 7. The Final Budget with any possible approved Amendments must be approved by the Council by May 31.

The County Council recently passed Bill 24-02, amending the Frederick County Code Regarding the Sustainable Monocacy Commission. Bill 24-03, passed by 6-1 vote, revises the Braddock Heights, Libertytown, and New Addition Electric Lighting District tax rates so that projected revenue covers projected costs.

Upcoming legislation includes Bill

24-04, Revising the Frederick County Building Code, Bill 24-05, Revising the Frederick County Electrical Code, and Bill 24-06, Revising the Frederick County Plumbing Code. I am sponsoring these Bills on behalf of the County Executive. Relevant documentation and the text of all Bills will be linked to our agendas. All documentation can be found on our website.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. We welcome public comment at every Council

meeting on Tuesday evenings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comment in person, leave a voicemail to be forwarded to each Council Member, or email us any time at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov. Please visit our website at www.frederickcountymd.gov/county council to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

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

Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes

Greetings and happy May. This is one of my favorite months as we transition into the summer. I always personally associate the Memorial Day Holiday with the beginning of

the fun summer months.

At our April 9th meeting we were joined by the builders who are going to be building the 9 townhouses on Second Street. He informed us that the

construction will begin before year end and once started will go up rather quickly. As far as the town hall update we are awaiting the updated rate proposal from the builder to take a vote on it with the council. We are hoping that we will have these numbers to present at the next meeting.

Our May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2nd at 7 p.m. instead of the usual second Tuesday of the month. Due to scheduling conflicts with council members and the importance of the May meeting, we moved it to accommodate. We are hopeful that at the May meeting, we will have a town hall updated bid proposal to bid on. We will be presenting our fiscal 2025 year budget proposal to the council which will then be voted on for approval at the June

11th meeting. Per code the budget has to be given to the council at least 30 days before taking a vote on it that is why the meeting was moved earlier in May.

Some upcoming exciting happenings are going on in Woodsboro. The first will be the Artisan farmers market to be held at Trouts grocery store on May 18th from 9 am to 1 pm. The second will be the annual Memorial Day parade that is put on by the American Legion it will take place on Sunday, May 26th at 1 pm.

Mary our town clerk is in negotiations with another street sweeper company since the one that we were using disappeared without notice, and we have heard the concerns from residents regarding the buildup along the streets and gutters.

As always, I encourage everyone to support Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS) if you have clothes or food

donations as they are always in need of items for members of the community. For more information, please contact GVCS by email at gvcs.inc@verizon.net, or call 301-845-0213.

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

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



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GOVERNMENT

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Last month, I submitted my proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025. The operating and capital budgets are anchored in my administration's core values of accountability, inclusion, and sustainability. This budget reflects a huge amount of community input from my district-based listening sessions, public hearings, the Balancing Act survey, and emails. That feedback was important as I determined strategic investments that are fiscally responsible and data-driven.

For the 15th year in a row, Frederick County ranks as one of Maryland's healthiest counties, with health factors and outcomes far exceeding the national average. Good health is no accident. It takes planning and a commitment to making healthy choices. This proposed budget delivers a healthy Frederick County. Here are some highlights:

Strong Financial Health - The proposed budget sets aside healthy reserve funds, meets our long-term pension obligations, and makes tactical investments to protect our AAA bond rating from all three rating agencies. This saves taxpayers millions of dollars that we can then invest into the community.

Education and Workforce Development - Since taking office a little over a year ago, my Administration has increased funding to Frederick County Public Schools by nearly \$60 million more than required by Maintenance of Effort. Frederick County now ranks among the top five counties in Maryland for funding above MOE. We are enhancing our apprenticeship program in partnership with FCPS to provide more opportunities for high school students in County government.

Housing & Quality of Life - This budget will help Frederick County deliver the services residents need and want to maintain good health and live their best lives. A one-time infusion of resources into the Housing Initiative Fund will expand current programs, such as homebuyer downpayment assistance, deferred loans,

and housing rehab programs.

We heard repeatedly from the community about the need for a surgery coordinator at Animal Control to streamline operations and enhance spay and neuter services. This position is included in the proposed budget.

Public Safety - This budget invests in the people who keep us safe - those in our Division of Fire and Rescue Services, both career and volunteer, as well as Emergency Management, the Sheriff's Office, and the State's Attorney's Office. It focuses on improved service and training, as well as employee health and wellness for all our first responders.

My proposal also establishes a budget to cover high insurance deductibles for our volunteer fire and rescue companies. The FY25 budget also honors the multi-year contract commitment we made to our firefighters, and it funds new contracts for our deputies and correctional officers to include key salary and benefit enhancements.

Public Health and Human Services - This budget provides funding to assist our seniors and veterans by enhancing opportunities within the Division of Aging and Independence. It includes funding for the Division of Family Services to expand assistance to children, youth, and caregivers. The budget also provides funding and staff support for hearing and vision screenings throughout Frederick County Public Schools.

Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Transportation - The farming community asked for an additional position in our newly launched Office of Agriculture to enhance customer service, which I have included. And we are adding a CDL trainer position to Transit to better train, recruit, and retain excellent Transit drivers.

The Division of Energy and Environment is implementing our Climate and Energy Action Plan. This budget provides additional support, including project managers for the Clean Energy

Program and the Power Saver Retrofits program. These investments not only help us meet our energy and climate goals, but also help generate energy savings to households living paycheck to paycheck.

Everywhere I go, I hear people talking about how important it is to invest in our aging infrastructure, especially our older school buildings. We fund new schools and additions through impact and mitigation fees that developers pay. But we can't use those funds to address our schools that were built 40 to 50 years ago and are in need of renovations or replacements to better serve our students.

This budget puts us on a path to addressing this challenge. While most of our neighboring counties have increased their property tax rates to account for rising costs, Frederick County's overall rate


has not increased in nearly 20 years. We are proposing a property tax rate of \$1.11, which will generate nearly \$21.5 million in additional revenue annually and will be dedicated solely to school construction projects. This proposal amounts to an increase of \$15 per month for the average homeowner in the county. A majority of the County Council has committed to this change to ensure we continue to put our students first.

Government Innovation - Included in my budget is a 2% cost-of-living salary adjustment for County staff - one of the most requested items from the Balancing Act budget survey. This is in addition to a traditional merit increase. Together, this salary enhancement is on par with neighboring jurisdictions, including the City of Frederick.

Our Office of Communications and Public Engagement gets information about County functions, news, and

updates to our residents. I am proposing several strategic investments in this office, including the addition of a bilingual multimedia tech and a social media specialist, as well as increased funding for translation services to ensure our County materials are more accessible.

Economic Development and Jobs - Frederick County's economy is growing at a steadier rate than the State overall. We are focused on identifying strategies to bring high-paying, quality jobs to our community, and to support local entrepreneurs who want to start or expand here. The budget allows us to recruit more businesses and to develop strategic plans for our economic development efforts. We are almost ready to launch our Economic Opportunity Plan through our Livable Frederick office which will explore how we can better plan employment growth throughout the County.



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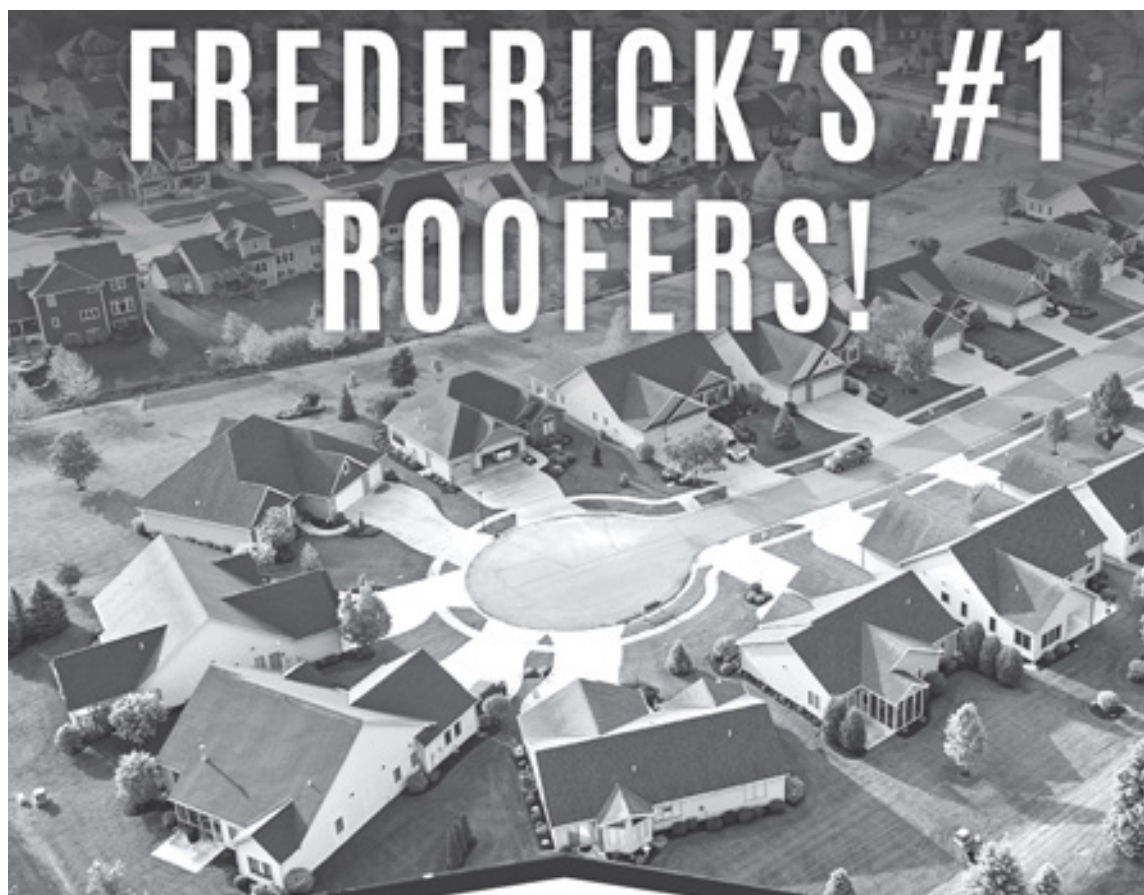
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FROM THE DESK OF SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE . . .

Angie Vigliotti

My name is Angie Vigliotti and I am running for a seat on the Frederick County Board of Education. I am currently determined to bring about funding for general education and much-needed reform in special education. My journey began a few years ago when I became aware of the mistreatment of children with disabilities in the school system. The U.S. Department of Justice's report from December 2021, which charged Frederick County Public Schools with illegally secluding and restraining children with disabilities, hit close to home. My own son was among the 125 children involved in thousands of incidents over a two-year period.

Even before autism was widely recognized in Frederick County, I took

proactive steps to address my child's developmental disorder by diving into research and workshops.

Following the Department of Justice investigation, I began volunteering with the Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint. With them, I review legislation to make it more accessible to the community. Additionally, I served on the FCPS Blue Ribbon Task Force, which was established to address the investigation and provide recommendations to the school system.

As a parent who has witnessed my child's abuse, I understand that most families simply seek validation. As a Board member, I hope to offer valuable recommendations and work collaboratively with other members to address

the challenging issues facing the county's educational system. I currently provide services with the Maryland Autism Waiver program and teach life skills to children in the autism community. I also assist families in understanding how to become eligible for state services.

My dedication extends beyond my campaign. I serve on the Maryland State Autism Waiver Advisory Committee to represent the voice of thousands of families on the waitlist. I advocate for reduced wait times and ensure that children have the opportunity to learn essential life and community skills before aging out of services.

Throughout the years, I have become a prominent spokesperson for Frederick County at the local and state education boards. If elected to the Board, I aim to provide recommendations for special

education and ensure that the school system fulfills its settlement agreement with the Department of Justice.

It is important that FCPS school staff receive proper training to handle crisis situations involving children, and that expanded and improved programs supporting children with diverse disabilities are offered to families in this county. Personally, I believe that every child deserves acceptance and safety while receiving an education, and I am determined to make that a reality.

In addition to special education reform, I recognize the significance of addressing other pressing issues. I aim to secure funding for transportation and facilities, and I am committed to forming partnerships with organizations and being accountable to the community. Brunswick High School needs capital

improvement funds and this is a top priority for me. I believe it is in desperate need of rebuilding and I intend to rally the Board of Education and county officials to prioritize this school. Furthermore, I also recognize the need for facilities funding for public charters such as the Environmental school and Montessori schools. If I am effective in this, I can also help some of the other schools that are in desperate need of renovation and rebuild.

A satellite career and technology center at Brunswick is also very important to me. I believe skilled workers make for strong communities in our future. I feel students should have the opportunity to learn a trade or attend college without incurring heavy debt.

To learn more about my campaign, please visit votevig.com.

Celia Reidler

Frederick County's population has increased every year since 2010 and it is the fastest growing county in the state. The county's demographics has also changed with an increase in the Hispanic, Black and Asian population now reflecting the national average.

One of the strategic goals of FCPS is to provide an equitable and inclusive learning environment for all students. As a former public school science teacher with 25 years of service my vision of FCPS aligns directly with this goal. We hear the word equity used frequently but what does it mean? It means every student has access to the resources they need to achieve. White's and asians have significantly higher achievement outcomes compared to the hispanics, blacks, and other marginalized

groups. There is an achievement gap between these groups of students.

The Maryland Blueprint for Education clearly states, "all district's must include goals and strategies that promote academic excellence for all students and eliminate any gaps in performance as a function of race, ethnicity, poverty, disability, or native language." FCPS and BOE policies and strategic plans must continue to support and expand a culture of achievement for children in these groups: free reduced /meals, multilingual learner, Black or African American, Hispanic/Latino.

The Maryland Blueprint for Education will significantly support Frederick County and all the counties in Maryland improve the quality of education for all students. The Blueprint

is a landmark education initiative and legislation conceived in 2021 by the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. The state budget of 3.8 billion annually for ten years will be dispersed to Maryland's 24 counties. The implementation of these funds is of paramount importance to the goals of equity, inclusion and improving academic outcomes for all students. Following are some of the goals of the Blueprint.

- Significantly expand publicly-funded for full day pre-K for all three and four year olds especially from low income families.
- Provide the English language learners the services they need to become proficient in reading by 3rd grade.
- Decrease the number of students who require intervention services by providing the supports they need in the early years.

- Ensure the students with disabilities receive the resources they need to reach their potential.
- Ensure that all students have access to an adequate amount of healthy food and are not experiencing food insecurity.
- Identify the students who have mental health challenges and increase behavioral health services.
- Support College and Career readiness initiatives
- Decrease chronic absenteeism, decrease the drop-out rate and improve the graduation rate
- Increase the participation in Advanced Placement /International Baccalaureate and Career and Technology Education

Our educators support our students and we must support our educators. Frederick County teacher salaries are not competitive with the

neighboring counties and are in the bottom third of salaries in the state most notably behind Washington and Carrol County. At 7 years only Worcester, Garrett and Somerset Counties have lower teaching salaries. Teachers are leaving Frederick County and making more money elsewhere. We need to retain the high quality teachers by providing a competitive compensation.

As a BOE member, I will work to make sure that all children receive a high quality education. I am committed to closing the achievement gap in FCPS schools. I have 25 years of public school teaching experience and a deep knowledge of how school policies lead to better educational outcomes. I will work to provide equitable achievement outcomes for students and competitive compensation for teachers.

Patti Worsley

I am a former Public and Private school teacher, and have Substituted and Tutored in Frederick County and Washington Counties. I am campaigning for a seat on the Board of Education because I feel there is a need for change in how we are educating our children. (They are the future of our communities AND our country.)

As a teacher—I learned very early, that children do not learn well if they are hungry. Before any learning takes place, a child needs nutrition. Research shows that the better the nutrition (the building blocks of our body and brains), the better each student learns.

Another observation that I made was that a child must have confidence before they can learn...confidence in their abilities and in their Rights as humans. Confidence opens the door to purposeful learning and self-discipline. Confidence is gained through understanding and successful production. Confidence is retained through granting children their Rights.

Understandings come one word at a time! Words are the building blocks of education. In education, if a student does not understand the first word or any subsequent word in a subject, their confidence and aptitude declines.

For instance: If I asked you to draw a sun in the sky—most likely you could draw a sun—confidently. If I asked you to draw a tree, most people can draw something. But if I asked you to draw a "hoopoe" — your confidence may drop. Perhaps you'd want to quit right there! If you guessed by "context"—you may end up drawing something from Nature—but how confident would you be? Until you defined the word hoopoe as a black and orange bird with a standing, feathered crown, you wouldn't have any idea how to even BEGIN to draw a hoopoe correctly.

Now, think how a student feels when they see words like "as" or "the" or "be" (versus "bee")? Undefined words lead to confusions, misunderstandings and mistakes—which lowers confidence, aptitude and duplication. Is it a wonder why

students' scores on tests are declining?

If understanding is not happening—then misunderstandings begin breeding confusions, strange and perverted ideas, with miscommunications, pretended learning and apathy in general...a "who cares?" attitude.

Our schools and teachers need to concentrate on each child's understandings of all words and subjects taught. I believe that can be achieved by getting back to Basics—back to finding what each student has mastered; then prescribing each student with their personal IEP (Individualized Education Program). A checklist can be easily created from the structure of the curriculum that is already in place. Individualized programming (with teacher, parental and student responsibility) is paramount in raising the scores on tests and in preventing student failures.

As a School Board Member, I will openly promote 1) Transparency to all citizens, 2) Students' Understanding of all terms and 3) Teachers', Parents' and Students', Rights. 4) I will diligently investigate all spending, and 5) Seek to be democratic in all decision-making (best for the most) through town meetings and surveys.

If this is something that resonates with you—please share with your friends and family. For more information about me visit VoteWisely4Worsley.com

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FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE...

George Gluck (D)

November 5th will be the day that we either entirely lose the precious democratic experiment begun in 1776, or the day we restore it!

Our main concern should be which federal candidate, running in any party primary election, for any position, President, Senator, or Congressional Representative is, first, most likely to fight for our democracy, and second, most likely to win the general election.

As an immigrant, who first registered to vote in 1968, as an "FDR" Democrat, I experienced the goodness of this country, and know that regain-

ing this goodness is within reach. One of our campaign slogans is "Make America GOOD Again. This time for ALL of US! If you wish to learn how we have come so close to losing our democracy, please follow the four links at the top of my campaign homepage sites.google.com/view/georgegluck.

Next on the homepage, you can see a postcard the campaign would like to send each registered voter. Near the top is an indication of what we need to do to commence our journey to restoration of our democracy: "To accomplish this, we will,

most of all, return and enhance our democratic institutions and processes, beginning with new examinations of campaign financing, registration and vote suppression, and gerrymandering."

Why do I feel that I would be most able, of the sixteen of us on the ballot, to win the general election? The answer begins two decades ago, when I became a high school math/science substitute teacher in Congressional District 6. First, for MCPS, then shortly after FCPS, and now WCPS, GCPS, and finally

ACPS (just weeks ago). As such, you could say I've taught over 80,000 CD6 constituents, almost all of whom are old enough to vote, and may well still live in the 6th District. It matters not at all to me where they, or their parents, sit on the political spectrum. My goal has always been to teach at least one student in each class at least one thing, and I believe I'm still battling 1.000!

From my first campaign in 2009, I have promised to fill our office with members of all recognized parties, unaffiliated

voters, and those who are not registered to vote. This way, if, for some reason, a constituent does not feel comfortable speaking with me, there will be somebody who they can feel comfortable speaking with.

After Democrats passed, and President Clinton signed the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), sending 70,000 good Maryland jobs overseas, I realized the leadership of my party had lost their way. For two decades after that, I was neither a Democrat nor a Republican.



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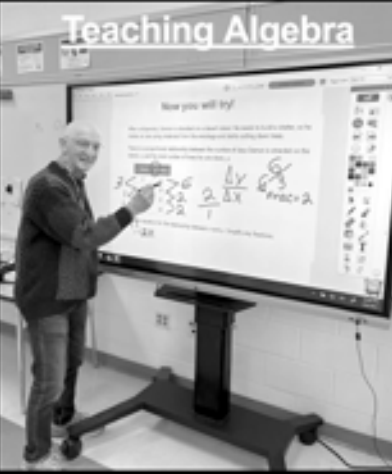
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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Facts and beliefs

Shannon Bohrer

When we are young, we are both consciously and unconsciously imprinted with certain beliefs that we carry with us for the rest of our lives. You expect to have those same beliefs, like right and wrong and other values and opinions over the course of your lifetime. It is understood that not everyone has the same beliefs, but your thoughts are that most people have some common beliefs. Having that foundation of core beliefs allows one to make sense of the world around them. It is a fact that science is real and explains much of our world. The earth rotates around the sun, and the tilt of the earth relates to our seasons. In fact, many of the beliefs, like science, are reinforced with general education.

As someone born in the late 1940s, the beliefs with which I grew up and believed in for most of my life have been questioned for several years. I do not see the world any differently but apparently many people do, and that perplexes me. I always believed there were good guys and bad guys, and the good guys outnumber the bad guys. As I grew, I realized that my perspective was often too simplistic. It is normal for people to have different thoughts, and in a free country that is real freedom. However, sometimes the different thoughts appear unreasoned in that, from my perspec-

tive, they have no foundation and that puzzles me.

For several years, watching or reading the news seems like watching re-runs of the old television series “Twilight Zone.” What is portrayed as real is often imaginary, and what is not real is represented as factual. Of course, toward the end of the show additional information often explains misleading information and truthfulness is revealed. It was like being intentionally misled, allowing you to question what you believe. In some ways, the show offered lessons on judging too quickly and without all the facts. When reading or watching the current news, the problem is that there is no reveal at the end to explain what some people believe.

“You must always be willing to truly consider evidence that contradicts your beliefs and admit the possibility that you could be wrong. Intelligence isn’t knowing everything, it’s the ability to challenge everything you know.”

-Author unknown

When I was young, we were vaccinated against polio, and it worked. COVID-19 is real and upon us. Yet people questioned not just if it was real but whether our government or a foreign entity created it. Vaccines were produced using accepted science, and people would not take them. Some even vilified some well-

known scientists because - they could. Disparaging individuals and organizations for telling the truth was perplexing since it was not logical from my perspective. I knew that anti-vaxxers existed, as they always have, but I had no clue there were so many. Furthermore, why vilify the government, doctors, and scientists?

The term “Alternative facts,” when first spoken, made the national news. The reality is that while the term was coined during the Trump administration, alternative facts or motives have existed for some time. It could be that people when confronted with information that does not fit with their reality, can ignore anything that challenges what they know, or believe they know.

On January 6, 2021, an insurrection occurred at the United States Capital Building in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the insurrection was to prevent the Electoral College votes from being counted, which would confirm the election of President Joe Biden. There are videos of numerous acts of violence against the Capital Police, also with recordings of verbal threats against members of Congress. Many, if not most, of the insurrectionists have stated they were there to protect our democracy. Many believed the election was stolen, yet there has never been any evidence, even with over sixty court cases.

Shortly after the insurrection members of Congress spoke out against the event, saying it was an illegal activity and that participants should be held accountable. The problem that devel-

oped was that the words and beliefs that were spoken - changed. The changes were subtle at first but gradually depicted something that did not occur. No longer were the insurrectionist criminals who should be arrested; those same individuals were transformed into tourists, then patriots and even hostages.

You would think that everyone could agree that someone who assaults a police officer should be arrested and charged with a crime. It is a fact that many were arrested and charged and have been found or pleaded guilty to the charges. Yet, many of the same politicians who vilified the event as criminal behavior have changed their thoughts. One congressperson traveled from Texas to Florida to meet an insurrectionist who was being released from jail. The congressperson, Louie Gohmert, presented the insurrectionist with a flag that had been flown over the capital. Gohmert stated she (the insurrectionist) “is a patriot and American Hero.” Even the “Twilight Zone” would have trouble explaining Gohmert’s actions and words.

In the late 1950s, I watched a television show called “Dragnet.” The show starred Jack Web as Sgt. Friday. At that time, it was the only show about police work, but television was still young. I remember Sgt. Friday interviewing witnesses and victims, often repeating the phrase, “Just the facts, ma’am, just the facts.” Can anyone imagine Sgt. Friday saying, “Just the facts, ma’am, just the facts,” then I will decide what

the real facts are.

As someone who has spent over four decades in law enforcement, I know that facts are critical in the criminal justice system. No one ever goes to court and offers alternative facts. In a book, “A Spy Among Friends,” during World War II, Kim Philby was an Englishman spying for Russia. The Russians believed Philby was a double agent. Russian agents were sent to England for the purpose of exposing Philby as a double agent. The agents followed Philby, and when they lost him, they attributed it to Philby’s brilliant spy craft. While they found no evidence that he was a double agent, they still believed he was a double agent. Strong beliefs, with no factual evidence, do not make the belief true.

In a recent survey, ten percent of people believe the earth is flat. The last president of the Flat Earth Society said the society had members all around the world. Obviously, there are people that have strongly held beliefs that if true, would refute science and facts. In a perverse way strongly held beliefs can prevent a person from accepting new information that challenges those beliefs. Sometimes what we know or think we know can prevent us from learning.

“Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts.”

-Daniel Patrick Moynihan

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

Common Sense

The party’s over

Robert Reich

On a recent ABC’s “This Week,” host George Stephanopoulos asked New Hampshire’s Republican governor Chris Sununu about his recent switch from supporting former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley for the Republican presidential nomination to supporting former president Trump.

“Your words were very, very clear on January 11, 2021,” Stephanopoulos reminded Sununu. “You said that President Trump’s rhetoric and actions contributed to the insurrection. No other president in history has contributed to an insurrection. So, please explain.”

Sununu responded, “For me, it’s not about him as much as it is having a Republican administration.”

Near the end of the interview, Stephanopoulos said: “Just to sum up, you would support him for president even if he is convicted in classified documents. You would support him for president even though you believe he contributed to an insurrection. You would support him for president even though you believe he’s lying about the last election. You would support him for president even if he’s convicted in the Manhattan case. I just want to say, the answer to that is yes, correct?”

Sununu replied, “Yeah, me and 51 percent of America.”

Stephanopoulos: “I’m asking you about right and wrong. You’re comfortable with the idea of supporting someone who’s convicted of a federal crime as president?”

Sununu: “No, I don’t think any American is comfortable with any of this. They don’t like any of this, of course, but I mean, when it comes to actually looking at each of these trials as they kind of take place whether it’s this year or next year or as they kind of line up. Right now this is about an election. This is about politics.”

Hello? Politics is not about right and wrong?

I haven’t seen or heard a clearer indictment of the Trump Republican Party.

Friends, the Republican Party is over.

That’s tragic, because American needs two parties capable of governing. It needs two parties with a sense of the common good, even if their interpretations of it differ. It needs principled people in government. Even if politics is sometimes dirty and often frustrating, a functioning democracy depends on it.

It’s tragic to me personally, too. I got my first job in government in the Ford administration (for those of you too young to remember, Gerald Ford was a Republican). I argued Supreme Court cases in Ford’s Department of Justice. Years later, as secretary of labor under Bill Clinton, I worked closely with several Republicans in the House and Senate to enact the Family and Medical Leave Act, raise the

minimum wage, and protect worker’s pensions.

My father was a Republican who voted for Dwight Eisenhower for president in 1952 and 1956. His father, my grandfather, was a Republican who voted for Alf Landon for president in 1936 and Wendell Willkie in 1940.

The Republican Party once stood for limited government, active opposition to Soviet aggression, and a balanced budget.

Now it stands only for Trump and his authoritarian neofascism. It demands total loyalty to Trump. It has turned his big lie about the 2020 election being stolen into a litmus test of that loyalty. It has no principled core — no sense of right and wrong.

Gerald Ford, the first president I served, is as far from the current Republican Party as was or is any Democratic president.

Sad to say, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation recently declined to present the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service to former Wyoming representative Liz Cheney out of fear that a future President Trump would retaliate against the organization by taking away its tax-exempt status.

In response, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer David Hume Kennerly resigned from the foundation’s board. In his resignation letter, he reminded the board that “Gerald Ford became president, in part, because Richard Nixon had ordered the development of an enemies list and demanded his underlings use the IRS against those listed. That’s exactly what the execu-

tive committee fears will happen if there’s a second coming of Donald Trump.”

Kennerly added:

“Did [Lieutenant] Gerald Ford meet the enemy head-on [in World War II] because he thought he wouldn’t get killed? No. He did it despite that possibility. This executive committee, on the other hand, bolted before any shots were fired. You aren’t alone. Many foundations, organizations, corporations, and other entities are caught up in this tidal wave of timidity and fear that’s sweeping this country. I mistakenly thought we were better than that. This is the kind of acquiescent behavior that leads to authoritarianism. President Ford most likely would have come out even tougher and said that it leads directly to fascism.”

Gerald Ford’s biggest mistake as president was to pardon Richard Nixon. At the time, Ford believed that America had to be shielded from the pain and disruption of a president put on criminal trial and possibly imprisoned. Yet to many Americans, the fact that Nixon would not be held accountable felt like another assault on the common good.

To make matters worse, Nixon continued to insist he had not participated in any crimes. In his 1977 television interviews with British journalist David Frost, he conceded he had “let the American people down” but refused to admit to any wrongdoing.

He said, “If the president does it, that means it is not illegal.” Those words continue to haunt America.

In the end, Nixon pulled off an extraordinary political heist. He persuaded millions of working-class Americans that the Republican Party was their home. Beginning in 1968, Republicans won five of the next six presidential elections. All used Nixon’s playbook, relying on a coalition of corporate America and the white working class, and using racial dog-whistles like “law and order” and “welfare queens.”

Nixon infected the modern Republican Party with a sickness that would ultimately kill it. Donald Trump has finished the job.

Governor Sununu’s willingness to destroy American democracy so his party could stay in power is shared by most Republican office holders today. It is a rejection of American democracy — an abrogation of the self-government that generations of Americans have fought for and died for.

The death of the Republican Party is not to be celebrated. It is a tragedy. It is testament to how fragile our democracy has become. It illustrates what happens when presidents are not held accountable. It is evidence of what occurs when decades of economic gains go mainly to the top. It shows that many Americans have lost sight of our history and ideals, or have become so cynical and hopeless that they are willing to chuck it all in favor of an atrocious human being who claims to be on their side.

To read other articles by Robert Reich visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

The Liberal Patriot

The Democratic patriotism problem

Ruy Teixeira

Democrats suffer from a patriotism gap. They are viewed as the less patriotic party and Democrats are less likely than Republicans and independents to view themselves as patriotic. Here are some examples.

- A Third Way/Impact Research poll in late 2022 found 56 percent of voters characterizing the Republican party as “patriotic”, compared to 46 percent who felt the same about the Democrats.
- In Gallup’s latest reading on pride in being an American, 55 percent of Democrats said they were extremely or very proud of being American, compared to 64 percent of independents and 85 percent of Republicans who felt that way.
- Perhaps most alarming, in a 2022 poll Quinnipiac found that a majority of Democrats (52 percent) said they would leave the country, rather than stay and fight (40 percent), should the United States be invaded as Ukraine was by Russia.

So the patriotism gap is alive, well, and persistent. Why is this? One key factor is that, for a good chunk of the Democrats’ progressive base, being patriotic is just uncool and hard to square with much of their current political outlook. As Brink Lindsey put it in an important essay on “The Loss of Faith”:

The most flamboyantly anti-American rhetoric of 60s radicals is now

more or less conventional wisdom among many progressives: America, the land of white supremacy and structural racism and patriarchy, the perpetrator of indigenous displacement and genocide, the world’s biggest polluter, and so on. There are patriotic counter-currents on the center-left—think of Obama’s speech at the 2004 Democratic convention, or Hamilton—but these days both feel awfully dated.

Similarly, liberal commentator Noah Smith observed in an essay simply titled “Try Patriotism”:

I’ve seen a remarkable and pervasive vilification of America become not just widespread but de rigeur among progressives since unrest broke out in the mid-2010s...The general conceit among today’s progressives is that America was founded on racism, that it has never faced up to this fact, and that the most important task for combatting American racism is to force the nation to face up to that “history”...Even if it loses them elections, progressives seem prepared to go down fighting for the idea that America needs to educate its young people about its fundamentally White supremacist character...

That conventional wisdom is a problem. It’s why “progressive activists”—eight percent of the population as categorized by the More in Common group, who are “deeply concerned with issues concerning equity, fairness, and America’s direction today”—are so unenthusiastic about their country. Just 34 percent of progressive activists say they are “proud to be American” compared to 62 percent of Asians, 70 percent of blacks, and 76 percent of Hispanics, the very groups whose interests these activists claim to represent. Similarly, in an Echelon Insights survey, 66 percent of

“strong progressives” (about 10 percent of voters) said America is not the greatest country in the world, compared to just 28 percent who said it is. But the multi-racial working class (noncollege voters, white and nonwhite) had exactly the reverse view: by 69-23, they said America is the greatest country in the world.

The uncomfortable fact is that these sentiments, and the view of America they represent, are now heavily associated with Democrats by dint of the very significant weight progressive activists carry within the party, which far transcends their actual numbers. Their voice is further amplified by their strong and frequently dominant influence in associated institutions that lean toward the Democrats: nonprofits, foundations, advocacy groups, academia, legacy media, the arts—the commanding heights of cultural production, as it were. It’s just not cool in these circles to be patriotic.

Why does this matter? Most obviously, it puts the Democrats on the wrong side of something that’s quite popular: patriotism and love of country. Even after a decade of decline in our contentious times, 67 percent of the public says they are extremely or very proud of being an American. Another 22 percent say they are moderately proud. And, as Smith correctly observes: “People want to like their country. They can be disappointed in it or mad at it or frustrated with it, but ultimately they want to think that they’re part of something good.” Making people feel bad about the country they live in seems like a recipe for failure.

But the problem goes deeper than simple unpopularity, though that is not insignificant. Lack of patriotism undercuts Democrats’ ability to mobilize a coalition behind what they say they want: a robust and far-reaching program of economic renewal. One of the only effective ways—really, the most effective way—to



mobilize Americans behind big projects is to appeal to patriotism, to Americans as part of a nation. Indeed much of what America accomplished in the 20th century was under the banner of liberal nationalism. But many in the Democratic Party blanche at any hint of this approach because of its association with darker impulses and political trends. Yet as John Judis has pointed out, nationalism has its positive side as well in that it allows citizens to identify on a collective level and support projects that serve the common good rather than their immediate interests.

Democrats have tried uniting the country around the need to dismantle “systemic racism” and promote “equity”...and failed. Democrats have tried uniting the country around the need to save the planet through a rapid green transition...and failed. It’s time for Democrats to try something that really could unite the country: patriotism and liberal nationalism.

The New Deal Democrats were moderate and even small-c conservative in their social outlook. They extolled “the American way of life” (a term popularized in the 1930s); they used patriotic symbols like the “Blue Eagle” to promote their programs. In 1940, Roosevelt’s offi-

cial campaign song was Irving Berlin’s “God Bless America.” Under Roosevelt, Thanksgiving, Veterans’ Day, and Columbus Day were made into federal holidays. Roosevelt turned the annual Christmas Tree lighting into a national event. Roosevelt’s politics were those of “the people” (a term summed up in Carl Sandburg’s 1936 poem, “The People, Yes”) and of the “forgotten American.” There wasn’t a hint of multiculturalism or tribalism. The Democrats need to follow this example.

If liberal nationalism was good enough for A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin, for FDR and JFK and MLK, it should be good enough for today’s Democratic Party. Democrats should proudly proclaim that their party is a patriotic party that believes America as a nation has accomplished great things and been a force for good in the world, a record that can be carried forth into the future.

Funny that progressives should lose track of this.

Patriotism...It worked. And it can work again.

Words of wisdom.

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

Good Day Neighbor

Fabric of humanity

Dorothea Mordan

We humans are tribal, forming groups to survive. We build small towns and big cities, and improve ourselves with education. We communicate with other tribes when it suits us. We have established social norms of behavior. We follow these rules from birth to death, trusting our tribe. For the most part it works.

There have always been innovators among us, the ones who rock the boat and bring changes. Travel by horses became vehicles with horsepower. Rigid conformity was forced to make room for civil rights. We are on edge when changes happen, but it became pretty nice to be able to cross the country in a few hours’ plane ride, rather than in a covered wagon for a few weeks or months.

Society thrives on a blend of routine work and changes brought by innovative twists in the road. What about the twists that change us? Life changes in an instant. A new baby is home, healthy in every way, until you notice that one or two normal milestones are missing. One day it becomes crystal clear that something unexpected is going on. One day a person is becoming an adult, living

their best life. The next, an accident, virus, bad luck takes away some self care abilities.

You are now a caregiver.

You now need care.

Historically, troubles have been a family thing, self-contained, or with help from one’s church community. Sometimes, the “trouble” was something to be shunned. Isolating “abnormal” people from “normal” ones. Isolation can still happen to any of us. Even with many support options, there is difficulty finding and accessing them. In our modern system of support, there are so many agencies, government or private, that we can live our “normal” lives with limited awareness of a persistent, life long illness, injury or disability happening to “not me”.

One evolving diagnosis is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). I have known many people—family, friends, acquaintances—with a diagnosis of ASD. From this vantage point I see ASD and other developmental “disabilities” as being entwined with “normal” behaviors. I think of them as part of the fabric of humanity, conditions to learn from, not simply to be fixed. From developmental disability to cognitive decline, these are all part of the fabric of humanity.

Over the last few decades, the fabric of humanity has been coming out into the front yard, parlor, and no longer hidden in the attic, or an institution. Discussing developmental conditions is so normal now that it is hard to imagine how hidden they were a relatively short time ago.

Over time how we phrase and distribute support services has evolved as well. It can appear there are so many “services” that those in need must be receiving them, right? Qualifying for support is one of the first hurdles. Lines are drawn differently for a variety of needs. In Maryland, to be considered to have an intellectual disability and qualify for certain support services, one must have an IQ below 70. Maybe it’s time to redraw a few lines when connecting a diagnosis to support.

The biggest question in many families is “What will they do when I am gone?”

My husband and I, as well two other friends each raised a child with a developmental disability but without an intellectual disability, kids who “fell off the cliff” after aging out of the public school system. There are many components of our society that could help our kids live independently, if we could just put together the right combination. Matching support to need, combined with our current workforce issues has made many of us the home support service for our at-risk family

members. We decided to do something, to try something different.

Kitsune, Inc. is our 501(c)3 non profit, with an education and life skills mission to address some needs—to take some pressure off. We spent a few years, pre pandemic, designing a model for independent living for capable, but at-risk people. This project is still in the planning stage. We also had the beginning of an idea for a resource database, the resource list we wished we could find when we were raising our kids.

This month we are beginning to publicize our Kitsune Life Skills Resource Database, KitsuneLifeSkillsdb.org. Have a look around, then drop us a line on our kitsuneinc.org/ContactUs form.

The idea is simple: A simple searchable database: Organization name, Domain URL, category of Service, services provided, and population served. The result is a focused list of organizations that meet the criteria of your search. The goal is to pare down the “helpful” but endless results from an internet search. The database is free to search, and no information is collected from visitors.

Our idea became a reality after Lesley Lopez, candidate for Congressional District 6, listened to the Kitsune mission and goals, then connected us to coders who could implement our idea. With the right solution, our

years of pondering became a reality in about 8 weeks.

Jerry Alexandratos, founding board member of Kitsune, is running for the Frederick County Board of Education in our upcoming election.

Special Education is a focal point of our Board of Education. There are serious budget concerns for FCPS. We need people on the board who understand budgets, and know how to connect resources to students. Jerry Alexandratos, Janie Monier and Chad King Wilson Sr. each have personal experience with special needs family members. Each are long time advocates for special needs students. Chad King Wilson Sr. has a Master’s Degree in Special Education.

Frederic County’s Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) has sent a Special Education Questionnaire to each candidate. You can read their responses here: <https://frederickcountymdsecac.com/boe-candidates-2024>

In our upcoming Primary Election, please consider Lesley Lopez for Congressional District 6, and Jerry Alexandratos, Janie Monier and Chad King Wilson Sr. for Board of Education.

2024 is the Year of the Vote. Please make yours count.

To read prior editions of Good Day Neighbor, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

PASTOR'S DESK

Reach out and touch someone

Pastor Phil Beck
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

What would you do if as we are worshipping, Christ came in and extended His Peace to you? It is something we certainly would not expect and would probably react in the same manner as the disciples. We would probably be terrified and unable to grasp the enormity of His Presence. We would have a lot of questions and, more than likely be so awestruck we would not be able to get those questions out. I have often wondered what it would be like to be in a time where we could travel back and be with Him as He lived out His ministry in real time, to be in accompaniment with our Savior.

In the story of Cleopas and the Road to Emmaus, Jesus comes among these two disciples and has conversation, explaining the scriptures, and then being invited to share a meal. In the sharing of the meal, these two disciples become enlightened as to the mission of Jesus and how He has impacted their lives. So much so that they immediately get up from the table to run back to Jeru-

salem (about 20 miles) and tell the others who and what they have seen. They return and share the story of the breaking of bread and while they were talking, Jesus comes among them again and gives them affirmation through seeing His resurrected body. Jesus then shares some of their food with them, as well as instruction about Moses, the prophets, and the psalms to which he opens their minds and they are put at ease.

This process I will call that of the 5 Es in which we encounter Jesus. Jesus explains what has happened, Jesus eats, the disciples are enlightened, and He departs. In the Emmaus story, Jesus walks with Cleopas and the other disciple, at first seeming as if he has not heard of the events of Good Friday. Once Cleopas tells this other traveler what has happened, he accompanies them on their journey and begins to explain what was written in the scriptures. As the three of them enter Emmaus, this unknown traveler is invited to stay the night, he agrees and sits down to a meal with the two disciples. At the table Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them to eat. Their eyes were opened and they realized that it

had been Jesus who was among them as their hearts burn with the Love of Christ. Without a word, Jesus exits with these two disciples feeling the power and presence of Christ. The immediately leave for Jerusalem to tell the other disciples the Good News.

In our Gospel for today, the disciples are locked in the Upper Room with some of the women when Cleopas and the other disciple come to tell their story. Almost immediately, Jesus is among them and in this encounter they fail to recognize who this man is, believing he might be a ghost. Jesus shows them his hands and feet and asks for something to eat. They provide a bit of fish and Jesus explains to them what His mission was and what theirs is going forward. In the sharing of this meal and instruction, the disciples are enlightened and they recognize this man in their midst. The disciples are given the charge that they are witnesses to all that has occurred and they are to go out into the world and proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins. As we will hear next week, Jesus then blesses them in Bethany and is carried up into heaven. Jesus exits.

"It is here where we are able to enter the story. We come with our doubts, confusions, fears and misunderstandings. We, each week, through worship we encounter the risen Christ. In the reciting of the scriptures and the preached word we are offered explanation, proclaiming the good news of what God has and is doing. We eat with Christ, breaking the bread of the resurrection in the Eucharist. The Spirit brings enlightenment, opening our hearts and minds, setting our hearts afire. Finally, the exit should be ours for Christ has sent us out into the entire world to be witnesses to this amazing news."



This is the path of accompaniment, one that the disciples experienced in their life with Christ and one we should be embracing with those around us. Jesus had no problem being with those on the margins, those who were outcast, those who shared a meal with Him, and those who were different from Him. I believe for us this is where we are failing as a society, we fail to embrace those who are different from us, who believe differently, who fail to meet our standards of how life should be lived. We fail to have respectful conversations and fail to listen to the opinion of someone else because we have all of the answers, we know what is right for everyone else, and we can't hear when someone has an opposing point of view. I will admit that I have struggled with this as well, we are not all that different in that we believe one thing and that should be where the buck stops.

This is not how we accompany each other; this is not how we come together; this is not how we grow in our life as a community. I believe the most important thing we are called to learn is not that we have to agree or join a particular group, it is that we are to love one another no matter the circumstance. Jesus loved everyone which was highlighted in His discussion with the thief next to Him on the Cross. Jesus could have just as easily said to Himself that this person is a true criminal and

deserves this punishment, but He didn't. Jesus embraced the man next to Him as one worthy to be in His presence and to accompany Him this day in Paradise. Jesus provided what this man needed, hope. Hope in the relationship he now has with Christ and hope that his future was forever in God's Hands.

When we come together and join one another in our journey, Jesus is in our midst. We might not always feel His presence, however He is there. Jesus shows up when we need Him most, but as the disciples learned sometimes we just need to feel Him for ourselves. A story I found in one of my daily devotions by Terry Hershey, shows us just that. "A little boy was having nightmares. The kind that require a momma's reassurance. (Dads, from my own experience, are typically not wired for nightmare duty.) So, to his momma's room the boy went, "Momma, momma, I'm having nightmares." "It's okay honey," she told him, "here's what I want you to do. Go back to your room, kneel down by your bed, pray to Jesus and he'll fix it." Back to his room, the boy knelt by his bed, prayed to Jesus, hopped back in bed, and... more nightmares. All mommas know this story. Back and forth to momma's room, throughout the night. On the sixth visit, "Momma, I know, I know, I'm going to go back to my room. I'm going to kneel down by my bed and pray to Jesus and he'll fix it. But before I do that, can I just lay in bed with you and have you hold me?" "Sure honey, why?" "Because sometimes I need Jesus with skin on it." This is what it means to have faith that no matter the closed doors, the closed minds, or the closed heart, Jesus shows up to be among us and lead us to the path beyond the Cross.

Understand we don't always have to agree but we are given the command to love one another and that is how we share Christ in the world. So today, if you are comfortable in doing so, open your door, open your mind, open your heart, and share the skin of Jesus with someone who might just need to be touched.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Machiavelli



What an unenviable immortality is that of Nicolas Machiavelli! Out of his surname has been coined a synonyme for treacherous craft. But like many other high coloured, popular beliefs, that of Machiavelli's unmitigated diabolism does not endure critical scrutiny.

Machiavelli was born, in Florence, in 1469, of an ancient, but not wealthy family. He received a liberal education, and in his 29th year he was appointed secretary to the Ten, or committee of foreign affairs for the Florentine Republic. His abilities and penetration they quickly discerned, and dispatched him from time to time on various and arduous diplomatic missions to the courts and camps of doubtful allies and often enemies.

The Florentines were rich and weak, and the envy of the poor and strong; and to save them-selves from sack and ruin, they had to trim adroitly between France, Spain, Germany, and neighbouring Italian powers. Machiavelli proved an admirable instrument in such difficult business; and his dispatches to Florence, describing his own tactics and those of his opponents, are often as fascinating as a romance, while furnishing authentic pictures of the remorseless cruelty and deceit of the

statesmen of his age.

In 1512 the brothers Giuliano and Giovanni de Medici, with the help of Spanish soldiers, re-entered Florence, from which their family had been expelled in 1494, overthrew the government, and seized the reins of power. Machiavelli lost his place, and was shortly after thrown into prison, and tortured, on the charge of conspiring against the new regime. In the meanwhile Giovanni was elected Pope by the name of Leo X; and knowing the Medicean love of literature, Machiavelli addressed a sonnet from his dungeon to Giuliano, half sad, half humorous, relating his sufferings, his torture, his annoyance in hearing the screams of the other prisoners, and the threats he had of being hanged. In the end a pardon was sent from Rome by Leo X, to all concerned in the plot, but not until two of Machiavelli's comrades had been executed.

Machiavelli now retired for several years to his country-house at San Casciano, about eight miles from Florence, and spent his days in literary pursuits. His exile from public life was not willing, and he longed to be useful to the Medici. Writing to his friend Vettori at Rome, on the 10th December, 1513, he says, 'I wish that these Signori Medici would employ me, were it only in rolling a stone. They ought not to doubt my fidelity. My poverty is a testimony to it.'

In order to prove to them 'that he had not spent the fifteen years in which he had studied the art of government in sleeping or playing,' he commenced writing *The Prince*, the book which has clothed his name with obloquy. It was not written for publication, but for the private study of the Medici, to commend himself to them by proving how thoroughly he was master of the art and craft of Italian statesmanship.

About 1519 the Medici received

him into favour, and drew him out of his obscurity. Leo X employed him to draw up a new constitution for Florence, and his eminent diplomatic skill was brought into play in a variety of missions. Returning to Florence, after having acted as spy on the Emperor Charles Fifth's movements during his descent upon Italy, he took ill, and doctoring himself, grew worse, and died on the 22nd of June 1527, aged fifty-eight. He left five children, with little or no fortune. He was buried in the church of Santa Croce, where, in 1787, Earl Cowper erected a monument to his memory.

The Prince was not published until 1532, five years after Machiavelli's death, when it was printed at Rome with the sanction of Pope Clement VII; but some years later the Council of Trent pronounced it 'an accursed book.'

The Prince is a code of policy for one who rules in a State where he has many enemies; the case, for instance, of the Medici in Florence. In its elaboration, Machiavelli makes no account of morality, probably unconscious of the principles and scruples we designate by that name, and displays a deep and subtle acquaintance with human nature. He advises a sovereign to make himself feared, but not hated; and in cases of treason to punish with death rather than confiscation, 'for men will sooner forget the execution of their father than the loss of their patrimony.'

There are two ways of ruling, one by the laws and the other by force: 'the first is for men, the second for beasts;' but as the first is not always sufficient, one

must resort at times to the other, 'and adopt the ways of the lion and the fox.'

The chapter in which he discusses, 'in what manner ought a prince to keep faith?' has been most severely condemned. He begins by observing, that everybody knows how praiseworthy it is for a prince to keep his faith, and practice no deceit; but yet, he adds, we have seen in our own day how princes have prospered who have broken their faith, and artfully deceived their rivals. If all men were good, faith need never be broken; but as they are bad, and will cheat you, there is nothing left but to cheat them when necessary. He then cites the example of Pope Alexander VI as one who took in everybody by his promises, and broke them without hesitation when he thought they interfered with his ends.

It can hardly excite wonder, that a manual of statesmanship written in such a strain should have excited horror and indignation throughout Europe. Different theories have been put forth concerning *The Prince* by writers to whom the open profession of such deceitful tactics has seemed incredible. Some have imagined, that Machiavelli must have been writing in irony, or with the purpose of rendering the Medici hateful, or of luring them to destruction.

The simpler view is the true one: namely, that he wrote *The Prince* to prove to the Medici what a capable man was resting idly at their service. In holding this opinion, we must not think of Machiavelli as a sinner above others. He did no more than transcribe the practice of the ablest statesmen

of his time into luminous and forcible language. Our feelings of repugnance at his teaching would have been incomprehensible, idiotic, or laughable to them. If they saw any fault in Machiavelli's book, it would be in its free exposure of the secrets of statecraft.

Unquestionably, much of the odium which gathered round the name of Machiavelli arose from that cause. His posthumous treatise was conveniently denounced for its immorality by men whose true aversion to it sprang from its exposure of their arts. The Italians, refined and defenceless in the midst of barbarian covetousness and power, had many plausible excuses for Machiavellian policy; but every reader of history knows, that Spanish, German, French, and English statesmen never hesitated to act out the maxims of *The Prince* when occasion seemed expedient.

If Machiavelli differed from his contemporaries, it was for the better. Throughout *The Prince* there flows a hearty and enlightened zeal for civilization, and a patriotic interest in the welfare of Italy. He was clearly a man of benevolent and honourable aims, but without any adequate idea of the wrongfulness of compassing the best ends by evil means. The great truth, which our own age is only beginning to incorporate into statesmanship, that there is no policy, in the long run, like honesty, was far beyond the range of vision of the rulers and diplomatists of the 15th and 16th centuries.

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

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ECOLOGY

Spiders

Anne Gageby
 Director of Environmental Education
 Strawberry Hill Foundation

I have a confession: I'm terrified of spiders. Yes, I'm an environmental educator and yes, I spend the bulk of my time outdoors so it doesn't make sense. I'm around spiders all the time, especially now that it's spring. I can't walk outside without seeing one every few feet. And I can't even tell you why I'm so afraid of them. There's just something about the crawlies that edges a little close to nightmarish.

I've spent years working on this fear because spiders are so important to our world. The insect population would be unbearable without spiders. And they in turn are food for larger predators. The world needs spiders. So why can't I love them?

There are some spiders I can be around without having a nervous breakdown. Cellar spiders are mostly fine and some jumping spiders are almost cute in photographs. And Mickie, Strawberry Hill's resident tarantula, is pretty cool to look at in her enclosure. So maybe it isn't that I'm completely terrified of spiders but I definitely don't want them on me. To be fair, I've walked through innumerable spider webs in my life and it never gets any easier. And it's certainly never fun.

I recently taught a Watersheds and Wetlands program to sixth graders and a highlight of one of our stations was seeing a fishing spider moving across Middle Creek

and coming to rest on a stick near us. I picked up the stick to show my students and heard more than a few yelps of surprise. The kids were horrified because this spider was rather large – about two inches long including leg span. When we put it back in the creek it moved across the water at a remarkably slow pace, seemingly unbothered by our intrusion into its territory.

Male fishing spiders are about half the size of females, so our spider could have been a male or it may have been a juvenile. I wasn't going to get close enough to tell. Either way, the kids were morbidly fascinated by the spider and how easily it rested on the stick as we observed it. Fishing spiders aren't aggressive, nor are they known to bite unless handled improperly. For being a huge spider with an intimidating appearance, they are actually quite tame. Not that I plan on picking one up.

Fishing spiders (dolomedes) are regularly confused with wolf spiders (lycosidae). Both have similar coloring and depending on the species can be a variety of gray, brown, tan, etc. Both are often found inside homes and garages though their woodland habitats are slightly different. Fishing spiders are found in wet areas of woods such as creeks and riverbanks. As their name suggests, fishing spiders are excellent at fishing though their prey are mostly insects. They have excellent eyesight and fine hairs on their legs which detect vibrations in the water much like a web-spinning spider feels vibrations on spider silk. That's a pretty cool aquatic

adaptation and not their only one. Fishing spiders are able to submerge their bodies under the surface of calm water. The hairs on their body trap air bubbles and allow them to breathe while they wait for prey. They've been known to stay submerged for an astonishing 30 minutes at a time.

Wolf spiders, on the other hand, are found in drier wooded areas, backyards, gardens, meadows, and homes. They build or take over existing tunnels in the soil, under stones and firewood. Inside a home, they seek shelter under furniture and other protected, covered spaces. They primarily hunt at night though they're frequently seen during the day. Wolf spiders are generally not aggressive and prefer to run than attack. When cornered or threatened, they will bite though their venom isn't medically significant unless a person is allergic.

There are roughly 30,000 species of spiders worldwide, 3,000 of which are found in the United States. Pennsylvania is home to around 45 species of spiders. Of these, only two are known to be medically significant: black widows and brown recluses. Black widows are native to our state but brown recluses are not. Generally speaking, brown recluses are not common as they struggle to survive our cold winters unless they find a suitable space to overwinter inside a heated building. They are more frequently found among items shipped in from other states. Still, it's smart to keep an eye out for both black widows and brown recluses because their bites are problematic at best.

The thought of a spider jumping on me is enough to make me break out in a cold sweat but I have



The barn spider (*Araneus cavaticus*) is a common spider native to North America. They are around three-quarters of an inch in length and are usually yellow and brown in color. They often construct their webs in wooden human structures, hence their common name. The species is notable for being the basis for the character Charlotte in the book *Charlotte's Web*.

to admit there's something almost adorable about jumping spiders, at least on a video or in a picture. They're stocky and colorful, and don't look menacing the way a black widow does. Jumping spiders belong to the Salticidae family and our area is home to four species: the zebra jumper, emerald jumper, bold jumper, and bronze jumper. Most are quite small, shy, and harmless with a tendency to flee rather than bite.

Jumping spiders are interesting little creatures for a couple of reasons. Some species are known to be tetrachromatic, meaning they can see all the colors in the visible spectrum, and, unlike humans, they can see the ultraviolet portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. And there's a study going on in Germany that found evidence that jumping spiders rest upside down on silk thread and while in this position the spiders's legs curl, they twitch, and even show signs of eye movements similar to those in sleeping humans. It's believed they

go into a REM sleep-like state and exhibiting these behaviors is indicative of dreaming. Even the most arachnophobic person has to admit that's pretty cool.

Spiders in general have another fun adaptation: their blue blood. Human blood is red due to iron-containing hemoglobin transporting oxygen through our system. But spiders, along with octopuses, horseshoe crabs, snails, lobsters, and a handful of other creatures, don't use hemoglobin to transport oxygen. Instead, their blood contains hemocyanin which contains copper instead of iron, resulting in blue-presenting blood. In a world of primarily red-blooded creatures, that's a fascinating adaptation.

When I take the time to consider the list of things that make spiders unique, I have to admit, they're pretty interesting. I may not want one crawling up my arm and I may or may not run screaming from one now and then, but they are kind of amazing. At least from a distance.

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

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THE RETIRED ECOLOGIST

Little things

Bill Meredith

"Why not learn to enjoy the little things... there are so many of them!" ... Jimmy Byrnes, an Irish friend.

"Happiness is the sum total of the small things." ... Norman Clegg, "Last of the Summer Wine."

Throughout most of my adult life, the semi-annual cleaning of the yard was a big thing with me. I raked and composted the leaves every fall and then when spring came I picked up the dead branches that winter storms had broken off the trees and raked the leaves that had blown in from the field just west of us. It was all very well planned and orderly, and it gave me a sense of accomplishment; but last fall I didn't get it done. The thought that I was getting too old to maintain standards bothered me a bit, but after a while I decided maybe it wasn't that important after all, and forgot about it. But when the weather finally broke this spring, I had to face both my wife and last fall's residue, in addition to the usual winter detritus. So on the first nice day in April, I stood there with the mid-morning sun warming my back and surveyed the situation.

The trees we planted 20 years ago on the west side of the house have grown well above roof level and formed a canopy, so that part of the yard is completely shaded; there are plenty of leaves on the ground, but grass doesn't grow there any more. I rationalized that it would make good sense ecologically to just forget about the leaves in that area; they will enrich the soil and reduce erosion if I just let them stay where they are. Thus what had been a big problem was converted into a little thing that could be either ignored or appreciated as my contribution to Earth Day.

My wife never goes into the side yard, so she didn't care if the leaves were not raked there, but she insisted that they must be cleaned up in front of the house. The first part of the job was the removal of a boxwood bush that had been mangled when snow and ice slid off the roof after one of the snowstorms last winter. In previous years I didn't rake out the leaves behind

it; they were not visible from the front, and they decayed into a layer of soft, rich soil. But now, with the bush gone, they were unsightly, so I began raking off the upper layer. This exposed an intricate network of tunnels, which led eventually to the edge of the edge of the porch. As the last leaf was raked away, a very small head protruded from the tunnel. It sniffed in my direction with a pointed, pink nose that was surrounded with stiff white bristles, peered at me with eyes almost too tiny to notice, and then vanished back into its hole. My mind instantly flashed backward 59 years to the West Virginia University Field Biology station near White Sulphur Springs, where I began my graduate studies, and from the cloud of dusty litter inside my head there came the name: *Blarina brevicauda*, the short-tailed shrew.

You might think recalling a name like that from so many years ago is beyond the realm of probability, but in fact it happens all the time. That course on field biology in 1955 was both a formative experience and a jolt of reality, my first real encounter with biology beyond the scope of textbooks. The instructor was Dr. Frank Schwartz, who had just joined the WVU faculty and was destined to become my thesis director, mentor and lifelong friend. He was a big man, jovial in manner, with enormous energy and always in a hurry. He took us on field trips every day in an old 2-ton army surplus truck, which he drove over the winding country roads as if it were a tank. He seemed to know all of the plants and animals we encountered, and he referred to everything by its scientific name. It was quickly apparent to us that if we wanted to



Big things often come in small sizes. Interested in doing something for future generations? Plant a tree.

convince him we were interested in zoology, we would use those names also. On the first day of class, we turned over a rotting log, and under it was a shrew, the first one I had ever seen. Dr. Schwartz first warned us to be careful with it because it was the only mammal that had a poisonous bite, and then told us its name. That name was tattooed in my brain in indelible ink.

Now, if you're looking for small things, shrews are for you; their family includes the smallest mammals in the world, and there are plenty of them. I was not surprised to see the shrew under my porch; they are common around here, and I find a dead one in the yard occasionally. They are often killed by prowling cats, but the cats seldom eat them. I have read that they have scent glands that some predators find repulsive. Owls, which eat a lot of them, have no ability to smell, so they aren't bothered by odors (they even eat skunks). A pair of barn owls used to nest in the bell tower of the Presbyterian Church, and I used to collect the pellets of bones and fur that they regurgitated to show to my ecology labs. Those pellets contained the

bones of a variety of small creatures the owls had eaten, and the skulls of shrews were easy to recognize. It was a good lesson to illustrate the complexity of the food web; the shrews are eaten by many kinds of predators, but in spite of their small size they are predators themselves. They are ferocious hunters, and their poison saliva enables them to kill mice that are larger than themselves. They eat earthworms, insects, bird eggs, mice, and even eat each other when hungry. And they are always hungry; some of them are known to consume more than their own weight every day.

Being retired, when I find something interesting I have license to stop and think about it, so I stood and watched the entry of the tunnel for a while; but the shrew did not reappear. Somewhere under the concrete porch steps it has a nest chamber where it can rest and keep warm; it may already have a litter of five or six young ones. The nest will be scrupulously clean; wastes from the adults and young will be deposited in a latrine chamber further down the tunnel. Near the nest will be a larder, a chamber where mush-

rooms, plant roots or paralyzed insects are stored in case the weather does not allow foraging outside.

We can learn a lot from small things. Life on that scale may be short and brutish, but it doesn't always have to be uncomfortable. Juncos, the small gray sparrows we sometimes call snowbirds, arrived at my feeder on November 2, and I watched them every morning until April 16 when they left for New England and Canada, where they will nest and raise their young. Chimney swifts left here at the end of August and flew all the way to Argentina; it was summer there, and when the southern summer ended they took wing again and arrived back here on April 22. Things like that are amazing, even when you understand them. They prove to you that although life is uncertain, it can be endured by those who have enough determination; and that can give you hope, even if you're old. Not a bad lesson, that.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Close encounters with wildlife in the baby season

John Zuke
Naturalist

With pleasant spring weather comes more time outside and more chances for encountering the many local wild animals and their young. This is a busy time of year in the cycle of life, and there will be lots of new babies for the next several months. For the safety of people and the well being of the animals we may encounter, it is useful at this time of year to understand some realities about our local wildlife. So often when we collect a wild animal as a pet or “rescue” one we believe is in need, we are really unintentionally harming the animal or the environment.

Maybe most importantly, wild animals should not be raised as pets. That cute little animal you found and want to bring home will grow up. It will have specific needs to remain healthy, such as being fed a specialized diet (every half hour in some cases), vaccinations or medicine, and particular habitat requirements. Also it may live a lot longer than someone wishes to keep a pet. Its behavior will change as it matures. Some animals imprinted on people when they are young become aggressive as they grow up. And removing animals from the wild can have negative impacts on the population of native species.

Baby animals that have been kept in captivity even for relatively short periods of time should never be released back into the wild. Being captive, they never learn how to find food and avoid predators and other social skills of their species, or they lose those critical skills quickly when cared for by people. Well-meaning people who decide to free their animal back to the wild are usually dooming them to starvation or death by predation.

Additionally wild animals can carry diseases, some that can be carried without showing symptoms. Bringing a wild animal into your home exposes your whole family and your pets to potentially fatal diseases. In fact, it is against the law to raise most types of wild animals in captivity. There are federal and state regulations that are intended to protect both people and our precious wildlife resources.

Often during spring and summer we can encounter baby animals that appear to be abandoned or orphaned and need rescue: a baby bird on the ground that can't yet fly, baby rabbits or squirrels or a fawn with no parent visible. We should only intervene when it is absolutely certain that the animal is orphaned, injured, or in danger. The best chance for the animal to mature and have a successful life cycle is for it to remain in the care of its parent.

When young birds are learning to use their wings for flight, they will often fall to the ground below their nest site. The parent is nearby and will continue to take care of the young. It may be a day or two or three before the baby can fly up into trees and bushes, but this is an important step in its development. What you can do that will help the most is keep cats away from the area. If the bird is feathered and can perch, place it in its nest or the nearest tree. If it can't perch, place it under a bush or a more protected area, but still accessible to the parents. If it is unfeathered, gently place it back into the nest. It is a myth that the parents will smell human on the baby and not take care of it. Most birds actually have a very poor sense of smell.

Owls and hawks are protected by federal law and should only be handled by licensed wildlife handlers. It can also be dangerous to try to rescue these birds of prey because the parents are very protective and have been known to injure people venturing near their young. They also have special dietary needs. Meat from the grocery store, no matter the quality, does not meet their needs, although they will eat it and appear none the worse for wear. A licensed raptor rehabilitator has the skills and knowledge to raise and release these birds back into the wild where they belong.

Rabbits, squirrels, and other small mammals are often seen in yards when they are first exploring away from their nests. They usually don't



Big things often come in small sizes. Interested in doing something for future generations? Plant a tree.

need to be “rescued” even if the parents don't seem to be around to care for them. The parents avoid the nest during the day to avoid drawing attention to the young to protect them from predators. They are vulnerable during this time in their development. Keeping cats and dogs and kids away from them for a few days will give them a fighting chance to mature.

Many times people hiking or working in fields or along the forest edge come across fawns that are curled up on the ground with no parent to be seen anywhere nearby.

They are usually not abandoned! This is the normal behavior of the deer during the day. The parent is not far off and is still taking care of the fawn. If it is in a safe spot, it is best to leave it alone.

Many animals are “rescued” each year that would have been much better off if left in their natural environment. However there are some situations where rescue is necessary. Do rescue an animal that has visible injuries or that has been attacked by another animal, especially a cat. Rescue is necessary if the animal has been hit by a car or lawn mower, or if it is swarmed by flies or ants. Birds need rescue if they have flown into a window and remain stunned or unable to fly after an hour. Any animal tangled in netting, fishing line, or stuck on a glue trap needs rescue.

You can help protect many young animals by not letting your cat run free. Cats in the United States kill millions of wild birds, small mammals, and reptiles each year.

It takes a lot of skill and experience to be a wildlife rehabilitator. There are no days or even hours off when caring for injured wildlife. Rehabilitators are not funded by the government and rely on donations and their own funds for the food, medical supplies, veterinarian visits, cages and other equipment required to help wild animals in need.

The following websites have very useful information on wildlife rescue:

Opossum Pike Vet Clinic and Animal Hospital: opossumpikevet.com “Injured Wildlife”

Second Chance Wildlife Center in Gaithersburg, MD: scwc.org “Wildlife Rehabilitation” and “Rescue Guidelines”

This area of Maryland and Pennsylvania is home to many types of wildlife. They belong in the wild. Enjoy observing them and their young from a respectful distance as they grow and disperse, but remember that sometimes the most considerate thing we can do for wild animals is to not interfere in their lives.

To read other articles by John Zuke visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

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Woolly Mammoths, fat dogs & living fossils

Boyce Rensberger

There have been some cool developments in science that I think readers will find interesting, but they don't require all the space this column normally occupies. So here is the first of what may become an occasional list of briefs based on recent scientific reports.

Quite by accident, all three of these items deal with genetics. That's the area of science that I know best and follow most closely. In the future I'll try to range farther afield.

If you like these short items, let me know by writing to me at the address at the end. I'll answer everyone who writes.

Bringing Back The Woolly Mammoth

A biotech company says it has taken a major step toward its stated goal of recreating the woolly mammoth. The American outfit, modestly called Colossal Biosciences, labels its process "de-extinction."

As the company puts it on its website, rather breathlessly, "we endeavor to jumpstart nature's ancestral heartbeat. To see the woolly mammoth thunder upon the tundra once again."

What the scientists say they did was to take skin cells from a living Asian elephant, grow them in a dish and then chemically treat the cells to make them lose their specialized functions. The treatment includes things like removing attached molecules that block some genes from working. This resets the genome to a version of a stem cell. In principle, these cells are typical of those in a very early embryo, capable of multiplying and diversifying into the many specialized cells of a whole organism.

The company says it now will re-engineer certain genes that differ between mammoth and modern elephant to be like those in tissues of real woolly mammoths found frozen in Arctic ice. The genome of these extinct beasts is thought to be fairly well known. This kind of detailed genetic modification is possible using a relatively new technique abbreviated CRISPR. Then nuclei of those modified cells would be injected into an egg from a living elephant. (The egg's original nucleus would first be removed.) That egg would then be implanted in the uterus of a living surrogate mother elephant.

Don't order your tickets yet for Pleistocene Park. Many difficult steps lie ahead, but some quite reputable scientists are affiliated with the company, and I wouldn't discount the promises they make. By the way, if you want to learn more about this and if you enjoy highly developed (maybe even too developed) websites, I recommend the company's at colossal.com. Use your device with the biggest screen.

Overweight Dogs May Feel They Are Starving

Labrador retrievers and flat-coated retrievers are two of the most obesity prone dog breeds. Many beg for more food even after finishing a meal.

Now a team of scientists from the University of Cambridge in England have found what appears to be the cause. Significant percentages of these breeds are born with two genetic mutations that prevent their gut from sending the normal chemical signals—a specific hormone plus an endorphin (the brain's natural opioid)—that tell the brain they are full and happy. So, these dogs just keep eating unless their owners are strict about what's for dinner. One of the mutations also produces a hormone that regulates the body's energy expenditure. Dogs with that genotype are less energetic, slower in metabolism.

In their sample of dogs, all healthy pets, they found these mutated genes in 12 percent of Labs and 60 percent of flat-coats.

The researchers speculate that these mutations originated at some time in the breeds' past as ways to cope with food scarcity—slow down but keep gobbling when food is available.

"To maintain a healthy body weight," the researchers write in their report in the journal *Science Advances*, "owners of affected dogs must restrict food intake to below that which would maintain a healthy body weight in wild-

type dogs because of their lower energy expenditure."

The scientists speculate that similar mechanisms may operate in people.

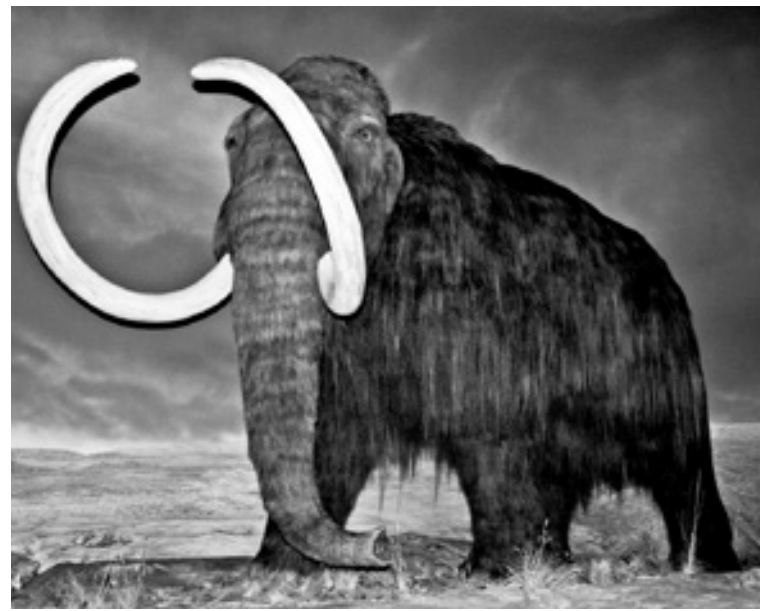
How Living Fossils Resist Evolution

Charles Darwin coined the term "living fossil" to refer to species that appear not to have changed in many millions of years. These include horseshoe crabs, sturgeons, and a few others.

Now comes a study of another living fossil, the gar fish, that finds these animals have scarcely mutated their genes in more than 100 million years. The scientists think the reason is that these species have amazingly effective DNA repair mechanisms.

In almost all other species, if a mutation arises, there is a process that either repairs the damage or causes the cell to die before it can give rise to a new individual or to a tumor. All cells, including those in human beings, have DNA repair mechanisms. That's because our DNA is being damaged thousands of times each day. Damage is typically from such things as natural radiation, reactive forms of oxygen, chemical carcinogens, sunlight, and simple mistakes in the mechanisms that replicate our genes to carry out cell division.

There are several different repair mechanisms. Basically, they involve molecular machines in all our cells that literally crawl along each DNA double helix, "looking" for signs of damage. If they find a problem,



Might we see woolly mammoths like this in Pleistocene Park?

they either repair it or simply block or delete the errant sequence. Or they may trigger a process by which cells commit suicide. The loss of one wayward cell is no big deal.

Now back to the gar and a study published in the current issue of *Evolution*. There are two different species of gar that have been identified in the fossil record, both of which survive today. They have been separated evolutionarily for more than 100 million years. These two species of Jurassic gars look nearly identical to their descendants living today.

In places where both live, it has been found that they can interbreed and produce fertile offspring. That's the classic evidence that different species don't have significant genetic

differences. In fact, by one traditional definition, that means they could be considered the same species.

After comparing sequences of DNA from the same genes in many other species—it turns out that the rate of genetic change in gars is anywhere from half as fast as in other species to 1000 times slower.

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

To read other articles by Boyce Rensberger, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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THE MASTER GARDENER

Is it a weed or a flower?

Maritta Perry Grau
Frederick County Master Gardener

You've probably heard the old saying that a weed is just a plant in the wrong place. Often, that is true; however, there are some plants that are not only in the wrong place, but can be thugs, taking over the whole bed, whether flower or vegetable; they may reproduce quickly; and they may have tenacious root systems, making them next-to-impossible to get rid of. Yeah, I'm talking about you, bindweed, thistle, stilt grass, and others.

Christa Carignan, Certified Professional Horticulturist and Coordinator, University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC), noted in a 2022 article on the HGIC website, Home and Garden Information Center | University of Maryland Extension

(umd.edu), that weeds "can range from harmless plants that show up to fill an empty space, [to] invasive plants that are regulated by federal and state authorities because they can cause harm to economic, environmental, or human health."

If you need help to identify a plant(s), put it (including roots) in a plastic zip-loc bag and bring it to the Frederick County Master Gardeners' office at the University of Maryland Extension Building, 330 Montevue Lane, in Frederick; or e-mail a picture of the plant to our website, <http://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening>.

The following information is just a sampling of a few of the many options on handling weeds available to you at the UMD extension website. When selecting the best method of controlling the weed(s) peeping up

among your favorite flowers or scrumptious vegetables, you'll find it helpful to first determine its common and Latin names; whether it's an annual, biennial, or perennial; what its germination cycle is; its preferred soil pH; and ergo, if any soil amendments are needed.

Names: The Latin name is particularly helpful because often, a "common" name may be applied to several very different plants.

Annuals: An annual's life cycle, from seed germination to seed dispersal, completes in one year or less, although winter and summer annuals follow more of a fiscal than a calendar year. "Winter annuals [usually] germinate from seeds in late summer to early fall, survive the winter, regrow and flower in the spring, [then] die when the temperature rises in the summer (e.g., henbit, chickweed)." On the other hand, summer annuals act in the opposite way, seeding in the spring, growing during the summer, and dying in the fall (think of Japanese stilt grass and crabgrass).

Biennials: Biennials grow one year and produce flowers/seeds the second year; treat the weed in its rosette stage (first year of growth).

Perennials: Perennials live for two or more years; they may be the most difficult to control. If you pull the plant up by the root, some roots are likely to break off in the soil and generate new plants. An herbicide may fail if the plant is in the dormant stage, if the product itself is



Creeping Buttercups are one of the most prolific spring weeds and are easily recognized by their bright, glossy yellow flowers. Buttercups compete with underlying grasses and can reduce their growth in the spring. This reduces the amount of forage yield available for livestock grazing pastures, and fescue lawns or pastures may end up with bare spots as a result of this competition.

not appropriate to that particular plant, if there's already too much moisture on the plant, or if too much fertilizer has been used in the area. According to the UMD website, perennials "reproduce by vegetative structures (roots, rhizomes, stolons, tubers) and seeds. They can be herbaceous or woody. The top growth of herbaceous weeds typically dies down in the winter, but underground storage structures enable the plants to survive and grow again the following year."

Once you've identified the plant as a weed or at least as one that you don't want growing there (wherever "there" is), you have several options for removal, according to the HGIC website. You can mow it down, pull it up, or hit it with some kind of herbicide. While an herbicide

at first glance may seem like the easiest choice, it's more likely to have detrimental effects on other aspects of the environment besides the plants and eventually to contribute to a negative impact on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. To avoid chemical herbicides, the University of Maryland Extension website provides a guide on managing weeds without chemicals, using, instead, physical and cultural methods to control weeds.

Hand-pulling and cultivating: You can hand-pull or -dig young, small weeds fairly easily, especially after a good rain. Also, since annuals have thinner, finer roots than perennials, annuals are usually easier to pull out. As for those perennials, gather the base in your hand and pull up carefully, or just dig out the plant with as much of the root as you can get. You may need to do this many times over a period of weeks or months before the perennial gives up! Another option is to eliminate many small weeds through shallow, gentle cultivation with a hoe or other hand tool.

Mechanical removal: Mowing/trimming helps to prevent seed dispersal and to suppress broad-leaf weeds; however, it doesn't work as well on grasses or perennials with well-established root systems. The UMD site notes that "you may be able to 'starve' perennial weeds by [frequently] cutting off new growth at ground level. The success of this approach will depend upon the frequency of mowing/cutting and the biology of the plant(s) you are dealing with. Research has demonstrated that mugwort, for example, a tough perennial weed with rhizomes, was able to keep growing after two years of repeated mowing." Discouraging, isn't it?

Mulching: Mulching is another alternative, as it blocks sunlight from the plants, thus starving them of the energy needed to grow. In addition, you could use a heavy tarp, thick layers of newspaper, or landscape fabric under the mulch to cut the plants off from sunlight. Some tough perennials might need to be covered for as long as a year. You would probably need a mulch layer of about one

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THE MASTER GARDENER



Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) is a perennial, also called 'Creeping Charlie. Although it prefers damp, shady areas, it can tolerate full sun. It reproduces primarily by creeping stems that root at the nodes.

inch around herbaceous perennials or two to three inches around woody plants. Please note, though, that some tenacious perennial weeds may regrow and push through the mulch and that weed seeds will likely be deposited on the mulch by birds, mammals, or wind.

Solarization: Another method to try if time is not a concern is to let the sun do the work for you through solarization. First, remove all visible vegetation; second, water thoroughly; and third, place a transparent plastic sheet on the cleared area, burying or pinning all edges. The UMD website says that "covering the site with a clear plastic sheet for...up to six weeks...is only effective if used [in] July and August.... Conditions under the plastic kill weed

seeds, seedlings, and some pathogens." The UMD site further warns not to use this technique "under the dripline of a tree; it can damage or kill fine tree roots."

We look forward to helping you identify and choose the best methods to get rid of your weeds.

The Frederick County Master Gardeners are located at the University of Maryland Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. Check our website for upcoming free seminars, Master Gardener certification classes, gardening information, advice, and publications, as well as other announcements, at the following URLs, or call us at 301-600-1596

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

Small Town Gardener

Vacation is important—even for gardeners

Marianne Willburn

Many years ago I wrote an article entitled "Beans or Beach?" – bemoaning the difficulty that serious gardeners have with leaving their gardens like normal people and taking vacations.

"If it is a year that we have decided to visit our family in California the question is always "when"? Seedlings are started in February, the Cold Frame Shuffle is scheduled for March, and the rest of the spring/summer months from April through September? Forget about it. The fall is about the harvest, and I'm hardly likely to cosset and cajole three hundred pounds of vegetables only to leave them hanging come October. November and December, January and February are peak flying times [read: expensive], and also happen to be peak winter storm times for housesitters sitting at

the end of a two-mile gravel road without electricity."

But it wasn't just about what you missed, I pointed out in the article. It's what you came back to.

"Even a late summer's week at the beach is a concern to those of us who till the soil and squish lawn grubs with gusto. Our Mid-Atlantic climate acts like a magical elixir to weeds, grass, vines and all things green. Leave for a week, and an Amazonian jungle greets you upon your return."

The situation hasn't changed much since I wrote those words. If anything, it's technically gotten harder to leave, as I have more seedlings, more plantings, and more once-a-year-can't-miss things than I've ever had.

For gardeners who fall asleep dreaming of new planting schemes, it's incredibly hard to detach from views we have spent the previous year working to improve, even when we desperately need a vacation – or could benefit from seeing other people's views at that time of year to teach

us something about our own. But we must.

The garden will always be there, but the ability to travel and spend good time with the people in our lives that we love, may not be. We simply mustn't let the minute by minute of our gardens keep us from enjoying important or spontaneous major moments when the opportunities arise.

It's not as if I don't still struggle with this conundrum. This year as I packed to go away for a long overdue unplugging in parts sunny and foreign, I found myself wistfully scanning the landscape charting those lost moments, rather than [rightfully] thinking about all I would gain in new experiences (not least of all, the experience of time away from my laptop and phone).

Just as I was starting to feel almost resentful that I had to pull out my sunscreen, sandals, and linen trousers when I really needed and wanted to get the Taxodium transplanted, I glanced at the barrel sitting next to it and had a flashback of its three sister barrels bobbing down a raging, river-covered field three years ago.

That day I was handed a large dose of perspective when a flood ripped through our valley and carried many plants and garden paraphernalia to new forever homes down the river to Georgetown (I hope they're using the croquet set).

The flood came right after two weeks of killing myself to get everything planted, which I had indeed accomplished, but to the detriment of fully enjoying a rare visit by my two sisters and nieces and nephew. The flood and subsequent devastation and clean up taught me that, no matter how hard you work, and how many sacrifices you make, and how bravely you work through the back spasms and think you're tough and wonderful, it can all be taken away tomorrow.

Reflecting on that reality has an incredibly sobering affect. It's allowed me to find time in my schedule for important things – not because there was time to find, but because there was time that needed to be made. That has meant delegation, some strategic planning, some favor-pulling, and some gymnastics, but it meant I could enjoy an opportunity or two that doesn't come around all that frequently.

If you're a serious gardener and feeling yourself instinctively saying no to family and friends and opportunities because the poppies are blooming that week, the baby seedlings need watering, or the fragrant wisteria particles need your full, undivided, gob-smacked attention, be honest with yourself – when won't they?

Kiss the ones you love while you can under a wisteria-covered arch somewhere else instead. Carpe diem. - MW

Marianne is the author of Big Dreams, Small Garden. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.com.

Frederick County Master Gardeners May Seminars

May 4: "Integrated Pest Management (IPM)" Manage pests with ecosystem-based methods to minimize the use of pesticides. Learn how to identify, prevent, and manage plant problems using biological control, habitat changes, and cultural habits.

May 25: "Growing Herbs Here & There" Learn about the variety of both annual & perennial herbs you can grow in-ground and/or in containers. See how you can plant an herb garden as well as merge herb plantings into your flower

and vegetable beds. Take a look at how herbs are grown throughout our demonstration garden, including in our clever herb spiral.

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

For more information and sign-up links, visit the Events section of the Master Gardeners Frederick County website or call the extension office at 301-600-1595.

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PETS

Being Zeke

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

The first thing that made me realize something was amiss was the white ball of cotton in front of the door when I opened it.

I knew immediately it was batting from a pillow – the stuff they put inside to make them fluffy.

I also knew immediately that it shouldn't be on the rug by my front door. It should be inside a pillow.

I looked about a foot and a half further down the foyer and, lo and behold, I found another piece of fluff. Indeed, there was a whole trail of them in what appeared like some messed up version of rose petals or something.

The detritus led me to the middle of my living room where it looked like a bomb had gone off – one made of batting. It actually looked like the fake snow I've seen in Christmas displays at the mall – that's how much of it was covering the carpet.

I dropped my head for a second. After the day I had just had, this was, quite literally, the very last thing I wanted to come home to. I was starting to think somehow the universe had it out for me. I seriously debated whether or not I had the

energy to clean up the mess.

At that exact moment, I heard a small noise that seemed to be coming from the under the middle of the mess. It sounded like a snort.

That's when his head popped up and I was able to meet his brown eyes.

It was Zeke. My Jack Russell Terrier whom I had just adopted two months ago.

Truly, I figured it was him from the get-go, but I wasn't completely sure he was actually inside the mess.

When he pulled his head completely out of the fluff, I could see his little tail wagging, pushing more of the batting around the floor.

He had pieces sticking to his ears, his mouth and his chin. He looked like some kind of a messed up canine Santa.

He also looked ridiculously happy to see me. I swear he seemed to be saying, "Hey, ma, you gotta get in here. It's so much fun!"

You know those moments in life where you teeter on the verge of either tears or laughter? When it could seriously go either way and whichever way it falls, the outcome is going to be pretty drastic? Like the tears are going to be the ugly crying and the laughter is going to be the maniacal kind?

That's where I was, suspended in the

silence. I could actually hear my mother's grandfather clock ticking in the other room. There were no other sounds. I really didn't know which way my reaction was going to go.

That's when Zeke sneezed.

It shot a whole mess of batting off of his chin and even moved some of the pile on the floor.

His tail never stopped wagging.

That's when I felt the laughter come up from my abdomen. I actually half stumbled, half fell over the recliner in front of me and just let it rip. I laughed so loud and so hard, my stomach actually hurt. Tears were, in fact, rolling down my cheeks.

And Zeke? He was in my lap, dancing around like he was so proud to have been the cause of my joy.

I couldn't help but kiss him. He returned the favor.

They had warned me at the shelter about Jack Russell Terriers and the trouble they could get into. They said Zeke loved to destroy squeaky toys. I had learned that myself, but I didn't think he'd go after the pillows on my couch.

I was still wiping tears as I cleaned up the mess. Zeke thought it was a game of keep away.

I still couldn't get mad at him.

Because when I signed those adoption papers, taking responsibility for this four-legged ball of madness, I knew I was taking the bad and frustrating with the good and heartwarming.

I knew Zeke was just... being Zeke.

After the vacuum came out and we both had dinner and I was searching online for a dog crate for my boy, Zeke came up and put his paws on my knees and for a split second, he looked like he might be trying to say he was sorry for the mess.

I leaned down to kiss his nose and I told him, "It's okay, baby. We'll learn each other's little quirks as we go along. You and me are the forever kind of love."

He seemed to get exactly what I was saying.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant 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.



Griddle was surrendered to the shelter when her owner was moving and could not take her with them. She is an 8-year-old brown tabby and has her own opinions about things. She likes attention on her terms. If you understand cats like Griddle, please consider giving her a second chance. She would love a place to call her own!



Kratos is a uniquely marked black-and-white cat who came into the shelter as a stray. While he loves attention, he doesn't care too much for being picked up. Kratos loves getting his chin scratched. He's about 3 years old and would really like to know what a loving forever home is all about. Could you show him?



Athena was surrendered to the shelter when she was not getting along with the other dog in the home. She is a 3-year-old terrier mix who is super sweet. She knows how to sit and is very food-motivated. Athena loves attention and enjoys playing with squeaky toys. Because of her past history, she will need to be the only dog in the home and may be too much for small children, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply. Athena would love to have a second chance at a loving forever home soon!



Howlett came into the shelter as a stray. He's a 1-year-old Akita mix, who can be stubborn at times, but is a happy, handsome fellow. He likes to be around people and will need someone who has experience with stubborn breeds and is willing to work with him. Howlett knows to sit and shake and loves to go outside for walks and play in the yard! He is treat-motivated and enjoys Kong toys. Howlett did test positive for Lyme but is currently on antibiotics for it. Do you have the right spot for Howlett?



Sky is a 7-year-old terrier mix who came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't have a lot of information about her, but we do know that she is one loving girl! Sky did test positive for Lyme and Anaplasmosis which are both tick-borne diseases and is currently on medication to treat them. She also had a mammary tumor removed during her spay surgery, which was found to be benign. Because we don't have any past history on Sky, an age restriction for children may apply.

For more information about Griddle, Kratos, Athena, Howlett, or Sky, 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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Before humans die, they write their last Will & Testament, give their home & all they have, to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask...

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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Cruising with your pooch

Bethany Davidson
FCAC's Humane Educator

Spring is here! The sun is out and temps are rising which means many of us humans are beginning to indulge in one of life's simple pleasures, driving around with the windows down and our music up. It's only natural that we'd want our pups to experience the joy of the warm breeze in their hair too. All over the roadways dogs can be seen with their ears and jowls flapping in the breeze, but what many pet owners don't realize is that this happy scene can very quickly take a dangerous turn that could lead to some serious injuries for our furry friends.

First, open windows are an exit. Unrestrained dogs sitting near an open window can easily jump out of car to follow that irresistible scent or chase that furry critter. Jumping out of the car whether it's stopped or moving could cause various abrasions and even fractures or worse yet could lead to your dog being hit by a car or causing a much larger accident.



Let's say Fido knows better than to jump out of the car, he's still at risk for a whole host of injuries especially if he's sticking his head out the window. Roadways are littered with dust and debris that can easily hit your beloved pooch. That high-speed shrapnel can cause all kinds of cuts and injuries to

their eyes, ears and mouths including scratched corneas. Even gusts of wind pose a threat and can lead to burst eardrums and the like.

So what do we do if we want to keep our dogs safe while still letting them enjoy a car ride? There are tons of different products on the market to help. There are various types of seat belts or better yet crates to keep dogs of all shapes and sizes inside your vehicle. You can purchase screens for your car windows that will allow that breeze and all those great smells to reach your dog while keeping your Fido in and all that flying debris out. And for those canines that just refuse to keep their heads in their car, well, they make doggles to protect their eyes.

Don't have the extra cash to invest in these products? There's an easier alternative to keep you pet safe. Simply roll down the window a bit, never more than halfway. This allows your dog to experience the breeze and sniff all those wonderful smells while staying safe. Just ask adoptable dog Evan. On a recent outing staff only cracked the back windows for him, but he still enjoyed every minute of his car ride.

Open windows are just the beginning when it comes to riding safely with our pets. If your dog enjoys logging miles in the car, be sure to research all the other ways to reduce their risk of injury while enjoying one of life's simple pleasures.



Funyun was brought to the shelter by a Good Samaritan and found as a stray on Thomas Johnson Dr. He was not wearing a collar, nor was he microchipped. Funyun is friendly, doesn't mind being picked up, and enjoys sitting in a lap.



Before arriving at the shelter, Demi was being trained to be a service dog. She is extremely intelligent and knows approximately ten different commands. So why is she at the shelter? Demi has anxiety; therefore, she was unable to complete the training to become a certified service dog. She hopes to find a family that can help her work through her anxiety and provide her with daily exercise as well as mental stimulation.



Rex needs your help! He is heartworm-positive and needs an adopter who is willing to see his treatment through until the end. He was found as a stray on February 5, not much is known about his past. For information on heartworms in pets, please visit www.heartwormsociety.org.



Luna was adopted from the shelter in May 2023 but returned in February because her new owner was moving and could not take her along. At four-years-old, Luna has so much to offer. Young kids startle Luna, so her ideal home has teenagers or older.

For more information about Funyun, Demi, Rex, or Luna, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.

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DAVID TRONE

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My Progressive Views

I'm proud to be a progressive on the issues. I am working to make our economy better for all Marylanders, and that includes making the very wealthy and corporations pay more taxes. I am always working to protect and improve Social Security and Medicare. I favor restoring abortion rights for all Americans. I am fighting the MAGA right and Donald Trump to protect our democracy. And I never take a penny from PACs, Lobbyists, or Corporations because you are my only special interest.

Getting Things Done for People

But many progressives in Congress don't know how to get things done. I do. Maybe it's because I've run a successful business, Total Wine & More, or maybe it's just the way I am wired. Getting elected to Congress has been an honor, and I am there only to get things done. While my party isn't in the majority in the House, I've found that by reaching out to members of the other party, I can find common ground. I've been able to pass meaningful legislation to help those with opioid and other addictions, expand access to mental health care, lower the cost of prescription drugs, and deliver infrastructure dollars to help the 6th Congressional District.

I Humbly Ask For Your Vote on May 14th

I am confident that I can do even more for Marylanders and America in the U.S. Senate. I humbly ask for your vote on May 14th. I am the strongest candidate to defeat Larry Hogan in November, and that's critical to keeping the Senate in Democratic hands and stopping the MAGA right from threatening our democracy.



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Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

Union Bridge to celebrate National Train Day

Brian Mahoney
Western Maryland Railway
Historical Society, Inc.

May 27, 1852, 64 years after Maryland was admitted to the Union, a company later to become the Western Maryland Railroad Company was chartered by the Maryland Assembly. It was called the Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick Rail Road Company. It was founded by prominent businessmen, and farmers in the Carroll, and Fredrick area. The group of men included names that are still quite familiar today in the area. Names like, Atlee, Clemson, Longwell, Green, Haines, McKinsty, Motter, Roop, Reese, Rinehart Slingluff, Shriver, and Smith.

The name of the Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick Rail Road was changed to Western Maryland Rail Road Company on March 2, 1853 by a special act of the state legislature.

Construction of the railroad west from Owings Mills to Westminster was completed by 1861, and further to Union Bridge by November, 1862. Legend has it that the first locomotive into Union Bridge was the two-driving wheeled Canary, so called because of its small size, and restless activity, Irvin, Taylor, Norris and Company were the early contractors, and operated the road as construction progressed. The road was turned over to the WM stockholders on January 1, 1863, along with two locomotives of 20- and 25-tons each: the Green Spring and the *Western Maryland*.

The WM bought the locomotive *Patapsco* in April 1863. In July of 1863 the Federal Government took "military possession" for five days, and the road became the line of supply for the Army of General Meade during the battle of Gettysburg. The railroad moved troops, and supplies Westminster, and Union Bridge for the Federal Troop. After the battle the railroad carried Confederate prisoners, the wounded, and the dead to Baltimore.

Union Bridge became the western terminus of the new railroad until 1871. A large shop complex was built in Union Bridge in 1864 to repair locomotives and rolling stock of the railroad. On the 3rd of December, 1868 around 8pm., the machine shop, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, and other building and improvements, with the exception of engine house, caught fire, and burned down. The fire originated in the oil storage house.

The line was extended west from Union Bridge reaching Detour in 1868. It reached Emmetsburg Junction (Rocky Ridge) in 1870. The line was extended through Mechanicstown (now Thurmont) and reached Sabillasville in 1871.

Washington County and the City of Baltimore both wanted the railroad to be extended to Hagerstown, and were both willing to endorse

\$300,000 worth of the road's second mortgage bonds to help to do so. This was done, and the first train entered Hagerstown on June 6, 1872. The line was then continued west to Williamsport to connect with the C&O Canal, a distance of about 6 miles, by December 18, 1873.

By the early 1900s the railroad had decided that the old wooden station and offices in Union Bridge no longer suited the need of the railroad. A new brick station, and two story office building was built.

Trains began using the new station on November 15, 1902. The new office build were being occupied by the officials of the railroad located here.

By the 1960 the shop complex in Union Bridge had out lived its usefulness as most the work it once did was how being performed at a much large complex in Hagerstown. Passenger service had ended in the mid 1950s, and offices were no longer need as their occupants had also moved to Hagerstown.

At the time a group local people step forward to save the office building from demolition. The Western Maryland Railway Historical Society was founded in 1967 to obtain the office building from the railroad.

The railroad sold the society just the office building for a \$1.00 with the stipulation that we had to maintain it in good repair, or they would come in and tear it down. Over the years since then the society has been able fully restore the office building and the station. The society how owes both building, and the ground they sit on. Today the museum is open to the public on Sunday afternoons, and Wednesdays.

Since that time the society has restored the office building, and expanded the museum complex by purchasing the adjoining REA express shed and depot from the railroad. We have also added to the displays four ex Western Maryland Railway cars to our museum complex. There is the oldest serving WM Caboose, a hopper car, a WWII troop kitchen car, and a box car that was among the first to wear the modern Speedlettering Logo of the railroad. We also own a passenger coach that is on loan to the Cass scenic Railroad.

We have been holding a Nation Train Day since 2011 on the second weekend in May because that is the closest date to the anniversary of the driving of the Gold Spike on May, 10, 1969 when the transcontinental railroad was completed connecting the east and west parts of the United States.

The overall purpose of the society is preserving a portion of America's rich railroad history. We do this by providing programs for community organizations, publishing educational materials drawn from our collection, supporting activities related to railroading, and by making historical records available to groups and indi-



Union Bridge's Western Maryland Railway Historical Society Museum Complex will host a special open house on May 11th to celebrate National Train Day and the joy of trains and train travel.

viduals researching railroad history. With the cooperation of the Western Maryland Railway, the Society established a Museum in Union Bridge in the buildings that once served as the station, the company's main offices and express shed. The entire complex was built in 1902.

The Western Maryland Railway Historical Society is one of the few organizations of its kind to own and operate its own museum. This affords members and the public alike the unique opportunity to enjoy and study our collection to its best advantage. It also serves as a focal point for Society activities and events.

The Museum complex houses our extensive collection of WM artifacts and memorabilia, a volumi-

nous photo archive, archival material directly from the Western Maryland Railway, and an extensive railroader's library featuring historical and technical publications about the WM and other roads of the region. Major exhibits include the caller's boards from Hagerstown, Md., and Ridgeley, W.Va., and the CTC panel for most of the Lurgan Subdivision.

Integral parts of the organization are model railroad layouts. A permanent N-scale layout, which represents the Union Bridge to the Twin Bridges (west of Thurmont) section of the East Subdivision of the Western Maryland Railway in the 1950s, is housed in the Museum. There is also a 4 x 16 foot HO scale layout on display in the depot building.

The organization also supports the modular group's HO-scale layout. This group has built and continues to build numerous interconnected modules depicting scenes along the former Western Maryland Railway. The modular group represents the Society at train shows and certain Society and community events. The layout can be as large as 30 x 70 feet.

The Museum is open to the public Sundays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed for lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), and by appointment. Tour groups are also welcome, with at least 30 days advance notice. To arrange a time, call 410-775-0150 and leave a message, or write the Society at WMRHS, P.O.Box 395, Union Bridge, MD 21791-0395.



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HISTORY

Woodsboro Remembers

Francis Meehan Smith

Conclusion

Reminiscences Changes

Through the past two hundred years the buildings in Woodsboro have often times changed hands frequently. As a consequence, few structures remain in their original state. New occupants inevitably sought to convert the premises to meet family and business needs, adding or removing as deemed necessary or convenient.

Originally each home no doubt had a business housed on the property as the early residents sought out a trade, craft, or service for their livelihood. The village was mainly self-sufficient in goods and services, with the exception of some raw materials such as metals, salt, sugar, and molasses. All other products were produced and crafted locally.

On east Main Street at the north end of town...

Jacob Feiser's residence was owned by Slagle's Inn; one of the Inn's livery stables stood there. The last slave in Woodsboro lived with the Slagles.

The Dorcus residence was built by Sammy Ports for a bakery shop.

Miriam Bowers residence was built

by the M.P. Church and then sold to the Church of God.

Louise Kline's residence was built by John Lough who ran a stone cutting shop and made memorials.

Amos Arnold's residence was owned by William Gilbert who had a blacksmith shop in the rear.

The Dorcus residence was owned by George Gilbert who was a shoemaker.

Edgar Hahn's residence was owned by Mrs. Peter Fogle.

Mrs. Wile's residence was owned by J.M. Holbrunner who ran a cooper shop.

Dorcus' garage and dwelling was owned by George Shank and used as a general dry goods store.

Jenny Barrick's and Oscar Barrick's residences were owned by Benjamin Smith, a saddler who made all kinds of harnesses.

The Nina Anders residence was built by George Shaw, after the first house burned down in 1884.

The Rosebud Building was the Smith Hotel that burned down in 1884 and was rebuilt by James M. Smith.

The George Smith residence was owned by William James Smith. The old which it replaced was used as a bakery, barber shop, and dwelling.

The Reuben Bair residence was owned by Dr. Wagner.

Crossing Elizabeth Street...

Harry Runkles' residence was owned by George Shank.

The apartment building was built by Grover Beck as a store and restaurant.

The Barnes residence was owned by D.A. Sharretts.

The Broadwater residence was built on a spot where a millinery shop and dry goods store built by Hull Bowers stood.

The John Crum residence was owned by Charles Shank and was at one time a millinery shop.

Mrs. Huffman's house was owned by the Lutheran Church as a parsonage.

Lots Numbered 20, 21, and 22 were owned by Mrs. Ainsworth. The first lot had a dwelling and two and three were the old blacksmith shop. The houses were built by Gene Donsife.

The George Etzler residence was owned by Jacob Holbrunner.

The Roger Hildebrand residence was owned by Ellen Loots.

On Second Street beginning at the north end...

The Lawrence Dorsey residence was owned by Michael Grinder was originally an old brick house and was replaced with the frame house built by Augustus Shank.

The apartments owned by Lawrence Dorsey are log underneath with weatherboarding over them.

The next lot was the site of the first lumber yard operated by Shank and Saylor.

The log house which stood across the street was the place where Colonel Joseph Wood died.

The Albert Eyler residence was owned by the Snyders and was used as a wagon maker shop.

St. John's Church was a Union Church of Lutherans and Reformed. The Lutherans left in 1860.

The Mills residence was owned by the Saltzgivens; they used it as a summer school.

Roy Snyder's residence was owned by James Smith and was built in 1910.

Ira Houck's home was owned by George Barrick who ran a huckster business.

The John Crum home was owned by Jacob Hull.

The Ablert Eyler home was the residence of O. J. Donsife.

The Fox residence was owned by Wesley Devilbiss.

The Wills residence was owned by Wesley Devilbiss.

Remember When?

Ralph Dorcus manufactured "Rosalene Cough Syrup," toilet water, catarrh balm, and hair tonic at his King Drug Company, in Woodsboro.

Bruce Fogle made and sold "Helo Salve".

Harry Spahr produced "Smoke-Em", a concoction mixed with sawdust, for the treatment of "gapes" in chickens.

Ray Gilbert raised and fought gamecocks.

George Biddinger had a two lane bowling alley back of the store located next to Lester Long's barber shop.

Dick Fissel stood on his head atop the electric pole in front of the bank building.

Moses Winebrenner produced and sold bottled bluing.

Elmer Powell and his son, Sherman, had an ice cream factory and store.

Bill Crum operated a model T school bus to Frederick High School.

"Pee Do" Smith drove a cattle truck for Stitley, and allowed that he could go "sicc" miles per hour.

The Woodsboro Garage was located on west corner of Elizabeth and Main Street and as a rental garage by Grover Beck.

The streets of Woodsboro were vacated during the "Amos and Andy" radio broadcast.

Chestnuts could be picked by the bushel on Chestnut Hill.

Lou Dorsey made home-made ice cream.

Bob Donsife owned a large bobsled.

Red pepper would be thrown into the pot-bellied stove, driving loafers and customers from Uncle "Cal" Smith's store.

The crust on the snow drifts would be thick enough to permit skating and sleighing over the fences.

We played "fox and geese" at school.

Romanus Stitley referred to a breed of cattle as "Whole Steam".

Uncle "Cal" Smith had a large nick-clodeon in his store. It was plugged into a pull chain socket. A string was attached to the chain and cleverly concealed. The string was taken to the outside through a crack in the window, and pulled after Uncle "Cal" retired. "Angry" is a mild word to use in describing him when he appeared in his flannel night shirt to turn off the music.

Charles Dixon operated the Mobil gas station located just North of Derr's Liquor Store.

Bruce Fogle built the Valley Garage originally for a bowling alley.

Butcherings were social events, and that it was almost certain that a pig's tail would be pinned to your coat.

Each household needed a soft water supply, some used cisterns and rain barrels to store the water. There were two large sheds in Woodsboro used to collect and store rain water: one built by G.F. Smith on the Canning Factory Hill; the other was on the hill back of the Lutheran parsonage.

Charles Saylor made brooms.

"Ed" Geesey made baskets of all sizes.

You could estimate traffic on the Coppermine and Liberty roads by the rattle of the bridges over Israel Creek.

Pool tables were popular at Windsor's Garage.

John Huffman had a pool hall.

The Hall of the bank building was the waiting room for Steiner Smith's school bus.

Everyone got snow-cones from Mrs. Cornell.

There was a May-pole Dance at the school June Fete.

At his shop, John Huffman sharpened your ice skates and could fix anything.


Mr. Harshman was the truant officer and a man to be feared.

Hunting "apple triches" was pulled on the younger generation.

"Shivarees" (serenades) were customary for newly weds.


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FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

May 3

Few names remain in the memory of longtime county residents like that of M. Etchison. For most of the first half of the 20th Century he operated the Etchison Funeral Home in Frederick.

McKendree Etchison was born September 15, 1864, in Jefferson where his father, John Etchison, and his mother, Julia Ann Etchison, established a funeral home and cabinet making company in February of 1848.

When his father died in 1880, Riley's two older brothers, Eugene and Louis Etchison took over the business. When Eugene died, Riley purchased the interest of both of his brothers and became sole owner of M. Etchison Funeral Home.

In 1922 he rented a room at the rear of 122 West Patrick St. and opened a branch of his undertaking business. He then moved to 214 North Market St. in 1925, and, when his son entered the business as a partner in 1927, he changed the name to M. R. Etchison and Son.

In November 1939 he purchased The Trail Mansion at 106 East Church St. and the firm, and its successors, have operated from there since. Hart Etchison lived in the house while Riley Etchison remained for many years at his West College Terrace home.

Riley Etchison was active in whatever community he lived. He was an active mason and The Jefferson Council No. 127, Junior Order of United American Mechanics. He loved to fish and to build small boats. He was for many years the chaplain of the Frederick County Fish and Game Association. He was a devout member of Calvary (United) Methodist Church and also served the Methodist Church in Jefferson as its Sunday School superintendent for 40 years.

In 1891, he married Ann Kesler and they were the parents of five children. When Riley Etchison died in 1952, he and his wife were living at 11 West

Second St.. He was 87. After services at his church, he was buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. His son, Hart, continued the family business until 1971 when it was sold.

Today the Keeney, Basford Funeral Home operates from The Trail Mansion, continuing this business into its 150th year. (Now it's 175th year.)

May 10

When Frederick County was separated from Prince George's in 1748, a court was also established in Frederick. The honorable justices settled every possible dispute, including claims for welfare and tax relief.

In the early history of Frederick "...the county court of the Right Honorable Charles, Absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Province of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baron of Baltimore," was in session only four times a year, in March, June, August and November.

The sessions were usually called on the third Tuesday of the month. In the March 1750 session, after several postponements from previous meetings of the court, Charles Wood, "late of Frederick County, planter," was tried by jury for "breach of promise."

Miss Lydia Dent contended that Wood, on February 25, 1747, proposed marriage and she accepted. Miss Dent told the jury that at all times afterwards she was ready, willing and able to perform as she had promised. It was also contended by Miss Dent that Mr. Wood "fraudulently intended to deceive and defraud" her.

Evidence also revealed that on May 10, 1748, Charles Wood married another, namely Sarah Brightwell, contrary to his promise to Miss Dent. The plaintiff asked the court for damages in the amount of 100 pounds "current money."

The case was decided in favor of Miss Dent and Mr. Wood was

ordered to pay her 30 pounds "current money" plus 1,443 pounds of tobacco for her costs and charges.

May 17

On May 17, 1943, two famous world leaders stopped at a Frederick historic landmark.

At the height of World War II, Winston Churchill, prime minister of Great Britain, came to Washington to confer with President Roosevelt, one of many occasions the two world leaders met during those tumultuous years.

On a bright, sunny afternoon in mid-May, the pair, along with cabinet members and advisors, left Washington by motorcade for Shangri-La, the presidential retreat near Thurmont.

When they arrived in Frederick, coming up Market St., they stopped at the Square Corner and asked Officer Marshall Murray for directions to the Barbara Fritchie House.

Secret Service men cleared the way as the six-car motorcade pulled up to Dame Barbara's home. Churchill was hatless and was wearing a zipper suit, similar to that worn by aviators when he emerged from the limousine.

Others who observed the visit, reported that Churchill had a cigar between his fingers and Roosevelt was holding a rather long cigarette holder in his mouth.

The chauffeur for the two statesmen, recalled years later when he made a return visit to the Fritchie home, that Churchill recited John Greenleaf Whittier's famous poem from memory as he drove them up Market Street.

May 24

When Frederick County National Bank officials arrived for work on May 24, 1841, they discovered the bank had been robbed during the weekend. Missing from the vault was \$185,000, consisting of \$135,000 in bank notes, \$10,000 in gold, \$32,000 in State of Maryland bonds, and \$8,000 in other negotiable instruments. The robbers had to pass through seven locks to effect their crime.

In June bank officials received a letter from William Wiley, a New York lawyer and judge. He said he could "negotiate" the return of some of the stolen funds in return for a fee of eight percent of the value of the recovered funds.

At a meeting in New York City with several prominent Empire State citizens, and two representatives of the bank, Wiley brought in some of the stolen property and was paid his commission.

The thieves retained the \$10,000 in gold and a small amount of C&O Canal script. Wiley refused to provide any information about the robbers or how he had "obtained" the stolen funds.

Sometime later Wiley was convicted in another case in a New York court of receiving stolen goods and was removed from the bench.

May 31

On May 31, 1871, the cornerstone was laid for the first new building at the Maryland Institution for The Deaf and Dumb.

Thousands of local residents, along with numerous state and national officials attended the elaborate ceremonies at the Cannon Hill school grounds.

The corner stone was of "Connecticut brown stone of a superior quality, 21 feet long, 22 inches wide and 18 inches high, with a niche 13 inches in width and 4 and a half inches deep in the center to receive the box, and bears the inscription "1870."

The box is of copper, 8 x 12 inches, and 4 inches deep, and has on the top of it a silver plate with the following inscription: "Institution for the Deaf and Dumb of the State of Maryland, May 31, 1871."

Into the box was placed a Bible, a copy of the state's constitution, the act incorporating the institution, the bylaws of the institution, and numerous other documents and a listings of prominent citizens associated with the school.

The daylong ceremonies included speeches, choral presentations, and the actual laying of the cornerstone by the Grand Lodge of The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland.

When the building was demolished in 1967, the cornerstone was recovered. Most of the documents were in good condition and were placed again - along with accounts of the history of the school - into the same cornerstone and box. It was then used as the cornerstone for the Ely Building, which replaced the original structure, and is today the primary building on the campus.

To read past editions of Frederick County History, visit the History section of Walkersville.net.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

May 2

April Wettest In Memory

The month of April kept its record to the very last day, of being an unusually wet and cold month for its place on the calendar.

The week ending April 30, was the most favorable of the crop season to date. It was characterized by sunny weather, which was favorable for drying out the soil, for plowing, and for general farming activities. Much plowing was done. Temperature for the week average normal.

Wheat and rye crops are in good condition, except poor to fair in lowlands. Grasses are fair. All are improving, but making slow growth. Ryes are beginning to head. Early sown oats are also coming up.

Apple tree buds are now showing and continue to swell in the northern part of the counties. They are ready to open, or opening. Peach, pear, plum, and cherry trees are in full bloom. Strawberries are also coming into bloom.

Planting of early potatoes, of peas, and truck crops, made good progress during the week. In some localities planting of early potatoes and peas have been finished. Early potatoes, planted in March that failed to come up, as a rule, are rotting or have rotted. Tomato seeds are being sown, early sown tomatoes are up.

The season continues fully two weeks behind the normal. Warm and continued sunny weather is needed.

Some Little Newspapers Need Killing

The other day, a daily newspaper, in commenting on the advent of radio, said it might kill some "little newspapers", and so much the better - "they need Killin - but worthwhile papers would not be hurt."

This is worth telling to those who think their hometown should have a "little newspaper". It is an open statement that ought to cause home folks to see what they are doing when they cut out the home paper.

If the "little newspaper" is wanted; if it is perhaps only a necessary evil; if the home neighborhood would be worse off without it, then it must be kept alive by proper support.

For many years, or since the advent of rural delivery, "some little newspapers" have been hard hit by the strenuous efforts of daily newspapers to cover

the wider field opened up. The fact that most of them have refused to be "killed", must be very objectionable to "worthwhile papers", and now, if radio will help do it, "so much the better."

No doubt "some little newspapers need killin", just as some big ones deserve the same fate - is the opinion of some. But, lots of people and things do not get what they "need."

Men Teachers And Boys

A school principal is reported as having said it is unfortunate that more men teachers cannot be employed in the schools. He has a school with many children, whose parents are un-naturalized aliens. He said that the boys from many of these families need a man teacher very much. Apparently in the countries where their families came from, the women are regarded as inferior, and the boys catch something of this contempt.

While the native boys do not seem to object so much to be controlled by women, that they were often more lawless than the children of the aliens. The democracy and sense of freedom of American life goes so far that children are allowed to manage their own affairs entirely.

There is a certain age when most boys have some contempt for woman-kind. Creatures that don't know the baseball rules look like an inferior of beings to them. They get well over that point of view in due time. But at that period of savagery in their lives of these young barbarians, a man teacher is a wholesome force.

Some men will always go into public school teaching because of their love for the profession, or because they use it as a steppingstone to college work or other positions. But to attract more of them into the ordinary run of teaching positions, salaries would have to be raised considerably; men should be paid at least twice as much as women teachers.

Perhaps more fellows would go into this work if they realize that the men who entered it are regarded with unusual respect and affection. They may not get wealth in money, but they are rich in friendship of the countless young people whom they help to raise in life.

Hit By Truck While Playing In Road

Hohn Myers, the 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Myers, was hit by a truck while playing with some other chil-

dren on the state road, just north of Union Bridge, Saturday afternoon and suffered a broken leg. The injured boy was removed to his home where Dr. Baer rendered first aid, after which he was taken to Frederick City Hospital. The driver of the machine was exonerated.

Stricken While At Work In His Garden

Stricken while working in the garden at his home in Walkersville, John Strine, 84, one of the best-known residents of Walkersville, died of heart failure Tuesday morning.

Mr. Strine seemed in his usual good health when he went into the garden. He was alone for about 15 minutes when his wife entered the garden and found him. He had apparently been working and feeling unwell walked to the chair he kept at the edge of his garden. His body was found near the chair.

Strine was born near Woodsboro and resided in the Walkersville and Woodsboro Districts all his life. Up until 10 years ago he was a farmer. Later he operated a sawmill in partnership with his son-in-law, William Roderick. The past few years he lived in retirement in the town of Walkersville.

He had been active in affairs of that municipality and was formally a town commissioner. He had been a member of the Lutheran Church all his life and was for a number of years an officer in the St. Paul Lutheran Church. He was an active Democrat and was a member of the County Central Committee for both the Woodsboro and Walkersville district.

May 9

Save Roadside Shrubbery

It is a violation of the law to gather blossoms or branches Dogwoods, Judas trees, azaleas, laurels and wildflowers in general, growing along road sides, and the State Forester has issued this notice to motorists and all other:

"We are instructing the State police, and our wardens to be on the alert. The law which prohibits the breaking of shrubbery along the roads, and we intend to enforce it. Rural beauty should be left as nature made it, so that all may enjoy it instead of the one or two, who carry the flowers away."

Methodist Approved Ordination Of Women.

The ordination of women as local pastors



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in the Methodist Ministry was approved by the Methodist Episcopal general conference by a decisive majority. Their admission to the itinerary and membership in the annual conference however was unanimously defeated. "It's one thing for a woman to lead a local parish, but the leadership of the church requires thoughtful decision making that only a man can do," said one church Elder.

May 16

Barns Burned After Lighting Strikes

The first real thunder gust of the season occurred shortly after midnight, Tuesday night, and was a severe one for a starter. The lightning was sharp, following a very hot day, but the rainfall was slight.

Lighting from the storm hit the barn on the small farm of Harry Freet, near Taneytown, 1 o'clock and it was entirely destroyed by the resultant fire, with its contents, all the horses and cattle were saved, except one calf. A lot of feed of different kinds, and all of his farming implements, except a manure spreader, and a plow that was outside were burned.

Mr. and Mrs. Freet were awakened by

the strike, and it was only by quick work on their part that the stock was rescued, as the fire burn very rapidly. Several adjoining buildings were narrowly escaped, the rain, no doubt, helping to confine the loss to the one building.

In Woodsboro, another lightning strike hit the large bank barn of Edward Baker containing a quantity of wheat, hay, tobacco and farming implements. The barn was a frame structure with a metal roof, 70 feet long and 45 feet wide. It contained 300 bushel of wheat, 10 tons of hay, 500 sticks of tobacco and a quantity of farming equipment.

When the barn was struck, it was sheltering 10 horses, 12 head of cattle and 60 head a sheep. Running through the structure, he released all the livestock, and with the assistance of a large collie dog, succeeded in directing the frighten animals to safety. Little could be done to save the barn or its contents.

Saint Paul's Church Rededicated

A large and enthusiastic audience attended the services at the Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Walkersville on Sunday, where their new and stately church structure was rededicated. The building committee reported that the building cost a little more

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

than \$20,000. The finance committee reported that \$13,000 was needed to free the building from all encumbrances.

Of this sum, \$8,900 was raised on Sunday, leaving about \$4,000 yet approved for. The service of rededication was impressive. Owing to the rain, which kept some of the members and many other friends from the dedication, the service will be completed next Sunday.

Four Injured In Auto Wrecks On Sunday

Joseph Hoffman, of near Harmony Grove, sustained a fractured rib, and Miss Mabel Myers, of Lewistown, was slightly bruised about the body when an automobile in which they were riding was crowded off the road near Lewistown, Sunday morning and overturn. Charles Fulton, the driver, and Frank Hoffman escape with slight injuries. Hoffman and his party, in a Ford car were going towards Lewistown when a car driven in the same direction cut around him. The Hoffman machine ran into a ditch alongside the road and upset. The driver of the other car was ordered to report to police headquarters for hearing.

May 23

Methodist Vote For Church Union

By a vote of 842 to 13 the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church voted for a union with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The General Conference of the Methodist, Episcopal Church, South, will now be called into general session, and is expected to approve the proposition with similar unanimity and enthusiasm.

The united church will have 8,270,704 members, estimating constituents on the basis of three to every two members, Methodism will be able to claim that one American in every five is a Methodist. The Methodist Church counts in its membership only those who are actual and active members of the church.

Army Leases Land For Air Corps

The U.S. Army Aviation Service has leased land from George Sauble outside of Taneytown to be used as an aviation camp, and expects to begin the use of it the last of this month. The plan is said to require eight camps, likely extending from Gettysburg to Washington. The object will be observation and landing practices for planes and balloons, and will be part of the training required for airplane army service.

It's likely that the use of the field represents a part of Army War College instruction, including a wireless station, and if so, will be of considerable importance.

The advanced quota of army occupants of the Sauble field arrived on Wednesday. They represent a detail of southern enlistments of the War College, and will have practice in a portion of the maneuvers of the College's field course. Three tents have been erected for officers, and four for the men. In all, they will be about 10 officers and 30 men and the camp will continue for about 10 days.

Army officials have also rented a field from Louis Watcher, two miles south of Woodsboro, and 3 miles north of Walkersville for the purpose of establishing another temporary aviation field. Mr. Watcher has rented the field of 39 acres from May 26 to June 10. Approximately 150 men in training for the aviation service will camp there, and 12 to 14 planes are expected to be used on this field.

The mess trucks and several soldiers have already arrived, and are getting the field in readiness. The planes are expected to arrive on Sunday. 15,000 gallons of gasoline will be unloaded at NZ Cramers & Son in Woodsboro for their use.

The camps are part of a large field plan, made up of over 30 like camps, representing an imaginary battlefield covering a wide area, contemplating part of an emergency plan of national defense.

The principle purpose of the camps is to demonstrate means of communications among the various camps. Part of the communications will be worked out by the use of airplanes of which there will be between 15 to 18 maneuvering between Gettysburg and Walkersville. After communication has been established among the various camps by the Signal Corps, the theoretical armies will maneuver into positions sent out by the staff officers from their headquarters in Gettysburg.

Rain Continues

This was the third week of rain nearly every day, and practically no corn has been planted. At places where there has been some plantings that have "come up" the growth looks very sickly. Beans and some other seeds have rotted in the ground in gardens.

Educational Test For Immigration

A spirit debate on the question: resolved, that immigrants should not be allowed to come into the United States unless they can read or write in English, was the feature of the regular monthly meeting of the Woodsboro School Association in the town's Opera Hall, Thursday evening. A large audience was present, and an addition to the debate, an excellent itinerary program was rendered.

The debate attracted much interest. The affirmative was upheld by Nevin Smith and Mehri Roddick, and the negative was defended by Russell Hill and David Zimmerman, the latter principle of

the Walkersville high school.

After carefully considering the issues presented by the speakers, the judges decided by a two to one vote in favor of the affirmative.

May 30

Fire Company To Hold Carnival To Raise Funds

The fire company realizes the need of an up-to-date, fire engine, not only for better and quicker town service, but for the protection of out-of-town property. Various plans are being considered for raising the funds for the purchase, to which citizens of the town and local community should liberally respond. A carnival company, that makes a business of operating in conjunction with fire companies, has been engaged for the week of June 16, more about which will be given in the next edition.

Methodist Repeal Ban On Amusement

The Committee on Amusements of the Quadrennial General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church adopted a report which provided for repealing the rule that a Methodist cannot dance, play any games of chance, or attend theaters, horse races, circuses, dancing parties, nor dancing schools, and leave it with the individual conscious of a Methodist, to take only such amusements, as can be used, in the name of the Lord of Jesus.

The report included a "solemn warning" against a widespread form of amusement which heretofore has not received an official rebuke from the church — the movies. It does not propose to prohibit attendance at theaters and movies, but lifts up a note of warning, particularly against attendance upon immoral, questionable and misleading, theatrical and motion picture performances. The report is taken to mean that Methodist can go to good theatrical plays and movies, but

not too immoral, questionable and misleading ones.

Telephone Rates To Be Increased

The C&P Telephone Co. will increase rates by 10%, which will be evenly applied to the various branches of the service. This action has been indicated for sometime, by various announcements, and claimed to be based on the needs of the company in order to pay fair dividends, and to maintain the physical value of the company at a high standard.

The new rates are expected to go into effect sometime this fall. The increases expected to add from \$800,000 to \$1 million to the company's revenue. The question involves a great deal of figuring and estimating a fair inventory of the value of the company's property, over which there may be widely differing opinion.

No one ever welcomes an increase in expenses, without a corresponding increase in service, and there is always sure to be a ready opposition to advances made in charges by large corporation; but, in this particular instance, the company makes a very strong case, indeed, and as the C&P provides vendors such excellent service, and the very recent, tremendous storm and flood disasters, substantiated by it, will help very materially towards making the proposed advances in rates, justifiable, if not, altogether palatable.

The company statement, in brief, will be found in a very large advertisement

in this issue, which we earned a lot of money from for carrying.

Accidentally Shot Self

Madeline Waters, of Woodsboro is in serious condition as a result of a revolver shot accidentally inflicted at her home Monday. An expert revolver shot, she had the weapon with her to kill a chicken. She slipped on a wet floor, and fell on the revolver, which was discharged. The bullet, a 25-caliber, entered her left side, just above the heart and plowed its way into her left shoulder from which it was extracted Thursday by physicians at the hospital. It is said that she will recover.

Buggy Hit By Motorcycle

Mrs. William Winebrenner, accompanied by her daughter, returning from Emmitsburg Sunday evening, met with a serious accident. Turning her horse into her driveway, the rear wheel of the buggy was hit by a motorcycle. The motorcycle was driven by George Etzllr of Woodsboro, with Mrs. Etzllr in the side-car. Mrs. Winebrenner was pushed forward, landing between the dashboard and the hind legs of the horse. When extracted Mrs. Weinbrenner was unconscious and required medical attention. Miss Weinbrenner was not injured. Mrs. Etzllr was reported to be bruised about the body.

To read other articles related to 100 Years Ago this Month, visit the History section of Walkersville.net.



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LIBRARY NEWS

May at the Walkersville Library

There are plenty of activities and programs going on at the Walkersville Branch Library in May, from storytimes and yoga to dressmaker and artist talks, there's always something for everyone. On May 18, the annual Walkersville Days will take place around the town, and the library is hosting a community yard sale from 9 to 1. If you're looking for a space to set up your goods, spaces are available for just \$10. Peruse the sale, enjoy a picnic lunch, or read outside in the library backyard.

Please note that all Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed on May 26 and 27 for Memorial Day. If you're itching to have the next book in a series or watch the final season of your favorite show over the holiday weekend, use your FCPL card to access free online resources there are—thousands of streamable movies, tv shows and more!

Start your week off with a free yoga class on Monday, May 6 and 20 at 6. Led by instructors from Sol Yoga, this is a great way to wind down and practice self-care on a Monday evening. This

class is wonderful for all, even first timers! Maybe you're looking for a group class that will really get you going on a weekend! If so, step into a free exercise program like Freedom BANG on Saturdays at 10. There will be a wide range of intensity options to help you customize your workout to fit your needs.

Join dressmaker, pattern maker, and sewing instructor Maggie Koenig for a fun and informative talk about 19th century fashions on Sunday, May 5 at 1. She will bring a selection of "sources": original garments, photographs, publications, and published diaries and talk about how these items influence what we know about historical clothing today.

On Wednesdays at 10 in the morning in May, programs designed specifically for adults with intellectual disabilities and their caregivers will take place at the Walkersville Branch Library. Make a "seed bomb" on May 1 with Master Naturalists, participate in a gentle exercise class with Chair 1 Fitness on May 8, meet some critters from Fountain Rock Nature Center on May 15,

learn about firefighters and see their truck on May 22, and finish out the month with some fun karaoke on May 29!

If you visited the Walkersville Branch Library in April, you may have noticed the beautiful quilt display in the lobby. The artist, Aynex Mercado, will be at the library on Sunday, May 19 at 1pm to share her story and art of famous places in Frederick County (including libraries!). Her story is inspiring, her quilting is state and nationally recognized.

Head over to the library for Senior Café, a great time to meet new friends and have a warm cup of coffee while enjoying informational programs. Senior Café takes place at the Walkersville Branch Library at 10am on the following dates: On May 9 the topic is stroke awareness, including signs, symptoms, risk factors and more. Learn tips and tricks for keeping an herb garden from the Tasker's Chance Garden Club on May 23.

Do you need help expunging your record from a past conviction? An attorney from Maryland Legal Aid will be at the Walkersville Branch Library on May 9 from 4 to 7. They will meet with you for free to discuss your options and begin the process.

The Literacy Council of Frederick County will host a guided conversation class for high beginners of ESL from 6:30 to 7:45 on Mondays in May, except for when the library is closed on May 27. Students will practice their speaking and listening skills with conversations guided by an instructor. The Literacy Council requests that interested participants register, which can be done

via the FCPL Calendar Event for this program, by calling the Walkersville Branch Library at 301-600-8200, or contact The Literacy Council at info@frederickliteracy.org if you have questions regarding the classes.

Take some time and 'Paws 2 Read' with the Go Team Therapy Dogs on Thursday, May 9 from 6:30 to 7:30. Kids (and adults!) of all ages are invited to share their favorite story and make a new four-legged friend at the library.

If you have a 'tween' who wants some afterschool fun, look no further than Tween Tech at the library! Monday, May 6 is "Minecraft Monday" at 6pm. They can join like-minded peers to mine, build, and explore in the library Minecraft Server. Bring your creativity to the library on May 20 for a fun challenge with friends! Tween programs are intended for kids ages 10-13.

Hey teens, the library is for you, and we want your input! The last Tuesday of the month is for the Teen Library Council meeting; join peers on May 28 at 3:30 to share ideas for programs you'd like to see take shape at your local branch. Teens can provide input and assistance with programs in the future and even earn volunteer hours for being involved!

Each Tuesday and Friday at 3:30, there are after-school programs for teens to connect with

peers, learn new skills, and create while being social. Come to the library on May 3 to be part of a Crime Scene Investigation you won't want to miss! Learn how to play Windball on May 7 and fly drones on May 10. Meet a local tattoo artist and show off your own artistic skills on May 17 and bring your friends to the "School's Almost Out" party on May 31!

"Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten" is a program on Wednesdays from 11 to 11:45 where preschoolers and their caregivers can build school ready skills like counting, literacy and exploring their social-emotional selves with peers.

Our weekly Fri-YAY Program will continue into the spring from 11 to 11:45 on Fridays. Hop on a Frederick Transit Bus on May 3, come to Touch-a-Tractor on May 10, express your inner artist on May 17, jump into the wild on May 24, and make music on May 31!

Stay after Toddler and Preschool Storytime for "School Skills"; you and your little one can socialize and learn together with peers, playing with developmentally appropriate toys and activities.

Bilingual Storytime will be on Wednesday, May 1 and 15 at 6. This dynamic and engaging storytime is fun for the whole family and will feature songs, rhymes and more in English and other world languages.



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SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Public Schools

Rae Gallagher
Vice President, Board of Education

Along with spring weather, allergies, and more sunshine also comes to arrival of the County budget season as we plan for school year 24-25. The FCPS Board of Education submitted a budget request to County Executive Fitzwater with the priority in providing the best academic and extracurricular experiences for our students, totaling \$992 million. This included just over \$81 million in additional budget requests above last year's maintenance of effort funding.

The budget request falls into four primary categories: recruiting and retaining staff while maintaining competitive salaries; responding to enrollment growth by adding 200 school-based positions; providing additional supports to students including expanding inclusive pre-

K, behavioral support, specialized programming for our special education students, and school psychologists; and addressing the ongoing inflationary increases that the school district is facing. On April 15, County Executive Fitzwater publicly released her proposed budget, which included approximately \$30 million for the Board's request.

The student enrollment of FCPS continues to grow exponentially. FCPS added 801 students last school year and anticipates another 1,200 students during the upcoming year. In order to balance the budget over the next two months, the Board anticipates making significant, difficult decisions. There are no easy options that will not directly affect our teachers, staff, and students.

Facing a difficult budget season, the Board acknowledges that inadequate funding will impact the dis-

trict's ability to maintain and enhance educational programs, resources, and facilities for students as we address our future growth and development. As a result, FCPS put a freeze on any central office hiring for the remainder of this fiscal year as well as a freeze on all non-discretionary and non-salary expenses for the remainder of this year. Throughout the month of May, the Board will work to balance the FY25 operating budget given the challenge of our fiscal reality.

County Executive Fitzwater also proposed a property tax increase of 4.7%, raising the tax rate to \$1.11 per \$100 of assessed value, specifically designating these funds to school construction needs. The average additional property tax raised will be approximately \$15/month for the average household in the county. This funding, if approved by the County Council, will allow FCPS

and the County to respond to aging infrastructure needs while simultaneously responding to student enrollment growth.

On a lighter note, at the end of April FCPS named finalists for the Washington Post Educator Awards. Rock Creek Special Education teacher Peter Ricciuti and Thurmont Middle School principal Janine Smith are the 2024 FCPS nominees this year. The Educator and Principal of the Year Awards recognize educators who go above and beyond the day-to-day demands of their positions to create exceptional learning environments for their students. Mr. Ricciuti joined the Rock

Creek faculty in 2012. He leads the Rock Creek gardening program, an essential component of the life skills curriculum.

Mr. Ricciuti is currently a participant in Leadership Frederick County. Ms. Janine Smith has served at Thurmont Middle School since 2018, first as an assistant principal and then as principal beginning in 2020. Ms. Smith has been a powerful advocate for students in the Catocin High feeder pattern and is known for her collaborative spirit. Ms. Smith graduated from Leadership Frederick County in 2017 and is a former FCPS Teacher of the Year finalist.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month, we asked our writers to reflect on the meaning of Decoration Day by remembering those who have served for our country.

Freshman

Paul J. Mignini

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

Who was Paul J. Mignini? This is an excellent question considering the United States Military Archives can't even answer it. However, I will do my best.

Paul Mignini, born on January 25th, 1922, was an Italian-American with ambition like no other. He was the husband of Virginia Conklin and father to Paul Mignini, Jr., Carolyn Vinovich, Connie Iampieri, Edith Mignini, Victoria Unglesbee, and Mary Keeley. He was the grandfather to Jennifer and Julie Iampieri, Jamie Unglesbee, Jr., Paul J. Mignini, III, Rebecca and Matthew Smith, William and Katie Doyle, and Nick and Chris Vinovich. I, Gracie Smith, am writing to you as his great-granddaughter.

While I was just 10 months shy of meeting my great-grandfather, I hope to continue his legacy by informing you of his incredible experience during World War II. All I ever knew of my great-grandfather was that he had fought in the war, and earned a Purple Heart for his acts of bravery in saving another sailor. Nevertheless, this story never satisfied me. For years I have been curious about his time in the war and what exactly he did. I can now confidently and proudly say that I have uncovered it all.

According to the official draft

papers I discovered in the depths of the internet, on June 29th, 1942, Yeoman Mignini registered to serve. He volunteered to go in place of his elder brother who was drafted so he could stay behind and provide an income for the rest of his family. It wasn't until the fall of 1942 that his service initially began.

On October 24th, 1942, Yeoman Mignini was deployed to fight in Operation Torch: The Invasion of North Africa, led by none other than Dwight D. Eisenhower. Now, what was the plan for Operation Torch? Operation Torch began on November 8th, 1942, with the landing of 107,000 British and U.S. troops at Casablanca (Western Task Force), and the Algerian cities of Algiers and Oran (Eastern Task Force). The landings signaled the beginning of the end of Axis power in North Africa. On November 5th, Eisenhower established his command post at Gibraltar, Spain, undetected by the incoming German U-boats. The primary goal was to take over all the ports in North Africa and slowly reconquer lost territory. This campaign was so successful that Eisenhower and General George Patton would then invade Sicily and later Italy.

However, Yeoman Mignini never made it to Casablanca, not in the way they planned. He sailed across the Atlantic Ocean on the USS Tasker H. Bliss, a troop transport ship part of convoy UGF-1. Its route was to depart from Norfolk, Virginia, and arrive in Fedhala, Morocco on November 8th, 1942. The ship had 235 troops on board and weighed 12,568 tons. At

around 18:30 hours on November 12th, five torpedoes were fired at the three ships in Yeoman Mignini's convoy; the USS Edward Rutledge, the USS Hugh L. Scott, and the USS Tasker H. Bliss. The German submarine responsible for this was U-130, commanded by Ernst Kals. The first two ships went down almost immediately, but the USS Tasker H. Bliss remained burning in the water until around 02:30 hours the next day before it sank. At least 75 people would be killed in the attack from the three ships that went down. This would later be recognized as the Naval Battle of Casablanca.

From this attack, Yeoman Mignini had suffered oil burns in his eyes. This, however, didn't stop him from swimming in the flaming bay with an injured soldier for eight miles to the Casablanca beach. The Baltimore Sun paper printed on December 6th, 1942 wrote about Yeoman Paul Mignini and interviewed him about his experience in the war. The paper says, "He became a soldier in a sailor's uniform". From this, he went on to be awarded a Purple Heart Medal.

Once Yeoman Mignini had reached the African shore with the injured sailor, the army took him and began treatment for his oil-burned eyes. He lay that night in a Catholic church with other minorly wounded sailors. The next day, Yeoman Mignini traveled into the fallen city of Casablanca. He and other "ship-less" sailors were put aboard another transport ship heading back to the United States.

His mother, Cesira Mignini,



was informed of the attack while Yeoman Mignini was en route home. It was a cold morning in early December when Yeoman Mignini returned to his home in Baltimore, Maryland. Mrs. Cesira Mignini asked no questions, her son was home for Christmas.

This brings me to the importance of Decoration Day, more commonly known as Memorial Day. War, combat, battle, shootings, bombings, sinkings, death; nobody knows how difficult it is to speak about something if they haven't experienced it. As my great-grandfather asked when he returned home, "Do people really know there is a war going on? Do they really know other guys aren't so lucky and are dying?"

I never met my great-grandfather. My family told me stories about him, but no one quite knew what he did in the war other than earn a Purple Heart. This prompt gave me the perfect excuse to dive

into my family history and solve the cold case of my great-grandfather's war service. After hours, days even, of research, fact-checking, and cross-referencing, I finally know what Yeoman Mignini accomplished during the war.

This Memorial Day, I urge you to learn about your family history. I urge you to call your relatives and ask them to share their stories. I ask you, how are we supposed to carry on their legacy if we do not know it? How are we supposed to appreciate everything our family members went through so that we could live the way we do today? Memorial Day is a day of remembrance and a day to honor our fallen soldiers. I ask you to learn about what we should be remembering.

As my great-grandfather said, "It isn't for a Mignini to be afraid."

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

Sophomore

Decoration Day: honoring my grandfather

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

During the meeting to discuss our prompt for May, Mike asked us if we knew what Decoration Day was and what it was about. Everyone at our meeting sat there in silence and looked at Mike with blank stares, waiting for him to fill us in. What we know Decoration Day as is Memorial Day, and unfortunately, we associate the day of memorial with cookouts, drinking, beach days, and fun. In reality though, the day is about honoring those who have served and now have passed.

In honor of Decoration Day, I would like to tell you all about my grandfather, John Ribinsky, Sr., who served two tours in Vietnam as an Airborne Ranger and Sergeant. Grandpop spent quite a bit of time in Germany, but his time in the war isn't something he wanted to talk about much—he did a lot of things he wasn't proud of, and at a very young age too. When he did talk about his time at war, he said it was "kill or be

killed," he didn't have much of a choice in the decisions he made. Grandpop was drafted in 1965, when he was only 21 years old—he didn't sign up for the war, but he was forced to go. Can you imagine? When my mom talks about her dad, she always says that he was a "badass of the time." He was exposed to some nasty things during this time of his life, and when he described it to my older sisters, he said that he was simply just trained to kill people and survive. In 1971, he was honorably discharged and was awarded two Bronze Star Medals, Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Meritorious Unit Citation. From there he worked his way up to a tugboat captain, a very well-known one at that! I cannot imagine what six-years at war can do to a man. Sometimes people have to do things they never would've imagined themselves to do in order to survive, and all we can do is lend a shoulder for them to lean on when they need it.

Unfortunately, I never got the opportunity to spend much time with Grandpop. He moved out to California prior to me being born and only visited us once in my childhood years. The last time

I saw him in person I was only three/four years old, so even from then I don't remember much of his last trip out to Delaware. However, even through the distance of coast to coast, we managed to maintain a relationship throughout the years. Grandpop valued penmanship and art a great deal, so it never came as a surprise to me that he would write letters whenever he could. Looking back, I think my Grandpop was the only man I've met who could write in cursive handwriting—and my goodness was it beautiful. He used to send little gifts with his letters too: they were usually a bunch of pens that he would find around, and I still have most of them to this day. There was one letter that he sent with a heart-shaped necklace with a dove in the center of it, it was beautiful—it now hangs from the mirror of my car so that he can be with me wherever I go. He was also a big supporter of dreams, especially mine. I once told him on a phone call that it was my dream to go to Cornell University to study Veterinary Medicine and boy was he thrilled! From that point forward he made it his mission to find and send me anything he could on Cornell—he even managed to find a first edition magazine from/about

the school and sent it my way with a heartfelt note about how happy he is to be able to share my dreams with me. Granted, I never ended up going to Cornell (I applied and was rejected), but I think he would still be just as excited for me being here at The Mount and pursuing my love for writing. After all, he is the one who created such a love through teaching me the importance of writing letters.

His death came as a shock to my whole family. We had just spoken with him a few days prior about the holidays and what he was up to. During these few days, my sister and her husband had actually talked to him about moving him out to Delaware to live with them in their new house so that he could be closer and get to meet his great-grandchildren. Grandpop passed away on Monday December 19th, 2022, after a really bad fall outside. His knees were always very weak, he said it was from all of the jumping he did as a paratrooper during the war. This man was one of the most stubborn people I had met, always wanting to show us that he could handle anything and do whatever he set his mind to—it makes sense why I am the way I am, its genetics. As painful as his death was for us, especially knowing that

we weren't there to do anything about it, there was a peace of mind in knowing that he passed while being truly himself—stubbornness and all. May he be resting in peace and knowing that he is so dearly missed here on Earth.

With Decoration Day approaching us very quickly, I want to reiterate the importance of celebrating those who served and have since passed on. My mother mentioned that the men coming back from war during this time weren't always welcomed with open arms and bright smiles. Grandpop told us that many soldiers were viewed as the bad guys because of what they did while at war, or because they survived and some others didn't—there was no life other than military when they got home and from there, they had to figure out what to do. On Decoration Day this year, let's take a look at the lives we live and how lucky we are to be where we are, and then with that in mind, take a moment to remember those who died and those who fought to get us to this point. Thank you to those who have passed for your service; we will always remember and value you.

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

DECORATION DAY

Junior

Remembrance

Dolores Hans
MSMU Class of 2025

In the stillness of the morning, the droplets coating the blades of grass cling to the hair on my ankles and create the dampness I hate to feel and the squeak of my sneakers I hate to hear. I wonder if a time will come when I can choose to go places, rather than be “voluntold” by my mother. If I was older, I wouldn’t have to accompany my grandma to a place that has very little meaning to me and feel guilty for not caring more than I do. I wish I did know, or feel, or whatever it is that causes someone to want to go visit a stranger’s grave. But the squeak of my sneakers, the carsick feeling I get after sitting in the backseat, the dampness of my socks, and my tired eyes prohibit me from surpassing the bare minimum of care. I’m here, I’m here for Grandma, and this means a lot to her. I keep repeating this to myself to get me through it. As I stroll past the curb and through the grass I pass stone

after stone, engraved and decorated with flowers, some few, some bunches, some wilted and some stiff with purpose. I walk through the maze of stones, clutching my grandma’s hand as she clutches the handkerchief she’s been using to dry the few tears that have dared glide somberly over her cheeks.

We stop at the grave of a stranger. Well, stranger to me. To my grandmother, was a beloved friend. I had heard a story or two before but I had no personal connection to the man. I close my eyes and try to picture him and my grandma and how she must be devastated without him, and how hard it must’ve been for him to fight for our country. Empathy and empathy alone makes a tear stream down my face. Am I doing it right? Is this remembrance? Is this how we honor them? I hope I’m doing enough.

When I first heard of “Decoration Day”, I didn’t know what it was. When I discovered its meaning, all I could think of was how it felt to stroll past the graves of strangers, decorated with flowers, knickknacks, and photos.

My family is very patriotic. We have many family members who

have served in the marines, national guard, and army. My Great Pop Pop was in the army. He never spoke about it to me before he died, probably because I was so young, but sometimes I think about if he watched the sunset when he was overseas, just as he always sat on the back porch and taught me how to love watching a sunset. He always told such elaborate stories about his life to me when I was a child, and to this day I don’t know what is true. I like to imagine him entertaining his squad with elaborate stories that are crazy, but just crazy enough to be true, or pretending to eat bee stingers, or finding a flower somewhere and telling them how he breaks the arms of people who touch his flowers. I remember when my Great Pop Pop died. At his funeral they draped a perfectly folded American Flag over his casket, and that flag was later folded into a perfect triangle and handed to one of my other family members. I wonder how many other thousands of funerals this was a part of, and how many other thousands of children witnessed their loved one’s casket draped with our flag.

My Uncle John is still alive, but I don’t see him anymore. He was in

the marines. He also never told me stories, but I remember him coming to my house in full uniform a couple times. I remember how strong and manly he looked. I would trust him to defend a whole world, but defending a country seems fitting too. He had the best laugh, just like my dad. I like to think that he provided some laughter for others while on duty and inspired them with his strength the way he inspired me.

My brother joined the National Guard when I was in high school, and I still keep with me the letter he sent me from boot camp. Just as my Great Pop Pop and Uncle John were probably cracking jokes, here was my brother telling me to save him a slice of pizza for when he gets back.

Though I don’t know anyone personally who died in service, I know it is important to keep them in my heart and in my prayers. Though they are strangers to me; I am also a stranger to them, and that did not hinder their decision to sacrifice their life for me, so the least I can do is take a day to extend a prayer of thanksgiving for what they’ve done for my life.

When my life is filled with joyful moments like those I experience

on Memorial Day, with family gathered around and the grill turned on, I will remember those who died in military service. When the sun passes through the trees and warms the grass, I walk through on my way to greet a family member I haven’t seen in 6 months, I will remember those who gave their life for my sake. When the classic rock music starts to play and my dad and uncles, with their identical beards and identical laughter, all begin to discuss whatever hilarious thing has happened to them recently, I will remember the veterans. When I mix chalk in water and paint the American flag on my little brother’s backs, and they start to chant “U.S.A” as they run through the yard, I will think how proud I am to be American. When the guests have all left and it is just me and my family at the end of the day, and we search “patriotic movies” on Amazon Prime, and inevitably land on something starring Mel Gibson, I will appreciate the opportunity I have to do so because of the sacrifice of a stranger.

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

Senior

Why Decoration Day?

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

“Do any of you know what Decoration Day is?”

It’s our staff meeting in April, five o’clock in the library. The sun pokes its golden rays into the window, and around us, college students are busy at work, studying or reading or talking. Your trusted *News-Journal* staff sits in a circle, discussing our goals for the next edition, when editor Mike Hillman asks this question. Silence spills upon us, and we all exchange puzzled looks.

“Is it—a day celebrating decorations?” someone asks, and it might’ve been me. After some scattered laughter from the staff, Mike shakes his head. “Anyone else?” he asks.

When we’re all quiet, he tells us to Google Decoration Day. We race to our phones like it’s some competition, and after quickly typing in the words, we fall upon a *very* familiar term: Memorial Day. *Memorial Day?* And then it hits me: It’s about to be May, and Memorial Day is in May, and Mike wants us to write about Decoration Day, but why was it even called Decoration Day if we never use that name anymore?

When I think of Memorial Day, I think of pools opening in the summer, and blue chlorinated water, and too many children swimming in circles. I think of cookouts and days off and hot dogs. And honestly, I will fully admit: the purpose of Memorial Day rarely crosses my mind on this occasion. I’m too busy prepping for the cookouts or planning to enjoy the beautiful weather.

But why Decoration Day? American Battle Monuments Commission says, “The 30th Day of May 1868 is

designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in the defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land.” The idea of “decoration” has to do with the graves of those who so willingly gave their lives to fight for our countries. Immediately after learning this definition, I’m sent back to my childhood, when my grandmother would take my sister and me on drives to the cemetery. On bright, blue-skyed days, the graves would be adorned with flowers, little bursts of colors that distinguish each gravestone.

I had a conversation about this concept with a friend. Why are cemeteries deemed as scary? Why do we think they’re haunted, and that we must stay away from them? Cemeteries are beautiful, sacred places where we can connect with our loved ones, physically and in the most human way possible, beyond their deaths.

So, why is the holiday not called “Decoration Day” anymore?

American Battle Monuments Commission continues by saying, “Over the years, the meaning of Decoration Day evolved, gradually expanding from a commemoration of Civil War dead, into a day to honor fallen members of the American armed forces from all wars.” While the embodiment of the holiday remains, we continue to expand upon its meaning through constant and present reflection. In a way, it’s heartening to know that Memorial Day immediately manifests honor, celebration, and remembrance.

ROTC Cadet at the Mount, Junior Lorenzo DiVentura, echoes this meaning in his work with his service to our country in his collegiate years. Although Memorial Day falls outside of the academic calendar, DiVen-

tura is still heavily involved in acts of service on the holiday. “I’ve volunteered with my local VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) to participate in firing parties at cemeteries and parades for Memorial Day,” he says. DiVentura joined ROTC not only because the military has always been a solid, reliable option for his future, but also because his great-grandparents and cousins have served at one time or another and have inspired him to continue doing so. “My plans are to commission with the PA National Guard, and then find a civilian job from there,” he says.

But above all, he argues that knowing the history of Memorial Day is extremely significant. “Knowing the meaning of Memorial Day is important because the 3-day weekend and BBQs don’t come from nowhere; thousands of tombstones came first,” DiVentura says. This Memorial Day, he plans to continue remembering those who have served and lost their lives for our country.

So, does it matter what we call Memorial Day, so long as we implement its values? While the name “Decoration Day” is a beautiful ode to the flower-adorned graves and the humanely connection we have with cemeteries, “Memorial Day” also encompasses the innate and important value to remember.

On Monday, May 27th, do these things in addition to your cookouts and pool days: Visit your local veterans cemetery and lay flowers on the graves—to those you don’t know, and to those you do. Call a family member who once served, and thank them. Read stories and articles about those who have passed, and truly, truly dwell on what this day was originally for. I promise, there are ample days in May to swim or host a barbeque. For those who gave their lives, the very least we can do is exchange a cou-

ple hours of thoughts, prayers, and reflections in return.

To close this article, I’d like to personally thank Cadet Lorenzo DiVentura and the rest of the Mount St. Mary’s University ROTC Cadets for their promise to our country and their mission to make days like Memorial Day full of remembrance and honor.

The U.S. Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program, offered at Mount St. Mary’s University, partners with the military science department at McDaniel

College to provide a military pathway post-graduation. Many ROTC cadets, including DiVentura, are guaranteed jobs following their service and have spent their time at the Mount taking regular classes alongside ROTC Advanced Courses. The cadets have developed values of challenge, competition while building meaningful skills that will last for life.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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ARTS

New Spire Arts presents Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas

String duo Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas bring an evening of innovative music to New Spire Arts in Frederick on May 5. From intimate chamber music to energetic dance music and Scottish to global tunes, this duo has set a new standard for fiddle and cello in traditional music.

The musical partnership between performer Alasdair Fraser, “the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling”, and brilliant Californian cellist Natalie Haas spans the full spectrum of traditional Scottish music and returns the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of

it all. Fraser has a musical career spanning over 30 years, with a long list of awards, accolades, radio and television credits, and feature performances on top movie soundtracks (Last of the Mohicans, Titanic, etc.), later being inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame in 2011.

Haas, a graduate of Juilliard, is one of the most sought-after cellists in traditional music today and has recorded with masters of the fiddle world including Mark O’Connor, Natalie MacMaster, and many more. Since the duo’s debut recording, Fire & Grace, which

won the Scots Trad Music “Album of the Year” award, the two have gone on to record five more critically acclaimed albums that blend a profound understanding of Scottish tradition and cutting-edge string explorations.

Tickets may be purchased online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street. Discounts are available for students, children, military, and seniors.

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2023-24 season can be found at WeinbergCenter.org.



The musical partnership between Fraser and Haas spans the full spectrum of traditional Scottish music and returns the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of it all.

GCCA announces Spring 2024 concert season

Gettysburg Community Concert Association (GCCA) is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to cultivate an interest in good music and dance, and to provide opportunities for its members to attend performances given by outstanding artists. The upcoming GCCA Spring Concert Season offers three classical music concerts in Gettysburg as well as three additional concerts presented by the community concert associations in

Waynesboro and Hagerstown, for free through a regional agreement.

GCCA fulfills its mission of bringing great classical performers to the area by opening the Spring Concert Season on April 9 with ensemble132, a quartet of musicians from a roster-based chamber music collective with innovative programming centered around new arrangements of existing masterworks and classic repertoire. Next, the Hyperion String Quartet, an exciting talent emerging

within the field of chamber music since their formation in 1999 at the Eastman School of Music, returns to the GCCA stage to provide an encore performance on May 7.

To conclude the season, Frison (ensemble) showcases some of the brightest of classical music’s stars with an engaging program for winds, piano trio and piano quartet, and features oboist, Thomas Gallant. The venue for all concerts is St. James Lutheran Church, 109 York Street in Gettysburg, at 7:30

p.m. This concert, postponed from a November date, is rescheduled for a June 11.

The regional partners in Hagerstown and Waynesboro offer pop and country music entertainment: Key of G Live! Tribute to Garth Brooks (April 25, 7:30 p.m. at the Maryland Theatre, Hagerstown); Real Deal Country with Katie Deal (Sunday, April 14, 3 p.m., Waynesboro High School); and the Dallas Brass - repertoire includes Dixieland, Swing, Broadway, Hollywood,

& patriotic music. (Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m., Waynesboro High School).

An adult membership for all six concerts is \$50. Adult single admission at any of the three venues ranges from \$20-\$25. A GCCA membership offers an exceptional live entertainment value. Children to age 18 and college students with ID are admitted free. Tickets and memberships may be purchased at the door.

For information visit www.gettysburgcca.org; call 717-339-9610; e-mail info@gettysburgcca.org.

Way Off Broadway Theatre’s Summer Theatre Camp

Registration has begun at The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre for its 2024 Summer Theatre Camp which will begin on July 22nd.

For over 20 years, Way Off Broadway has been offering budding young actors and actresses the opportunity to hone their craft during the theatre’s annual summer camp. These camps focus on all aspects of musical theatre through

vocal music, acting exercises, and basic choreography as students rehearse for a full musical production at the end of the session.

This year’s camp will be held July 22nd – August 1st from 10 to 4 p.m., Monday – Thursday. Camp is open to students ages 9 and older. Registration is \$500 per student. Instructors for Way Off Broadway’s 2024 Summer Theatre camp will once again be Bill Kiska, the

theatre’s Executive Producer, and Megan Elizabeth West, one of Way Off Broadway’s performers and music directors.

For its theatrical production this summer, the camp will be presenting Legally Blonde, JR. Adapted from the hit movie and award-winning Broadway musical, Harvard’s beloved blonde takes the stage by glittery pink storm in this fun and upbeat stage show. Legally Blonde,

JR. follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. When Elle’s boyfriend, Warner, dumps her and heads to Harvard, claiming she’s not “serious” enough, Elle takes matters into her own hands, crafting a showy song-and-dance personal essay and charming her way into law school. Befriending classmate, Emmett, and spunky hairdresser,

Paulette, along the way, Elle finds that books and looks aren’t mutually exclusive. As Elle begins outsmarting her peers, she realizes that law may be her natural calling after all.

Registration is limited and being done on a first-come, first-serve basis. For complete details about this year’s camp, including registration information, visit the theatre’s website at www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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Emmitsburg Community Chorus 2024 Spring Performance Schedule

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus will perform four free public concerts during its 2024 spring season. Under the direction of Peggy Flickinger, the 27-voice group includes members from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The concert features songs about love. Selections include Bluesette; From Now On; From This Moment On; I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing; My Love; Say, Love, If Ever Thou Didst Find; Stars of the Summer Night; Thank You for Being a Friend; Viennese Memories; What the World

Needs Now Is Love; and When David Heard. The chorus also will perform Easter songs they premiered at the Emmitsburg Community Easter Sunrise Service at the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes.

The community concert schedule includes: May 4, at 3 p.m. Lewistown United Methodist Church, 11032 Hessong Bridge Road; May 5, at 3 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Church, 8619 Blacks Mill Road, Creagerstown; Tuesday, May 7, at 7 p.m. Silverado Frederick Memory Care Community, 8401 Gas House Pike, Frederick; and, Sunday, May 19, at 7 p.m. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Road, Frederick.

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May flowers...

Sonya Verlaque

My middle son is a baker-bot. He moves to help in the kitchen and going with me to cooking classes. His sweet smile usually ends up scoring him some extra treats when we go to farmers markets and bake sales. Cue the "He's so cute, here's a little treat" as they hand a 5 year old an extra éclair! He has recently become so interested in plants, foraging and growing things in our garden. These recipes are simple botanical recipes that you can make with your baker-bot at home.

Lavender Earl Grey Cookies These lavender Earl Grey cookies are chewy, buttery sugar cookies infused with the floral flavors of both Earl Grey tea and dried lavender petals, and it doesn't taste like soap.

Ingredients - for the Lavender Earl Grey Cookies:

- 2 ¼ cups (9.5 ounces or 270 grams) all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbs finely ground Earl Grey tea (from 3 tea bags or 4 tsp loose leaf tea)
- ½ tsp culinary-grade lavender, finely ground
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp kosher salt
- 1 ¼ cups (8.80 ounces or 250 grams) granulated sugar
- 1 cup (8 ounces or 227 grams) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 large egg
- 2 tsp pure vanilla extract

For garnish

- 2 Tbs granulated sugar

Preparation

For the Lavender Earl Grey Cookies - Prep your oven and pans. Position a rack in the center of the oven and preheat the oven to 350°F. Line two half sheet pans with parchment paper. Mix the dry ingredients: In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, Earl Grey tea, lavender, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream the sugar and butter. Beat on medium-high speed until light, fluffy, and doubled in volume, 2 to 3 minutes, using a rubber spatula to scrape down the bottom and sides of the bowl as necessary. Reduce the mixer to low and add the egg. Add the vanilla and beat until just combined. Scrape down the bottom and sides of the bowl.

With the mixer on low, gradually add the dry ingredients and beat until just combined. Scrape down the bottom and sides of the bowl once more, and beat on low for an additional 30 seconds. Use a 3-tbs cookie dough scoop to portion the cookie dough into balls. Place the cookies at least 3 inches apart on the prepared sheet pans. Sprinkle the tops of the dough balls with the remaining 2 Tbs of sugar for garnish before baking. Bake one pan at a time for 12 minutes, or until the edges have set but the centers are still gooey. The cookies will look puffed when you pull them out of the oven, but will fall and crack into the perfect cookies as they cool. Cool the cookies on the pan on a wire rack for 20 minutes, or until the edges and bottoms of the cookies have set and feel firm to the touch.

Serve and store. Serve warm or at room temperature. The cookies can be stored in an airtight container or zip-top bag at room temperature for up to 3 days.

Magic Color Changing Violet Lemonade

The pigment that makes violets purple is actually pH sensitive, so this is not just a fun flowery lemonade to make but also a neat science experiment for kids. You do have to make two solutions to experience the magic, but it's worth it.

Ingredients

- violet tea: 2 cups violet flowers (just the flower, ensure that they are unsprayed) and 2 1/2 cups boiling water
- simple syrup: 2 cups water and 2 cups sugar
- lemon mixture: 6 cups water and 1 1/2 cups lemon juice
- violet ice cubes (optional): prettiest violet flowers and water

Preparation

First make the violet tea - gather enough flowers to measure 2 cups of violets. This is a great job for kids - make sure to include just the flowers not the stem or leaves. (Nothing horrible happens if a few stems get in, they just don't have the color.) Pack your violets into a quart mason jar and pour over the boiling water. Poke them down to make sure they get submerged and then cover and store in the fridge for 24 hours for best results, but steeping them for a few hours is also ok.

You can make the optional violet ice cubes at the same time- just pick out a handful of the nicest blooms and freeze them in an ice cube tray overnight for a beautiful decoration.

Next make the simple syrup - put the water and sugar in a sauce pan and cook over medium heat until the sugar is melted and fully dissolved.

Make the two mixtures: strain the violets out of the violet tea - squeeze them to



German (Dutch Oven) Pancake

get all of the color out. They should be a deep purple-blue. In the first pitcher, combine the strained violet tea and the simple syrup, as sweet as you like. Refrigerate.

In a second pitcher mix the lemon juice and 6 cups of water. (Again you can increase the lemon juice to taste) Refrigerate. Enjoy your lemonade:

When you are ready to drink your lemonade put some ice cubes in a glass and add 1/2 cup of the blue violet mixture. Next add 1 cup of the lemon mixture. If you are doing this with kids let them add the lemon for maximum amazement! It will turn from a deep purple to a pink color like magic.

German (Dutch Oven) Pancake

This is an easy pancake that looks impressive but is easy enough for a weekday. It puffs up then falls and has wonderful buttery crispy edges and can be topped with whipped cream, syrup or just powdered sugar.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup milk
- 3 large eggs

- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp table salt
- 4 tbs butter

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Add 2 tbs butter and the blueberries in a 10-inch cast-iron skillet and place in the oven as it heats. Remove once the butter melts; 3 to 5 minutes. As the butter is melting, in a bowl whisk together the milk, eggs, maple syrup, and vanilla. Add the flour, cinnamon, and salt; whisk until very smooth with no dry flour remaining. Remove the skillet from the oven and brush the melted butter to grease the sides of the skillet. Quickly but carefully pour the batter into the center of the hot skillet. Give it a quick stir to distribute the blueberries if necessary. Return the skillet to the oven and bake until browned and nicely puffed; 20 to 25 minutes. Remove from the oven and dust with confectioners' sugar.

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

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of May

Professor Wayne Wooten

For May 2024, the moon is last quarter on May 1st. On May 3rd, the waning crescent in the dawn passes just south of Saturn, then close to Mars and Mercury on May 6th. It is new on May 8th, a month after the historic totality in April. First quarter moon is May 15th, and the Full Flower Moon on May 23rd. It returns to last quarter on May 29th, marking the 27.3 day long synodic month for the moon to return to the same phase (last quarter in this case). And it again passes slow moving Saturn on May 31st, marking the 29.5 day sidereal month to return to the same place among the stars. This two-day difference in these months is of course due to the fact that the moon is moving along with our revolving earth around the Sun, so it needs these two extra days to play catch up with our earth-sun alignment with the background stars!

Mercury is in the dawn, and at greatest western elongation at mid month. Venus is lost in the Sun's glare, not to return to the evening skies until summer. Mars is low in the east at dawn, and will not be back in the evening skies until winter. Jupiter is vanishing into the sun's glare at dusk as well. Only Saturn, well up the dawn sky, is far enough from the Sun for good telescopic viewing, and its rings are closing down, compared to last year, as it approaches its own equinox, when its rings disappear with earth based scopes as we view them edge on.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about April 30th, visit the www.sky-



The cosmos is about to put on a show! We are on the cusp of a rare celestial event — a nova outburst in the constellation T Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. The star system Corona Borealis, also known as the "Blaze Star," is predicted to erupt in a magnificent display of light, potentially becoming visible to the naked eye for a week!

maps.com website and download the map for the new month; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Also available is wonderful video exploring the sky, available from the Hubble Telescope website at: www.hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky. Sky and Telescope has highlights at www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts for observing the sky each week of the month.

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

the period as "Dog Days".

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

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to

Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. The "regal" star Regulus marks the heart of the celestial lion. Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the "northern crown", a shapely Coronet that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations that look like their name. The bright star in the crown's center is Gemma, the Gem Star. But it may be rivalled in just a few days or weeks!

Keep checking out the lower right rim of the crown nightly. Science is based on understanding a phenomena well enough to make predictions, and if our understanding of the dwarf novae outbursts is right, the "Blaze Star", T Corona borealis may erupt between now and September! Based on its last two outbursts, it

may rival Polaris at second magnitude for a few days, making it surpass Gemma in brightness, but fade back to 10,000 times fainter at 10th magnitude.

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

On a dark sky site, you can spot the closest and brightest globular star clusters, Omega Centauri, on May evenings with your naked eyes about 12 degrees above the southern horizon when it is at its highest in the south, about 9 p.m. at the end of the month. It is fine in binoculars, and resolves beautifully into about a million sun with larger scopes.

To the northeast Hercules rises, with his body looking like a butterfly. It contains one of the sky's showpieces, M-13, the globular cluster faintly visible with the naked eye. Find it with the T Corona borealis chart on the previous page midway on the top left wing of the cosmic butterfly, then take a look with a larger telescope and you will find it resolved into thousands of stars! Still, it is smaller and farther away than omega, and pales in comparison, but is high enough to be observed for observing it for several hours. Omega is only out for about two hours an evening in the far southern sky.

Farmers' Almanac

"The phrase 'working mother' is redundant."

-Jane Sellman (1955-)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Rain and very warm, then turning dry and cooler (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); occasional showers, then dry and slightly cooler (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry, then scattered afternoon thunderstorms and mild (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); thunderstorms, then dry with record heat (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); dry and very warm and then afternoon showers and thunderstorms with heavy rain (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); scattered showers and then dry and cooler (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Extreme Weather Watch: The Town and Country Almanack sees heavy rains and possible flooding in the Mid-Atlantic Region (22, 23, 24).

Full Moon: May's Full Moon occurs on Thursday, May 23rd and its name depends upon who you were talking to. To many Native American tribes, it was called Flower Moon, due to the many flowers starting to blossom during this month while the Huron tribes specifically chose to call it Budding Moon for the very same reasons! But if you asked a colonial farmer, he would have said its named was Milk Moon because of the noticeable

increase in milk produced by his dairy cows in the month of May.

Special Notes: The National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 2nd, was established in 1952 at the suggestion of Reverend Billy Graham (1918–2018). It was signed into law under President Ronald Reagan in 1988. Rogation Sunday falls on May 5th, Ascension Thursday, on May 9th, Whit Sunday (or Day of Pentecost) falls on May 19th, and Trinity Sunday is May 26th.

Holidays: Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Sunday, May 5th. Mothers are honored on Mother's Day, Sunday May 12th. That 'very special lady' needs to be treated like royalty today, so plan a nice dinner out, send her a sentimental card with a nice arrangement of flowers, or just give her a telephone call to say, "I love you"! Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 27th. On this day, we honor those who have died in defense of our freedoms, Their unyielding service and sacrifice protect our way of life every single day!

The Garden: Carrots, lettuce, potatoes, corn, beans, peas and most popular vegetables, with the exception of the warmer weather crops, can be seeded

or planted into the vegetable garden at any time now. Wait until mid to late May before planting the warmer weather crops like Tomatoes, Squash, cucumber, pumpkins and peppers. It's still not too late to fertilize your trees and shrubs. Use a Rhododendron or Evergreen type of plant food to feed evergreens and other acid loving plants like Azaleas and Rhododendrons, Camellias and Junipers, etc. Use an all-purpose garden fertilizer (10-10-10) to feed roses, deciduous shrubs and trees. Be sure to water the fertilizer in thoroughly after it is applied.

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

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

"Keeping one's eyes, ears, and mind open and mouth closed, often leads to a more thorough understand of life's problems"



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FITNESS & HEALTH

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Joshua Foust

Feeling nervous before a surgery is common and understandable. Studies reveal that about 70% of patients experience anxiety before undergoing procedures. Our community can take comfort in knowing that Frederick Health, the area's largest healthcare provider, continues to invest in excellent, innovative surgical care to help get you back to your favorite activities, whether it's a scenic hike, a round of golf, or spending time with family.

Last year, Frederick Health performed over 8,500 surgical procedures.

By growing its operations and capabilities, Frederick Health has positioned itself as a leader in surgical excellence. It includes significant investments in technology, highly skilled staff, and a strategic expansion into new areas of surgery. It also includes actively recruiting world-class surgeons from some of the best programs in the country. This thorough approach has been years in the making.

"Year over year, we advance the level of excellent, innovative surgical care offered here," says Dr. Leudvig Sardarian, Assistant Vice President of Medical Affairs, Perioperative Medical Director at Frederick Health.

While Frederick Health offers innovative care in a wide range of specialties, robotic surgery has been a priority in the last several years. Robotic surgery allows surgeons to perform many types of procedures with more precision, flexibility and control than is possible with conventional techniques because it extends the capabilities of their eyes and hands.

Recognizing that in the next 5 to 10 years, robotic surgeries will expand to be an even larger part of the surgical care spectrum, the healthcare system is leading the way by investing in this technology. In fact, Frederick Health Hospital has performed more robotic surgeries than any other community hospital in Maryland and has nationally recognized leaders in robotic surgery as part of its surgical team. These advancements ensure that residents can access more complex surgical treatment without the need for lengthy travel.

"Robotic surgery is not only the future of medicine but truly the present reality," Dr. Sardarian adds. "Robotics are going to be a huge aspect of surgical procedures in the very near future. Luckily, we are leading the way in that push."

With 20 surgical operating rooms, including three cardiac catheterization labs, and dedicated labor and delivery surgical suites, the focus remains on delivering high quality surgical care while accommodating an increasing number of patients and a wider range of procedures. The healthcare system has also continued to hire the best support teams, from Registered Nurses to Surgical Techs. From a patient's initial consultation to final recovery, the Frederick Health team is truly there every step of the journey.

"It always comes down to workforce and we are absolutely investing in the right people," says Dr. Sardarian. "That includes world-class surgeons and a dedicated surgical care staff who ensure that procedures are conducted efficiently, safely, and with the highest level of patient care."

This excellence in both routine and complex surgical procedures is important given the community's growth.

Frederick County is the fastest-growing county in Maryland. To meet these evolving needs, the healthcare system has invested in a range of specialty surgical services such as orthopedics, ear, nose, and throat (ENT), interventional cardiology, and thoracic surgery (chest). It also has robust general surgery capabilities to handle the more common surgical needs such as hernia repair or an ACL tear. This commitment distinguishes Frederick Health as a destination for surgical care.

"You can get the highest quality surgical care you need, right here in Frederick," adds Dr. Sardarian.

Dr. Sardarian, who grew up in this area, has witnessed Frederick Health's growth firsthand. Over the years, he's noted a significant increase in patients from neighboring counties like Montgomery and Washington, indicating a growing awareness and confidence in Frederick Health's surgical capabilities.

"We are thoughtfully investing and operating as a growing healthcare sys-

tem, not one that is shrinking. We are a destination for patients seeking surgical care," adds Dr. Sardarian.

That change is truly exciting, he says.

"The perception of Frederick Health as a small community hospi-

tal is changing. We're gaining recognition, both locally and nationally, as a trusted source of care. Before, people had to go to Baltimore or DC for surgery. Now they don't and the community is taking notice. That's exciting to be a part of."

As Frederick County grows, Frederick Health continues to invest in the future of healthcare delivery, ensuring access to expert providers, innovative procedures, and a seamless delivery of care.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Study Finds Lack of Access to Affordable Quality Childcare Impacts County's Economy, Children's Development

For Frederick County's economy to thrive, families must be able to find and afford reliable, high-quality childcare. That is one of the findings of a market study recently conducted for the Division of Family Services. Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater announced the findings today.

"Childcare affects families' job options, their finances, and children's development," Executive Fitzwater said. "It is vitally important for our economy and our future that we find solutions so everyone in our community can thrive and reach their full potential."

Through its Office for Children and Families, the Division of Family Services commissioned the study to identify strategic steps Frederick County Government can take to help. Consultants Public Policy Associates and Solomon Evaluations conducted research from February 2023 to February 2024.

Key findings of the study include:

- Demand outstrips supply. The number of licensed childcare slots in Frederick County is not keeping pace with the need. The northern and southeastern parts of the county are experiencing crisis-level childcare shortages. Countywide, three out of four providers reported a six-month waitlist.
- Providers face challenges. Childcare providers struggle with licensing regulations, staffing, and other business challenges that make it difficult to meet the demand. The number of home-based providers has been declining, making it increasingly difficult for families to access affordable, licensed childcare for infants and toddlers.
- The social impacts are real.
- Lost wages and career development: Frederick County's families miss out on \$1 million a year in lost wages due to childcare problems. Women, in particular, lose out on career development. In Maryland, women are

returning to the post-pandemic workforce at half the national rate, with childcare being one of the biggest reasons.

- Children's development: When they arrive at kindergarten, children are not ready to learn. Latino English learners and low-income students show the biggest boost in readiness from formal childcare.
- Investment pays dividends. The study found that after recouping expenses, the county is likely to see an additional \$3-\$4 in economic benefits for every dollar invested in improving families' access to quality child care.
- More than 1,600 parents and childcare providers in Frederick County participated in the study, offering feedback through surveys, focus groups, interviews, and community input sessions. Additionally, data was collected from federal, state and county agencies. The study, which is available online, was paid for from Frederick County's American Rescue

Plan Act funding. It was supported by Federal Award number SLFRP16623, awarded to the county by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The next step is to gather community input on how to move forward. A survey is available online at PublicInput.com/childcareforfrederick-county.

For more information contact Vivian Laxton, Communications Director, 301-600-1315.

Legislation Provides Tools to Address Human Trafficking

Frederick County government agencies are working together to crack down on businesses that support criminal enterprises. County Executive Jessica Fitzwater was joined by law enforcement, code enforcement, and business leaders today to announce legislation that will make it more difficult for illegal activity to occur at massage, spa, or other bodywork establishments.

"Human trafficking happens everywhere, including in Frederick County," Executive Fitzwater said. "We must take action now to prevent these organized criminal enterprises from taking root in our community. This legislation builds on the lessons learned by our investigators and our victim advocacy agencies over the past several months."

Frederick County's INTERCEPT Task Force (Inter-agency Child Exploitation and Persons Trafficking) formed in October of 2023. The task force includes representatives of the Frederick County State's Attorney's Office, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, the Frederick Police Department, as well as other local, state and federal agencies and victim advocacy partners. INTERCEPT addresses crimes such as human trafficking, child sex abuse, and the

online exploitation of children.

"I want to thank the Fitzwater Administration for championing this important piece of legislation, and for their unwavering support to launch INTERCEPT," said Joyce King, chief counsel with the Frederick County State's Attorney's Office and a member of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force.

The proposed legislation tightens current zoning laws in several ways. It requires a bodyworks business to get prior zoning approval by submitting copies of all licenses and a list of current employees. Licenses and lists must be re-submitted every year. The bill also allows for periodic inspections by the County's zoning administrator. People will not be allowed to live on site. Anyone instructing unlicensed employees will be required to maintain a higher education certificate. Finally, the bill increases the types of businesses covered by the regulations. The zoning changes do not add any additional licensing requirements or fees to existing businesses that already have zoning approval.

Limited-Time Program Makes Installing Solar Energy Systems More Affordable for Frederick County Residents and Businesses

The Division of Energy and Environment is announcing that the annual Capital Area Solar Switch buyer's cooperative is open on April. This innovative program leverages group buying power to provide participants with access to solar energy systems at a discounted rate. The program is a regional collaboration with Solar United Neighbors, Frederick County Government, and other local jurisdictions.

The Solar Switch buyer's cooperative provides resources for home-

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• DUCK RACE ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 31

• JEEP SHOW & SHINE REGISTRATION: EARLY BIRD DEADLINE MAY 18 - INCLUDES ONE (1) SHIRT REGISTRATION AFTER MAY 18 - NO SHIRT

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7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$500
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$500	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$500	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$500
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$500	61 - \$1000
14 - \$500	30 - \$500	46 - \$500	62 - \$2000
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16 - \$500	32 - \$500	48 - \$500	64 - \$4000

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COMMUNITY NOTES

owners and small businesses to learn about rooftop solar systems, battery storage, and installation processes, then come together to secure group pricing. This program is organized by the nonprofit Solar United Neighbors (SUN), which screens qualified solar installers to compete for the co-op's business via a program auction to be held on May 8. SUN then assesses the installer's offers to secure the best, competitively priced, turnkey solar package for customers.

Those interested in participating in the program are urged to register before May 8. The more people who sign up before the auction,

the more competitive the selected installer's bids will be. Once the auction has concluded, recommendations tailored to each property will be emailed to all participants in July. While this program provides the opportunity to get solar panels installed at a reduced cost, anyone can register for free without any obligation to make a purchase.

Utilizing clean, renewable energy sources is one of the most effective ways to make progress toward Frederick County's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% from 2010 levels by 2030 and 100% no later than 2050. According to Lindsey Humphrey, Program

Administrator for the Division of Energy and Environment, "The ability to access affordable solar energy provides direct benefits to residents and businesses by lowering their overall energy costs. But it also reduces their impact on the grid, contributing to greater energy independence and environmental sustainability for our region."

Solar Switch wholesale prices are made even better when combined with state and federal incentives. During the most recent program, participating households saved an average of \$4,115 on a typical-sized solar installation. Residents who would like more information on the

array of renewable energy incentives can utilize the County's new Green Compass program for help navigating the process. Visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/GreenCompass for more information.

For more information about the Solar Switch program, please visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/solarswitch. For updates and notifications on solar information sessions.



On April 6 the Glade Valley Lions Club (GVLC), Walkersville High School (WHS) Leos Club, and the Walkersville Middle (WMS) School Leos Club held the "Roar Like a Lion Afternoon of Service" at the Walkersville Library. With the assistance of over thirty volunteers from the Glade Valley community, the group produced 23 "Sock Cupcakes" that were donated to residents of Heartfields of Frederick, 2 Fleece Blankets for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization, 12 Fleece Scarves for the Frederick Soup Kitchen, 16 cards for Veterans at the Woodsboro American Legion and 140 Appreciation Bags for the First Responders in the Glade Valley area. This activity was sponsored by District 22-W Lions and by the Lions Club International Foundation.

Appearing in the photo are Connor Reeves WMS Leo, Laura Guthrie WMS Teacher Advisor, Eli Nutaker WMS Leo, Enoch Odu WMS Leo, Joelle Ahanogle WMS Leo, Josie Ritchie WHS Leo, Cash Ritchie WMS Leo, 1st VDG Susan Cox, Jim Corley GVLC and Laura Beall GVLC.



New Midway Vol. Fire Co.
Sportsman's Gun Raffle
Saturday, May 11
Tickets: \$40 Per Person
 (Includes Pit Beef & Ham Buffet and Beer)
 Doors open @ 5 p.m. ~ Buffet @ 6 p.m.
 Drawings begin @ 7 p.m.
ONLY 350 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD SO DON'T WAIT!

New Midway Drive Thru Dinner
Saturday, May 18 - 1 to 5 p.m.
 12019 Woodsboro Pike, New Midway
\$13 Per Dinner (No Substitutes) **No advance orders needed**
Bake Table: Cakes & Pies
 Roasted Turkey with mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dressing, applesauce & roll
 OR
 (8) Fried Shrimp with mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, applesauce & roll

New Midway Food Truck Event
Wednesday, May 22 - 5 to 8 p.m.



AND MORE!
 12019 Woodsboro Pike, New Midway

New Midway Vol. Fire Co. Money Bingo
Friday, May 31
\$25 Per Person
 20 regular games ~ 3 specials ~ Minimum \$500 jackpot
Doors open @ 5 p.m. Games begin @ 7 p.m.
For info call: 301-898-0543

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Friday, May 31 - Brushfire

Saturday, June 1 - Borderline

May 28th thru June 1st

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