

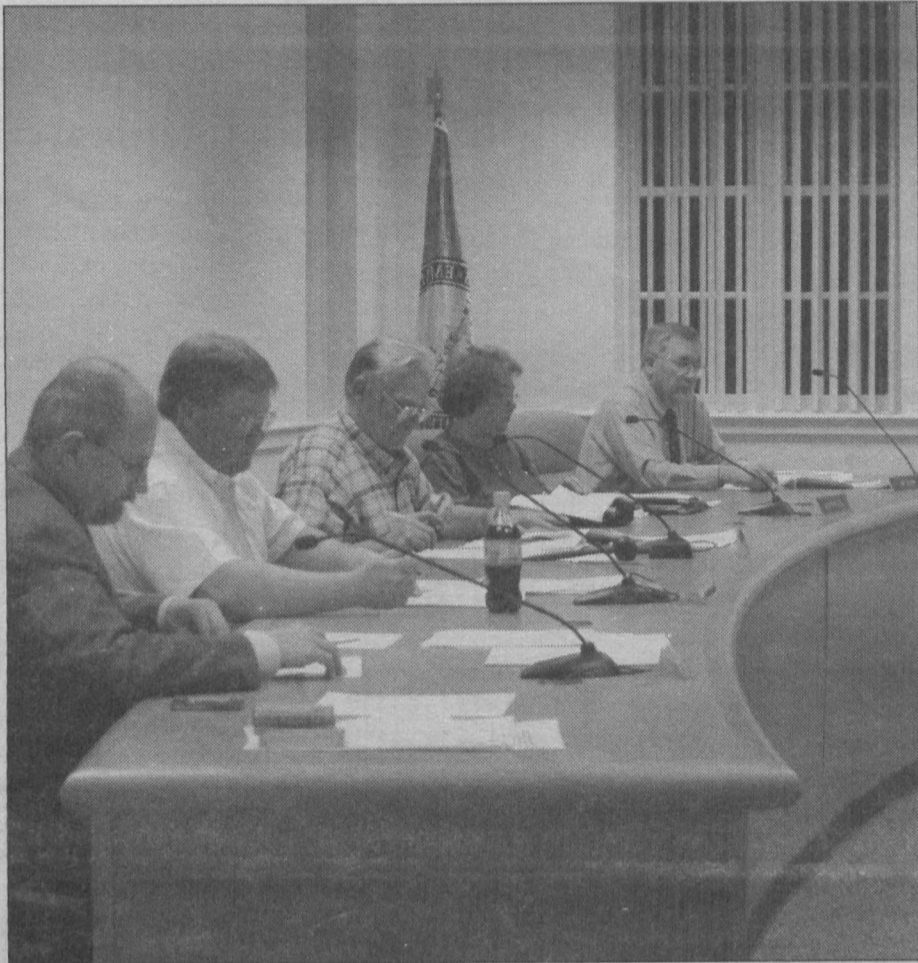


# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

Vol III, No.3

news and opinion in the service of truth

March 2004



Emmitsburg Town officials held their first regular meeting in the newly renovated Community Center on March 1st. The meeting room, located on the second floor of the building along with the town's offices, has seating for 100. Town officials can easily be heard with the latest in audio technology. Each official has their own microphone, and one is also at the podium where those signed up to make public comments will address the board. In this room, at a date yet to be determined, meetings will be televised on the Town's cable channel.

## Emmitsburg Commissioners approve Bollinger Annexation, COPE gathers signatures for referendum petition

By Raymond Buchheister  
Editor & Publisher

With his signature on Feb. 11, Mayor James Hoover approved the annexation of 20.3 acres into town limits, but Emmitsburg residents may make the final decision with their votes.

The Emmitsburg board of commissioners voted 3-1 at a hearing on Feb. 2 to annex the land owned by the Bollingers, located off Irishtown Rd. Josh Bollinger, his mother Rosemary Bollinger, and his aunt Harriet Gigeous own the parcel, which is virtually engulfed by the town. The Bollingers have owned the property since 1921 when Josh's great-grandfather Theodore Bollinger purchased it. Josh Bollinger, of Bollinger Properties, LLC, who owns South Seton Auto Repair, T&M Crane, and Bollinger Homes, intends to develop the property. The R-2 zoning permits up to 77 single-family houses or 103 townhouses, or a combination.

Bollinger plans to build no more than 50 single-family dwellings and no townhouses.

### COPE urges referendum

Emmitsburg residents may make the final decision about whether or not Bollinger will build on this land that provides a scenic backdrop for Elias Lutheran Church. Opposition to the annexation comes largely from Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg, Inc. (COPE), the group formed to overturn the annexation of the 67 acre Silver Fancy Farm with a vote at the April 2003 Town election. Commissioner Art Elder, a COPE member, voted against the Bollinger annexation. Elder won his seat in the April 2003 election, defeating a board member who had voted in favor of the Silver Fancy annexation.

According to COPE President Bill O'Neil, about 14 members began gathering signatures in late February to bring the annexation to a referendum vote. To obtain a referendum,

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**Emmitsburg commissioners increase fees to build in town**  
-see story on page 3.

**Debt Counseling services**  
-see details on page 7.

**Township supervisors of Liberty, PA, to vote whether or not to allow 1,181 houses.**  
-see story on page 15.

## EMMITSBURG ELECTION MAY CENTER ON GROWTH ISSUES

### Candidates must file Financial Declarations

By Richard D. L. Fulton  
Staff Writer

The April 27 Emmitsburg election to fill two commission vacancies could develop into a battle about development. At issue are the degrees of development acceptable to each candidate, perceived impacts on the town infrastructure, and the methodology for addressing the issues. As of Feb. 23, only 3 candidates have filed: incumbent Commissioner Clifford L. Sweeney, William O'Neil and Dianne L. Walbrecker. The vacancies are for two 3-year 5-month terms.

The current president of COPE (Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg) has filed, and the vice-president plans to file. If both are elected, COPE will have 3 members on the 4-member commission. Commissioner

Art Elder, currently serving a 3-year term, is also a COPE member.

### Mayoral Perspective

Emmitsburg Mayor James E. Hoover said, "Development and the infrastructure are going to be the top 2 issues in this election. Zero growth is not attainable." According to Hoover, "You cannot go from one extreme (rampant growth) to the other (zero growth). The key is the common ground, managed growth."

Asked whether or not this election could be a "turning point" in how Emmitsburg deals with development, Hoover stated, "This election is just as important as any other election (held to date). We are looking for people to help manage this town, with or without growth."

However, there seems to be no "Emmitsburg gold rush" to vie for the 2

available positions, at least not yet. Currently there are only 3 candidates including incumbent Clifford L. Sweeney. Sweeney's term, and that of Commissioner Patrick B. Boyle have expired.

Boyle told the *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that he will not run for re-election. Boyle said, "I made a promise to my wife (not to run), although I am not saying I won't run again down the road." Boyle said he would serve, however, if elected through write-in votes. Several other Emmitsburg residents who have stated they will run for election have not filed a formal notice of candidacy.

### "Conflict of Interest"

### Declarations, Altered Term Limits

An Emmitsburg town ordinance requires that candidates (as well as sit-

—Continued on page 10

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Emmitsburg Dispatch encourages its readers to express their thoughts and opinions about issues that appear in this publication or affect the community. Letters must be exclusive to the Dispatch and should be no longer than 300 words in length. They must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be used for verification. The Dispatch reserves the right to edit for content and space. Deadline for letters is the 15th of each month.

### Town overcharging for utilities?

I would like to bring to the attention of Emmitsburg's residents a current conflict I am having with town management, because this conflict involves not only myself but all who reside here and pay utilities to the town.

In early January I found an error in the water/sewer/garbage bill and brought it to the attention of Town Clerk Donna Thompson-Depres. She responded that she would not refund me because, as she put it, she "would have to do it for everyone else." Not only was she admitting the mistake, but she was also refusing to correct it, as though she had no obligation to do so.

I discovered this error in doing my taxes. I am self-employed and write off a percentage of the utilities. The town had double-charged when they began lumping the semiannual sewer/garbage bill in with the quarterly water/landfill bill. The semi had been paid in full up through June 30, but the quarterly fee was charged from around mid-June on

through about mid-September. From June 18 to June 30 had been double-charged. Also, I noted that the sewer, \$115 on the semi, was rated at \$60 on the quarterly bill. The average landfill rates, now lumped in with garbage, jumped up about \$3 over the average, along with an additional unexplained \$5 maintenance fee.

Because Ms. Depres had openly refused me a refund, I calculated the discrepancy at \$16.31 and credited myself with this amount on the last bill which I sent with a letter reiterating the problem and requesting her written response. I also sent a photocopy to Town Manager Dave Haller. My letter was dated Jan. 25 and, to date, I have received nothing from either Ms. Depres or Mr. Haller except another bill on Feb. 9 for the \$16.31 plus late fee penalty with a water cut-off notification for Tues., Feb. 17 if this were not paid.

My lawyer faxed and mailed a notice on Feb. 11 addressing the billing

error and requesting that my account be marked paid in full and that my utilities not be shut off. On Feb. 13, my lawyer notified me that Dave Haller had faxed him stating he had "reviewed this matter and to the best of my professional knowledge Ms. Villanti is not being 'overcharged'." However, she along with all of the town's other water, sewer, and trash customers is being charged pursuant to rate schedules and ordinances which were approved by the Mayor and Town Council in 2003." The letter also stated that water and sewer service would be terminated if I did not pay this \$16.31 plus penalty.

Mr. Haller does not address the double-charge error and the public has definitely not been informed of such ordinances. I open all letters from the town office because they are always bills, and I have never received any letter regarding notification of or explanation of extra fees/charges.

Town management is guilty of failure to correct a billing error and failure to notify the public in advance of extra fees/charges. As public servants they are failing to provide honest, efficient, responsive and courteous service and to keep residents informed. I have been dealt with in an amazingly arrogant and belligerent manner, and make no mistake about it, turning off my water is a retaliatory response for bringing their errors to light. This is a blatant abuse of power. For all concerned citizens who

believe it is important to be informed and treated respectfully by this local government, Dave Haller and anyone who is supporting him on this issue needs to be confronted and held accountable for an inexcusable and unacceptable attitude towards myself and other residents.

—Clare Villanti  
Emmitsburg

### Congress hijacks our pursuit of happiness!

Most people correctly believe that Social Security has been our most successful social program. However as the program has matured, it faces many obstacles to its viability. High social security payroll taxes have contributed to yearly Trust Fund surpluses. The proclaimed total is now in excess of \$1.4 trillion.

Unfortunately within the Treasury, regressive Social Security taxes are commingled with general tax revenues. This allows Congress to spend Trust Fund surpluses to fund other items within the budget. To cover up the Congressional embezzlement of Trust Fund money, the Department of Treasury has been forced to issue non-negotiable IOU bonds to the Trust Fund. When the bonds mature, additional taxes will be imposed to fund the IOU bonds. IOU means U Owe \$1.4 trillion in taxes again.

The sad part about this embezzlement is that while most low- and middle-income earners struggle to put something aside for retirement, Congress hijacks the yearly surplus in the Trust Fund with no remorse for its lack of spending constraints. Young taxpayers must be allowed to purchase precious metals, natural resource stocks or short selected sectors using exchange-traded-funds within "Personal Retirement Accounts" (PRAs) funded with the yearly Trust Fund surplus. Yet Congress screams out a refusal, claiming that only Wall Street will benefit. Truthfully, the financial benefits for young people are enormous because of the Rule of 72. Investments that grow at 12% annually will double in value in 6 years. Growth at 9% will double in 8 years.

Congress has exploited the co-mingling flaw in the Trust Fund to achieve a spending coup without having to terminate pork barrel programs. Hijacking our Trust Fund illustrates massive corruption in both Congressional parties. Co-mingling and expenditure of funds is against the law in the private sector, and it should be against the law for our government also.

—Robert A. Dahlquist  
Orange, CA

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# Commissioners implement three-year tap surcharge to avert building moratorium

By Richard D. L. Fulton  
Staff Writer

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Feb. 18 to adopt an ordinance imposing an additional \$3,500 tap fee, to begin immediately, on new construction, and to last for 36 months. The action was taken to avoid implementing a proposed, controversial and divisive building moratorium. The surcharge impacts residential, commercial and industrial connections. The revenue generated is "earmarked for repairs only." At the end of the 3-year period, the state of the wastewater collection system would be reassessed. If necessary, the town could extend the surcharge to cover any additional repairs or improvements.

Town Manager David Haller stated that the surcharge would aid in the "repair of the (sewer) system and expedite the rate of those repairs," generating about \$500,000. Pending new home construction in the town, including the developments Brookfield, South Gate, and the Bollinger 48-unit senior housing complex, would previously have generated about \$559,000 in tap fees. The tap surcharge ordinance amendment would produce \$1,119,000 in revenue for the same number of taps.

**Town manager and planner comment.** David Haller supported the amendment, stating, "For four and a half months the board tried to slow or limit the rate of connections (to the wastewater collection system) and remains split."

Michael H. Lucas, town planner, suggested that the recent effort to exempt commercial development from a proposed moratorium created difficulties for the commissioners.

"It has become clear to the planning staff that any attempt to slow the pace of growth within the town, or enact any moratorium that would affect business or commercial interests, is at best problematic," Lucas said, adding that he felt the ordinance for restricted or curtailed development was slowly evolving into a "largely ineffective moratorium."

Lucas stated, "The (planning) staff feels it would be professionally irrespon-

sible to propose a moratorium whose impact would be negligible in allowing time for the town to remediate its ongoing and worsening infiltration and inflow problem." He said the sewer tap surcharge is "the best alternative possible."

The surcharge on new construction taps will help the town in a couple of ways. It will generate more revenue for wastewater collection system repairs. It will also help avert passing on at least some of the necessary repair costs and upgrades to town residents.

**Board of commissioners' comment.** Board of Commissioners President Boyle said, "We have been going around and around with this (moratorium). Seeing how exorbitant the bills are, I feel this (surcharge) is the only way to pay the rate," adding, "I definitely go along with this fee."

Boyle stated, "No growth would not support the improvements. We need growth to pay the bills." He noted that 60 percent or more of the town's core residents, exclusive of development residents, are senior citizens and lower-income families living on fixed incomes. Without the surcharge, "we would have had to up the (water and sewer) rates for everybody" to pay for the repairs.

Commissioner Art Elder commented, "I don't think the citizens want to put that kind of money (cost of repairs and upgrade) in it (wastewater collection system)." Commissioner Joyce A. Rosensteel said, "I feel this is the only way out. We would have stalemated on the moratorium." Commissioner Clifford L. Sweeney agreed, "The town cannot afford the kind of money it's going to cost to fix the problem. We can't keep borrowing money. I have no problem with the surcharge."

**Affects on new construction.** Dr. Bonita Portier, an Emmitsburg resident since 1979, plans to move the Thurmont-based Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center to town. She expects bank loan finalization for the relocation within a few weeks. As a result of the surcharge, her tap fees, which would have been \$35,000, will now rise to \$75,000.

Dr. Portier told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that finding out about the sur-

charge was "breathtaking to say the least," adding, "That's a great hardship. That's a lot of money and we are a non-profit." She said, "The surcharge won't stall the project. It will just make life a little more difficult."

Apple Tree Homes owner, Thomas Carolyn, will pass on the increased tap fees to the customers buying the remaining 17 homes in the Mountainview at South Gate development in Emmitsburg. Of the 35 proposed homes, 18 have been sold. Those would be exempt from the increased taps surcharge because they were sold before its implementation, according to Carolyn.

"At least I don't have to worry about the moratorium for a while," Carolyn said, adding that he did not feel the moratorium issue was really settled. "There is the upcoming election and certain people are against development. We have to take things as they go."

Commission President Boyle stated, after the adoption of the new ordinance amendment, "The moratorium is now a dead issue."

But has the moratorium issue really gone the way of the dinosaurs in the forest, or simply turned into a snake in the grass?

**Future of the building moratorium.** As things stand now, if 3 pro-moratorium commissioners gain control of the board, nothing would prevent them from

enacting a new construction moratorium and rendering the surcharge amendment moot.

According to Mayor Hoover, the commissioners could pass a motion or resolution that prohibited the town from establishing a moratorium for the term of the surcharge (next 3 years). Even so, they could still pass an amendment later to alter the surcharge's effectiveness, or even essentially render it moot.

The surcharge only addresses the emergency state of the wastewater collection system, Hoover pointed out. "The surcharge really has nothing to do with a moratorium. It does not address managed growth plan-related issues."

Dianne L. Walbrecker, a candidate for commissioner, said, "I think the passage of the surcharge amendment was a way to postpone the managed growth issue and let someone else deal with it (after the election)." She stated that the town should still consider some form of moratorium as a possible growth management option.

William O'Neil, a candidate for commissioner and COPE president, commented, "I'd rather they had not enacted the surcharge in lieu of a strict moratorium." He favors the surcharge as a way to gain additional revenue to fix the wastewater problems, but said it should be imposed at the end of a moratorium, not instead of one.



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—RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH  
Josh Bollinger (R) sits with his attorney Bruce Dean, waiting in anticipation for the Town commissioners vote on whether or not to annex his 20.3-acres into Emmitsburg. COPE vice-president Harold Craig can be seen just behind the two in the center.

## Bollinger Annexation

—Continued from page 1  
one or more residents must draft a petition asking the mayor to arrange for a special vote. Then they need signatures from 20 percent of the town's 1,020 registered voters. The signed petition is presented to the mayor. He must "refer" the issue to the voters. COPE has 45 days from the date the mayor signed the petition to gather

the 204 required signatures. At press time COPE claimed it had more than 100 signatures.

COPE vice-president Harold Craig was the first to predict a referendum petition. On the night of the hearing, almost immediately after the Town commissioners approved the annexation, he said, "I will be out in snow, sleet, ice, and rain with petition in hand."

O'Neil and Craig were 2 of the only 4 people who voiced opposition to the annexation, the first heard at a public hearing. No one spoke against the annexation when the Town's planning and zoning commission recommended its approval by a 4-0 vote this past September.

O'Neil told The Emmitsburg Dispatch that COPE's members general opinion is that the Town should solve its sewer crisis before considering annexing any land. But it's not just the sewer crisis. He contended that traffic will be worse, schools will be more overcrowded, and taxes will go up. "When you say yes to annexation, you say yes to more cars on the streets, more children in the schools, and increased demand for water and sewer services," he said. "Pick your issue!" O'Neil said that no more annexation should be allowed until the effect of current development on the town is clear. The night of the hearing he was animated, "If you annex, they will build. If they build, they will come!"

Just as the Town's decision to annex the land was approved by a vote of 4 commissioners, COPE's decision to petition for referendum was made by 4 board members. Voting members of COPE's board are its president Bill O'Neil, vice-president Harold Craig, treasurer Dot Davis, and secretary Lisa Elder (Art Elder's niece). The members voted unanimously in favor of a referendum petition.

Dot Davis told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that she's not for or against the annexation, but said, "I personally think that citizens should have the right to decide on any issue of this magnitude." She said she thinks the annexation is inevitable at some point because the Bollinger's property is the only piece of land surrounded by the town.

### Impact on Brookfield

The very fact that the property is almost totally surrounded by the Town was one of the primary reasons Bollinger's attorney, Bruce Dean, cited for granting the annexation. Enclosing the property on the north and west is the Brookfield subdivision, to the east is Emmet Ridge subdivision, and to the south is a 9-acre subdivision owned by Bollinger already in Town limits. A 48-unit senior townhouse complex is to be developed on that Bollinger property. Dean called the 20.3 acres "the hole in the doughnut."

Emmitsburg Town planner Mike Lucas reiterated the attorney's words when he gave his own assessment of the property. In fact, when the 73.8-acre Brookfield subdivision was annexed into the town in 1978, a small portion of the property had to be left in the county. Otherwise, the Bollinger property would have been totally enclosed by the Town, creating what is called an enclave. An enclave is property with no access to public streets except through other properties. At that time the Bollingers wanted the property to remain in the county. Provisions were made for the Brookfield subdivision. Otherwise Emmitsburg would have been required to annex the Bollinger property into the Town at that time.

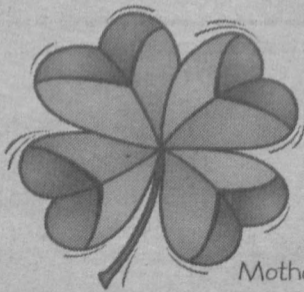
There are 3 lots in the Brookfield subdivision without clear titles because they are located partially in the county. When asked about the issue, Mayor Hoover insisted that there was no pressure on the Town to annex the Bollinger property in an effort to clear the Brookfield titles. He said the Town sought legal council on the matter. Mike Lucas told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that the commissioners were instructed that the title issue should have no impact on their decision about annexation. About clearing the Brookfield titles, Lucas said, "clearing them will be uncomfortable but not insurmountable."

—Continued on page 5

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Neither the publisher nor the editor will be liable for misinformation, misprinting, or typographical errors. The publisher reserve the right to edit any submitted material.

## Bollinger Annexation

—Continued from page 4

### Annexation conditions

Dean said the Bollinger land would be developed eventually and asked the commissioners to work with these long-time local residents who would willingly make concessions to benefit the Town. The Bollinger partners stood behind their words, yielding to every recommendation made by the town staff, board members, and the mayor.

Responding to concerns about development, given the Town's sewer system problems and the lack of an Adequate Facilities Plan, Bruce Dean agreed to a number of conditions.

The Bollingers will delay development on the site until the Town wastewater treatment plant completes at least 180 consecutive days without exceeding its licensed treatment capacity of 800,000 gallons per day. In addition, Bollinger will pay \$75,000 toward replacement of the Little Run sewer line which runs through the property. The line is scheduled to be replaced this spring, at an estimated cost of \$75,000.

The partnership will make improvements to Irishtown Rd. No more than 25

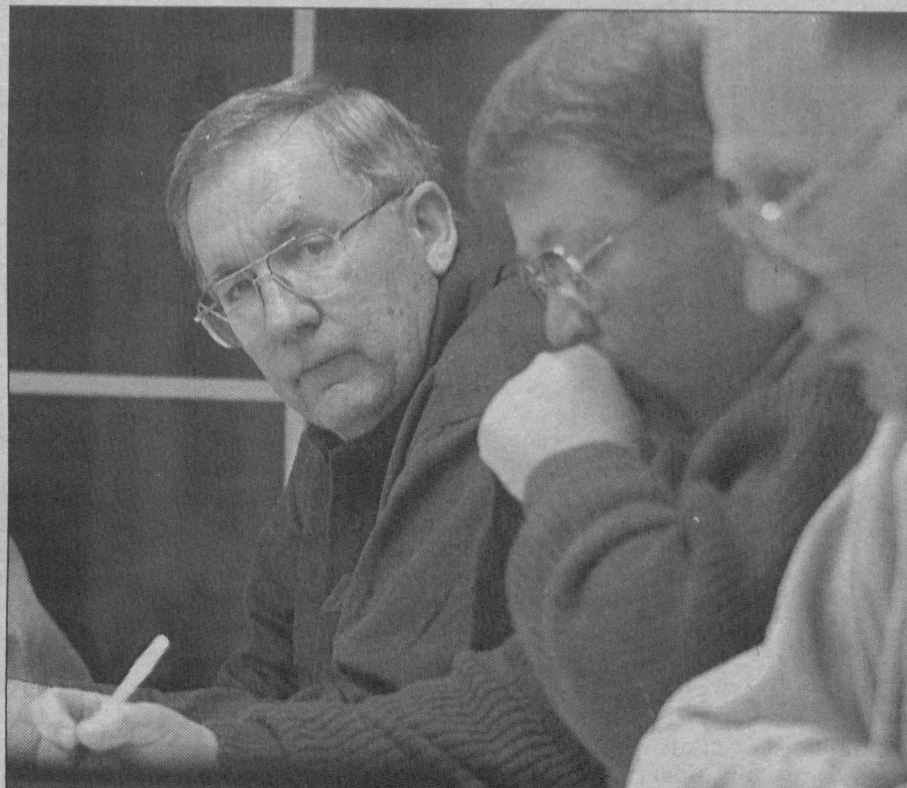
dwelling units can be built on the property until those improvements are completed, inspected and approved by the Town.

If the town were to decide to impose a construction moratorium, the Bollingers had asked to be exempt from property taxes during that time. A moratorium might last up to 5 years. At Mayor Hoover's request, the Bollingers agreed to a 3-year exemption.

### Commissioner reactions

Commissioner Patrick Boyle said, "I know I'm the one up here on this board that's for annexation." He objected to annexation opponents and pointed out that the town would be getting money for sewer-line repairs and the upgrade of Irishtown Rd. He moved for its approval. Clifford Sweeney and Joyce Rosensteel voted with Boyle to pass the resolution.

Sweeney said he in favor of annexation and smart growth. He claimed the town had hardly grown at all from 1940 to 1980. He agreed with Boyle that that the town would receive money for sewer repairs. He also pointed out that the upgrade of



—RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Art Elder was the only commissioner to vote against the Bollinger annexation.

Irishtown Rd. and the bridge at Little Run creek would help traffic and would help Emmet Ridge complete their project. Sweeney, like Rosensteel, was concerned that the

sewer be fixed before any houses were built.

Art Elder opposed the annexation saying, "It's a good project, but I don't think it's the right time."

## Fire Station Gets Interior Facelift

Vigilant Hose Company members beam with pride at the newly refinished floors and repainted walls in the stationhouse apparatus area. A recent round-the-clock 5-day non-stop effort completely restored and refinished the vehicle area floors. Vigilant personnel invite citizens and business leaders alike to stop in to inspect the station's new look.

The facelift enhances both safety and appearance. "Something one must see to fully appreciate, we undertook the initiative to increase safety for firefighters and the public alike," said VHC President Frank Rauschenberg. "As the station holds many community events, this new (floor) surface is far easier to maintain."

Chief Bob Rosensteel, Jr., designed the graphic inlays featuring the fire department's logos. "We all knew it would make the station look nicer, but it's the improved safety for our personnel that sold me on the idea," Rosensteel said.

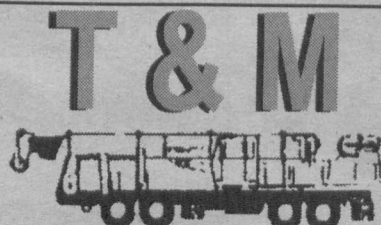
VHC Firefighter Chad Umbel spent

nearly a year researching the idea. "Our fire hall is probably one of the most visited fire houses in the world. We see all those who stop in yearly to help out or visit the community's fire station, including area residents and students from the National Fire Academy."

Fire Company members are proud to be the Home of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial and work hard to raise fund to improve company capabilities. Sometimes there are several dozen visitors to the station at once. The station hosts many training sessions and meetings for emergency personnel from VHC and all neighboring departments. The VHC Auxiliary uses the station frequently to host fundraisers. Clean-up ease is always a concern.

Firehouse Floors of Baltimore did the bulk of the work, using a 9-coat epoxy resin resurfacing process. VHC members removed and then reinstalled all wall-mounted furnishings, including member's protective firefighting gear. Emmitsburg's Nusbaum and Ott painted the walls.

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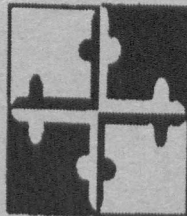
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## TOWN NEWS

*A word from the Mayor*

### Get involved in Town Elections

This year's Town election will be held on Tues. April 27 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the old Emmitsburg Town Office located at 22 East Main St. This election like every other Town election is an important process that allows you the residents the opportunity to decide who will be in charge of making long lasting decisions that effect your quality of life in Emmitsburg.

I am not writing to you to endorse anyone or to encourage you to consider voting for one candidate over another. I am suggesting that every one get involved in the Town elections every year. When a person runs for an elected office, he/she is not doing that to be able to do bad things for the Town. Frankly, it takes a special person to be willing to accept the responsibility of Commissioner or Mayor. Elected positions in small towns can be very difficult. When making decisions you affect many of your friends and family members and, not all of your decisions as an elected person will make everyone happy. As residents, it is our responsibility to seek out the best candidates who are willing to make tough decisions in the Town's best interest with long lasting effects in mind, not their popularity.

With that said, I cannot encourage you enough to get involved! Meet all the candidates. If you're not able to

meet them in person, call them on the phone and talk to them. Remember, terms of office last 3 years. Actually, because we are working on moving the election date from April to September, those elected in the upcoming election will have a term of 3 years and 5 months. Make sure that you and your candidate share many of the same viewpoints. Is his/her viewpoint realistic? Is he/she just speaking plans and goals that we all want to hear but with no real solutions to solve problems? How will he/she accomplish those plans and goals? These are just a few questions that we all need to know the answers to before casting our votes. After you meet and talk with the different candidates, talk to your family and friends who also talked to the candidates. Discuss the candidates among yourselves and maybe then, talk to one or more of the candidates again. Remember that there is no perfect candidate you are going to agree with 100 percent of the time. So, it is important for you to get to know each and every one of the candidates year after year and vote for the one that you feel will do the best job for the Town.

Remember to VOTE on April 27 and good luck to all the candidates.

-Jim Hoover  
Mayor of Emmitsburg



(L-R) VFW Auxiliary Chairman Dolores Henke, Stephanie A. Georgoff, Mary L. Robinson, Kacey L. Tovotnik, and VFW President Mary R. Topper.

### VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

VFW Post 6658, Commander Robert Dinterman, and the VFW Auxiliary, Mary R. Topper, President, co-sponsored the annual VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest.

The competition strives to foster patriotism, promote Americanism and support educational activities. This year's theme was "My Dream for America." The chairman of the Patriot's Pen Contest was Auxiliary Secretary, Dolores Henke.

Eighty-two 8th grade students from Mother Seton School submitted essays. Winners were Mary L. Robinson, first prize; Kacey L. Tovotnik, second prize; Stephanie A. Georgoff, third prize. Each received a monetary award, a plaque and a certificate. Thirty-four students received Honorable Mention, along with a monetary award and a certificate. The three finalists' essays were submitted to the District Contest. Miss Robinson finished second and received a monetary

award.

The essay contest is an international competition for students in grades 6, 7 and 8. They write 300-400 word essays on democracy. More than 116,000 students worldwide participated this year. An eighth grade student from Klamath Falls, OR, received first prize, a \$10,000 savings bond.

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## Debt counseling services can help

By Richard D. L. Fulton  
Joyce M. Demmitt

Debt can happen to any of us, although it is often difficult to acknowledge the need for help. Federal Reserve research shows that household debt is at a record high compared to disposable income. Excessive credit card use is listed as the primary problem. The American Bankruptcy Institute lists 35,573 personal bankruptcy filings in MD in 2002, up from 16,789 in 1992. In Frederick County a variety of debt counseling services can help individuals understand and organize personal finances.

DebtScape, a local non-profit credit counseling foundation (one of two MD locations), offers debt consolidation programs. Some have been held with Catocin CASS.

Seminars cover definitions of credit, understanding credit reports, establishing new credit, budgeting, legal rights, and bankruptcy.

David Hensel, DebtScape CEO,

said the company offers workshops throughout Frederick County. Allison Seigle, DebtScape compliance manager, added, "We also offer one-on-one counseling. That is mainly how we reach our clients and provide education. People do not have to be referred to us (from local services); they can call direct."

Hensel suggested that individuals uncomfortable talking with a counselor or attending workshops use the company's website, [www.DebtScape.org](http://www.DebtScape.org). "You can do a complete budget analysis and find nearly every tool we've included in our book."

There are no advance fees for DebtScape's services, although there is a charge to enroll in the debt management program. "People can call us (at no charge) with questions, or to request a budget analysis. They can ask for general advice about their situation with one of our certified credit counselors, or request free educational materials," Seigle said.

For additional information on

DebtScape services, call 888-929-3328.

Catocin CASS and the Up-County Family Center offer debt counseling and financial management consultations to parents of school-age children. Nancy Miller, CASS family services worker, said the local office generally refers clients needing financial assistance to organizations like DebtScape. Miller said Catocin CASS hopes to host additional money management workshops in the Up-County area with DebtScape.

For more information on the Catocin CASS, call 240-236-8081.

Monica Scharp, a service coordinator for the Up-County Family Center, Emmitsburg Outreach Office, said classes are open to anyone even though her office focuses on families with children under age 4. Free transportation and on-site childcare are provided only for participants with children under 4.

For information on planned credit counseling or financial management courses at the Up-County Family Center, or to receive the agency's

Calendar of Events, call 301-447-2810.

A new consumer education and assistance agency, Priority1Pro.com, offers a self-help website: [www.priority1pro.com](http://www.priority1pro.com). Experienced finance professionals who often deal with consumers "at the end of their credit and financial ropes" founded the company. They believe that education, planning and spending limits can help people of every age avoid bankruptcy. The site includes articles, research materials and emergency agency contact information for people in extreme hardship situations. Discussion boards allow individuals to post questions, ask advice and talk to others anonymously.

Vice-President Michael Marino says, "Our main objective is to help people at every stage of life with getting a handle on their finances and to give them the tools to make any necessary changes - all at no cost to them. No one will hassle them, this is purely to help the consumer."

For more information, email questions to [questions@priority1pro.com](mailto:questions@priority1pro.com) or visit Priority1Pro online at [www.priority1pro.com](http://www.priority1pro.com).

## Low interest home improvement loans available for lower income families

By Richard D. L. Fulton  
Staff Writer

Lower income Emmitsburg area residents can receive financial assistance for home improvements. Loans are available through the combined efforts of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development Agency and Interfaith Housing of Western MD.

According to Gail Wilson, Interfaith Housing revitalization specialist, "Homeowners who are below 50 percent of the median income (based on family size and county of residence), own a home within Frederick County, and have good credit may qualify for a 20-year loan of up to \$20,000 at one percent interest." That amounts to a \$95 payment per month.

There are no age restrictions, but

homes in Westminster and within Frederick City limits are not eligible. Money can be used to address energy efficiency or home safety issues. Roofing improvements or carpeting may also qualify. For individuals 62 or older who cannot afford to pay for the work, Rural Development also offers a one-time \$7500 grant.

"Few of us have the funds for a new roof or heating system unless we take out a home equity loan or a second mortgage," Wilson noted. "That may be a great way to enhance your home's saleability, but interest rates may be too high, especially if you make just enough money to keep the roof over your head and make a car payment."

Interfaith Housing also assists with the self-help home construction program, which has built 15 homes in

Emmitsburg, with 15 additional ones underway. There are also 15 houses planned for Sarah's Choice in Taneytown. Families build their own homes under professional supervision, contributing at least 30 hours of construction work each week. To qualify for the program, individuals must earn 80 percent or less of the median household income.

Interfaith Housing also offers a related counseling service the 2nd Mon. of every month, 6-7 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church. Gail Wilson described the program, "We offer home ownership training, referrals to credit resources, and assistance with budgeting. Our goal is to make our families and our clients as self-sufficient and financially responsible as possible."

For general information or to learn more about loans and the self-help program, contact Interfaith Housing of Western MD: 410-775-7114 or cell phone, 410-259-5418.

## Changes in T-Ball this year

The Emmitsburg Baseball League has made some major changes in how our T-Ball program will operate this year. Coaches will pitch 3 balls to the batter. If the batter does not hit any of these pitches, the player will use the 'T'. There will be 3 innings and all players will bat in each. No more 3 outs or 4 runs. We hope this new format will make games more interesting and challenging for the players. To register or for information: 301-447-6615.

Tryouts for Major League will be held at Memorial Park on Sat., Mar. 20 & 27 from 12-2 p.m. Rain date is Apr. 3. All players who will be 9 years old by August 1 will be put in the draft at these tryouts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. for letting us use the Ambulance building for our meetings and registrations this year.

-Mary Topper  
League President

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## RELIGION

### A word from the pulpit

## FEAR - A Source of Spiritual Growth

By Stephen P. Trzeciecki, C.M.

Assistant Pastor

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

In Chapter 14 of St. Matthew's Gospel, the Disciples of Jesus are pictured in a boat being tossed about on the waves by a strong head wind. At about three in the morning they saw Jesus walking on the water and they were terrified and cried out, "It is a ghost." Jesus reassured them, "Get hold of yourselves! It is I. Do not be afraid." Peter spoke up and said, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you across the water." Jesus said, "Come!" So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he perceived how strong the wind was, Peter became frightened and began to sink, crying out "Lord, save me!" Jesus at once stretched out his hand and caught Peter saying, "How little faith you have! Why did you falter?"

This Gospel story takes up the real and serious problem of fear, a major obstacle to human and spiritual growth. Yet fear can also become for us a real source of growth. Let me explain.

**My definition of fear.** Fear is an unpleasant, strong emotion caused by past, present or future dangers, real or imagined. Fundamentally fear is to some degree a threat to self-preservation.

**Three types of fear.** *Reasonable fear* is healthy because it protects me from harm. For example, I fear a loaded gun. Therefore, I keep away from it. I fear "crack" or "dope," so I don't "do drugs." I fear hell. Therefore, I try to

live my life in such a way that I will remain in a state of union with God which will insure my eternal salvation.

The second type is *unreasonable fear*. I fear that the moon will crash into the earth tonight. I fear that there are germs on the doorknob of my friend's house so I will not visit him. Obviously I am suffering from some sort of neurosis.

The third is a *mixture of reasonable and unreasonable fear* and is a bit trickier to discern. This type of fear is more common. It tends to shrink me as a person; it prevents my human growth. It causes depression, sadness, hurt feelings, groundless fantasies and other discomfort such as headaches, loss of sleep, useless worry and difficulty in prayer. I begin to wonder where the Lord is in my time of need. An example is the fear of failure. There are two aspects of this type of fear: non-participation or excessive participation in life. With non-participation, I might not join in the game because I might lose. Then I will look bad to my friends and I fear they will laugh at me because I lost.

"People pleasing" typifies excessive participation in life. I want the approval of people, especially my boss, spouse, children, friends, neighbors and even God Himself. I will try to do everything perfectly so that I will not fail, no matter how much effort it takes. Even if it makes me sick, I need to win approval.

Fear of being hurt is another unreasonable fear. A girl is jilted by her boyfriend. She will not date another boy because she is afraid of being rejected and of being hurt once again. Fear of



Rev. Vincent O'Malley, C.M. (L) was installed on Sunday Feb. 29th as the 63rd pastor of St. Josephs Catholic Church. The installation ceremony was held at the noon mass and was performed by Bishop W. Francis Malooly, Western Vicar of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

confrontation can also be unreasonable. If I am mistreated by my boss, by a teacher, by my spouse, a friend or a parent, I would rather suffer the evil situation than confront the person mistreating me. I am afraid of the consequences of a confrontation. I prefer external peace rather than standing up for my rights and my dignity as a human being.

Fear of change is an unreasonable fear. I am afraid to move to a new town, to look for a new job. I fear going to a new school even though I know change is the best thing for me. But I don't want to "rock the boat." I would rather keep the status quo and be "stuck in the mud" of this negative situation. I will not change. I will stay and suffer.

Unreasonable fear can arise from past negative experiences which prevent me from seeking new options. If I

was bitten by a dog as a child, I might not go near any animals. If I was admonished by my doctor, I might stay away from anyone in the medical profession.

Fear of the future can also be unreasonable if I concentrate on the negative possibilities of what might happen in the near or even distant future. "What will happen to me next year?" "Will I get cancer?" "Will my spouse love me ten years from now?" "Will I become lonely?" And then there is everyone's fear, the fear of death... "When and how will I die?"

Perhaps you have experienced other fears in the past or even now. You know how they sap your strength, force you into positions of denial, shrink your response to normal happy living, keep

—Continued on page 9

## Emmitsburg Area Churches

### Incarnation United Church of Christ

Founded in 1758 as a German Reformed Congregation. In 1860's the church moved into town. The current brick building was rebuilt after a fire in 1950. The current congregation is now UCC.

124 West Main St.  
Sunday service: 10 a.m.  
Interim Pastor: Rev. Ted Haas  
301-447-2270

### St. Joseph's Roman Catholic

St. Joseph's Parish dates its beginning to 1786. Rev. Matthew Ryan was the first resident Pastor. The Parish has been administered by the Vincentian Community since 1852. The present church was completed in 1842.

100 N. Seton Avenue  
Weekly services: Monday - 7:30 p.m. (with the Miraculous Medal

Novena); Tuesday through Saturday - 8:30 a.m.; Saturday Evening - 4:30 p.m.; Sundays - 8:00, 10:15, 12:00 noon.

Pastor: Rev. Vincent O'Malley, C.M.  
301-447-2326

### St. Anthony Shrine

St. Anthony's roots intertwine with the old St. Mary's on the Hill and date back to the 1700s. Our present church, St. Anthony Shrine, opened its doors on October 26, 1897.

16150 St. Anthony's Road  
Mass schedule: Saturday, 4:00 p.m., Sunday, 7:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. James W. Hannon

**Trinity United Methodist** Trinity United Methodist Church was founded in 1833. The present sanctuary was built in 1897. Trinity has been a religious presence in Emmitsburg for 168 years.

313 West Main St.

Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Wade A. Martin  
**Emmitsburg Presbyterian**

Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church has been a part of the Emmitsburg Community since before the American Revolution. The original meeting house stood about a mile north of Emmitsburg along the Gettysburg Rd. The grave of Samuel Emmitt, founder of Emmitsburg, is located in the old cemetery.

415 West Main St.

Service 11:00 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. R. Benjamin Jones  
**Tom's Creek United Methodist**

In 1797, The Methodist Congregation purchased the log church that was built at Tom's Creek in 1757 by families who were mostly Lutherans and reforms. Since the old log church at Tom's Creek had been used for 146

years; In 1903, the present church's cornerstone was laid.

10926 Simmons Road  
Sunday Services at 8:00 and 10:30  
Pastor: Rev. Bill Warehime  
301-447-2693

### Elias Evangelical Lutheran

In 1797 the Lutheran and Reformed congregations built a sanctuary in Emmitsburg after they outgrew their shared church at Tom's Creek. The Reformed congregation constructed a new church in 1869 on West Main Street while the Lutherans remained in the stone church where they continue to worship today.

100 West North Avenue  
Worship with Holy Communion - 10:30AM  
Sunday School - 9 AM  
301-447-6239



# Fear

—Continued from page 8

you from a productive living and keep you on the sidelines of life.

**What can I do about fear in my life?** How can I cope with fear so that I manage my fears and not have them manage me? May I suggest three simple means, which I have found effective in dealing with my fears?

**Admit.** Admit to yourself and to a good friend that you are afraid. To ventilate one's feeling of fear puts them into perspective. The internal burden of your fear is now shared since a good friend doubles your joy and divides your sorrow.

**Recall.** Recall a past fearful experience in your life and how you overcame it. Recall how afraid you were going on your first date, or how afraid you were in taking your driving test for the first time. Why do I suggest this? Because this will show you that you have the internal strength to overcome your fear.

You overcame it before and therefore you can overcome this new fear you are now facing. You do have the internal strength. It is always there. All you need to do is to recall it. What you have actually done by this process is change unreasonable fear to manageable fear.

**Pray.** The third and most powerful means of dealing with fear is a spiritual one, prayer. Use your gift of Faith...remind Jesus of His fear in the Garden of Gethsemane...how He was so afraid that He sweated blood...how He asked the Father to "take this cup from me" "yet not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Yell out with Peter, "Lord save me or I will perish." Give God a chance to help you by asking for His help as Peter did. Jesus responded, for scripture tells us, "at once he stretched out his hand and caught him." (Matt. 14:31)

The Lord will also catch you...have no fear of that!

"Thanks for reading"

# OBITUARIES

## Mr. Fred Fritz

Mr. Fred Fritz, 50, of Emmitsburg, formerly of Toledo, Ohio, died at home Jan. 16 after a two-year battle with cancer. Mr. Fritz served with the U.S. Air Force in Germany. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, with highest honors and degrees in education and engineering. He worked for Bechtel Corp. since graduation, most recently as field engineering manager.

Survivors include his wife, the former Christine Pax, his mother, daughter Jenni Colson; 3 grandchildren; 2 brothers, Ronald and Larry Fritz; and 3 sisters, Donna Sedlock, Sandy Lewallen and Robin Spangler.

Funeral services were held at Stauffer Funeral Home, Thurmont on Wed. Jan. 21. Interment was private.

## Sister Frances Hill

Sister Frances Hill, DC, 88, died Jan. 26 at Villa St. Michael, Emmitsburg. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy in Norfolk in 1933 and entered the Daughters of Charity in 1934. She received a BS degree in English from St. Joseph's College in Emmitsburg in 1950.

Sister received her first assignment as a Daughter of Charity in 1935. She served as a childcare worker and teacher for much of her life. She last served in pastoral care at DePaul Medical Center in Norfolk, VA from 1980-1995.

A funeral Mass was offered Jan. 29 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg

## Mr. Calvin Oster

Mr. Richard Calvin Oster Sr., 92, of Tucker, GA, formerly of Emmitsburg, died Jan. 20. He is survived by daughter Mary Cummings, son Richard C. Oster, Jr.; sister Laura Morse and brother, Kenneth Oster; 4 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

## Mrs. Patricia Rocks

Mrs. Patricia Fitzgerald Rocks, 71, of Berwyn, PA, died Wed., Feb. 25 at her home after a long illness. Born June 23, 1932, in Emmitsburg, she was a daughter of the late Frank and Julia Topper Fitzgerald. She graduated from St. Joseph's High School, Emmitsburg, in 1950. She was a 1954 graduate of St. Joseph's College, Emmitsburg. She was a member of St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church, Berwyn.

Survivors include her husband and high school sweetheart, Hugh F. Rocks; 9 children, Patricia Ann Ehrhardt, Hugh Fitzgerald Rocks, J. Henry Rocks, Frank E. Rocks, Mary Ann Comora, Theresa M. Cuomo, John F. Rocks, Julia M. Woods and Angela J. Silvestri; 20 grandchildren; 4 sisters, Peggy F. Arcidiacono, Elizabeth (Betty) Garner, Jane Vibral and Josephine "Jo" O'Rourke; and 1 brother, James E. "Jeff" Fitzgerald.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Feb. 28 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, co-celebrated by the Rev. Edward Stafford and the Rev. Stephen P. Trzeciecki.

Interment was in New St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg.



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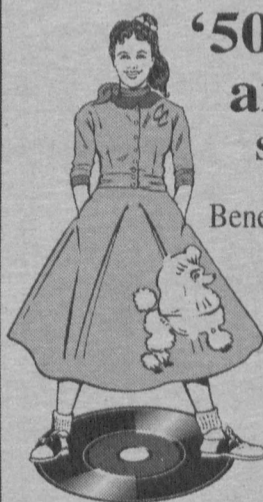
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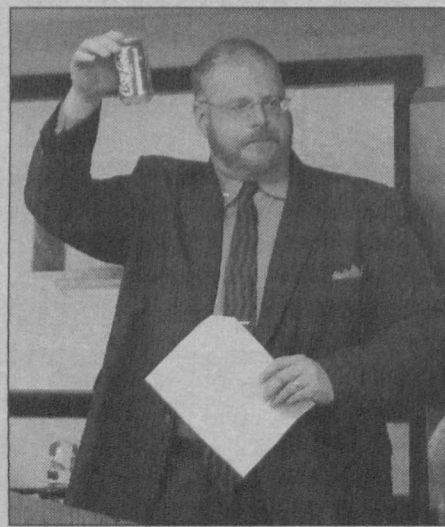
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Bob Rosensteel Sr. 301-447-6272  
Jim Kittinger 717-337-3265





Bill O'Neil

## Election

—Continued from page 3  
ting commissioners and some staffers) file annual financial statements with the town Ethics Board. Although not enforced in the past, Mayor Hoover said the ordinance will be enforced this year. "This has always been a requirement," he said, but was somehow "overlooked" during past elections. "That this was on the books was

brought to my attention just after the last election," Hoover said. The rule exists "to prevent conflicts of interest."

It would be considered a conflict of interest if a candidate for office were also employed by, or owns, a contracting firm doing business with the town. In addition the Town's Code of Ethics states in part that commissioners shall not "hold any outside employment relationship that would impair their impartiality or independence or judgment; or use confidential information acquired in their official town position for their own benefit or that of another."

To allow new commissioners more time in office before they need to begin work on budget preparation, Commissioners voted in Nov. 2003 to move elections from May to October, beginning in 2007. The change created a 5-month disparity which will result in increased term lengths for newly elected commissioners and mayors. (See *Commissioners alter Local Election Rules*, p.1, Nov. 2003 issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.)

Resolution 2003-004R, adopted Oct. 6, 2003, increases the term to 3 years 5

months for the two commissioners to be elected in 2004, the single member to be elected in 2005, and the single member to be elected in 2006.

Resolution 2003-005R, adopted Oct. 6, 2003, increased the term of the mayor to be elected in 2005 to 3 years 5 months.

### Current Candidates

Editor's Note: The following interviews took place prior to the passage of an amendment to Town ordinance Section 13.08.090 imposing a sewer tap surcharge on new connections in lieu of passing a construction moratorium. For candidate comments on the ordinance, see "*Commissioners Implement Tap Fee Surcharge*" in this issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

**Incumbent Clifford L. Sweeney** filed in January. Commissioner Sweeney has been an Emmitsburg resident for 39 years and has served as a town commissioner for one two-year term and two 3-year terms. He works as a construction foreman W.F. Wilson & Sons, Elkridge, and is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Emmitsburg Community Chorus.

Sweeney believes growth is necessary for the well being of a community. "The town needs to grow in people and in business," he told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*. However, he believes this growth can be safely accomplished only through the development of a "smart managed growth plan."

Sweeney stated that the town has lost schools because it has not had enough children to justify adding to existing facilities or building a new middle school. This issue is due in part "to the lack of new families." He said,

"We lost our schools from the lack of children to put in them."

"In order to have a growing, healthy community you have to have new families," Sweeney said. "You can't choke Emmitsburg to death (through zero growth) and stop it from growing." Sweeney added that he also



Dianne Walbrecker

didn't want to see rampant development overwhelming the town's infrastructure.

Sweeney would support a temporary moratorium to address the degraded wastewater collection system, but would not support one that would block previously approved plans or commercial development. "I think we need a moratorium, but not a complete moratorium, and I don't want to stop commercial at all," he said.

—Continued on page 11

## Speak

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—Continued from page 10

He would like to see as much of the wastewater collection system as possible addressed in one big fix. "I think we are in an emergency situation at present with the wild-water infiltration," Sweeney said, adding, "This should be fixed immediately. I believe we have the money to fix it. Fixing the problems a piece at a time may not help."

"One of my goals as commissioner is to see Emmitsburg survive the next 30 years and prosper," he told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

**William O'Neil** filed Feb. 23. O'Neil, an Emmitsburg resident for 2 years, works as a public affairs representative for Blue Cross Blue Shield of SC. He is a member of the Germantown Masonic Lodge, a founder of the Congressional Legislative Staff Association (CLSA), and a founding member and current president of COPE. O'Neil and Harold Craig fundamentally share the same views and consider themselves as running as a "team."

Both men favor a commercial-exempt moratorium on residential development, for possibly as long as 3 years. "We want an absolute moratori-

um," O'Neil said, adding, "I don't think we can build new homes right now. We can't handle any more growth with the infrastructure being what it is."

"It took us from the 1700s to present to get the town's population to 2,200," O'Neil told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*. He noted that if all of the presently pending new homes were built, the town's population would increase 50 percent in just 2 years.

O'Neil advocates a by-pass to help address the town's traffic congestion. "Where there was that small town charm before, now you have to dodge a Mack truck to get across the street." To get a by-pass, O'Neil said, may necessitate inter-agency and inter-state cooperation. "That's my specialty," he said, adding, "I have the experience and background in organizing (multi-agency and legislative cooperation) to help reach a realistic solution to common problems."

O'Neil notes that local "developers and planners claim that the schools have not reached their capacity." According to him, schools have not reached capacity because adding portables has addressed potential overcrowding. He noted that portables have no bathroom facilities or shelter against inclement weather if students want to go to other portables or the school building.

Regarding the wastewater collection system, O'Neil stated, "We are dumping millions of gallons of raw sewage into our streams." He said the town has to address the sewage problem

first, an issue on which all the candidates agree.

According to O'Neil, annexation of outlying land tracts adjacent to Emmitsburg is "not something that should be decided by three or four people. It should be decided by the voters. It affects everything."

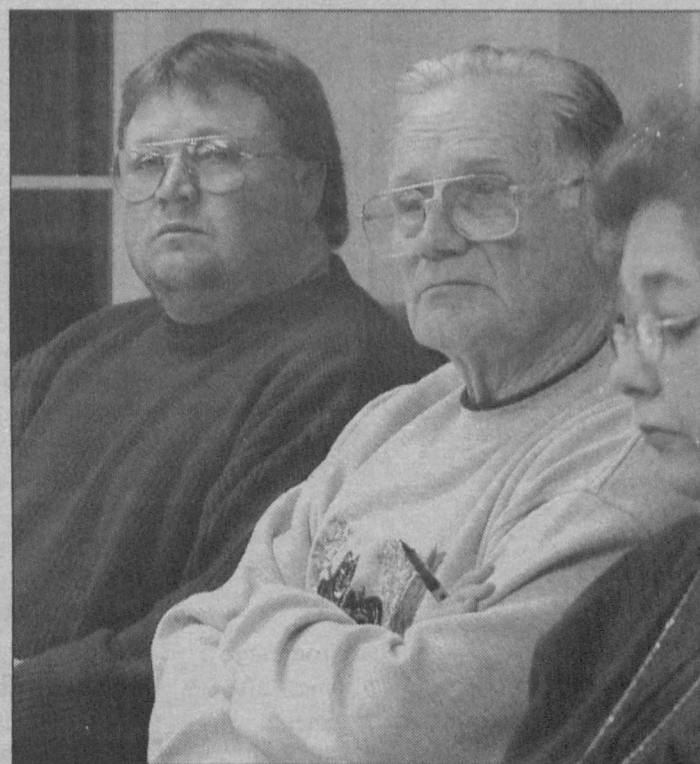
If elected, O'Neil wants to halt residential development until the town's infrastructure can deal with it, and "allow the people to vote for or against annexations."

**Dianne L. Walbrecker** filed Feb. 12. Walbrecker has been a resident of Emmitsburg since 1991, and operates her own business, Getting it Write. She serves as a part-time disaster assistance employee with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She is a member of the Lions Club and chairs the Emmitsburg Parks and Recreation

Committee.

Walbrecker believes it is conceivable that an absolute moratorium may be necessary to allow the town time to address growth-related issues. She told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, "I don't believe zero growth makes any sense;

—Continued on page 13



The seats of Commissioner Clifford L. Sweeney (L) and Patrick B. Boyle are up for election on April 27. Incumbent Sweeney has filed for re-election. Boyle said he will not run for re-election but would serve, however, if elected through write-in votes.



Harold Craig

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## EDUCATION

### Community Agency School Services Offers Help to Area Families

Bill Derbyshire  
Catoctin CASS Coordinator

Catoctin CASS has returned to the Emmitsburg Community Center. As a collaborative outreach program of Frederick County Public Schools, Catoctin CASS works with families of children 0-21, living in the Catoctin High School feeder district. CASS provides families of all income levels support and access to needed services. It also partners with private and public agencies, organizations, and local governments to provide families with accessible and affordable resources in their communities.

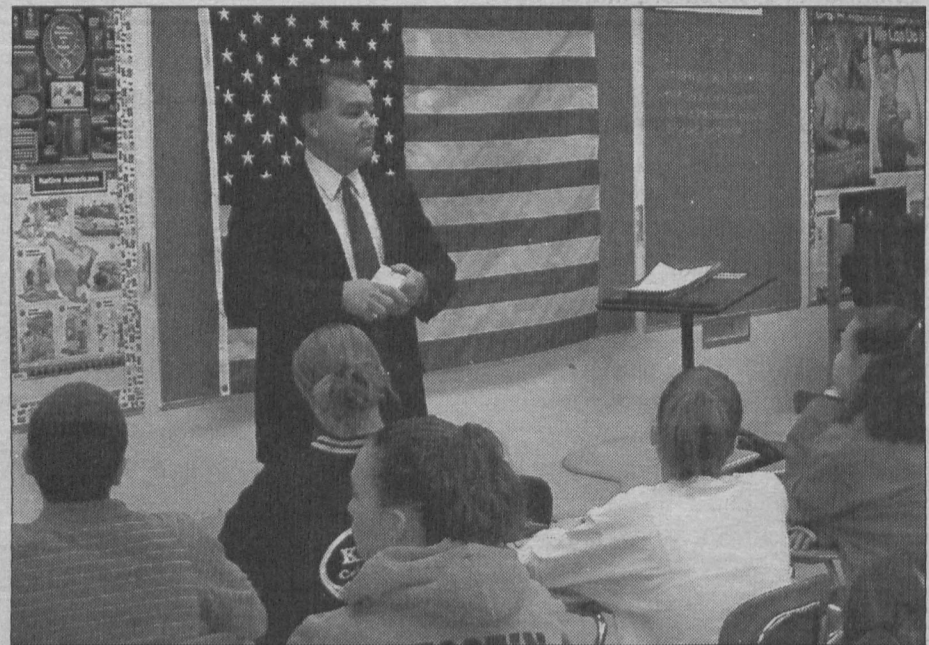
Bill Derbyshire, LCSW-C, coordinates Catoctin CASS. Nancy Miller, LGSW, of The Way Station of Frederick County, serves as a Family Services Worker. Nancy and Bill provide evaluation and referral services to families struggling with a variety of issues that may impact their children's academic performance. Problems relate to mental health, health, economic, housing, unemployment, and domestic violence.

Catoctin CASS partners with sev-

eral Frederick City agencies to make their services more accessible to the Catoctin area. Agencies, numbers to call for an appointment and contact names within the Frederick County Health Department include: Frederick County Mental Health, 301-694-1755, Fred Badius, LCSW-C; Women's Health Services, 301-694-1739, Lori Stockman; Community Health /Healthy Start, 301-631-3398, Kim Digges; Frederick County Substance Abuse Services, 301-631-3287, Eve Taglang; Heartly House, treatment of domestic violence, 301-662-8800, Rosemary Thomas.

The Frederick County Department of Social Services provides outreach services for assistance involving housing, energy, food stamps, TEMHA, childcare, child support and medical assistance. Their outreach team works in the CASS office the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Call Rosalind Muniyiri-Wilson, 301-694-2418.

Behavioral Health Partners of Frederick County provides outpatient mental health services to children and families. Call Teri Heger, LGSW, 301-



On Tues. Nov. 25, Senator David Brinkley (R-Dist. 4) visited Catoctin High School and spoke to Mr. Blanchard's and Mrs. Morrison's third block government classes. Mr. Blanchard's class had written to the senator about issues including animal testing, pollution, cloning, school start times and the legal driving age. Because he had received so many letters, Sen. Brinkley chose to talk to the students in person. Everyone present learned a good deal about practical government matters. Local cable, channel 18, filmed Sen. Brinkley's visit.

662-3223, ext. 308.

Upcoming CASS related programs include

Empty Bowls Banquet, Wed. March 10, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., followed by the Catoctin Choral Festival and

Emmitsburg Summer Fun Camp. Look for registration and sliding scale fee information in The Frederick

County Parks and Recreation Recreator. The Town of Emmitsburg, Emmitsburg Elementary School, Frederick County Parks and Recreation and Catoctin CASS sponsor the camp.

For more information about CASS services and upcoming events, call the Catoctin CASS office, 240-236-8081.

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Don Butt Jr PC CPA

## Election

—Continued from page 13

but we don't need growth now until the infrastructure allows."

"Managed growth is a complicated issue," Walbrecker added. "The town needs to be able to take a breath. We need to balance commercial development with residential development."

Walbrecker believes that managed growth works best to maintain a sense of community, and that "bedroom communities" built around cul-de-sacs do not accomplish that. She would like to see these developments tied in to the town center via sidewalks and trails and not remain isolated.

Regarding annexation Walbrecker said, "The town should annex land now so we can have control over its development, and not the county. Then we can work with the developer to make sure they design the kinds of homes we want to see." She added, "We need, as a community, to be able to say, 'Hold on, just because you own the land doesn't give you the right to say what Emmitsburg will look like in the coming years.'"

Walbrecker stated, "I decided to run for office because I have been frustrated sitting in town meetings and not seeing the commissioners take a stand on issues, and watching them not be as prepared for the meetings as they should be. The residents I have talked to have indicated that they feel the town government is not being responsive to their needs."

### Potential candidate

**Harold Craig** told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* he plans to file March 8. Craig, an Emmitsburg resident for 37 years, is retired from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, is a trustee of the Presbyterian Church, a member of the Emmitsburg Historic Society and the New Forest Society. He was a founding member, of COPE and its current vice-president.

Craig wants to see a general reduction in approved residential developments, notably townhouse developments, and wants to encourage commercial enterprise. "Building more homes does not solve the town's problems. We should be providing incentives to businesses, not housing developments. I favor opening the doors to business."

Craig wants an absolute moratorium on residential development, with commercial development exempted, especially until the town's infrastructure can be improved. "We have to attend to the sewage first. Our infrastructure is falling apart," he said.

He wants to see improvement in the town's schools, which have come to rely on "portables," to serve as additional classrooms. According to Craig,

"Limiting residential over-development that is responsible for overly large class sizes and portable classrooms" could help address this situation.

Craig plans to address Emmitsburg's chronic traffic congestion. "We have a horse and buggy road structure" which can only be addressed with a by-pass. He also wants the flashing light at Solo Hill replaced with a fully functional traffic light.

"I am running for election because Emmitsburg is being overrun by development. I want to restrict growth until

the town is in a position to digest it. We need a real residential moratorium, but we also need commercial development to create jobs. Annexation is not in the public interest. I'm also concerned about the schools."

### April 6 Filing Deadline

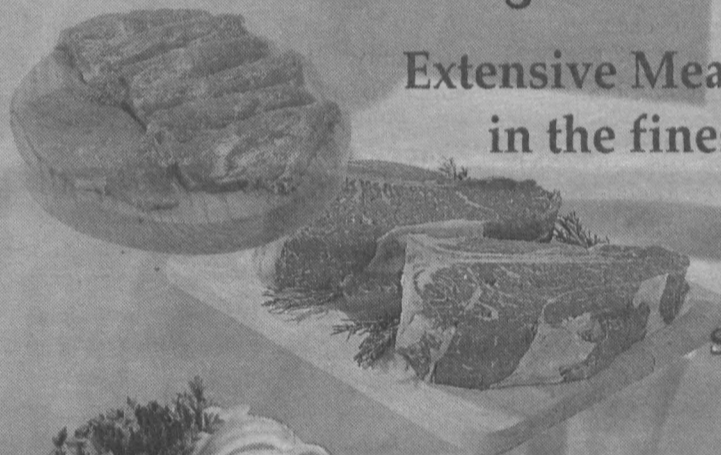
Emmitsburg Ordinance 03-06, adopted Oct. 6, 2003, increased the filing time for written applications for candidates for public offices from 7 days to 21 days prior to the election date. Candidates must file by April 6 to run in the April 27 election.

To understand truth one must have a very sharp, precise, clear mind; not a cunning mind, but a mind that is capable of looking without any distortion, a mind innocent and vulnerable.

-J. Krishnamurti

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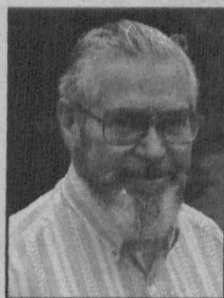


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## The (retired) Ecologist Advertising for Disaster



Bill Meredith  
Dispatch Writer

Like all children, I learned to talk by imitating what I heard, even though I didn't understand it. The radio was always on, and at an early age I could recite commercials. My parents told me that at the age of 2 I would toddle around saying "This is Lowell Thomas for Blue Sunoco. So long until tomorrow!" A year or two later, I remember asking my father why he used ESSO gasoline when Lowell Thomas said Blue Sunoco was better, and experiencing confusion and disappointment when he told me that Sunoco made the engine ping in our Model A Ford.

It was beyond me to comprehend that being blue didn't have anything to do with quality; after all, why else would Lowell Thomas keep saying it that way? Jack Benny said red jello was good, and it was. Ma Perkins said Oxydol was good; my grandmother used it faithfully, and her wash always came out white. I had been taught that nice people told the truth, and these examples bore it out; and when science was added, how could one not believe? My mother bought Ivory soap because it was "ninety-nine and forty-four one-hundredths percent pure; it floats!" The

inference was that if a bar of soap didn't float, there must be something impure about it. I never thought to ask what "pure" meant; I just assumed it was good. I was in high school before this fallacy was pointed out to me, in an English class, of all places. We had encountered the term, "non-sequitur," and the teacher used the Ivory soap commercial as an example of the false logic that results when words or expressions which have no real connection are put together. She told us we should question things; ask, "Pure what?" She went on to observe that sulfuric acid could be 100 percent pure, but you wouldn't want to wash in it. If I had been absent that day, I might never have become a scientist; it was from that class that I became aware of the necessity for critical thinking.

In the half-century since I caught onto them, commercials have become a lot more sophisticated. They still use half-truths, non-sequiturs, scientific jargon and endorsements by nice people; in addition, psychology is employed to appeal to our subconscious desires and fears. Most of the public must be taken in by them; if the ads weren't paying off, hard-headed businessmen wouldn't be spending so much money on them. If it were simply a matter of gullible people wasting their money on things they don't need, I guess I wouldn't care. But more than that is involved. Public attitudes are being manipulated, and this concerns me.

One of the best... or worst... examples of this is an ad for a company that

makes agricultural chemicals. It begins with "What if..." that current buzzword for deep thinking, and goes on in a woman's voice, clearly a nice person who is thoughtful and concerned about the welfare of the human race. I can't quote this commercial as precisely as I did when I was 2, but here is approximately what she says: "What if we think of the world as a combined garden and crop field? When crops grow where they grow best, we can make food more affordable and feed a hungry world."

The people who hear this ad are mainly urban, and are not going to be buying fertilizer or pesticides by the ton; so I assume the company has other motives in mind. Thinking back to Ivory soap, I found myself in a cynical frame of mind: perhaps it is intended to convince us that agricultural interests deserve political support because their sole purpose is to feed the hungry world. Who could argue with such a desirable goal? They must be good people if that's what they're about. Never mind the environmental effects of these chemical agents; such good people would not do anything harmful. And then my cynicism goes off track, and the image of Lawrence Slobodkin appears in my mind.

Slobodkin is a theoretical ecologist, a decade older than I but still active, who wrote a small book, *The Growth and Regulation of Animal Populations*, in 1961. At that time I was just starting my graduate studies; I was strongly influenced by it, and Slobodkin's personality embellished the effect. Once in the early '70's I took a carload of students to hear him lecture at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington; I had told them about him, and when he appeared on stage one of them burst out in delight, "He looks like a Slobodkin!" And he did... a huge Russian bear of a man, with a bulbous nose and wild, bushy hair... but looks aside, he was one of the most articulate and thought-provoking people I ever met.

In the book mentioned above, Slobodkin wrote with concern about the growth of the human population. If we do not control our population, he said, "We must abandon all pretense of saving intact any wilderness areas and consider that we will treat the earth as a combined garden and factory; all other species will either prove useful to man or will be eliminated; they will either adjust to the omnipresence of

*man or die.*" [Italics added] This prescient statement was burned into my memory when I read it 43 years ago, and it comes back to mind every time I hear that commercial. Apparently, from the point of view of agribusiness, making the whole world a garden would be just fine. Apparently wildlife and natural habitats are expendable.

But there is more at stake than just wildlife. The population of the world has tripled in my lifetime. When I was born (1933), the world contained just over 2 billion people. By 1961, when Slobodkin was writing, there were about 3 billion; the 6 billion mark was reached in 1998. We are now approaching 7 billion. There are already more people than the earth's resources can support, especially if we expect them all to attain a lifestyle remotely comparable to ours in America... yet they keep coming, and no end is in sight. This is the single most important problem before us, but our leaders lack either the intellect, the courage or the integrity to face up to it.

There is indeed a hungry world to feed, and agribusiness would like nothing better than a brainwashed electorate who will support government policies to export more food. For several decades now, essentially all of the world's arable land has been under cultivation; the world is already a combined garden and farm field, yet the gap between population and food supply continues to widen. But instead of devoting resources to controlling population growth, political leaders bow to economic interests that would have them develop marginal lands. They do maintain a pretense of trying to save wilderness areas, but it is an hypocrisy; their actions speak otherwise, as they try to open places like the Tongas National Park to lumbering, drain wetlands, irrigate deserts... and, incidentally, create more demand for fertilizer and pesticides.

It is evident from their actions that our present leaders do not comprehend the urgency of this problem. As this year unfolds, it will be interesting to watch the political process and see if a new leader will emerge who has the wit and courage to challenge them on it. The hopeful side of me dares to wish for such a leader; the cynical side replies that, by the same metaphor, it might have been interesting to watch the passengers on the *Titanic* rearrange their deck chairs.

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# Township Supervisors of nearby Liberty, PA to decide whether, or not, to allow 1,181 houses to be built 2.9 miles from Emmitsburg

By Raymond Buchheister  
Editor & Publisher

Township supervisors of nearby Liberty, PA, will vote Mar. 16 to determine whether, or not, to allow 1,181 houses to be built 2.9 miles from Emmitsburg. The supervisors will make their decision in an open meeting at 10 a.m. at the township building.

Liberty Township supervisors began a public hearing on Sept. 8, 2003 to consider an application for a planned residential development (PRD) that was to result in the construction of 1,144 houses on 709 acres. The "town center" would be located near the intersection of Tract and Wenchhoff Rd. (See *Development for 4,000-plus residents would be 2.9 miles from Emmitsburg*, p. 1, Aug. 2003 issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.)

After 2 evenings of testimony the hearing was suspended due to a land ownership issue. The Wormald Companies withdrew their application and a second plan was submitted in its place. The new application, more houses on less land, would result in the construction of 1,181 houses on 444 acres. It would be called "Liberty Valley."

Township supervisors began a new hearing on Nov. 24 to consider the Liberty Valley PRD. In a David and Goliath match the opposing sides presented their case to the supervisors and their solicitor, Walton Davis. The quasi-judicial hearing continued over a span of 2 months.

The applicant is represented by Charles Zwally and James Strong of the law firm Mette, Evans, and Woodside. Wormald had no less than 2 attorneys and a number of experts working on the case at all times. At several of the meetings the applicant was armed with a team of 7.

Local residents joined forces to defend their rural lifestyle against the "predatory development" and formed "Save our Liberty," which calls itself "a grassroots citizens group formed to assist Liberty Township supervisors in reviewing the Wormald Company's proposal." They are represented by sole attorney Susan Smith of the law firm Reager and Adler.

The opposing sides presented their own expert witnesses to testify about relevant subjects such as the impact on schools, water, sewer and roads, taxes, environment, community, and fire, police, emergency services, equine management, and even the PRD requirements themselves.

Township supervisors made every effort to listen to all who had a legitimate right to be heard on the subject: citizens' groups, owners of adjacent property, and those directly affected by the development. A total of 8 meetings were held and the hearing concluded on Jan. 21 at 1:00 a.m. The court reporter

transcribed 1,224 pages of testimony and there were 14 exhibits introduced by the applicant, and 44 by Save Our Liberty.

What can Liberty Township do? The Township board is obliged to accept the recommendations of its own planning commission, of the Adams County planners, of expert witnesses, and, not least, of the people who expressed their views at the public hearing. It can reject the developer's proposal — but only if it can give a reason — or it can accept the proposal as submitted, or it can accept it with conditions which the developer must satisfy.

**Findings of fact and conclusions of law.** The applicant and opposition entered briefs on Feb. 23 summarizing findings of fact and conclusions of law. Reply briefs were filed Mar. 1.

The attorneys were asked by *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* why Liberty Township supervisors should vote in their favor. In their own words, this is what they had to say:

#### **The applicant — The Wormald Companies.**

"The Liberty Valley PRD submission complies with both the statutory requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and the ordinance requirements of the Township Zoning Ordinance. The developer has demonstrated compliance with the applicable statutory and ordinance standards through the introduction of substantial evidence and testimony in support of the Liberty Valley PRD. The developer provided expert testimony from: an engineer who testified that the Tentative Plan complied with the Zoning Ordinance requirements; a land use planner who testified as to both ordinance compliance and the community impacts upon municipal services, including both the Township and the Fairfield Area School District; a traffic engineer who testified that the intersections studied would operate at acceptable levels of service after completion of the project, with one exception that will require signalization; and, a hydrogeologist who concluded that there would be sufficient ground water resources for the proposed projects and the existing population.

The parties in opposition to the Liberty Valley PRD presented witnesses to testify against the proposed project. However, it was clear upon cross-examination that their testimony was speculative and/or unrelated as to whether the Liberty Valley PRD complies with the specific statutory and ordinance requirements. The testimony of the planning witness for Save Our Liberty was of no value in determining whether the requirements have not been met. The same can be said for the testimony of Save Our Liberty's equestrian witness since there are no ordinance requirements concerning equine management

or equine facility maintenance and operation. The testimony of Save Our Liberty's airport witness did not address ordinance compliance and did nothing more than establish that the PennDOT guidelines are advisory only and unenforceable unless adopted by the Township, which the Township has not done.

The Township Engineer was called as a witness by Save Our Liberty and he testified that he was not making any recommendation to the Township to either deny or approve the Liberty Valley PRD. The developer's engineer, Peter Joyce, P.E., was called to offer rebuttal testimony that specifically addressed the issues noted by the Township Engineer, particularly in the review memorandum of Jan. 6, 2003 which the Township Engineer had noted were the major items of concern. The County planner was also called as a witness by Save Our Liberty. However, on cross-examination it was very clear that the County's review comments included superfluous planning recommendations, unrelated to Township ordinance requirements, mistaken assumptions, both legal and factual, and inapplicable ordinance requirements. It was also evident that the County planner was unfamiliar with the Liberty Valley PRD submission and the applicable ordinance requirements.

There were a number of general public interest objections raised by those in opposition to the project (e.g., traffic concerns, ground water concerns, environmental concerns, etc.). However, the law in Pennsylvania requires that for public interest objections to be considered they must be of a very specific and exceptional nature and have a legitimate basis in law and in fact. Here, however, the public interest objections were vague, general and typical for projects of this nature. Vague generalities, unsupported in either law or fact, can not support a denial of a PRD and the Township must consider the merits of each objection individually and is not legally permitted to consider or rely upon a so-called "cumulative effect" of the public interest objections.

The evidence and testimony presented during the hearings demonstrate that the Liberty Valley PRD complies with the applicable statutory and ordinance requirements and the law applicable to PRDs. Accordingly, the developer has requested that the Township grant tentative approval of the Liberty Valley PRD."

-James M. Strong, Esquire  
Mette, Evans & Woodside

#### **The opposition — Save our Liberty.**

"In making its decision on Liberty Valley, the Board of Supervisors should heed the guidance given by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court:

*The approval of PRD applications by local agencies is not intended to be an academic exercise in creating drawing-board images to be considered in isolation from the circumstances in which they will function, but rather a determination of whether a particular drawing-board image will work as it was intended in a particular location in the real world.*

Liberty Valley must be denied for the following reasons:

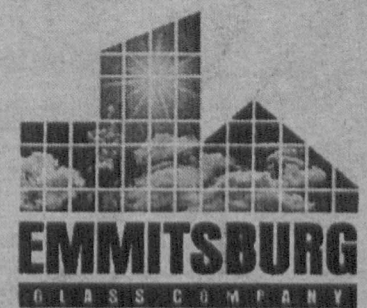
First, the Township's Zoning Ordinance does not permit planned residential developments. In 1985, the Township Board of Supervisors amended the Zoning Ordinance for the specific and lawful purpose of excluding planned residential developments from the Township.

Second, even if planned residential developments were allowed in the Township, the tentative plan submitted by Liberty Development Corporation simply does not comply with the requirements of the Township's Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances. Liberty Development Corporation had the opportunity and the legal duty to comply, but failed to do so.

Third, as guided by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Liberty Valley injects into a rural, agricultural valley a development that by its location, scale and design is simply out of place. Consequently, to allow Liberty Valley to be developed as proposed would harm the Township and its residents."

-Susan J. Smith, Esquire  
Reager & Adler, PC

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## SPORTS AND RECREATION

# Top High School Sports Successes of 2003

By Megan Zimmerman  
Intern Writer

After enduring a month of pop-culture's 2003 recaps, most yearn for something of more substance than a list of the worst-dressed people, or most scandalous reality television moments. As a break from those dreadful lists, the following is a recap that any local sports reader, scandalous or not, can enjoy. In no particular order, here are the most significant local high school sports results of 2003.

To begin, Fairfield High School took a huge step this past fall. The school finally added football as a varsity sport. "We had to fight for a long

time before football was a sport at Fairfield," explains Dennis Ranney, Fairfield's Athletic Director.

The team's first season was successful, explains Football Coach Matt Baker, "in that we progressed as a football team, and as a people, from week one to week ten."

Fairfield 2003 individual statistics:

Rushing (attempts, yards) - Marquez 92-350, Harlacher 89-223, Roberts 8-38, Johnson 29-31, Koons 6-18, R.C.Carr 2-13, Wastler 4-4, Potts 2-2, Hess 3-2, Toper 2-0, Wachtel 59 - 180.

Passing - (completions, attempts, interceptions, yards) Wachtel 60-150-11-763, Topper 2-4-0-20,

Potts 0-2-0-0.

Receiving (receptions, yards) - R.C.Carr 28-381, Lovelace 10-103, Grove 10-98, Wastler 5-54, C. Carr 4-29, Harlacher 3-43, Johnson 2-75.

The team's success sent a shock-wave through Fairfield's athletic department. Ranney explains, "Because of the successful addition of football, more and more teams are now being added."

Fairfield will add wrestling and girl's soccer later this school year. Ranney admits "It has been a lot of work to launch these new sports." But the work has paid off because these first-time sports are "big successes for the school. The new additions give students the opportunity to play sports on a higher level and to develop their skills."

Catoctin High School's Varsity Football team also had a winning season, coached by Doug Williams. After competing in the state playoffs, the team ended its 12 game season with an 8-4 record.

The final success of 2003 belongs to the Catoctin baseball, softball, and girl's lacrosse teams. Each of these teams earned League Champion titles by defeating the other 9 members of the Monocacy Valley Athletic League (MVAL). Both the baseball and softball team advanced to the state finals, and the girl's lacrosse team advanced to the semifinals. "All three teams have a good outlook for the upcoming season," explains Tom Sherald, Catoctin Athletic Director. "Baseball and softball have been very successful the past few years, and have represented Catoctin several times in state competitions. Girl's lacrosse also has some promising young athletes who will add strength to the team in the future seasons."

Each of these teams from Fairfield High School and Catoctin High School ended 2003 with exceptional pride, accomplishment, and a bright outlook for 2004. Be sure to look for them in next year's listings of most important local high school sports events.

## Outside the Game

# Society Took a Beating in 2003 Courtesy of the Sports World

By A.J. Russo  
Editor  
Sports & Recreation

Sports fans were treated to a wide variety of reality checks in 2003. Some sports personalities and their conquests in and out of the sports arena left many to ponder their effects on humanity. Some took the games to a higher level and some lowered the bar to unimaginable depths. With that said, here are my top ten sports stories of 2003, ranked according to affect on society.

### 10. Ephedra

Steve Bechler, a pitching prospect with the Orioles, died Feb. 17, 2003 in Fort Lauderdale, FLA, at the age of 23. Heatstroke was the initially

announced cause of death. However later it was suggested that a dietary supplement containing the herbal stimulant Xenadrine RFA-1 or ephedrine, a product available over the counter at nutrition stores, may have contributed.

Ephedrin is a stimulant, speeding metabolism, suppressing appetite and making the user more alert. No doubt, all, or at least a few, of these effects were at the root of Belcher's decision to use it.

In part because of this incident, the FDA has banned the drug.

### 9. Collapse of Women's Pro Soccer

The Women's United Soccer Association announced it is suspending operations after three seasons of play.

WUSA Founder and Chairman

John Hendricks said the league was unable to attract a sufficient number of corporate sponsors to cover a \$16 million to \$17.5 million shortfall.

"It's a sad day for all of us," said Hendricks, who said the league could resume play in 2005 if at least a half-dozen new corporate sponsors come forward in the months ahead. Hendricks said the league's players would be meeting with potential sponsors with hopes of resurrecting the league.

### 8. THG

The Food and Drug Administration banned the sale and use of the "purely synthetic designer steroid" THG and said it would help prosecute any companies making or selling it.

Although its safety is untested, it is so closely related to known steroids that the FDA "believes that its use may pose considerable risk to health."

The chemical, which does not show up in routine urine tests, is at the center

of a doping scandal in which dozens of top Olympic and professional athletes, including baseball players Barry Bonds and Jason Giambi and sprinter Marion Jones, were subpoenaed and testified before a federal grand jury.

### 7. Kobe

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—Continued on page 17

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# Sports World

—Continued from page 16

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Mark D. Hurlbert, District Attorney.

### 6. Master Challenge

For the weeks and months leading up to this year's Masters tournament, the most recognizable face on the feminist frontline wasn't Gloria Steinem or Naomi Wolf. It was Martha Burk. As Associated Press sports writer Paul Newberry wrote, "[Burk] might be the most symbolic female in the American sports world since tennis player Billie Jean King in 1973."

The women's advocate from Tyler, Texas, who heads the National Council of Women's Organizations and set out to get a woman admitted as a member at Augusta National, the golf club that hosts the Masters, didn't draw many advocates to Georgia, but she got more press than Tiger during that stretch.

### 5. Rushed away

On ESPN's Sunday NFL Countdown pre-game show, Rush Limbaugh said, "I think what we've had here is a little social concern in the NFL. The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well. There is a little hope invested in McNabb, and he got a lot of credit for the performance of this team that he didn't deserve. The defense carried this team." Negative reaction did not come immediately. But Eagles quarterback, Donovan McNabb told the Philadelphia Daily News: "It's sad that you've got to go to skin color. I thought we were through with that whole deal." Limbaugh resigned shortly after.

### 4. Defiant Stand

Before each game, during the

national anthem, Manhattanville College's women's basketball team guard, Toni Smith, turned her back on the American flag in defiance. Why? Her reasons included protest of the then impending war with Iraq, but also a recognition that the rich get richer and the poor keep getting poorer in the U.S. "The government's priorities are not on bettering the quality of life for all its people, but rather on expanding its

own power."

She did not relent in her silent protest, claiming that "for some time now, the inequalities that are embedded into the American system have bothered me. As they are becoming progressively worse and it is clear that the government's priorities are not on bettering the quality of life for all of its people, but rather on expanding its own power, I cannot, in good conscience,

salute the flag." With war in Iraq ongoing, you or I may not agree with Toni's stand, but isn't the right to believe, express that belief, and take a stand, a big part of what we are fighting for?

### 3. Anna the Great

In May, Annika Sorenstam made sports history in Texas at the Bank of America Colonial. She was the first woman in 60 years to play in a PGA

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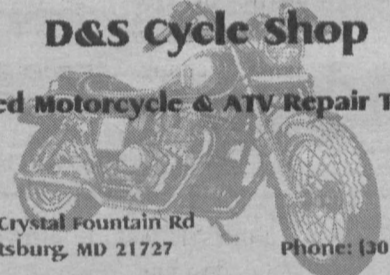


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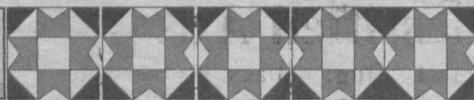
By Mary Ellen Cummings  
Dispatch Writer

This seems to be a good time to give you some quilt storage rules. The projects that you've finished this winter are probably holiday related, and now you want to store them until next winter. Most people keep quilts in a linen closet, or on a shelf in the clothes closet. Others use cedar chests or trunks. All of the above are OK, but do not violate:

**Rule #1:** Never store quilts where they will be in contact with wood. The oils in wood (no matter the wood's age) will cause stains on the fabric - usually, brownish stains. Wood can be sealed with paint or varnish, but some of these can cause a bad reaction with the fabric.

These conditions lead us to:

**Rule #2:** Store quilts in acid-free



cotton fabric to remove the sizing that could damage your quilt.

**Rule #3:** Do not fold quilts the same way every time you store them. Using the same fold pattern weakens the threads along the fold line, and will eventually cause a split in the fabric.

**Rule #4:** Never store quilts in a plastic bag or box. Some say quilts have to "breathe" since the fabric is made from living plants. I guess that is one way of saying that air, humidity and temperature control are vital and plastic interferes with those factors.

An ideal way to store quilts is to roll them on a tube — such as the ones used for carpets and upholstery fabric. However, you must make sure the quilt does not come in contact with anything that is not acid-free. The problem here is where to store such a big 'package.'

If you have a seldom-used guest room, spread several quilts on the bed

for storage. Covering with a sheet or bedspread will protect the top quilt from light and dust. I have seen suggestions that storing extra blankets and quilts between mattress and foundations, or springs, is a viable solution. However, I do not recommend that method.

A lot of the quilts made today are artistic in form and use embellishments, paints, and photos. Storage of

this type of quilt would, probably, require an entirely different approach. Fading, ripping, and rotting fabric have always been problems in quilt care. So have mice and fabric eating bugs. Which of these hazards in your quilt's lifetime will attack the new styles of quilt making is anyone's guess since the new methods haven't been around long enough to evaluate them. Ask me 90 years from now!

## Sports World

—Continued from page 17

event. Of course, this wasn't the first time women played against men in major professional sporting events. Hockey players, basketball players, pitchers, place kickers, and let's not forget Billie Jean King and what's his name—women have played them all and many succeeded. Annika claimed that she put herself on the line, not women in general. Granted this was a great opportunity for her to raise the level of her game, but Annika, come on, get your head out of the sand trap, this was a milestone for women. Wouldn't it be nice to see a woman in one of those green sport coats one day?

### 2. Croom

Becoming the first African-American head football coach in the SEC gives Sylvester Croom a place in history, especially considering the state in which he was hired. But Croom, a former assistant coach with the Green Bay Packers, is interested in making a different kind of history at Mississippi State. One of these days, Croom would rather be known as the first African-American head football

coach to win an SEC championship and the first Mississippi State coach to win a conference title since 1941. "A lot of you are here because of my cultural heritage. But it's not about me. It's about these young men to my right," said Croom, acknowledging his players at a press conference. "I would just as soon my name and picture never be in the paper again, because it's truly about them. It is about them becoming winning people."

### 1. Tour de Lance

Lance Armstrong joined Spaniard Miguel Indurain as the only rider to win cycling's most brutal and prestigious race five times consecutively—a record Armstrong plans to break in 2004. Overcoming illness, crashes and bad luck, Armstrong won his hardest but sweetest Tour in 2003.

Once given only a 50 percent chance of surviving cancer, Armstrong's triumphs with the U.S. Postal Service team have drawn new fans to cycling and given inspiration to all. Wow.

A.J. Russo, Ph.D., is a professor at Mount St. Mary's College and author of 7 novels. The former head coach of men's lacrosse at RIT and Mount St. Mary's, Russo is currently head coach of Hood College's men's lacrosse team, scheduled to play its first season in 2005. Published titles include science thriller, "The Healer," available through Amazon.com; related short stories, "Dah-Link," published Dec. 2003; and a novel entitled "Spliced," to be published in April. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of Mount St. Mary's College or Hood College.

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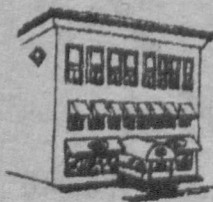
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**Mar. 13- 50's & 60's Rock & Roll Dance.** 8 p.m.-12 midnight at Mount St. Mary's College. "Big Cam & The Lifters" to perform all the oldies sounds that you remember! Advance Tickets \$13. After Feb. 27 at the door \$16. BYOB with ice, set ups, and snacks provided. Benefit "Tribute To A Friend" College Scholarship fund. Information: 301-447-6272 or 717-227-3265.

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A Sausage and Pancake breakfast with Maryland Maple Syrup will be served from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Pancakes are \$2.50 a plate and \$3.50 per plate with pancakes and sausage. Maryland made maple syrup and maple products will be available for purchase from the Catocin Mountain Tourist Council.

**Mar. 14- All you can eat Breakfast.** 7:30 a.m.-12 noon at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Emmitsburg. Menu includes: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage, Home Fries, Gravy, Fruit, Coffee, and Juice. Adults \$5, Children 5-12 \$3, Under 5 free. Bake Table available. Information: 301-447-2326.

**Mar. 14- Spaghetti Dinner.** 12 noon-5 p.m. at Elias Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg. Adults \$8, Children 5-12 \$4, Under 5 free. Dinner to benefit young couple's unborn child who has been diagnosed with a heart defect. Information: Kevin at 410-259-4873.

**Mar. 20- Teen Dance.** From 7-10 p.m. at the Emmitsburg

Ambulance Company. The dance is a monthly event featuring contests and prizes. Held for youth ages 11-17. Cover charge is \$5.00. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Parents are required to drop children off and pick them up at the door. Youth are required to stay in the building until a guardian arrives to pick them up. Information: 301-447-6626.

**Mar. 15- Historical Society Meeting.** 7 p.m. at the Emmitsburg Community Center. Topic of discussion: The history of the telephone system in Emmitsburg. Public encouraged to attend.

**Mar. 25- United States Air Force Tradewinds Quintet to perform** 7:30 p.m. at Thurmont United Methodist Church, 13880 Long Road. The concert is FREE, admission by ticket only. Tickets are available at Thurmont United Methodist Church and Thurmont Library. Requests for tickets by mail will be accepted but must include self-addressed stamped envelope with order. Mail requests for concert tickets should be addressed to: USAF Tradewinds Quintet, c/o Thurmont United Methodist Church, 13880 Long Road, Thurmont, Maryland 21788. Please limit 4 tickets per request. Information: 301-271-4511.

**Mar. 26, 27- Turkey and Oyster Dinner.** Fri. 3-7 p.m. and Sat. 1-6 p.m. at Graceham Moravian Church, 8231 Rocky Ridge Road, Thurmont. Located 2 miles east of the traffic light on route 77 in Graceham. Adults \$11, children ages 5 to 10 \$5 and children under 4 free. Information: 301-271-2379.

**Mar. 27- Turkey and Oyster Supper.** 12 p.m. until ? at Tom's Creek United Methodist Church on Tom's Creek Church Road (off Route 140 between Taneytown and Emmitsburg). Featuring turkey, oysters, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, stuffing, peaches, cracker pudding and drinks. Adults \$11, Ages 5-10 \$5, Carry outs \$12. Bake Table available.

**Mar. 27- Spring Fling Dance.** 9 p.m.-1 a.m. with DJ and Karaoke at Thurmont AMVETS. Being held by the Ladies Auxiliary to benefit John Hopkins Children's Miracle Network. Information: Diane at (301) 447-6921.

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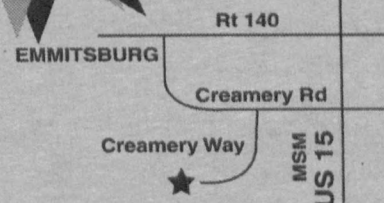
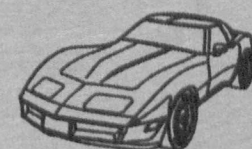


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P21575R15	70.77	P23575R15	58.53	P18560R14	57.07	31X1050R15	98.57	107.29	
P22575R15	74.19	17570R13	49.20	P19560R14	57.86	32X11.50R15	104.04	114.22	
P23575R15	77.48	18570R13	50.95	P21560R14	63.58	33X1250R15	111.59	121.38	
P17570R14	61.88	18570R14	51.36	P19560R15	60.74	35X1250R15	--	127.06	
P18570R14	64.12	19570R14	52.92	P20560R15	62.90	P22575R16	78.10	--	
P20570R14	71.17	20570R14	56.53	P21560R15	67.89	P24575R16	82.51	--	
P21570R14	73.36	21570R14	58.11	P22560R15	68.56	P23570R16	89.09	--	
P20570R15	72.67	20570R15	57.88	P20560R16	68.74	P24570R16	85.23	--	
P21570R15	75.22	21570R15	59.77	P21560R16	69.64	P25570R16	94.14	--	
P22570R15	77.02	17565R14	54.22	P22560R16	72.15	P26570R16	88.51	--	
P17565R14	61.67	18565R14	55.26	P23560R16	74.31	P27570R16	96.67	--	
P18565R14	62.84	19565R15	60.86			LT22575R16	93.48	--	
P19565R14	66.63					LT24575R16	106.83	109.30	
P18565R15	65.19					LT265.75R16	100.00	109.10	
P19565R15	68.96					LT285.75R16	115.17	125.26	
P20565R15	72.40					LT215.85R16	92.51	--	
P21565R15	74.29					LT235.85R16	104.73	115.29	
						P265X70R17	96.20	--	
						LT33X12.50R16.5	118.48	129.77	

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