

# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL III, No. 19

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

DECEMBER 15, 2004



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

## Tree Lighting honors Fallen Firefighters

An evergreen tree rarely seen by most residents is decorated with lights, and tributes made by family, friends, and co-workers from across the nation, to honor fallen firefighters. The tree is located in Memorial Park on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center. The lighting ceremony took place on Monday.

## Mayor vetoes town's first election rules

Richard D. L. Fulton  
News Editor

On Dec. 9 Emmitsburg Mayor James E. Hoover vetoed the election regulations ordinance passed by town commissioners at their Dec. 6 meeting.

Hoover said he was "pleased with the ordinance," but had vetoed it primarily because he could "not accept the poll watcher provision," and because the final draft "had not been reviewed by the town attorney" before passage. He also believes that having poll watchers would discourage people from volunteering as poll judges. When the Emmitsburg commissioners adopted the local election law, they had dropped a proposed recall section, but added the controversial poll watcher provision.

The commissioners could overturn the mayor's veto, if three of the four members agreed. With Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel initially opposed to poll watchers, and Commissioner Dianne Walbrecker previously stating she was not in favor of them, an override may not be possible.

-See **Veto** on page 3

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## O'Neil blasts ethics commission investigation

Richard D. L. Fulton  
News Editor

Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners President William B. O'Neil, Jr., compared an ongoing town ethics commission investigation to the work of the former federal Un-American Activities Committee at the Dec. 6 town meeting.

Former commissioner Theo-

dore "Ted" Brennan, chair of the ethics commission, confirmed that the group is investigating complaints, but said, "All we can do is compile a report. The committee has no power. It only provides a forum (for alleged aggrieved parties)."

The committee is interviewing individuals regarding the complaints during the week of Dec. 13 and then will schedule

meetings with those under investigation.

O'Neil was adamant that any meetings should be open, "including the interviews (of complainants). People have a right to face their accusers. People have a right to due process."

### Brennan defends process

Ethics commission meetings are open to the public unless com-

plainants are being interviewed. Brennan said closed meetings provide a secure environment for interviews without allegations immediately becoming public.

"Whatever is discussed in private is kept private," he added. The interviews determine "if there is merit to a complaint."

Brennan assured the com-

-See **Ethics** on page 5

## County rejects Silver Fancy wastewater plant

### Commissioner criticizes annexation referendum

The Frederick County Planning Commission voted Dec. 15 to reject Buckeye Development's application to add a new regional sewage plant to the Thurmont Region Plan.

On a motion by Commissioner Robert White, three members voted to reject adding the facility to the plan, one member voted to add it, and Commissioner Michael Cady abstained.

White stated he felt the pro-

posed treatment plant did not agree with the county comprehensive and regional plans.

A staff report prepared for the planning commissioners emphasizes that the 'Silver Fancy' tract is located "within the Town's planned annexation/growth area," and confirms, "Frederick County has no existing or planned public water & sewerage service in this region.

The report's recommendation

is clear, "Both the Town's Master Plan and the County's Thurmont Region Plan anticipate that the future water & sewerage service area indicated on the Comprehensive Plan would be provided by the Town."

Though he abstained from

voting, Commissioner Cady criticized the efforts that resulted in overturning the town-approved annexation of the 'Silver Fancy' tract.

He said that the Emmitsburg

-See **Sewer** on page 11

### Why The Dispatch exists- A Mission Statement

-see page 4

### Town appoints public information officer

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### Frederick County resident dies in Rt. 15 collision

-see page 7

### Fallen Firefighters Chapel to be renovated

-see page 10

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## 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 Emmitsburg Dispatch* reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

### President of Emmitsburg Baseball League responds

In the past few years, the number of players moving up from minor to major league has decreased. In 2003, 16 out of 23 players did not move up, and in 2004, we lost 12 players. If this trend continues in 2005, we would only have 3 teams in the 9-12 category and would have to add more travel games to Fairfield and Cashtown.

In the past decade, we have lost 5 teams in Emmitsburg: Colts, Angels, Yankees, Orioles, and an older team. Maybe this proves that we need a change. Maybe "if it isn't broken, don't fix it" and "it worked for the past 49 years" are not correct.

To Davey: I am sorry this has upset you but I couldn't make any decisions on the division of teams until after the new league board meeting. I had to make sure they would allow 10-year-olds to move up to 11/12-year-old team. The league didn't want to do this because it isn't in the best interest of the child and defeats the purpose of different age brackets. Since this is the first year, they agreed to allow this. I didn't want to make a promise I couldn't keep. I know how much the Red Sox players want to stay together and I will do my best to make sure this happens.

The reason I became president was because no one else would. I have four grandchildren who are third generation players also. Their grandfather was on the first team in 1955 and has been involved for 50 years.

With the support of the three managers of the other major league teams and approval and backing of three of four managers in the minor league, we will do our best to make this change work.

-Mary L. Topper

President,  
Emmitsburg Baseball & Softball

### Vigilant Hose concerned about Points of Agreement

This letter is intended to clarify the position of the Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) regarding the recent newspaper articles published about the fire tax.

The Board of Directors of the VHC discussed in-depth various options for dealing with Emmitsburg area emergency medical services.

Numerous suggestions were made during joint meetings with the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company (EAC). Our two groups were pressed for action by the county commissioners, challenged to come to a resolution in two weeks (which included the Thanksgiving holiday) to a problem that has not been resolved in over 10 years of failed services.

Many conceptual ideas were published without the final approval of the VHC, and do not truly reflect the beliefs of the company.

On further evaluation of the published points of agreement, the VHC membership agrees that they are not all feasible based on concerns about meeting the community's need for prompt, efficient, appropriate, and professional emergency care.

The Vigilant Hose Company apologizes for any misrepresentation, but the one and only final decision made by the VHC Board in the best interest of the community was to support 24/7 career staffing running primary (first due) emergency medical services.

The Vigilant Hose Company remains open to direction from the county commissioners, the Department of Fire and Rescue Service, and Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service in determining the most appropriate location to house this service, and to resolve remaining issues about emergency medical services for the Emmitsburg area.

We, the Vigilant Hose Company, remain dedicated and committed to service the Emmitsburg community and will work within our scope of responsibility to resolve this issue.

-Frank M. Rauschenberg

President,

Vigilant Hose Company

### Editorial Policy will be enforced

We continuously review *The Emmitsburg Dispatch's* editorial policies. Up to this point we have not enforced our policy of limiting letters to 300 words. Because of space requirements and to guard against any perception of bias, we will edit letters down to 300 words.

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### 100 Years Ago "In this place" From *The Emmitsburg Chronicle*

*This column offers a regular look back at Emmitsburg through the eyes of The Emmitsburg Chronicle which first appeared on June 14, 1879, published by Samuel Motter. In 1909 the paper became known as The Weekly Chronicle. It continued regular publication, allowing for a 5-year hiatus during World War II, until February 9, 1977.*

#### Hauling Ice

December 16, 1904 - Ice hauling began on Wednesday. The ice is about 7 inches thick.

December 16, 1904 - Santa Claus never advertises; consequently, he never sells any goods, but gives them away.

#### Joseph E. Hoke

December 16, 1904 - We take pleasure in calling the attention of the readers of *The Chronicle* to the large Christmas advertisement of Mr. Joseph E. Hoke, one of Emmitsburg's most enterprising businessmen. The advertisement will be found on another page. Read it carefully and call to see Mr. Hoke's large and beautiful display of Christmas novelties, among which can be found many things suitable for Christmas gifts for both old and young. Take your children with you, as Mr. Hoke is desirous of having everybody call and inspect his goods. All who call at the store will receive polite and courteous attention.

#### Christmas Services

December 23, 1904 - Considerable preparation is being made by the various churches in this place for the proper celebration of the Christmas festival, and especially by the Sunday Schools. The exercises at the various churches will be as follows: The Sabbath School of the Presbyterian Church will hold their Christmas entertainment entitled, "Bethlehem's King," Friday evening December 23 at seven o'clock. The annual Christmas exercises of the Sunday School of the Reformed Church will be held on Christmas Eve, beginning at 7 o'clock. A Praise service will be held in the Reformed Church

at 6 o'clock on Christmas morning, and regular services at 10:30 o'clock A.M. At the Methodist Church the Sunday School will hold a service in connection with the regular services at 2:30 o'clock on Christmas afternoon. Regular services will be held in the Lutheran Church at 10:30 o'clock on Christmas morning, and at 6:30 o'clock Christmas night the exercises will be by the Sunday School. The request of the Editor for a copy of the program of the Christmas services at St. Joseph's Catholic Church for publication was given no attention.

December 30, 1904 - The special Christmas services at the different churches in this place, were well attended, notwithstanding the bad condition of the weather. The weather on Christmas day was very disagreeable.

#### Child in Snowdrift

December 30, 1904 - While on her way to school on Wednesday of last week, Edith, the 9-year-old daughter of D. Putnam, at Hansonville, was caught in a snowdrift and nearly frozen to death. Mr. Eugene Sponseller, who was driving along the road, saw the child buried in snow up to her waist and unable to move. He took her out and, wrapping her in blankets, put her in his sleigh and drove her home.

#### Cat in Egg Nog

December 30, 1904 - Joseph Wishard, proprietor of the Wishard Hotel, Smithsburg, Washington County, made a large can of egg nog Monday and was getting ready to present it to his friends when a cat jumped into the bowl and was almost drowned. The cat was made very sick by the bath, and the doctor pronounced it a case of Katzenjammer. - *Sm.*

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-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

### Community Chorus performs Christmas Concert

Sunday Dec. 5 at the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Emmitsburg Community Chorus presented, "O Holy Night," its 41<sup>st</sup> annual Christmas concert. The chorus was directed by Loren Roth and accompanied by Bette Cuddahee. The choir welcomes new members.

## Veto

-Continued from page 1

Board of Commission President William B. O'Neil, Jr., told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* after the mayor's veto, "While we (O'Neil and the mayor) intellectually and respectfully disagree on the issue of having poll watchers, I do understand his concerns in wanting to attract and retain election judges."

O'Neil said the ordinance will be reintroduced without the poll watcher provision.

#### Poll watcher section added

Poll watchers are individuals delegated by any group (usually a political party) or person (often a candidate) to "oversee" the election process. They have town administrator approval to remain in the polling area to "observe."

Their function is either to catch errors or irregularities committed by election judges or poll workers which could affect the outcome of the election, or to provide evidence about potential irregularities that simply need to be addressed and corrected later.

Walbrecker was concerned that poll watchers would "give it (the election process) that sense of partisanship. I hope the town doesn't become partisan."

O'Neil felt they are a necessity for a growing community and had said they would "instill confidence in the (election) system."

Some residents felt that poll watchers would intimidate voters.

Former Commissioner Theodore "Ted" Brennan wanted to be sure that poll watchers were trained. "Untrained poll watchers are nothing more than thugs. They are intimidating and send the wrong message to the voters."

In spite of expressed concerns, the commissioners included poll watchers in the ordinance. O'Neil and Elder voted in favor, Rosensteel voted against it, and Walbrecker was absent.

**Proposed recall abandoned**  
The originally proposed election ordinance would also have permitted recall referenda, allowing residents to remove elected officials from office.

O'Neil had suggested the idea, and was previously adamant that voters have the right to initiate a recall, a provision Walbrecker also supported.

There was disagreement, however, on the percentage of voters required to begin the recall process.

Christopher "Chris" Staiger testified, "I am in opposition to the recall provision. It is important that we stand by our election results and there are provisions for removal (for certain acts under state law)."

Brennan told the commissioners that recalls have been "nothing but disasters throughout history, and are "a tool which is always divisive and it is too easy for it to be used as a political tool."

O'Neil said he changed his position on recalls based on citizens' comments.

**Financial disclosure and tie votes clarified**  
According to the vetoed ordinance, a candidate who failed to comply with financial disclosure regulations 30 days before the election would be disqualified from running for office.

Further, an elected candidate, found not to have disclosed all appropriate financial information, could be fined \$500.

At the mayor's recommendation, the commissioners included a provision that would declare an incumbent the victor in case of a tie vote. If no incumbent were involved in the tie vote, a run-off election would be held within 14 days.

The election ordinance passed on a motion by O'Neil, seconded by Commissioner Arthur "Art" Elder, and approved in a three-zero vote. Rosensteel provided the third vote; Walbrecker was absent.

Rosensteel first voted to reject the ordinance, including the poll watcher provision; then voted for the ordinance including the poll watcher provision which she had just moments before voted against.



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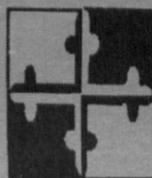
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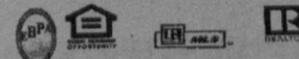
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# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

NEWS AND OPINION IN THE SERVICE OF TRUTH

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Next Publication: January 5, 2005

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

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## EDITORIAL

### County Fire and Rescue needs to make emergency medical services work

Two weeks' notice — that's how much time Frederick County Commissioner Michael Cady gave the Vigilant Hose Company and the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company when he asked them on Nov. 16 to work out an amicable solution for Emmitsburg's emergency medical service problems. Given the longstanding issues between the two companies, that's not much time.

After reading VHC President Frank Rauschenberg's *Letter to the Editor*, published in this issue, I wasn't clear if the VHC was backing out of its agreement with the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company. According to informed sources, Vigilant Hose Company isn't backing out of their commitment towards a resolution. But they do have concerns.

The VHC members agreed to 24/7 coverage — their biggest concern. But neither their board nor the members ever voted to accept the nine-point agreement given to the county commissioners on Nov. 30. Some VHC members, board members included, saw the list on television while tuned into the county meeting; others read it first in *The Dispatch*.

Important steps were missed along the way, and VHC members have concerns that some of the so-called points of agreement aren't really feasible.

The list was part of a discussion at a Nov. 21 meeting with Mayor Hoover, Clarence "Chip" Jewell, Director of Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, and EAC and VHC representatives. At that same meeting, the VHC stressed 24/7 emergency medical services, which the ambulance company subsequently approved Nov. 23.

The list was revised at a subsequent VHC meeting. But apparently neither Frank Rauschenberg nor VHC Chief Bob Rosensteel read Chip Jewell's e-mail carefully enough to realize that it was an agreement to more than 24/7 coverage and that it didn't represent the VHC's revised list.

Rauschenberg signed off and wrote, "Specifically, we are in agreement on the need for, and support of 24/7 career staffing for the principal emergency ambulance serving our community."

VHC members are worried about the potential for missed calls, and rightfully so. A potential coordination problem exists because the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company and the career staff are in different buildings. If EAC is running first due calls, the career staff doesn't know if volunteers are available to run the calls or not.

Ongoing meetings between

VHC and EAC are another issue. They require individuals with full-time jobs and personal responsibilities, that perhaps already volunteer their time, to fit in more meetings, which will be difficult for them to do. These meetings will probably eventually just fizzle out because of people's already busy schedules.

Regarding a non-voting member of each company to sit on the other's board, there would be a hesitancy on some members part to speak frankly about some issues. If the VHC needs to discuss personnel or financial matters, they would ask the ambulance company representative to leave, and probably vice versa. That person might be uncomfortable and concerned about what's being discussed.

VHC members have concerns and so should we all. The fire and ambulance companies came together for the benefit of the citizens of this town. The county has agreed that we need 24/7 emergency services. Now it is up to the Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services to make EMS service work for Emmitsburg — they have the ultimate responsibility for residents' safety.

— Raymond Buchheister  
Editor & Publisher

### Why The Emmitsburg Dispatch exists A Mission Statement

The Emmitsburg Dispatch is a newspaper guided by the motto, "news and opinion in the service of truth." In every issue the publication strives to inform and educate its readers about the town of Emmitsburg and the surrounding region, and to serve as a basic record of its history.

This newspaper was created to give its readers that for which they have a moral right and deep need — *information* about agencies, persons, and current events that can help or harm them, *explanations* to help them understand events, and *opinions* to help guide their decisions.

The Emmitsburg Dispatch believes that, as a newspaper, it has an *obligation* to provide this knowledge. Without it most readers would be practically helpless before the social forces shaping their lives.

The Emmitsburg Dispatch keeps a close watch on town government, and on institutions, businesses, and individuals, not to condemn or praise them in its news columns, but to report the news — *facts previously unknown by, and important to, its unique community of readers.*

The newspaper's sponsors and advertisers, and even the publication itself, are not exempt from its scrutiny.

The Emmitsburg Dispatch will not publish what serves the interests of only a few, or only of people living elsewhere. It does, however, report news about the wider communities to which its readers belong — Maryland, our country, and the human race — especially if that information cannot be obtained adequately from other sources.

By fulfilling its goal as a newspaper, The Emmitsburg Dispatch helps the town preserve its identity through time. Like any living thing, the town of Emmitsburg will continue to be itself into the future only if it has a memory of its past. The Emmitsburg Dispatch is a major portion of the town's memory, a "journal of original entry" for records of events that are part of its history.

The Emmitsburg Dispatch is a business, but one that identifies itself primarily as a service, not a profit center. It rejects the theory that, because it must be an efficient business,

its primary purpose is to earn money. Instead, it chooses to serve the community with news, and, for this primary purpose, it needs revenue. Its conviction is that if it succeeds as a newspaper by serving the community, it will earn revenue.

The business objectives of The Emmitsburg Dispatch conform to this understanding of itself. Profits will first be reinvested in the newspaper to improve it and make it more widely available.

Secondly, a portion of profits will be used to build up Emmitsburg by enhancing its local organizations and expanding its cultural opportunities.

Thirdly, some of the expected surplus will be used to help those in need in the local region. These business objectives, however, depend entirely on the fulfillment of the publication's primary goal: to provide readers with the information they need to help them be better citizens and live well in this beautiful part of Maryland.

— Raymond Buchheister  
Editor & Publisher

# TOWN NEWS

## Town appoints media contact

**Richard D. L. Fulton**  
News Editor

Emmitsburg Mayor James E. Hoover designated Patricia Feeser as the town's official media contact, effective Dec. 6.

Town administrators decided a media contact was necessary after another newspaper in the region included incorrect information in a news story about the town water supply. (See "A Word from the Mayor" on page 6 in this issue.)

Hoover pointed out that although the water supply story triggered the town's response, it was not the first time newspapers had published inaccurate or incomplete information.

Feeser is charged with responding to media requests for information from town staff in 24 hours or less. She works only Monday through Thursday, raising questions about how media queries will be handled on Fridays.

As a result of the appointment, Emmitsburg has become the first community in Frederick County, outside the city of Frederick, to appoint a specific individual as town media spokesperson. The media is still free to contact elected officials without going through Feeser.

### Feeser appointed based on experience

Hoover told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that Feeser, initially hired as a part-time employee, has worked for the town for almost seven years, presently as administrative assistant to the town manager.

She worked for a brief time in mid-1998 as acting town manager, and has "even followed through with grant and loan work," the mayor pointed out.

He said he appointed Feeser because, "She has had multiple positions, and has a good working knowledge of the various departments."

The mayor cautioned that the first 30 or 60 days under

this new system might prove problematic, but he is convinced that communication will improve as Feeser gains experience in her new role.

### Appointment meant to insure accuracy

Feeser's new appointment followed on the heels of a memo issued by Town Manager David Haller instructing any town staff member approached by the media to secure his approval before providing any requested information.

Town staff who formerly provided the media with information refused to talk to representatives of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* between the time of Haller's memo and Feeser's appointment. Hoover did not consider this a "news blackout."

"The staff, in misinterpreting the (Haller) memo, believed that they could not talk to anybody. That was not correct. The memo instructed them to get it approved to make sure the information was accurate because of the recent article that was full of inaccuracy," Hoover stated.

He said, "We were in a reaction mode. This is not the first time this (misinformation in newspapers in the area) has happened. In truth, having the media call multiple employees would really create a lot of confusion and probably create a situation not very timely or professional."

### Local media react to town decision

*Frederick News-Post* Assistant Managing Editor Nancy Luse told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* she had "never heard of a small town doing anything like this."

"I'm just curious as to what this is going to accomplish," she commented, pointing out that the action "just adds another layer to people finding out what's going on in the town."

The publisher of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* expressed

## Ethics

-Continued from page 1

missioners that anyone involved with a complaint "will have the same luxury" of being interviewed in a closed-door session.

He told the commissioners that the closed meetings would continue, "Until we figure out what is going on with these complaints."

### O'Neil talks of a "witch hunt"

O'Neil said, "Looking into someone smacks of a witch hunt," and suggested that rumors of an investigation of a public official are tantamount to an accusation the official is not privileged to address.

Responding to Brennan, O'Neil retorted, "You state they are not public hearings, but I say they must be public meetings. We don't know if there is a problem or not because the (ethics commission) meetings are really not open meetings."

Since these are not personnel

concerns that having a spokesperson available only part of the week might increase the frequency of published inaccuracies, rather than minimize them.

"If we cannot get town input on an issue while on a deadline we will be forced to rely on what information is available from other sources. In some particular cases, without information from the town, it could put us in the position of having only one side of a story. That doesn't serve our readers," said Raymond Buchheister, editor and publisher of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

or budget issues, O'Neil said they should be considered in a public forum. "This body (the board of commissioners) has discussed legal matters (in public) before," he noted.

"I recall a similar thing in the federal government called the Un-American Activities Committee. I don't think it is right in this town. The town may be unknowingly trespassing on constitutional rights," O'Neil said.

### Town likely to pay for lawyers

Commissioner Arthur "Art" Elder announced he would not be talking to anyone without a lawyer present.

Mayor James E. Hoover said town officials must be provided with attorneys, either for consultations or to represent them.

According to the town charter, if an elected official is accused of wrongdoing, or is compelled to become a party to accusations that warrant legal representation, the town must provide that individual with an attorney.

If the allegations are later found to be unrelated to official town duties, the individual must

reimburse the town for the legal services provided.

### Emmitsburg Code of Ethics

According to the town code, the ethics commission is composed of three members appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the board of commissioners. Current members are Ted Brennan, Chair, Scott McClendon, Vice-Chair, and Stephen Kleindienst, Secretary.

The Code of Ethics applies to "the following officials and employees of the town: the president, mayor, treasurer, members of the board of commissioners, employees of the town, members of the planning and zoning commission, and members of the planning and zoning board of appeals."

*Editor's note: The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was established in 1938 to investigate reports that individuals or groups were engaged in activities considered anti-American in nature. The HUAC was renamed the House Internal Security Committee in 1969, and was ultimately abolished in 1975.*




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### A word about pre-arrangements and pre-financing



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## Town News Briefs ...

### Lincoln and Jamison now a three-way stop

Town staff installed three stop signs at the intersections of Lincoln Avenue and Jamison the week of December 6.

Mayor James E. Hoover said he requested the stop signs because residents were concerned about speeding

traffic on the two roads. Lincoln Avenue is posted at 15 miles per hour.

During warmer weather, speed bumps slowed down traffic, but they are removed during winter months to facilitate snow plowing.

### Commissioner O'Neil not answering your e-mails?

If you haven't heard back from town commission President William B. O'Neil, Jr. after writing to his town web site e-mail address, it may not be his fault.

In fact, it could just be because his e-mail address as listed on the town Web site was apparently not properly linked by the town's webmaster, Michael Hillman.

Until recently, trying

to send an e-mail to O'Neil through the "Contact Us" section of the town's Web site brought up an old town e-mail address for former commission president Patrick Boyle. Messages were either delivered to that e-mail address, or were returned to the senders.

Town spokesperson Patricia Feeser said that Hillman has corrected the link.

## Town News Update ...

### Mayor says missing money issue "resolved"

Emmitsburg Mayor James E. Hoover announced at the Dec. 6 commissioners' meeting that the issue of money reportedly missing from town coffers has been resolved.

Hoover stated that previously reported amounts as high as several thousand dollars were incorrect, and that the amount actually "missing" was around \$1,900.

"We have agreed to handle this as a personnel matter," he said, and "part of the

agreement is the restitution of the money."

The funds were reported to have disappeared while the local government was still located in the old town hall on East Main Street.

Scott L. Rolle, Frederick County State's Attorney, previously told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that (county) investigators were not even able to establish that money had been stolen.

### Commissioner reimbursed for questionable ticket

Town commission president William B. O'Neil, Jr. is now \$15 richer, thanks to the town mayor, who had O'Neil's parking fine refunded.

Mayor James E. Hoover stated at the Dec. 6 town meeting that the town's attorney advised that issuing parking tickets or performing maintenance on undedicated development roads could result in the town accepting the Pembroke Woods roads by default.

As a result, Hoover said, the decision was made to reimburse O'Neil for a ticket payment. Zoning Enforcement Officer Eva Miller issued the

ticket to O'Neil for allegedly parking illegally on the street in front of his Pembroke Woods home.

Hoover also noted that Buckeye Development would be providing snowplowing services in the Pembroke development.

O'Neil had maintained for some time that the town had no real authority to issue parking tickets at Pembroke Woods until it formally accepted dedication of the roads.

(See related story, "Town unknowingly risked acceptance of Pembroke Woods' roads" in the Nov. 17 issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.)

## Commissioner hopes to found charter committee

Emmitsburg may have a committee that would develop issues to bring to the community for a vote, rather than having just the commissioners decide.

Board of Commission President William B. O'Neil, Jr. wants to establish a Charter Review Committee that could take on potentially "controversial," community-related issues that he believes should be put before town voters.

"The concept would be to set up a body that would enable the commissioners and mayor to make recommendations for review," O'Neil stated.

For example, if the committee received recommendations from the commissions or the mayor on the town founding date, they could explore the options for determining the date, list those dates, and allow residents to vote on which date they wanted to recognize officially.

"This (the founding date) is something the entire town of Emmitsburg should decide," he said, "not something the commissioners and mayor should decide."

The commissioners will continue to have discussions about establishing the committee at their Dec. 20 meeting.

### A Word from the Mayor

## Setting the record straight on the water system

Over the past 24 to 30 months there have been several changes in Emmitsburg town government. Due to misinformation, the most recent change has created more concern with the media than expected. Due to newspaper articles printed with inaccurate information, I have appointed a town employee to be the single contact for all media inquiries requesting staff comments. Having one person responsible for media relations is not an uncommon policy and it improves customer relations and communication.

The most recent article to cause concern was printed in the *Frederick News Post* and was related to the town's water system. I expect and realize that people make mistakes, but the reporter went to several sources to get the town's billing information and then inaccurately reported the information. Prior to this article being published, this reporter never contacted me for any information on any of her articles, although several months ago I provided her with several ways to contact me, including two e-mail addresses, my private phone number, and work and cell phone numbers. This is the same thing I do with all media contacts and I have a very good relationship with them.

The town of Emmitsburg does not purchase water from Mount Saint Mary's for \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons and then sell it to our residents for nearly \$5 per 1,000 gallons as the report stated. The town of Emmitsburg has a minimum charge of \$30 for the first 6,000 gallons of water for all in-town users of the system. If in-town users use more than 6,000 gallons, they are

charged \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons up to 20,000 gallons.

The average Emmitsburg resident uses approximately 18,000 gallons of water per billing cycle. The \$30 minimum fee not only covers the actual water, but covers the overhead cost of operating the water plant on a daily basis (salaries, electricity, vehicles, building maintenance, insurances, etc.).

Approximately five years ago Mount Saint Mary's agreed to allow the town of Emmitsburg to create a temporary connection to the university's water system. This connection was made when the town was having difficulties with our old water plant and was concerned that we might not be able to supply adequate water to the town.

After the temporary connection was made, Town Manager Dave Haller continued to negotiate with Mount Saint Mary's to make a permanent connection which would allow Mount Saint Mary's to supply water to the town or the town to supply water to Mount Saint Mary's.

After several weeks of negotiation, Mount Saint Mary's agreed to allow the town to create a permanent connection. This connection was a major win-win for both water systems. With this connection both systems now have an additional resource for water if either system develops an operational problem that prevents one or the other from supplying the necessary amount of water. This connection was not created for either system to profit.

Because this connection is in place the town has been able to refurbish the 500,000-gallon water tank that has not seen major repairs or maintenance for at least 25 years or more.

Up until two years ago, the town only had one water

tank. This tank held all of the town's stored water. To supply the necessary amount of water to the town, the town treats water 24-hours a day, seven days a week. During peak demand times the town must rely on the stored water to keep up with the demand. This lowers the water level in the tank.

During off-peak hours, the town continues to treat water to refill the tank to its proper level. Since the town relies on the 500,000-gallon tank to meet the daily water consumption demand, the tank could not be drained to have major renovations performed to keep it in good condition.

When the new water plant was built, we added a second water tank. The second tank is only 100,000 gallons. With the new tank and the connection to Mount Saint Mary's, the town is now able to refurbish the 500,000-gallon tank. This is the reason the town has been purchasing water from Mount Saint Mary's. The 500,000-gallon tank is being refurbished.

If it were not for the Mount Saint Mary's connection, the town would have two options: truck water in, or ignore the tank's condition and allow it to continue to deteriorate. Ignoring the condition of the tank would soon put us in the same situation we are already in with our sewer and water lines. This tank has already exceeded its life expectancy. Refurbishing the tank was not an option: it was a necessity. To replace this tank would cost the town approximately a million dollars. Refurbishing the tank cost the town approximately \$120,000. In addition to refurbishing the tank, we also have a ten-year contract for annual maintenance on the tank to keep it in good condition.

— Jim Hoover  
Mayor of Emmitsburg



-ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL, SR. / THE ROSENSTEEL STUDIO

## POLICE ACTIVITY

### Police investigating home intrusion on East Main Street

A woman was assaulted in an East Main Street home by an apparent intruder around 3 a.m. on Dec. 10.

According to Deputy Jennifer Bailey, Frederick County Sheriff's Office spokesperson, the victim encountered the suspect in her kitchen, and was subsequently struck in the head with a hard object, knocking her unconscious.

A family member found

the victim lying on the kitchen floor nearly three hours later, and called 911 around 6:20 a.m.

Bailey said the victim was transported to Gettysburg Hospital and treated. Police did not know her condition at the time the report was given to *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

Police would not release the victim's address or identity. The incident is still under investigation.

What would you like to see more of, or different, in *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*?  
 editor@emmitsburgdispatch.com or 301-447-3039

### Frederick county resident dies in collision on Rt. 15

Maryland State Police are continuing their investigation of a Dec. 9 fatal accident on Route 15 near the intersection with South Seton Avenue.

Pronounced dead at the scene was 75-year old Thomas Henry Hahn, Frederick, the driver of a 1997 Nissan pickup truck.

According to a report issued by the state police, Hahn was driving southbound on Rt. 15 around 4 p.m. He pulled into a highway crossover, then into the northbound lane, in an apparent attempt to access Old Frederick Road.

Police stated that Hahn's truck then struck a 1995 Honda Accord driven by 50-year old Kathie Gruz, Camp Hill, Pa., and flipped over, landing on the passenger side of the truck.

Catherine Ann Hahn, 62, a passenger in the pickup truck, and Gruz, driver of the Honda, were both listed in serious but

stable condition at the Washington County General Hospital according to the Dec. 10 police report.

Investigators from Frederick County State's Attorney's Office are assisting state police with the ongoing collision investigation.

State police said that no charges have been filed at this time.

Emmitsburg community Deputy Roger Venzin was injured in a second accident while responding to the Hahn and Gruz accident.

### Town deputy injured in accident

Emmitsburg's new town deputy sustained minor injuries Dec. 9 while responding to a fatal car collision on Route 15.

Deputy Jennifer Bailey, spokesperson for Frederick County Sheriff's Office, stated that Deputy Roger Venzin's patrol car was struck by a 2001 Buick LaSabre driven by Dawn E. Knox, Taneytown, around 4:10 p.m. at the intersection of Route 15 and South Seton Avenue.

Venzin was attempting to respond to an accident on Route 15, and was in the process of crossing

over the southbound lane of Route 15 when the two vehicles collided. A preliminary investigation indicated that his emergency lights and siren were on when Venzin's car was hit.

Both drivers were transported to Frederick Memorial Hospital where Knox and Venzin, who sustained neck and back injuries, were subsequently treated and released, according to Bailey. She had no information on Knox' injuries.

Bailey said the accident investigation is continuing.

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## RELIGION

A Word from the pulpit

## Light for a Darkened World



Billy Graham

*"Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men." — John 1:3-4, NIV*

No informed person today will deny that the human race walks in darkness. We face dilemmas and problems that seemingly have no answer. Many observers despair of solving the problems of the world; they suspect that we are people who not only walk in darkness but who walk in darkness to our doom.

At the root of our problems is our continuing attempt to live

without God. For years people have been seeking to organize human life without Him. They have tried to thrust Him out of the universe. Critics are attacking evangelical Christianity throughout the world. Because they find it hard to believe in God, they have transferred their faith to man. They have invented a creed that is the worship of humanity. "Glory to man in the highest" is their theme.

This worship of human nature feeds on our own conceit. We have been told, especially in some of our classrooms, that there is no sin, that the human race simply has a bit of selfishness that time will correct. It flatters the egoism in us; it seems to make redemption unnecessary; it empties the cross of its meaning. People will grow better, we are told.

However, the failure to solve the problems of the world has shattered the hopes of many. We are more unsure of peace and have less freedom than ever before. We

have built a world of technology and spaceships, but we also have the possibility of terrorist attacks, of chemical and biological weapons, of radiation poisoning, of snipers and of suicide bombers. In our brilliance without God we have become fools.

We look at the world today and wonder at the incredible folly of it — the ignorant conceit, the puffed-up egos, the headlong pursuit of pleasure without regard for consequences. It is obvious that unredeemed humanity without the help of God will take the path of destruction, judgment and hell. We stand on the very edge of Armageddon.

But into this world of madness comes an event that can change everything. It can bring peace to our hearts, healing to our relationships, correction to our self-image, light to our darkness. This event is Christmas. Yes, Christmas — but not the "Christmas" that so many people observe today, that secular celebration of materialism and consumerism.

To some, Christmas merely means an opportunity to make more money. Some people vie with each other in their preparation for the celebration of the occasion. Some of them do not believe in Christ; they may even hate Him. But Christmas has become big business, and it cannot be ignored. They are more concerned to hear about their profit from Christmas than to hear about the Prophet from Bethlehem; the clinking sound of money is sweeter to them than the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angels to the shepherds.

Others try to find a merry Christmas in what they call entertainment and fun. Instead of

imbibing the Spirit of Christmas, they choose to imbibe spirits at Christmas. For many people the holiday is an opportunity to celebrate in the wrong way.

So what is Christmas, really, and why is it an event that can change everything? Christmas is the celebration of the event that set heaven singing. It marks the entrance of God into human history in a way never before seen. For in the birth of Jesus, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." (John 1:14, KJV) At a specific time and place, a specific Person was born, and that Person was the Lord Jesus Christ.

From the lips of Jesus Himself came these words, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10, KJV) Like piercing trumpets these words herald the breaking of the Divine into human history. What a wonderful and glorious hope we have because of that first Christmas!

Christ came into a world that was facing problems very much like the ones we grapple with today. We often imagine that the world Jesus came to was not complicated, that its problems were not complex. But historians tell us otherwise. The problems of that day were similar to the problems of our day.

And right into the center of this kind of life came Jesus Christ. He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28, KJV) He also said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10, KJV)

Jesus had a healing word for everyone. At this Christmas season, despite the affluent society that surrounds us, many find life a burden. Purpose and zest have fled, hearts ache with emptiness, and even the joys of this happy season leave many lonely and wistful.

This Christmas the Lord Jesus Christ stands at the door of your

heart and knocks, saying, "If you will open that door, I will come in to you and sup with you, and you with me." (Cf. Revelation 3:20) In other words, Jesus wants to have Christmas with you!

Christmas means that Emmanuel has come — that "the people ... in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2, KJV) and that He walks with us through the shadows — it means that "God is with us." (Cf. Matthew 1:23) It means that our sordid, failure-fraught past can be wiped out by His sacrifice on the cross and that we can become members of God's family, heirs of God and citizens of heaven. Christmas means that Jesus comes into the night of our suffering and sorrow, saying, "I am with you. Let Me share your burdens."

Today, in spite of all the darkness and despair, in spite of all the headlines about murders, riots, terrorism and war, there is hope. For Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, died for our sins and rose from the dead. He is alive today. He is alive to conquer your despair, to give you hope, to forgive your sins and to take away your loneliness. He is alive to reconcile you to God.

This Christmas, accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Put your faith and trust in Him. Give Him your heart, your soul, your life. The human race walks in darkness, but God offers us light. He offers every one of us eternal life if we will put our faith in Jesus Christ.

Will you accept Christ into your heart this Christmas season? He can bring light to your darkness and give you a fresh start. You can begin a relationship with Christ right now.

*"Light for a Darkened World" by Billy Graham, Decision magazine 2003, ©1969, 1985 (revised 1995), 1993 (revised 1999) Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

# Seasons Greetings

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-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Members of Tom's Creek United Methodist Church braved cold weather to witness their faith to vehicle traffic traveling alone Route 140 east of Emmitsburg this past Saturday night. Five separate casts of perishioners portraying Mary, Jesus' mother, Joseph, shepherds, and angels rotated in shifts from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to send a message to travellers that Jesus is the reason for the season.

## "Giving Tree" – a Seasonal Model of a Congregation's Generosity

Susan Allen  
Staff Writer

A huge pine tree, adorned with white lights and an assortment of ornaments, stands in the northeast corner of Incarnation United Church of Christ. The decorations and the star atop the tree have been "bought," or more correctly, "rented" by church members. The proceeds are donated after Christmas to community causes. This year the money will be divided equally between Seton Center Outreach and the Emmitsburg Council of Churches.

Some of the decorations are handmade, like the small white metal crosses and stars made by Fred Wolfe, and balls fashioned from Christmas cards by Anna Margaret Martin. Both Wolfe and Martin, long-time church members, passed away this year.

The tree project started nearly 40 years ago with designated memorial gifts to the church. In 1977 the congregation began sending the money to missions sponsored by the United Church of Christ. In 1988 the church changed the direction of its giving toward community outreach in Emmitsburg and Frederick County.

The small Incarnation congregation has a long history of generous giving within its denomination and in the community. Since 1963 the offerings collected on Christmas Eve have been donated to Hoffman Home for Children (now Hoffman Homes, Inc.) and Homewood nursing and retirement centers, operated by the United Church of Christ.

This November the consistory (church council) requested donations for victims of the devastating hurricanes in Florida. Their appeal brought in \$1,640, which was sent to the Frederick County chapter of the American Red Cross for

hurricane disaster relief. The Emmitsburg Council of Churches recently recognized the church for the seventh consecutive year because of its outstanding financial support of the annual CROP Walk.

## Emmitsburg Area Churches Christmas Services

**Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton**  
Dec. 24 – 7:30 p.m. Mass.  
Dec. 25 – 9 a.m. Mass.

**Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Mount St. Mary's University**  
Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 – No services, University closed.

**Elias Evangelical Lutheran**  
Dec. 24 – 7 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion.

**Emmitsburg Presbyterian**  
Dec. 24 – 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

**Eyler's Valley Chapel**  
Dec. 17 through Dec. 23 – 7 and 8:30 p.m.  
Dec. 24 – 5, 6:30, 8, 9:30 and 11 p.m.

**Incarnation United Church of Christ**  
Dec. 24 – 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Scripture.

**National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes**  
Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 – No services, grotto open.

**St. Anthony Shrine**  
Dec. 24 – 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. Mass, St. Anthony's.  
Dec. 24 – 5 p.m. Mass, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.  
Dec. 25 – 9:30 a.m. Mass, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

**St. Joseph's Roman Catholic**  
Dec. 24 – 4:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant and Mass  
Dec. 24 – 7:30 Mass.  
Dec. 25 – 8 a.m. Mass and 10:15 a.m. Mass only.

**Tom's Creek United Methodist**  
Dec. 24 – 7 p.m., Christmas Eve Family Service.  
Dec. 24 – 11 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

**Trinity United Methodist**  
Dec. 24 – 9 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Refer to the regular church schedule for locations and contact information.

## Emmitsburg Area Churches

**National Shrine Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton**

Built in 1965 and formally dedicated as the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Chapel in 1976, the chapel was designated a Minor Basilica by Pope John Paul II in 1991.

333 South Seton Avenue  
Services: Masses Sept. – June: Wednesday – Friday, 1:30 p.m., Saturday – 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Sunday – 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Mass schedule changes occasionally.  
301-447-3121

**Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Mount St. Mary's University**

Romanesque chapel designed by an alumnus and opened in 1910. Open to students, faculty, seminarians and the public.

Father Raymond Harris  
301-447-5223

**Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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  
Services: Sundays, worship with Holy Communion – 10:30 a.m., Sunday school – 9 a.m.  
Pastor Jon Greenstone  
301-447-6239

**Emmitsburg Presbyterian**

Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church has been a part of the Emmitsburg community since before the American Revolution. The original meetinghouse stood about a mile north of Emmitsburg along the Gettysburg road (U.S. 15). The grave of Samuel Emmit, founder of Emmitsburg, is located in the old cemetery.

415 West Main Street  
Services: Sunday – 11 a.m.  
Rev. R. Benjamin Jones  
301-447-2413

**Eyler's Valley Chapel**

Eyler's Valley Chapel was built in 1857. Lit only by candles, with an old pump organ providing accompaniment for the hymns, the stone chapel remains much as it was in the 1850s. The chapel is non-denominational, located four and one-half miles southwest of Emmitsburg at the corner of Eyler's Valley and Hampton Valley Roads.

Services: Sunday – 7 p.m.  
Pastor Jeff Walter  
301-271-4885

**Incarnation United Church of Christ**

Founded in 1768 as a German Reformed Congregation. In 1868 the church moved into town. The current brick building was rebuilt after a fire in 1950.

The current organization is now UCC.

124 West Main Street  
Services: Sunday – 10 a.m.  
Rev. Reginald Rice  
301-447-2270

**National Shrine Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes**

One of the oldest American replicas of the French shrine, dating to about 20 years after the apparitions at Lourdes (1874). The Grotto was proclaimed a Public Oratory Dec. 8, 1965 by His Eminence Lawrence Cardinal Sheehan, Archbishop of Baltimore.

Mt. St. Mary's University  
For services, call 301-447-5318  
Rev. John J. Lombardi, Chaplain

**St. Anthony Shrine**

St. Anthony's roots intertwine with the old St. Mary's on the Hill and date back to the 1700s. The present church was dedicated Oct. 26, 1897.

16150 St. Anthony's Road  
Services: Saturday Mass – 4 p.m., Sunday Mass – 7 and 9:30 a.m.  
Rev. James W. Hannon  
301-447-2367

**St. Joseph's Roman Catholic**

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

100 North Seton Avenue  
Services: Monday – 7:30 p.m. with the Miraculous Medal Novena; Tuesday through Saturday – 8:30 a.m., Saturday – 4:30 p.m., Sunday – 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 12 noon.  
Rev. Vincent O'Malley  
301-447-2326

**Tom's Creek United Methodist**

In 1797 the Methodist congregation purchased the log church built at Tom's Creek in 1757 by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations. The old log church at Tom's Creek had been used for 146 years. In 1903 the present church's cornerstone was laid and the church was dedicated in 1904.

10926 Simmons Road  
Services: Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school – 9:30 a.m.  
Pastor Bill Warehime  
301-447-2693

**Trinity United Methodist**

Trinity United Methodist was founded in 1833. The present sanctuary was built in 1897. In 1968, the church became known as Trinity United Methodist.

313 West Main Street  
Services: Sunday – 9 a.m., Sunday school – 10:15 a.m. Informal contemporary worship service every Saturday evening – 6 p.m.  
Rev. Wade A. Martin  
301-447-3740

# Fallen Firefighters Chapel to be Renovated

Mary Ellen Mitchell  
Contributing Writer

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) is taking on the renovation of the historic chapel on the grounds of the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, at a cost estimated to exceed one million dollars.

Completed in 1841, the chapel was built to serve the community of the Daughters of Charity of St. Joseph's College and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. In 1979, it became U.S. government property when the 107 acres of the college were sold for use by the National Fire Academy and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In 1997, the chapel was designated the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel and in 1998 it was dedicated to the memory of Chief A. Marvin Gibbons of Maryland, who had originated the idea of a fallen firefighters' memorial and

was instrumental in choosing Emmitsburg for its location.

Under the direction of the NFFF, the building will become multifunctional. It will provide administrative space for foundation staff and will serve as a permanent memorial to the memory of fallen firefighters. Since the building is designated a historic landmark, all work must be approved by

the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office.

The current restoration plan covers the indoor space of the chapel, the roof and the surrounding grounds and sidewalks. A recently completed "Walk of Honor" links the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial with the chapel. The walk contains more than 13,000 bricks. Over 4500 bricks have been inscribed with short messages or names of fallen firefighters, departments and organizations. According to NFFF Director, Chief Ronald Siarnicki, the chapel renovation project has six components.

"Our goal is to restore the architectural details that need attention in order to preserve history, while at the same time restore the building to its former status and improve safety issues." It is expected that electrical, plumbing and heating and air conditioning upgrades will be necessary during each stage.

Started in July, the first project is roof repair. Siarnicki hopes the building will become watertight.

A sprinkler system will be added next. The necessary components have been donated by the union



**Chapel Interior c.1873-1884.** This photo shows the original marble alter, pews with wooden kneelers, hardwood floors and Confessionals made of wood with heavy drapes in front of nave to the right and left of the sanctuary. The lighting is believed to be standing gas lamps. The main statue in center above the alter is believed to be Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom. Courtesy, Archives Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

of Roadfitters Local 669. "This is exciting and we hope to fund other portions of the project by encouraging donations of in-kind items," said Siarnicki, "to reduce the amount of funds we need to raise from the community."

The main sanctuary of the chapel will be the focus of the third phase of restoration. The intent is to restore it to its original beauty and splendor. Mother Seton designed the chapel based on others she had seen in her travels through Tuscany. The Romanesque-Revival style of the chapel is unique. Frescoes hand-painted on the ceiling at the turn of the century will undergo a "facelift."

The wasted choir loft space will be reclaimed in the fourth phase. Planners hope to add office space and a conference area. The issues of sound abatement will also be addressed. NFFF wants the chapel to remain a quiet place of reflection, with the surrounding

spaces housing the office staff.

The fifth phase will increase the efficiency of office space located on the first and second floors near the sanctuary. Special care will be taken to incorporate design elements that are both functional and compliment the historic nature of the area.

Finally, the foyer will be refurbished. Display cases will transform this area into a temporary visitor's center.

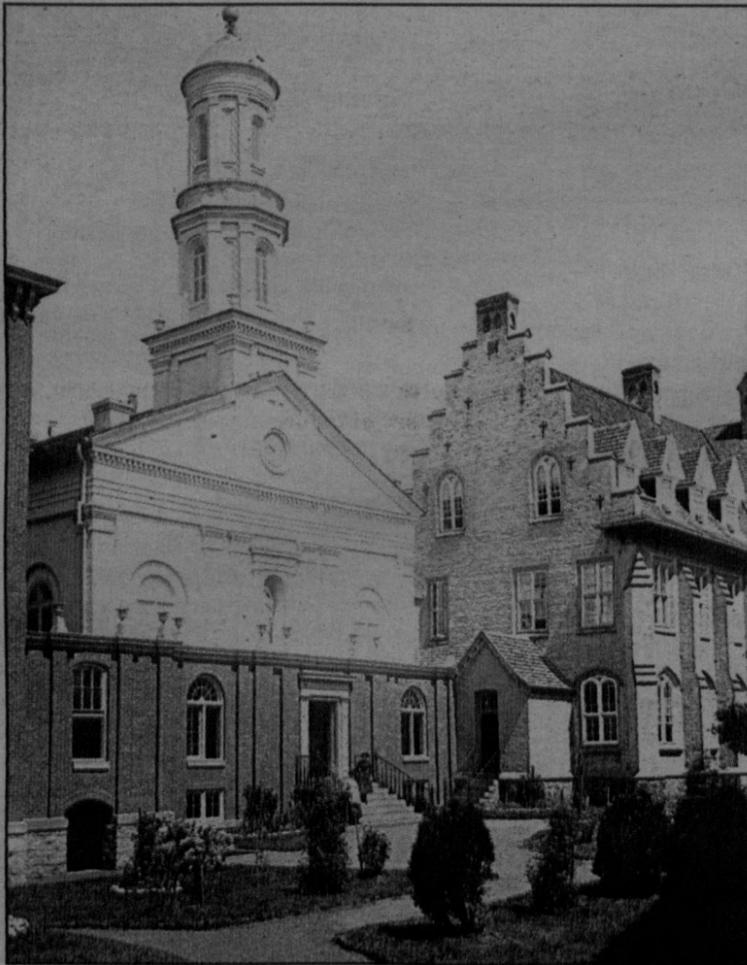
The chapel has already undergone four renovations. In 1873 an artistic renovation added new Stations of the Cross. Major work completed in 1891 included frescoes, re-flooring and installation of lighting fixtures, pews and windows. Side altars were also added along with an extension called the Perboyre Chapel.

The most comprehensive renovations took place in 1944. The chapel was enlarged and the traffic flow was changed by sealing off the sacristy doors on one side of the altar. A fresh paint scheme was used, tones of stone with blue and gold accents. New lights were installed and kneelers received rubberized cushions. The sanctuary floor and altar steps were laid in white marble with a green serpentine border. A thermoplastic tile was laid on the chapel floor and entranceway.

Final modernization occurred in 1966. The chapel looks much the same today.

For over 150 years the chapel has been a place of reflection and prayer. NFFF is seeking community support to fund this project and to continue to provide survivors of America's fire service heroes a place to remember their loved ones.

For further information, contact Chief Ronald Siarnicki, 301-447-3165, or write the Foundation, P.O. Drawer 498, Emmitsburg, Md. 21727.



**Chapel Exterior prior to 1944.** In this photo the "Gothic Building" designed and built by Eugene Giraud in 1844 was the answer to the Daughters of Charity's need for expanded living and administrative space. The belfry was used by generals for surveillance of area during the Civil War. The building was razed along with other structures in 1965. Courtesy, Archives Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg, Maryland.



**Family, friends, and co-workers from across the nation gather on the grounds of Memorial Park on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center to honor 107 firefighters who died while on duty in 2003. The annual service is held on the first Sunday of October.**

-RAYMOND BUCHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH / FILE PHOTO

# Commissioners urge county to reject 'Silver Fancy' proposal

**Richard D. L. Fulton**  
News Editor

On Dec. 6 the town board of commissioners voted 3-0 to urge county planning commissioners to reject Buckeye Development's request for a private wastewater treatment plant for a portion of the old Silver Fancy Farm.

Buckeye proposed the treatment plant in conjunction with its pending purchase and development of 65 acres of the old Silver Fancy Farm.

A hundred single-family homes could be built on the property if Buckeye can acquire county approval for the plant. Because Emmitsburg has not annexed the property, the developer cannot use the town's wastewater treatment plant.

Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker was absent from the Dec. 6 meeting.

The county planning commission reviewed the proposal on Dec. 16. (See front page article in this issue.)

## Town maintains right to monitor growth area

Although the Silver Fancy tract in question lies outside town boundaries, and voters overturned a previously approved town annexation of the property, town administrators are also concerned about development next to the town.

Town Planner Michael Lucas, in presenting the staff viewpoint to the commissioners, stated that

## Sewer

-Continued from page 1

voters left it to the county to make the decisions about any development of the tract. In Cady's opinion, "I don't think the people of Emmitsburg understood their actions."

Silver Fancy Farm was approved for annexation into the town of Emmitsburg in Aug. 2002, but the decision was reversed by voter referendum in April 2003.

(See related story on this page, "Commissioners call for county rejection of 'Silver Fancy' proposal.")

the proposed treatment plant "lies in the (town's) designated growth boundary" and runs "contrary to the county's smart growth plan."

He said the proposed facility would be "contrary to sound infrastructure planning."

Referring to the former de-annexation battle, Lucas said, "This is not a question of annexation, but the town protecting our extended growth boundary."

He pointed out, "The pending development plan has the potential to yield a number of homes. The town would be impacted but would reap no benefit."

Town planning board President Christopher "Chris" Staiger talked about the importance of focusing on "the impact on the town's ability to plan for the future."

## Package plants alleged to have a history of failure

O'Neil commented that package sewer plants "in most cases fail even when working on their best day," and said they are generally designed to dilute wastewater to 30-40 percent before discharging the effluent into a stream.

The proposed Silver Fancy plant's discharge point would be Flat Run, which ultimately runs into Tom's Creek.

"My experience," Lucas stated, "is that frequently package plants do fail due to lack of maintenance and being unable to keep up with ever-changing environmental regulations."

Lucas says he has seen cases where towns were forced to accept a tie-in to their wastewater treatment system when nearby, privately owned systems continuously failed.

Mayor James E. Hoover suggested that the town amend its code "to prohibit connections from systems outside of the town," if the county approves Buckeye's request.

He further said, "If the system fails and it is tied-in (to the town system), we should make sure we get taps fees (and other revenues)."

## Questions about Flat Run's ability to cope

Several individuals expressed concerns with the proposed sewer plant's plans to discharge effluent into Flat Run.

Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE) President Sabrina Paxton-Daily was concerned about the effect on aquatic life in the creek.

She commented that during the past four summers, "there has been virtually no water in the creek. We will be seeing the death warrant of these creatures."

Noting that children frequently play in Flat Run, she added, "It will be like playing in the toilet."

COPE Vice President Harold C. Craig, Jr. voiced his opposition to "package plants anywhere in the county. The Wormald development affluent would go into Flat Run and this (proposed plant) would add to it."

## Commission president emphatically opposes proposal

O'Neil told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, "Frederick County government would do well to reject this proposal in its entirety and recognize the need to exercise restraint in approving residential building where county resources and municipal infrastructure are not available."

"Anything less is a recipe for disaster," he said.

"As other communities' past experience will show, completely trouble-free, maintenance-free sewage treatment systems do not exist," O'Neil stated.

He further pointed out that Buckeye Development, has had "numerous difficulties in constructing basic infrastructure and a system of swales in one part of Emmitsburg (Pembroke Woods)," and is now seeking approval to proceed with another project.

"It is reprehensible to me," O'Neil went on, "that developers, who stand to make millions of dollars from their proposed residential developments, are able to shift infrastructure and environmental costs - dirty, contaminated water - onto the public at large."

He warned prospective homebuyers who want to live beyond the municipal infrastructure, to be prepared to pay the full cost of their choice; "a cost that can escalate over time as it continues to impact the environment, Maryland's waters, and neighboring communities."

## Correction to Dec. 1 story

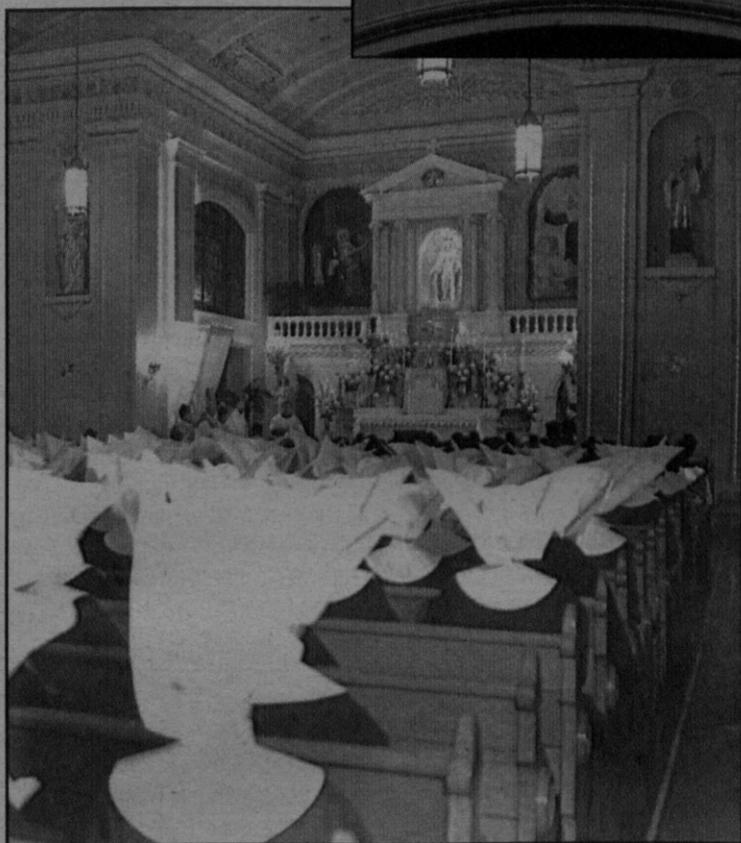
In the news story, "Silver Fancy's sewage plant up for county approval," in the Dec 1, 2004, issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, it was reported that the old Silver Fancy Farm straddled the Mason-Dixon Line.

Property owner Patrick Boyle has since told the staff that the old farm never extended over the Pennsylvania line, but was located completely in Maryland.



**Chapel Interior 2004.** In 1997, the chapel was designated the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel and in 1998 was dedicated to the memory of Chief A. Marvin Gibbons of Maryland, who had originated the idea of a fallen firefighters' memorial and was instrumental in choosing Emmitsburg for its location. A closer look at the structure reveals cracks, both cosmetic and structural. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is taking on the renovation of the historic chapel at a cost estimated to exceed one million dollars.

RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH



**Chapel Interior 1944-1963.** The Daughters of Charity at prayer during a special triduum celebration in honor of the canonization of Saint Catherine Lamoure (1806-1876) in 1947. Note the murals for the occasion above the railing in the sanctuary.

The Daughters of Charity wore this traditional blue-grey dress, with starched white collar and cornette (headdress) until September 1964. At the time of this photo, the many sisters lived at St. Joseph's Central House which was the headquarters for the Eastern Province of the Daughters of Charity (all missions east of the Mississippi, from Maine to Florida). The sisters administered and taught at St. Joseph College, St. Euphemia's School, St. Anthony School in Emmitsburg. Courtesy, Archives Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

What would you like to see more of, or different, in *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*?  
editor@emmitsburgdispatch.com or 301-447-3039

## OBITUARIES

### Charles D. Hemler, Jr.

Charles David Hemler, Jr., 71, Havre de Grace, died Nov. 25 at home.

Born Aug. 12, 1933 in Emmitsburg, he was the son of the late Charles D. Hemler, Sr. and Ella M. Hemler.

Mr. Hemler worked for 35 years at the Maryland Army National Guard in Havre de Grace. He was an active member of the American Legion, Elks and the Knights of Columbus.

Surviving are his wife Ruthe of 45 years; one brother, Joseph S. Hemler; two sons, Mark and Thomas Hemler; one daughter, Susan Hemler; four grandchildren; and one nephew and niece.

Funeral Services were held Nov. 30 at Mitchell Smith Funeral Home in Havre de Grace. Interment

with full Military Honors was held at Harford Memorial Gardens.

### Norman Titman, Sr.

Norman Titman Sr., 75, Fairfield, Pa., died Dec. 11 at home.

Born May 18, 1929 in Walkersville, he was a son of the late Clyde A. and Elsie V. Quick Titman.

Mr. Titman was retired from *The Gettysburg Times* maintenance staff, worked as a mechanic at Bostian's Garage, Woodsboro, and did maintenance at St. John's Lutheran Church, Fairfield.

Surviving are one daughter, Elaine Irene McKinney, and three sons, Norman, Jr., John, and Richard; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one brother, Elmer R. Titman; and two sisters,

## New Master Gardener class forming

Applications are being accepted for the new Frederick County Master Gardener training class which begins Feb. 1.

Master Gardeners are volunteer educators for the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. They assist county horticulture extension agents in sharing with the public the most current horticultural information from the university. As volunteer educators, they hold plant clinics at public markets, provide

classes to community groups, support a Junior Master Gardener program, demonstrate gardening techniques in the Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at the Frederick County Extension Office and other community gardens, lead therapeutic horticulture activities in nursing homes, share current gardening issues in articles, promote gardening with plant sales, and teach at special events like the Great Frederick Fair.

The 2005 training classes will meet from Feb. 1 through April 14 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 9 a.m. to noon. Total classroom time is more than 50 hours and participants are

asked to volunteer in Frederick County communities to complete the program.

The registration fee for the 2005 training course is \$200, and includes the Maryland Master Gardener Handbook and other educational materials. Class size is limited and applications will be considered in the order they are received.

Classes are held at the Maryland Cooperative Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. To learn more about the Master Gardener program, visit the Frederick County Master Gardener website, <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Frederick/MG/>.

Ruth V. May and Betty L. Titman.

Funeral services were held Dec. 14 from the Skiles Funeral Home, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Bob McKinney officiating. Interment was in Rocky Hill Cemetery, Woodsboro.

## Thurmont soldier remembered

On Dec 8, several hundred cars in the funeral procession for U.S. Army Specialist Erik W. Hayes, 24, detoured through Thurmont on their way to Hayes' final resting place in Mountain View Cemetery in Harney.

Hayes grew up in Thurmont and this was one more opportunity for him to travel through the hometown he loved. Hundreds of people attended his funeral at Evangelical Bible Church. Those who spoke, including his pastor,

Rev. Wade Sandridge, all talked about a young man who loved his country, his hometown, and his friends and his family, especially his 20-year-old brother, Bradley, severely injured two years ago in a car accident and living in a nursing facility in Hagerstown.

Hayes was killed in Iraq Nov. 29 when a bomb detonated near his military vehicle. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry of the 1st Infantry Division, based in Vilseck, Germany.

## 2005 Restricted Soil Season

The Frederick County Health Department will begin scheduling appointments for restricted soil percolation tests on Jan. 3, 2005.

Soils with a shallow underground water table are classified as restricted soils and must be tested when the underground water table is at its highest point (Feb. 1-April 15). Currently 32 soil types are classified as restricted, accounting for approximately 50% of Frederick County land area.

Evaluating soils during the restricted soil season has helped decrease septic system malfunction and groundwater contamination. Percolation and soil evaluation tests measure the permeability and

suitability of the soil for septic system installation. The rate at which the soil absorbs the water is used to size the septic system.

Application fees (\$200 per lot) must be paid and preliminary plat approval must be obtained prior to scheduling an appointment. Percolation testing begins Feb. 1, 2005, and ends April 15, 2005. Appointments for restricted soil tests must be made by 10 a.m. Feb. 28, 2005.

For further information, contact Program Supervisor Tom Mohler, Well & Septic Office, Environmental Health Department, 301-631-3160, or e-mail, [tmohler@fredco-md.net](mailto:tmohler@fredco-md.net).

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Ext 7318 for Bob

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Bob is the original owner/Chef of the Main Street Grill in Emmitsburg, The Highland Grill [Frederick Celtic club] Market Street in Frederick, and The Mount Carmel Inn B&B located in Scenic Orrtanna, PA. Bob currently runs all F& B operations for the acclaimed Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Restaurants and The Carroll Valley Four Seasons

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# MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



## SINGING THEIR WAY to the Top

By Anya Savage C'05

The Mount St. Mary's Gospel Choir will be performing a Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert, Thursday, January 20, in Knott Auditorium. Time is TBD.

The Mount St. Mary's University Gospel Choir was created in the fall of 2001 by Paulett McIntosh, director of intercultural development, who developed the idea out of her own undergraduate experiences singing in a gospel choir at State University

of New York, Stony Brook. McIntosh wanted to create a "cultural outlet as well as an opportunity to bring students of different backgrounds together." With the assistance of Father Ray Harris, Mount chaplain, and the Office of Intercultural Development, the choir obtained enough financial support to begin operating as a club.

Since its founding days, the Gospel Choir has grown in participants, much like the choir featured in the movie "Sister Act," with little initial funding and exposure. The 19 choir members are under the guidance and direction of McIntosh and Andrew Rosenfeld, associate professor of visual and performing arts. They meet Tuesday nights for rehearsal.

The choir's mission is to spread the powerful message of God and to proclaim the gospel through outreach, fellowship and songs. Music is selected and sung from both the African-American Heritage Hymnal and the Catholic Hymnal. The choir fits well with the message of a Catholic university, not only because it promotes expressing faith, but it furthers the ties between students and staff in the Mount community.

The choir performs a variety of shows throughout the year in the community and at the Mount. Two of their largest performances, the Spring Concert and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert, come during the spring semester. The rest of the academic year is consumed with practices and performances at local churches.

Freshman Sharae Parker learned about the Gospel Choir from upperclassmen friends. "I absolutely love Gospel Choir," said Parker. "It helps me clear my mind of things that are distracting, and most importantly, sing my praises to the Lord. We just had a performance a couple weeks ago at a choir member's church and it was magnificent. We sang beautifully and the audience loved it and even joined us in singing our last song! I cannot wait for our next performance, which will be our concert for the Mount. It will be amazing and spirit filled and I hope everyone will be able to attend."

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert will take place on January 20, in Knott Auditorium. The date for the Spring Concert has not yet been set, but will probably take place in April.

Senior Germain Bryant, president of the choir, enjoys leading the choir because "it gives me an opportunity to help shape the organization so that we may become true ministers of MUSIC!"

For more information please contact Paulett McIntosh in the Intercultural Development Office at 301-447-5720



Mount St. Mary's University recently announced its 2004 Presidential Scholarship Award recipients. The award recognizes their commitment to students, teaching, scholarship and campus life. Awardees receive a monetary stipend which they may use to support their professional development.

They are pictured here with Mount President, Thomas H. Powell, from left to right: Sr. Joan F. Gormley, professor, Seminary; Melissa Gladhill, human resources assistant/HRIS analyst; Carmen B. Schmersahl, professor, Rhetoric and Communications; Thomas H. Powell, president; Sabira A. Vohra, internship coordinator, Career Center and Cathy Graupner, administrative assistant, Development

## MOUNT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Transfer Orientation- Admissions**  
Wednesday, January 12, 12-3 p.m.  
Bradley Conference Room

**Classes Resume**  
Monday, January 17

**Martin Luther King Celebration Concert**  
Thursday, January 20, time is TBD  
Knott Auditorium

**Mount Hockey vs. TBA**  
Saturday, January 22, 9:10 p.m.  
Frederick Ice Rink

**Right to Life March/Mass**  
Monday, January 24, 10 a.m.  
MCI Center

**Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul Mass**  
Tuesday, January 25, 4:30 p.m.  
Immaculate Conception Chapel

**Lecture and Art Opening: Tim Vermeulen & Elizabeth Holtry**  
Thursday, January 27, 6 p.m.  
Upper Flynn Hall

**Rock the ARCC**  
Friday, January 28, 10 p.m.- 1 a.m.  
Knott ARCC

**Mount Hockey vs. TBA**  
Saturday, January 29, 9:10 p.m.  
Frederick Ice Rink

**Day in the Life Overnight- Admissions**  
Sunday, January 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
O'Hara Dining Room

**Men's Basketball Home Games**  
Visit [www.mountathletics.com](http://www.mountathletics.com) for scores, highlights and interviews with the players.

vs. Navy  
Tuesday, December 21, 7 p.m.

vs. La Salle  
Friday, December 31, 4 p.m.

vs. Robert Morris  
Wednesday, January 12, 7 p.m.

vs. Fairleigh Dickinson  
Saturday, January 15, 2 p.m.

vs. Quinnipiac  
Monday, January 17, 7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball Home Games**  
vs. Quinnipiac  
Thursday, January 13, 7 p.m.

vs. Fairleigh Dickinson  
Saturday, January 15, 7 p.m.

Questions? Call the office of communications at 301-447-5366.

## MOUNT PROFILE



*Michelle O'Donnell*  
CLASS OF 2007 PRESIDENT,  
YEARBOOK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Favorite Mount Memory**

The times I spend with my friends. I love planning events with my fellow class officers (three of my best friends) and attending various Mount events on campus.

**Hometown**

Red Lion, Pennsylvania

**Majors**

English and Secondary Education

**Post-graduation plans**

Pursue career in government, publishing or educational administration.

**Best trip you've taken**

National Young Leaders Conference 2002, Washington, D.C.

**Most Influential Person in your Life**

My family members! My mom and dad are my biggest fans when I achieve my goals.

**Advice for Seeking Personal Vocation**

I am just beginning to create a clear path on my way to achieving my career goals, and the Mount has had a dramatic impact on my understanding of personal vocation.

**Thoughts on Mount St. Mary's**

I am so blessed to be attending this university! I am looking forward to completing my undergraduate experience over the next two and a half years.

**Favorite Quote**

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." - Robert Frost

## Commissioners proclaim "James Adelsberger Day" All local and national veterans of Pearl Harbor honored

Emmitsburg town commissioners unanimously approved a motion by commissioner president Bill O'Neil to declare Dec. 7, 2004, as James Adelsberger Day at their Dec. 6 meeting.

The declaration honors the services of Emmitsburg resident Adelsberger and all American veterans of the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Adelsberger, now 83, was on guard duty at Hickam Field when the Japanese launched their attack. The assault on Pearl left 2,388 dead military personnel in its wake, along with 1,178 wounded. Among the dead were 68 civilians.

"I want to recognize a very special citizen," O'Neil announced, "one of the last surviving Emmitsburg citizens and veteran of Pearl Harbor."

O'Neil then moved for a moment of silence to "remember those (who served at Pearl Harbor) and lost their lives."

He cited the Dec. 1, 2004 article in *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* on Adelsberger's memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor as the inspiration for his request for the special recognition.

Town staff is preparing a formal proclamation to be signed by the mayor and commissioners and presented to Adelsberger.

### George W. Baker, Pearl Harbor survivor

Since the Adelsberger story, *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* has contacted another Emmitsburg area Pearl Harbor survivor, George W. Baker, 83.

Baker was initially based at Wheeler Field, but was attending aircraft and engine school at Hickam Field. Two weeks before the attack, those attending the school were assigned to guard duty at Hickam Field, where he was on post when the attack began.

"I didn't know we even had an

argument with Japan. I saw the red ball (on the sides and wings of the enemy fighters) and thought they might be Russian," he said.

On Dec. 14, one week after the assault, the military notified Baker's mother by telegram that he had been killed in action. It took until Dec. 24 for the War Department to realize they had made a mistake and to inform his mother that he had, in fact, survived the battle.

Fifty years later, in 1991, Baker and his daughter returned to Pearl Harbor.

"We went over for the 50th anniversary," Baker told *The Dispatch*. He wanted his daughter to see the memorial at Hickam and both were suddenly startled by what they found. "I was listed on the monument as killed," Baker said. "They (the National Park Service) have removed my name since."

Baker said that apparently during the chaos of the battle, someone grabbed either his jacket or shirt by mistake. The soldier was killed and since he was wearing clothes with Baker's name on them, military personnel must have assumed the dead Air Force member was Baker. This would also explain the telegram to his mother.

Baker went on to become a fighter pilot and flew sorties over New Guinea and the Philippines. He was wounded when his fighter crashed after being shot up over New Guinea and then running out of fuel.

*Editor's note: The names of Frederick County Pearl Harbor survivors recently published in The Frederick News-Post did not include James Adelsberger. Baker noted that the newspaper probably used a list provided by the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, to which not all survivors belong.*



Lt. George Baker sits in the cockpit of his P-38 in this 1944 photo.

## Vigilant Hose Elects New President

By an overwhelming vote at the company meeting Dec. 14, Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) members elected Arthur Damuth as their new president, replacing one-term president Frank Rauschenberg.

In speaking with some members of the VHC, *The Dispatch* learned that they believe Rauschenberg is definitely an asset to the company, but many were dissatisfied with the increasing length of meetings. There were also concerns that he had not

gotten the company's vote on the points of agreement with the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company regarding emergency medical services for the Emmitsburg area. Members feel this was one of the most important decision facing the company in 25 years.

Damuth has already served a number of terms as VHC president. He guided the company through a major building renovation and the purchase of their ladder truck. He will be sworn in as VHC president at the company's Jan. 8 banquet.

## Code enforcement officer to retire

Town Code Enforcement Officer Eva Miller, a life-long Emmitsburg resident, will retire Dec. 31.

Miller was hired by the town as a parking meter enforcement officer in November 1995. Since then, her duties have expanded to include code enforcement, emptying parking meters and counting the money, and covering the town office front desk as needed.

She has also put town fliers on residents' doors, directed traffic during funerals, street repairs and during water break repairs.

Patricia Feeser, town staff spokesperson, said, "Eva was always on duty. If there was a problem at the pool on weekends, they called Eva. If someone had a problem in the evening, they called Eva. It didn't matter what the problem was. If she could help, she would."

"Eva will be greatly missed and difficult to replace. She took great pride in her work and in the Town of Emmitsburg. Nothing was too difficult if it was for the betterment of the Emmitsburg community," Feeser told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

She said the town has advertised for a replacement, and staff hopes to interview applicants the week of Dec. 13.



Roland Long (L) and James Adelsberger (R), both residents of the Emmitsburg area, pose for this 1941 photograph taken at Hickam Field, Hawaii. Long went missing in action in the South Pacific and was officially declared dead Sept. 14, 1943.

# Creekside Café

**New Year's Eve Dinner  
For Two \$39.99**

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### Free town parking Dec. 20-Jan. 3

Emmitsburg will continue the tradition of waiving parking meter fees during the last two weeks of December, running from Dec. 20 through Jan. 3.

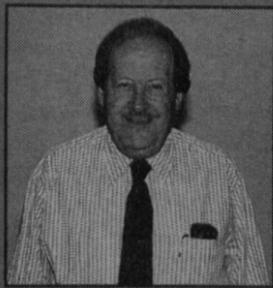
Revenue generated during December goes toward the town After School Program.

Shoppers and residents may donate to the program by continuing to put money in the meters during these weeks.

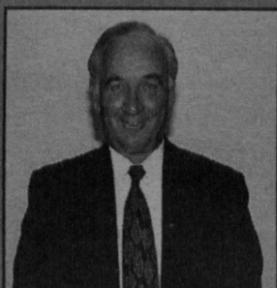
The town requests that residents not take advantage of this program by parking vehicles that would normally be parked elsewhere in the free spaces.

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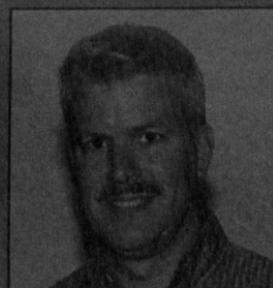
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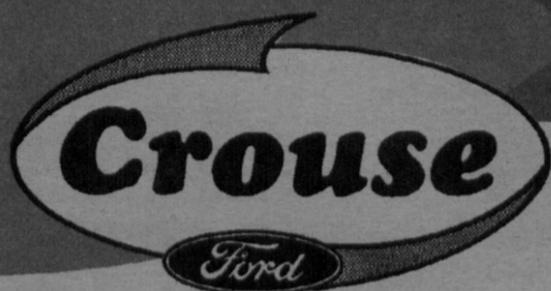
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## SPORTS

## Outside the Game

## Fighting in the Hood

A.J. Russo  
Sports Editor

The NBA issued some of the harshest penalties in its history by banning nine players for more than 140 games for fighting with fans during a melee that broke out at the end of a game against the Detroit Pistons.

Ron Artest, the ringleader, was suspended for the rest of the season, and two of his Indiana Pacers teammates, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal must miss a total of 55 games combined.

Detroit's Ben Wallace, whose shove of Artest after a foul started the brawl, drew a six-game ban, while Pacers guard Anthony Johnson received five games.

Artest's suspension, because of his checkered history, is the strongest ever levied for a fight during a game.

Then a recent homemade DVD surfaced from the streets of Baltimore showing Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony with a man who warns that people who tip police about drug deals "get a hole in their head."

The remark was apparently made in a conversation on a

street where Anthony grew up. The DVD is the latest in a series of off-the-court distractions for the Nuggets star.

He got into a bar fight in New York in September, and police arrested two men on extortion charges for allegedly trying to sell him a videotape of the fight for \$3 million.

Airport inspectors found marijuana in Anthony's backpack in October, but prosecutors dropped a drug charge after a friend said the marijuana was his and Anthony didn't know about it. The friend, James Cunningham of St. Louis, now faces a charge of possessing less than an ounce of marijuana.

"The line is drawn, and my guess is that won't happen again, certainly not by anybody who wants to be associated with our league," commissioner David Stern said shortly after the Artest debacle.

That may or may not be so, but what is the underlying cause of the NBA's recent troubles?

Chicago chose Ron Artest in the first round of the 1999 draft. He was a sophomore in college, 19 years old, thrown into the glamour of pro sports before being potty trained.

Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal, both only a year older than Artest, didn't even go to college.

Carmelo Anthony, 20, left Syracuse in 2003 to pursue an NBA career. The year before, he was hanging on the Baltimore streets with his DVD buddies.

Teenage athletes — young, immature and uneducated — are often not ready to handle the pressures of professional sports.

Fewer than 30 percent of all NBA players graduate from college ... less than one percent graduate after turning professional early.

The benefit of an education? There's no data to suggest having an education guarantees fewer on or off the court problems. However, in the NFL, 880 players have college degrees. The teams with the most college graduates in 2003 — Carolina (42), Indianapolis (37) and New England (35) were the best teams in the league and I don't remember any players from those teams jumping into the stands to retaliate against rowdy fans.

The NBA might want to consider this.

*A.J. Russo, Ph.D., is a professor at Mount St. Mary's University and the author of nine novels and more than 30 scientific papers. He is the former head coach of men's lacrosse at RIT and Mount St. Mary's and is currently head coach of Hood College's men's lacrosse team, scheduled to play its first season in 2005. His science thriller, "The Healer," his related short stories, "Dah-Link," and novel "Spliced," are all available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. His new novel, "Indiscernible Enemy," will be available in December. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of Mount St. Mary's University or Hood College.*

## Skiing at Liberty

Megan Zimmerman  
Staff Writer

In a few short weeks, Liberty Mountain Resort and Conference Center, often called "Ski Liberty," will be open for business. Skiers will soon be able to zigzag down the slopes alongside snowboarders and tubers in style.

Usually the Carroll Valley, Pa. resort opens during the first two weeks of December, but has opened in past years as early as Thanksgiving. This season it may be off to a late start as mild conditions have dampened snowmaking efforts.

Not only does the ski resort attract locals for recreation, but many are employed there as well.

"Ski Liberty is a popular place for out-of-towners," explains Anna Weimer, Ski Liberty Marketing Coordinator. "But local support is crucial to Ski Liberty's success. Ski Liberty offers 16 trails that range in difficulty. Six trails are considered easier, six are more difficult, and four are considered most difficult."

Lessons are available for all ages and ability. Group

-See **Skiing** on page 17

## A Pastime of the Past

Megan Zimmerman  
Staff Writer

When the winter months arrive, the people of Emmitsburg enjoy the snow by skiing, snowboarding and tubing.

But before the existence of Ski Liberty, Emmitsburg children passed the winter days ice skating. They looked forward to cancelled school days, when they were able to strap on their skates and glide across several area ponds.

Ice skates were originally used to help people travel across large frozen ponds in Europe. The first pair was found below a Swiss pond, dating back 3000 years before Christ. It was made from a sharpened animal bone, which was attached to the foot with leather straps. Iron skates were invented in the 13<sup>th</sup> century in the Netherlands.

By the 17<sup>th</sup> century, ice skating was popular in Europe. It spread across countries and quickly became a competitive sport. European colonists brought ice skating to North America.

Ice skating in Emmitsburg was at its peak in the 1930s and 40s. Especially among children

and teens, ice skating was a popular way to spend the cold, snowy winter days. There were more skating spots in Emmitsburg than in any other nearby town.

The best spot for skating was the pond at Tom's Creek Bridge. It was almost three times its current width, and about a quarter of a mile long — large enough that children could escape from their parents, and lovebirds could find privacy. Because of increasing agricultural needs, the pond is no longer available for skating.

Another popular skating location was Fraily's Pond. After skating, teenagers would gather in the small caves surrounding the pool. There, friends and lovers would stay until late at night.

There was also skating at a pond at Flat Run, and Old Mount Saint Mary's Pond, which was later drained for construction of a new dorm.

Although the skating days of Emmitsburg have passed, the memories remain a rich part of the town's history. To learn more about local ice skating and other Emmitsburg history, visit the Emmitsburg Area Historical Society at [www.emmitsburg.net/history](http://www.emmitsburg.net/history).

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-A.J. RUSSO / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Equipment sits idle as mild weather conditions have dampened snow making efforts at Ski Liberty.

## Skiing

-Continued from page 16

instruction begins at age four, while private training starts at three. Snowboarding lessons for groups are available for ages six and up, while private lessons begin at four.

But if skiing or snowboarding isn't your style, Boulder Ridge Snow Tubing is available. A rope

tow takes you to the top of the hill, and you can enjoy a relaxing ride down to the bottom.

"People of all ages can tube, because it requires little effort and no skill," says Weimer. For children age two to four, the Kiddie Tubing Hill is available.

Both terrain parks and a half-pipe are available for skiers and snowboarders at Ski Liberty. There are three terrain parks covering a total of ten acres,

while the half-pipe is 500 feet long. Beginning this season, terrain park instructions will be available.

Special events will be happening throughout the winter months, including a snowshoeing clinic, college nights, and late night skiing, boarding and tubing.

Check [www.skiliberty.com](http://www.skiliberty.com) for directions, opening day, and upcoming events.

## Burns Night Celebration

The second annual Emmitsburg Burns Night Supper to benefit the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center (EOPCC) will take place Jan. 28.

The dinner, to honor Scottish poet Robert Burns, will begin at 6 p.m., Jan. 28 in Joann's Ballroom, second floor of the Carriage House Inn, South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. Snow date is Jan. 30, same time, same place.

Chef John Hovde will prepare a delicious feast of Scottish culinary delights, including haggis. A piper will play traditional Scottish tunes. Guests can

read their favorite Bobby Burns poetry to the assembled revelers.

Admission is a \$50 minimum per person. The meal cost is approximately \$25 per person, but since this is a fundraiser for EOPCC, the requested fee is \$75 or more. Any dollar amount above the cost of the meal is tax-deductible.

The ballroom size requires limiting the crowd to the first 125 guests. Ticket requests plus a check payable to EOPCC can be mailed to Bill O'Toole, P.O. Box 368, Emmitsburg MD 21727. Please include a self-addressed stamped

envelope for the tickets which will be mailed on or about Jan. 10.

For more information, visit [www.burnsnite.com](http://www.burnsnite.com) or contact Bill O'Toole at 301-447-2690 (evenings), 301-447-5291 (day), or by e-mail [otoole@msmary.edu](mailto:otoole@msmary.edu).

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# Quilters

## Quilt Evolution - Part II

Mary Ellen Cummings  
Dispatch Writer

Last month I addressed the size of seams for piecing quilts, but did not mention seams for appliqué.

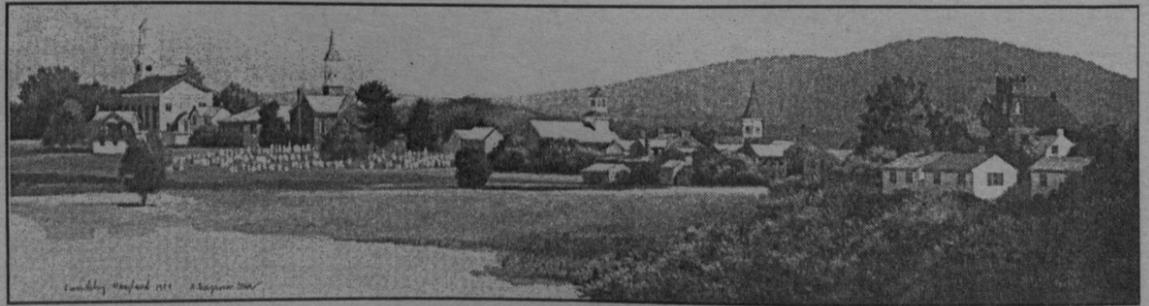
When I became interested in trying appliqué, most patterns that I found suggested pressing under one-quarter inch seams around each piece of the fabric. Using this method, of course, made a crease at the edge of the fold. I found this crease made "blind stitching" quite difficult. Therefore, I did it my way - turning under a small seam allowance with my needle as I sewed. Later I learned "my way" was called needle-turned appliqué, and was not a new method introduced by me.

Victorian era appliqué quilts, that have survived time, were blind stitched while others of the

same era had seam allowance turned under and hand stitched with a very tiny running stitch. During the 1930s, the edges of each appliqué piece were turned under and sewed with dark color embroidery thread in a running stitch approximately one-eighth inch long. Others were stitched down, using embroidery thread and the blanket or buttonhole stitch.

I wish I had a dollar for every time I was told, "Never, ever make a quilt-top using a sewing machine." It was like I would be committing a horrible sin if a sewing machine was used. I now know that many older quilts were stitched on the machine, but the quilt-maker was not considered a very good quilter. Unfortunately, very few of these quilts are still around today, because they were made to be used over and over again. Many washings and long-time use reduced these quilts to rags suitable for a dog's bed, or to throw over potatoes and apples to protect them from freezing. I have also seen old quilts draped over the radiators of cars and trucks to keep them from freezing - while running on the road! (It didn't always work - even after the introduction of alcohol antifreeze).

Stitching today for most quilts is really decided by the quiltmaker.



### Notecard sale to benefit library's community programming

The Friends of the Library Emmitsburg Branch are selling notecards reproduced from an original painting by artist R. Benjamin Jones. The full-color cards show Emmitsburg viewed from the hill on Irishtown Road. The original painting was sold at the 1999 fundraising gala to benefit the Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch newspaper. Jones and his wife, the former Rebecca Hays of Emmitsburg, live in Hagerstown, but are strong library supporters. Jones is also pastor of the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church. Notecard sale proceeds will support the library's community programming.

The new rule for stitching is "There is no rule." There is no one way, no one authority. However, many of the patterns available today require the use of a sewing machine. In strip piecing, fabric is cut into strips, sewed together and cut apart, then sewed together again. Hand stitching would rip apart at the first cutting of a seam.

Appliqué patterns are made by fusing the design pieces to background fabric. Then to decorate and/or make more permanent, the pattern pieces are stitched around the edges on a machine. It is also true, that most of these patterns require a modern sewing machine - or at least one

that makes a better satin stitch than mine does.

The craft of quilting in the broader view has evolved from necessity to choice; from usability to art; from quiet therapy to flamboyance. An example of flamboyant quilts would be one I saw a few years ago where the only design was a huge burning bush. Sudden shock or impact, such as ribbons of many colors floating and intertwining, is the overall view of this type quilt. Hopefully, enough "old fashioned" quilters, like the group I work with, will continue to do quilting of covers to use that will keep the craft alive for another one hundred years.

### Creative Kids Academy

The Creative Kids Academy (CKA) is a new children's program at Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church. CKA offers four programs for youth of all ages: classes in ballet, arts and crafts, drama and the Children's Praise Choir, which meets at Trinity UMC.

To enroll children in the 2005 CKA program, pick up a brochure at the church or contact Debbie Linton, CKA Program Director, 301-447-5955.

### Knights of Columbus hold poster contest

The Knights of Columbus Brute Council 1860 have announced the local winners in the Maryland State Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest."

The winners are Katie Grace Weant, grade 2; Marian Grenchik, grade 6; and Teresa Buchheit, grade 8. Their posters have been forwarded to the State Council for further judging.

The contest was open to students in grades one through eight, in public and parochial schools, religious education programs, and to home-schooled students.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

**Dec. 19 - Taneytown Community Church Open House.** 2-4 p.m. Visit Baust United Church of Christ, Grace United Church of Christ, Messiah United Methodist, St. Joseph's Catholic, Taneytown Presbyterian, and Trinity Lutheran. Everyone is welcome. Tours, seasonal music and light refreshments. Sponsored by Caring and Sharing Ministries. Map of participating churches available.

**Dec. 20 - Rocky Ridge's Second Annual Santa's Workshop.** 6-9 p.m. Old Fire Hall, Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Department. Santa arrives at 7. Fire truck rides with Santa, ornament making, door prizes, and little something for the kids to take home. Light refreshments.

**Dec. 20 - Emmitsburg Area Historical Society Open House and Christmas party.** 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center. Commemorative CDs containing the society's historical articles, with additions from 2004 and Robert Chambers' 1864 "Book of Days."

**Dec. 20 - Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center, 240-629-6300.

**Dec. 21 and 28 - Thurmont Town Meeting.** 7p.m. Town Office, 10 Frederick Rd., Thurmont.

**Dec. 22 - Social Service Outreach.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center. Medical, pharmacy, housing assistance, food stamps and more. Frederick Co. Dept. of Social Services.

**Dec. 24 - Candlelight & Carols Christmas Eve Service.** 7 p.m. Fellowship Baptist Church 110 Mt. Hope Rd. Fairfield, Pa. Information: 717-642-6767.

**Dec. 28 - Community Blood Drive.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Gettysburg Hospital Community Rooms. Sponsored by WellSpan Blood Donor Services for patients in need

at Gettysburg Hospital. Walk-in or register: 800-924-5020.

**Dec. 28 - Emmitsburg Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center, 240-629-6300.

**Jan. 4 - Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball League Meeting.** 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Ambulance Building, South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg.

**Jan 12 - Catoctin Safe & Sane planning meeting.** 7 p.m. Thurmont Pizza Hut. Parents of 2005 graduating seniors welcome.

**Jan. 9 - Winterfest: A Celebration of Living Well as We Live Longer.** 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Gettysburg Campus, Harrisburg Area Community College. Workshop for seniors. Topics include wellness, housing, legal issues and insurance/Medicare/drug benefits. Sponsored by Adams County Office for Aging, Aging Services Task Force, an affiliate of Healthy Adams County. Registration: \$5, includes all materials and lunch. Information: 717-334-9296.

**Jan. 9 - Winter outdoor sports tips.** 1:30 p.m., Visitor Center, Catoctin Mountain Park. Experienced outdoor enthusiasts and novices alike are invited to join Clyde Hicks from The Trail House to learn how to dress for winter activities, the wealth of winter sports available locally, necessary equipment and where to find it, and most importantly, the most likely places to find snow.

**Jan. 16 - Basket & Pottery Bingo.** 2 p.m. Guardian Hose Activities Building, Thurmont. The bingo will benefit the parishes of St. Anthony Shrine and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Door prizes and refreshments. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Tickets or information: 301-271-7052.

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# Spirit of Christmas

On Dec. 6 nearly 300 people gathered in front of the Emmitsburg Community Center for the annual tree lighting and then traveled to the Carriage House Inn for an evening of holiday cheer. Local choirs, vocalists, food (including 650 hot dogs), hayrides, a live nativity, and of course, Santa, were all part of the festivities. Hosted by the Hance family and the Carriage House Inn staff for 15 years, an "Evening of Christmas Spirit" continues to highlight what's special about Emmitsburg.