

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

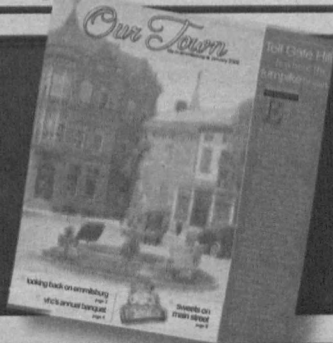
VOL VII, No. 2

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

JANUARY 17, 2008

Our Town

A new look at life in emmitsburg



-See page 7

Catoctin High School
makes a splash

Emmitsburg manager now on pay scale

BY STEPHANIE LONG
Dispatch Staff Writer
slong@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. – Though Emmitsburg Town Manager Dave Haller will continue to have a work contract with the Town of Emmitsburg, his salary will no longer be a negotiating point following a Jan. 7 decision by the Emmitsburg Town Commissioners to place the town manager's salary on the town's pay scale.

For the past several years all of the town's employees have been on the pay scale, which determines their pay based on factors such as job title and longevity at the job. Haller salary and annual increase had been based on a yearly closed-door executive performance review, which did not sit well with everyone on the board.

"I always thought it was a little unusual," said Commissioner Glenn Blanchard.

Now that Haller is on the pay scale, his pay will be increased according to the town's public pay schedule, which consists of yearly percentage increases on a 12-grade scale.

"It makes more sense," said Mayor James Hoover after the decision was made. "Let's treat them all fair and treat them all equal."

According to the scale, once a town employee reaches the 12 grade and 12 step, his or her salary is maxed out at \$80,763.82, although they can still receive cost-of-living expenses; Haller's current salary is \$73,500.



PHOTO BY JOHN NIELSEN

Going for the Gold

Local waiter on the fast track towards 2010 Olympics

see
PAGE 8
for story

Commission president concerned about top-heavy staffing

BY JAMES RADA JR.
News Editor
jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. – With the addition of a town planner to the ranks of Emmitsburg town employees, one town commissioner is concerned about the number of employees on the town payroll.

As the commissioners discussed hiring a new town planner at a recent meeting, Commission President Chris Staiger raised the question as to whether the town was overstaffed. No one could give him an answer at that time.

However, an examination of the staffing at Frederick County municipalities shows that Emmitsburg has the third highest in the county. Emmitsburg has .72 town employees per 100 residents. Brunswick and Frederick City both have .96. The county average is 0.79.

"When you look at other municipalities, you have to also ask whether they provide sewer, water and other park lands," Hoover said. "Walkersville doesn't even provide parks."

Though Walkersville has more than twice as many residents as Emmitsburg, it has two fewer employees.

Myersville and Middletown, which are the two municipalities in the county closest in size to Emmitsburg, have ratios of .33 and .42, respectively. In this case, municipalities that would be expected to offer similar services are doing it in a more-efficient manner.

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This Issue

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■ **FAIRFIELD Find out the latest about the Knights**

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■ **MAKING A DIFFERENCE The history of Hillman**

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UpCounty Center celebrates 20 years of helping people

BY JAMES RADA JR.
News Editor
jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. – Crystal Springer of Emmitsburg was a young girl with a baby on the way when she first came to UpCounty Center for help. She earned her high school diploma through the center's flex evening high school in 2002. She continued to come to the center after her son was born. He was

able to socialize and learn in the child-care center while she took parenting classes or classes to improve her job skills. In 2006, Springer took a job with UpCounty as a child development assistant and last year she purchased a new care and home.

"I probably wouldn't be very far without UpCounty," Springer said. "I'd probably still be a home with my kids, not working, not being able to afford daycare."

The UpCounty Center in Emmitsburg had 250 participants in its programs last year and saw 128 families. Thirteen students graduated either from the flex high school or GED programs at the center last year.

"We're a small center with small staff and small budget but with great outcomes," said UpCounty Director Liza Frye.

This year, UpCounty celebrates 20 years of serving

-See **UpCounty** on page 3

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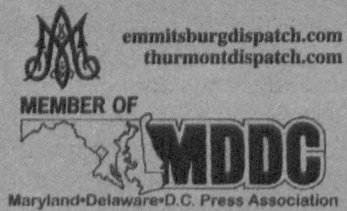
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A Word from the Mayor

Enjoy free entertainment from the Mount and Emmitsburg

I want to remind everyone that Emmitsburg residents are invited to attend the next six programs performing at Mount Saint Mary's University. The first program is a violinist duo that has earned national recognition. These two young men have been formally trained in classical music but, by adding their own style, they have created a variety of music that has impressed all types of music lovers. They have performed for Aerosmith, Stevie Nicks, Linkin Park, 50 Cents, Fat Joe, The Eagles, Lil Wayne and many more. They have also performed on the 2004 Billboard Awards. They are sure to provide you with a show like no other show you have seen or heard before. The musical hip hop group Black Violin is scheduled to perform Saturday, January 19, 2008 at 9 p.m. in the Knott Auditorium. Knott Auditorium is located on the same side of route 15 as the main campus. For additional information contact the town office or Mount Saint Mary's

Office of Campus Activities at (301) 447-7436. Residents are invited to attend all performance at no charge but are requested to bring one can good item per person.

The second program is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 7 p.m. at Knott Auditorium. Speaker Jeff Cohen will provide an inside view of Contemporary Media; War, Race and the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The new partnership "Powerful Partnership" was created between the Town of Emmitsburg and Mount Saint Mary's University to bring more culture and entertainment opportunities to the Emmitsburg community. As you see the posters around town, you will see the great variety of opportunities that we are providing. There are two programs per month (January, February and March) and you welcome to attend all of them.

Partnerships like this show what a great asset Mount Saint Mary's University can be to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The 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 for verification purposes. The Dispatch reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

A thank you to Emmitsburg

My name is Cathy Pacak, the President of Purrfect Feline Friends. We are a 501(c) cat rescue group in Hanover, Pa. Recently, Emmitsburg Veterinary Hospital held a donation drive called "Operation Four Paws" for the animal rescue groups in the area.

burg Veterinary Hospital and the all residents of Emmitsburg who donated so many wonderful items, food, toys, bedding, etc. and money to the fund.

We are soooo grateful for all their kindness!

Cathy Pacak
Purrfect Feline Friends
Hanover, Pa.

On behalf of my organization, I would like to thank the entire staff of Emmits-

our community. I appreciate their willingness to open the campus and share these programs with the residents.

Another partnership that I have with Mount Saint Mary's is my weekly radio show; Sunday nights from 7-8 p.m. Using Mount Saint Mary's facilities, equipment and students, I've been hosting a talk radio show on 89.9 FM. for the past two years. You can also tune in to the show from the inter-

net at www.msmary.edu/wmtb. I find the radio show a great way to provide information to the community. The next show Sunday, January 20, 2008 will feature Bill Blakeslee from the Town of Thurmont and on Sunday, January 27, 2008 Beth Watson from the Thurmont Thespians will be my quest.

- James Hoover
Emmitsburg Mayor

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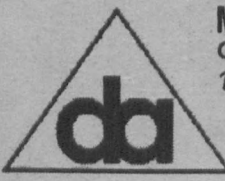


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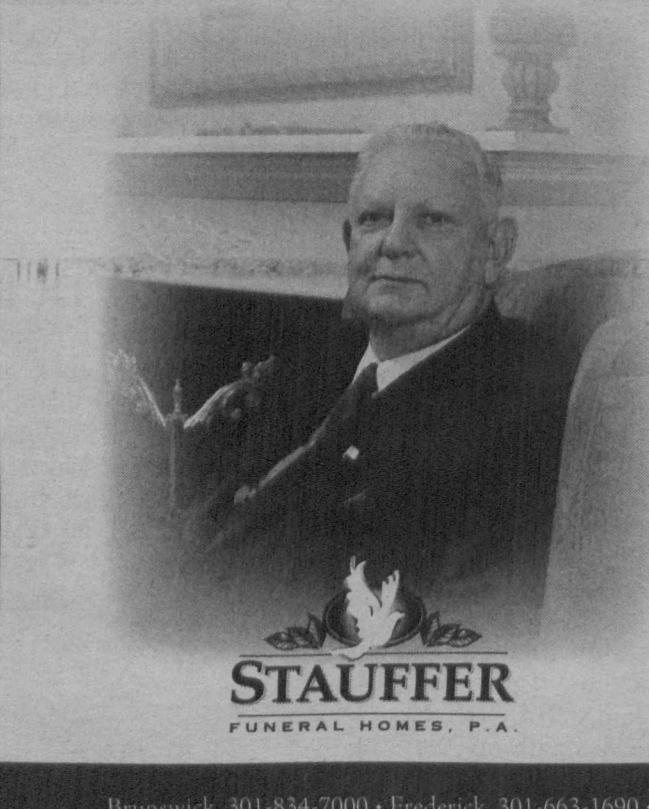


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Jim Kittinger
Age 64, plays golf (his game needs a lot of improvement)
Member of Vigilant Hose Company and the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company
Lives near Emmitsburg. Jim has been married to his wife, Polly for 44 years and has two daughters (Karen and Holly) and three grandchildren.

I was working at the local Super Thrift in Fairfield in 1966...

... when Dutch Wilson, the local funeral director asked me to go to work for him. Later, John Skiles and his father bought the funeral home in Emmitsburg and I went to work for them. In this business, you are able to help people when they really need your help. I like that. I like making a difference.

The industry has changed a lot in my 40 plus years: more government regulation, more paperwork, funerals are not as formal and we're doing more cremations. Families today are also seeing the wisdom in pre-arranging funerals. It takes the burden off the family and is very cost effective. Things have changed, for the better.

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UpCounty

-Continued from page 1

at-risk residents in northern Frederick County. The center began in 1988 in the Seton Center with a mission to serve primarily teen parents. Over the years, that mission has expanded to include just about anyone needing help. The center also has its own building next to the Emmitsburg town pool.

Even though it has been working in the area 20 years, Frye said, "There seems to be a disconnect between the community and their understanding of what we do."

Actually, it's more like what don't they do. The cen-

ter offers on-site childcare for parents using the center's services, in-home services, recreational activities, social activities, field trips, developmental screening for children, parenting programs, guest speakers from other agencies, health education, budgeting classes, food distribution, on-site meals, flexible high school, adult education classes, GED classes, computer courses, job training, job search help, support classes and more.

"And it's all free," Frye said.

However, UpCounty Center is facing challenges in order to continue. Frye told the Thurmont town commissioners during a recent meeting that the center's sponsor, Catholic

Charities, has notified the center that it will need to find a new sponsor. Though no firm date has been given, Catholic Charities will stop its support of the center.

Frye has been out in the community searching for a new sponsor or sponsors by talking to businesses, agencies and governments because she believes in UpCounty's mission and has seen its success.

"One of the reasons that we are so valuable here is that many of the services we provide aren't available anywhere else in the region," Frye said.

For more information about the UpCounty Center, visit their web site at www.emmitsburg.net/ucc/index.htm.



- JAMES RADA JR. / THE DISPATCH

Crystal Springer encourages Carson Murdorf, 15 months old, to beat on a drum as Carson's mother Jackie hold him in the UpCounty Center Child Care Center.

Staffing

-Continued from page 1

Staiger also acknowledges that differences in municipal services will affect staffing.

"You're going to need people to keep the lights on and keep water running. My thoughts are we're not too high with those employees," Staiger said.

His concern is with how much administration the town has.

"People were told they needed development to maintain infrastructure, but over the years, what I've seen is that extra revenue has been to benefit the staff packages," Staiger said.

He said direct employee costs have risen over the years. He points, in particular, to having the town included in the state pension plan, which required back payments. Hoover also stated this as a possible increase for employee costs, but looking at budgeted numbers for fiscal years 2007 and 2008, the pension payments actually fell from \$31,200 to \$15,378.

On the other hand, direct employee costs in the general fund rose from about 30.8 percent of the \$1.5-million budget to 32.1 percent of the \$1.7-

FREDERICK COUNTY MUNICIPAL STAFFING RATIOS			
TOWN	PAID EMPLOYEES	POPULATION	EMPLOYEES/100 RESIDENTS
Burkittsville	1 pt	186	0.27
Walkersville	15	5590	0.27
Mt. Airy	*21 ft/6 pt	8703	0.28
Woodsboro	3	911	0.33
Myersville	5	1508	0.33
Middletown	12	2856	0.42
Thurmont	38	6027	0.63
Rosemont	2	308	0.65
New Market	3	463	0.65
Emmitsburg	17	2365	0.72
Average	734	93029	0.79
Brunswick	50	5230	0.96
Frederick	*488 ft/153 pt	58882	0.96

*ft: full-time
pt: part-time

Source: Maryland Municipal League, U.S. Census

million budget, an increase of nearly \$67,000.

"Now that they have more money sloshing around, they're allocating it to employees and their packages," Staiger said.

Hoover said he is preparing a survey to identify Maryland municipalities that are most-similar to Emmitsburg and compare their staffing to Emmitsburg's.

"I'm not concerned about our numbers, though," Hoover added. "We're well within rea-

son for the services provided."

As for the growing portion of the budget dedicated to employee costs, Hoover said the cost manpower, insurance and pensions continue to rise everywhere so he isn't surprised at the increase.

NOTICE

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2008 THE TOWN OF EMMITSBURG WILL BE ENFORCING ITS RECENTLY UPDATED "SIGN ORDINANCE."

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TOWN NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Plaque stolen from Elias Lutheran Church

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Frederick County Sheriff's Office is searching for a brass plaque recently stolen from Elias Lutheran Church in Emmitsburg. The plaque was attached to the front of the stone sanctuary on the outside. It measured approximately 18x24 inches and announced the title: Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church. Also on the plaque were two crosses at the top and a notation that it had been donated by the "Shuff" Family. The plaque was stolen sometime just before Christmas.

Elias Rev. Jon Greenstone

said, "Obviously, a crime such as this is not only hurtful to the congregation at Elias and the family for whom it has placed in memoriam, but in a spiritual sense, we all suffer as one person demonstrates a blatant disregard for a house of prayer and worship."

Greenstone said Deputy Sheriff John Bartlett told him that other cemeteries and churches have suffered similar losses.

Anyone with information about this crime, call Bartlett at (301) 600-1046.

- J. Rada

New Community Foundation fund supports St. Catherine's Nursing Center

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Brunswick-area resident Edgar Virts, Jr. has established, through the Community Foundation of Frederick County, a new fund to provide care for people in medical crisis. The Martha Murphy Virts Fund for St. Catherine's Nursing Center will provide complementary therapies to St. Catherine's residents experiencing the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, as well as assist people with disabilities, and those experiencing catastrophic health issues.

The fund is named for Virts late mother, Martha Murphy Virts.

"My mother was a dedicated nurse who helped many people in her lifetime. I know St. Catherine's provides excellent care to its residents and will provide excellent complementary therapies for those suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and other residents in medical need," Virts said. "My mother's legacy of helping others will continue in a way that helps a cause near and dear to my heart."

Louis Vogel, administrator and CEO of St. Catherine's Nursing Center, said that Virts' benevolence will help to further its mission of ministry. "Because of Mr. Virts and his philanthropy through the

Community Foundation, St. Catherine's will be helped in its Mission and Core Value of Reverence — offering respect and compassion for the dignity and diversity of all life."

Contributions to The Martha Murphy Virts Fund for St. Catherine's Nursing Center are accepted at any time in any amount. Checks may be made payable to The Community Foundation of Frederick County, 312 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701, with the Fund's name inserted in the check's memo line. To donate online, click here. All checks or online contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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REGIONAL

County commissioners introduce residential moratorium among growth-management initiatives

FREDERICK, Md. — Calling it a “temporary suspension of subdivisions”, the Frederick County Commissioners proposed a residential construction moratorium in the unincorporated areas of the county on Jan. 8.

The announcement was part of a package of “growth-management initiatives” the commissioners made during a press conference on Jan. 8. Besides the moratorium, other initiatives include updating the Frederick County Comprehensive Plan, strengthening the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance and addressing water resource and agricultural preservation requirements in recent state legislation.

“The growth management initiatives we have announced today may well be the most significant ac-

tions taken by this Board of County Commissioners,” said Commissioners President Jan Gardner. “We feel that the time is right to review and revise the comprehensive plan and comprehensive zoning map, as well as to implement long-lasting policies that will better direct our land use plans and regulations in the future. We invite and encourage our citizens to participate in this process with us.”

The commissioners said they want to better link residential growth in the county with the county’s ability to provide infrastructure and services to the new residents who buy the houses while at the same time preserving the rural, cultural and historic character of the county.

The proposed residential moratorium does not apply to industrial

or commercial developments, residential developments already under construction, or agricultural and resource conservation zones. The commissioners believe that the existing recorded lots in the county will be adequate to support residential growth for over three years. Current records show that there is a residential housing pipeline with about 3,000 housing units in the unincorporated areas of the county (excluding the municipalities). Approximately 43 percent of the residential housing growth in Frederick County occurs in the municipalities.

A public hearing on the moratorium will be later this month or in February.

Questions about the status of subdivision applications related to this initiative may be e-mailed to

Permitting and Development Review Division Director Gary Hessong at ghessong@fredco-md.net. For documents and links related to the initiatives, visit www.co.frederick.md.us/growthmanagement. To watch a replay of the press conference on the Internet, visit www.co.frederick.md.us/video.

- J. Rada

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Local Pennsylvania municipalities reorganize

BY STEPHANIE LONG
Dispatch Staff Writer
slong@thedispatch.us

Here are the local municipal governments as reorganized this month with new officers.

Carroll Valley Borough

John VanVolkenburgh- President
Dan Patton- Vice President
Barbara Hertz- Secretary
Neil Abrams- Council Member
Frank Buhrman- Council Member
Tammy Lytle- Council Member
Bill Reinke- Council Member
Kenneth Lundburg- Council Member

Fairfield Borough

Patricia Smith- President
Phyllis Gilbert- Vice President
Robert Fortenbaugh, Secretary/
Treasurer
Ronald Shanks- Council Member
Robert Costello- Council Member
Lloyd Geer- Council Member

Freedom Township

Matt Young- Chairman
Paul Kellett- Vice Chair
Greg Yohe- Supervisor
Kathleen Joyce Shindledecker- Secretary/Treasurer

Hamiltonban Township

Robert L. Gordon- Chairman
James E. Grinder- Vice-chairman
James E. Benner- Supervisor
Jay Edward Deardorff- Road Master
Coleen N. Reamer- Police Coordinator

Liberty Township

Peter Foscatto- Chairman
John Bostek- Vice-Chairman
LeeEsta Frishkorn- Secretary
Paul Harner- Supervisor
Carroll Smith- Council Member
Dean Thomas- Council Member

NEWS IN BRIEF

Voter registration deadline nears

FREDERICK, Md. — Frederick County residents who want to vote in Maryland’s February 12, 2008 presidential primary need to register before 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

To register to vote in Frederick County, you must be a U.S. citizen, live in Frederick County and be at least 18 years old on or before November 4, 2008.

Voter registration appli-

cations may be obtained by calling the Frederick County Board of Elections until Monday, Jan. 14. Applications are also available in county libraries, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, Frederick Community College, the County Courthouse, and all U.S. Post Offices.

Individuals may also register at the board of elections in Winchester Hall, 12 East

Church Street, Frederick, Md., on the following dates: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Jan. 22, from 8 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For more information on voter registration, call the board of elections at (301) 600-VOTE (8683), or visit www.co.frederick.md.us/elections, and click on “Registering to Vote.”

Gettysburg research facilities temporarily closes

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Beginning January 18, 2008, research access for the public to the museum collection at Gettysburg National Military Park will be suspended, National Park Service officials have announced.

“For the next six months, the collection and its one million objects will be packed and moved into the new Museum

and Visitor Center currently under construction,” said Greg Goodell, supervisor of museum services at the park. “The piece-by-piece packing, moving, and unpacking process for collections going into exhibits and collections going into storage is so time-intensive it makes it impossible to accommodate the researchers and research requests we normally serve,”

Goodell said.

The park expects that the collection will be ready to welcome researchers again in the fall of 2008.

“We regret the inconvenience this temporary closure may cause, and we will keep the public informed of our progress and when we can reopen our new research facilities to the public,” Goodell said.

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His Place, Inc. and the Kuhn family are proud to endorse the Emmitsburg Endowment Fund and encourage community participation in this fund which provides scholarships and local youth activities. Emmitsburg Endowment Fund is operated by the Community Foundation of Frederick County, Inc. For more information, contact Billy Kuhn at 301-447-2800.

EDUCATION

Catoctin FFA holding country butchering

THURMONT, Md. — On February 8, 2008 the Catoctin High School FFA Chapter, in cooperation with the Catoctin FFA Alumni Association, will hold a country butchering at Catoctin High School in the agriculture center. Sixteen hogs will be cut up and sold. A large variety of meat will be available for sale including sausage, pork chops, tenderloin, scrapple, pudding, ham,

ribs and roasts. If you would like to place an order or need more information, please call Mr. Beavan at (240) 236-8117. All orders should be placed by Jan. 29. Orders may be picked up 3 – 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8 in the agriculture shop at Catoctin High School. There will be no Saturday pick up. Extra meat will be sold on a first-come basis on Friday, Feb. 8.

Frederick Business and Professional Women's Club offers scholarship

FREDERICK, Md. — The Frederick Business and Professional Women's Club is seeking applicants for its annual scholarship awards. The scholarship will be awarded to women currently enrolled and attending a college-level course of study. Scholarship requirements include that the women must be a resident of Frederick County, must show financial need, have

professional promise, have academic achievements and personal qualifications. All applications, college level transcripts and letters of reference must be received by Feb 16, 2008.

Scholarships will be awarded for the summer and/or fall semester of 2008. Applications are available at: www.bpwfrederick.org. For more information call Cheryl (301) 712-6618

Knights of Columbus poster contest winners

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Knights of Columbus announced the local winners of the "Keeping Jesus in Christmas" contest. The first-place winners will be sent to Baltimore to compete in the next level of competition. Winners in Grades 1-3: 1st place – Carrie Reaver, 2nd place – Austin Riley, 3rd place – Bobby Laudani; Grades 4-6: 1st place – Haley Crum, 2nd place – Anna Trapani, and 3rd place – Clare Pugh.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The First Frederick County Spelling Bee is coming!

FREDERICK, Md. — Frederick County Public Libraries are sponsoring the first Frederick County Spelling Bee for children ages 9-14 and grades 4-8, who live in Frederick County or who have a FCPL library card.

Children will compete for a championship grand prize of a \$1,000 savings bond and second-place prize of a \$500 savings bond.

To compete, register for one of the elimination competitions to qualify for the Championship Frederick County Spelling Bee on Mar. 7 at the

C. Burr Artz Public Library in Frederick.

Elimination Bees will be held at the following branches:

- Emmitsburg Branch - Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.
- C. Burr Artz Public Library - Friday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.
- Urbana Regional Library - Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m.

For more information, official rules, and to register, inquire at any Frederick County Public Libraries branch or go online to www.fcpl.org/spelling.

- J. Rada

Support the Thurmont Middle School fundraiser

THURMONT, Md. — The Thurmont Middle School PTA is hosting a Wolfgang candy and flower fundraiser in the coming months. Place your orders early to get them in time

for Easter on March 23. For order forms or more information, contact, Nancy King at (301) 271-1885 or Julie DeRoner at (301) 271-3657.

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Help a child learn to read

THURMONT, Md. — You can help a child discover the joy of reading by helping him or her learn to read. The Extended Learning Opportunity Program, an after school language arts enrichment, at Thurmont Primary is looking for volunteers to help work one on one with a child reading. Volunteers are also needed to provide refreshments. No experience is necessary. Guidance will be provided to each volunteer. For more information, contact Sandra Bolinger at (301) 898-1716 or ardnaxelael@aol.com.

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I highly recommend Bollinger's Restaurant for your catering needs. Donna, Josh, Carrie and Sherry provided my family with an extraordinary level of customer service for my Mom's 60th Birthday Party. Their excellent service was greatly appreciated. Melissa Wetzel

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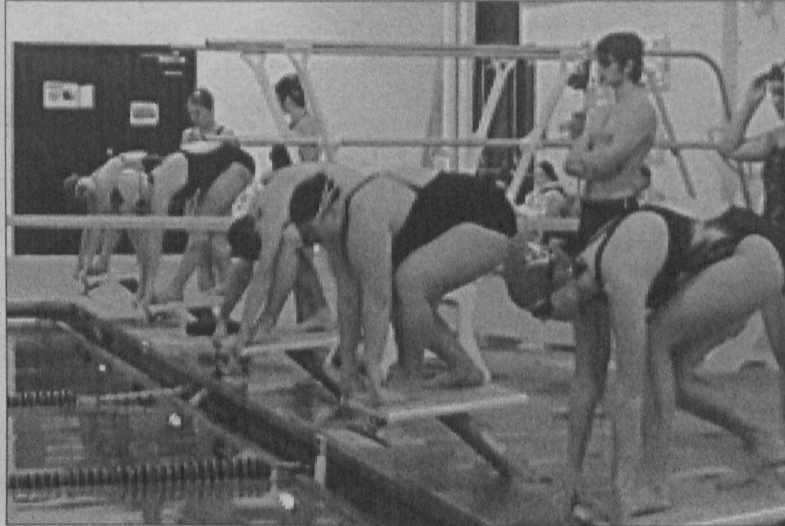
Catoctin High School makes a splash

By JEN HOSEY
Contributing Writer

THURMONT, Md. — After several students and teachers voiced interest in beginning a swim team at Catoctin High School, the idea was discussed and approved by the Frederick County Board of Education, and the team took to the water on November 15, 2007.

Coaches Rebecca Reinhard and Jen Hosey, both teachers at CHS, were initially skeptical that they would not have enough of a turnout to have a solid team. They were pleasantly surprised when 25 students came to the first day of practice. After the first weeks of practice, the team has settled into their season with a total of 18 swimmers: 5 boys and 13 girls. The Cougars practice at the Walkersville High School pool five days a week and call it their home pool when hosting meets.

The new swim team started their season off with a tri-meet against Brunswick and Middletown High Schools and walked away with one first-place, two second-place, three third-place, and four fourth-place finishes in their races. Although they did not win the meet in point standings, it was an impressive and confidence-building start for a first-year team.



- PHOTO COURTESY OF JEN HOSEY

Catoctin High School's new swim team is ready to make a splash as the newest sports team. Coaches Rebecca Reinhard and Jen Hosey coach the 18 swimmers on the team.

In their second meet, they swam against Frederick and showed further improvement claiming three first-place finishes in two individual races and a relay.

Considering only five of their swimmers had previous experience with competitive swimming, the team has done well in their first two meets. Hosey boasted about her swimmers, "Right now we are concentrating on beating our own times each meet, but

we couldn't be prouder of all the progress our swimmers are making each and every practice. We are so excited to see what the rest of the season holds for our team."

With a young team and continuing exposure to the community, the coaches and the athletic department anticipate that this year will be the start of a growing swim program at CHS and hope for an even larger numbers next season.

Fairfield winter sports off to a good start

By DRAKE A. D'ANGELO
Contributing Writer

FAIRFIELD, Pa. — As the winter sports season hits the midway point, Fairfield High School has not only accomplished some of the goals set in preseason, but it is on the way to build on this success for the second half. Fairfield has three winter sports programs including boys basketball, girls basketball and wrestling. Each of these teams has been successful and will continue to be successful to the end of the season.

The boys basketball team had been in a slump for the past two seasons going 0-48 over that period. The boys program started the season at the Nighthawk Tip-Off Tournament at Hanover High School and defeated

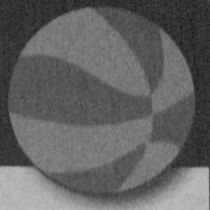
the host school, Hanover, 54 to 52 to end their slump. This big win lifted their spirits and put them on the winning track. Currently the boys basketball team has four victories (Hanover twice, Kennard Dale, and Biglerville). Seniors Chet Sanders and Josh Donaldson lead the Knights in points and we're hopeful this team will make the play-offs.

The girls basketball program has been one of the most-successful programs at Fairfield High School over the past five years. Following the guidance of first year Head Coach Andy Stoner, the Lady Knights won the Harrisburg Christian Tip-Off Tournament. The Lady Knights are lead by seniors Chelsea Harbaugh and Lauren Hummel. Chelsea is the leading scorer (averaging just over 10 points per game).

The Fairfield Knight wrestling program is in the fourth year of varsity competition. First Year Head Coach Bruce Kocsis has had the Knight wrestlers working hard to improve every day. Even though the program is young, the Knights have had some great individual success. Sophomore Dylan Ferguson qualified for the PIAA District III Tournament last season as a freshman, and is on his way again this year with a 12-2 record. Freshmen Kyle Flohr has also helped the team with a 10-4 record. Ferguson, Flohr and Senior Nathan Blinn have seen the fruits of their labor and look forward to qualifying for the district meet.

Come out to the Fairfield High School Gym to support the Knights in basketball and wrestling. For up to date schedules, directions, and scores visit www.highschoolsports.net.

LOCAL SCOREBOARD High School Sport Scores



BOYS BASKETBALL • VARSITY

Jan. 2 - Williamsport 63, Catoctin 48
Trey Thompson led the Cougars with 13 points. Matty Thompson had 12 points and 5 assists.

Jan. 4 - Smithsburg 55, Catoctin 42
Matty Thompson had 16 points for Catoctin.

BOYS BASKETBALL • JUNIOR VARSITY

Jan. 2 - Williamsport 64, Catoctin 51
Derek Szabados had 13 points for the Cougars and Kolby Maly had 12.

Jan. 4 - Catoctin 61, Smithsburg 49
Braden Myers had 14 points for the Cougars and Kolby Maly had 11.

BOYS BASKETBALL • FRESHMEN

Jan. 3 - Catoctin 70, Williamsport 17
Eric Barbour led the Cougars with 13 points.

Jan. 10 - Catoctin 45, Walkersville 43
Nick Maxey led Catoctin with 13 points and Nick Krstanovic had 12.

GIRLS BASKETBALL • VARSITY

Jan. 2 - Williamsport 52, Catoctin 44
Hannah Metheny led the Cougars with 13 points.

Jan. 4 - Smithsburg 42, Catoctin 39
Katelyn Keilholtz led Catoctin with 13 points followed by Tara Stackhouse with 10 points. Hannah Metheny had 13 rebounds for the Cougars.



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Local waiter on the fast track towards 2010 Olympics

Life on the fast track

BY STEPHANIE LONG
 Dispatch Staff Writer
 slong@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Just three years ago, T.J. Burns was waiting tables at the Ott House in Emmitsburg and coaching basketball at Mount Saint Mary's University. Little did he know then that his life was about to jump on the fast track, literally.

While coaching basketball at the Mount, Burns took a job in Gaithersburg training athletes with former Redskins coach and bobsled athlete John Philbin, who offered Burns the opportunity of a lifetime — a chance to become an Olympian.

"I was working for him for a few months working out and training and such and he thought I would be a good fit for the bobsled team," Burns said. But there was one hitch: Burns had no experience with the sport. Not that he let that stop him.

"I spent the next year training and going through tryouts and before I knew it, I was leaving Emmitsburg to travel the world," Burns said.

Today Burns lives his life on the fast (bobsled) track, living and training in Canada with his teammates, but still has found time to visit Emmitsburg. Days once spent at the Mount or the Ott House have been replaced with long days of training and endless striving to make a bobsled run faster than the last time, but Burns has not forgotten the lessons he learned in Emmitsburg.

"There are a lot of times in this sport when you need patience, not to mention when you are working at the bar," Burns said. "That and being able to multi task. There are several things going on at once when we are at the track so it is necessary

to be able to handle several things at one time."

Competitive bobsledding is not child's play, a simple ride down a hill on a sled. It's a serious sport, which takes teamwork and skill, something Burns said people find surprising.

"Everyone thinks that we just get in the sled and go for a ride each day and that is it, no big deal. I mean how hard could it be?" Burns said. "In reality, though, we are putting in 10-hour-plus days."

From the moment he wakes up to the moment he goes to sleep, all of Burns' energy is used for bobsledding.

On days when Burns and his teammates are sliding, they arrive at the track over an hour early to prep the sled and warm-up. After practice runs, the team does maintenance on the sled before grabbing a quick bite to eat and heading to the weight room or track to run sprints. Then each night the team reviews video from the day, looking for ways to improve, before heading to bed for the night.

Day in and day out, Burns and his three teammates train together, improving their push and race times, and timing. From the driver, seated in front, to the two pushers, the second and third, of which Burns is one, to the last man, the brakeman, all four team members must work together to get the sled down the track safely and quickly.

"My job is to push from the left side, load, being the third guy off the ice and then really just sit down, stay relaxed and hold on for the best ride ever," Burns said. "The only guy that controls the sled is the driver, the idea is to stay low and try not to move too much, otherwise you might disrupt the flow of the sled."

Just as a job can take its toll on anyone, so can long days of training, as they do to Burns at times.

"Bobsledding is still a job for me and I don't think

STATS



Name
 Thomas John Burns
Nickname
 TJ
Hometown
 Blue Bell, PA
Height
 6'3"
Weight
 220
Bobsled Experience:
 Was recruited in '05 by John Philbin for the national team
Activities:
 Coaching, road biking & snowboarding

PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES.COM

THE BASICS

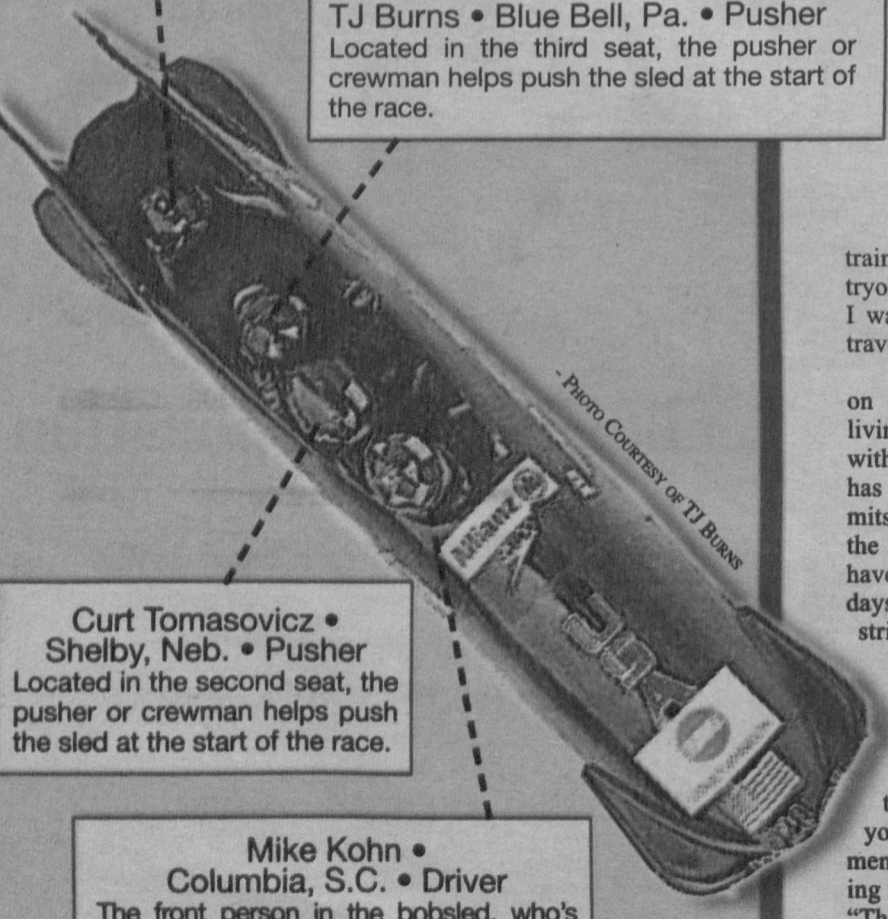
Alex Sprague • Indianapolis, Ind. • Brakeman
 In the last seat of a sled, applies the brakes when a run has ended.

TJ Burns • Blue Bell, Pa. • Pusher
 Located in the third seat, the pusher or crewman helps push the sled at the start of the race.

Curt Tomasovicz • Shelby, Neb. • Pusher
 Located in the second seat, the pusher or crewman helps push the sled at the start of the race.

Mike Kohn • Columbia, S.C. • Driver
 The front person in the bobsled, who's responsible for steering. The essential job of the driver is to maintain the straightest possible line down the course by minimizing rocking and skidding in the curves.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TJ BURNS



there is a person in the world that has wanted to at one time or another just pack it up and quit," Burns said. "Nothing is ever perfect so there have been times when I have been extremely frustrated, but all you really need to do in those times is step back from it all and take a deep breath and realize why you are doing what you are doing and for me everything turns out OK."

If that doesn't work, there's one thing Burns can do that changes everything.

"... the next time that you go down the track you forget everything and realize why you are doing this," he said.

Having already competed in numerous competitions, such as the World Cup, America's Cup, Europa Cup, Junior World Championships and the World Championships, Burns is setting his sights on the next winter Olympic Games in 2010 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. But Burns will have to beat out some stiff competition; from the 40 members on the U.S. bobsled team, only nine will be chosen for the national team and move on to compete in the Olympics. Recently Burns competed in Lake Placid, placing eighth, and has a full schedule of races ahead, which can be watched live at www.NBCOlympics.com.

"I think every kid growing up has had the dream of winning a medal. The first time you see the Olympics and start to understand what it is all about you can't help but get excited," Burns said. "Now having the opportunity to actually do it, it motivates me each day to work harder and make sure that I am prepared when the time comes."

OBITUARIES / DEATH NOTICES



Ruth J. Wivell
June 28, 1932 – January 4, 2008

Ruth Jannette Wivell, age 75, of Emmitsburg, died suddenly on Friday morning, at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pa.

Born in Brandy Station, Va., she was the daughter of the late Donald Hubert and Susan Jane (Weaver) Sherman. She was predeceased by her husband, Clarence "Corney" Wivell in 1983.

She was a member of the Saint Anthony Shrine Catholic Church in Emmitsburg, V.F.W. Post 6658 Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion Post 121 Ladies Auxiliary, Thurmont AMVETS, and the Blue Ridge Sportsmans Club. Ruth was a life long collector of cookbooks. She loved animals and she was very loving and personable. She always loved to make people smile.

Surviving are children and their spouses, Ronald D. Wiv-

ell and wife Debbie of Emmitsburg, Debbie J. Krietz and husband Paul of Emmitsburg, Sharon L. Williams and husband Marty of Fairfield, Pa., Barry C. Wivell, Patrick D. Wivell, Lori A. Hobbs, and husband Leo, all of Emmitsburg, Keith A. Wivell and wife Shelby of Maugansville, Md.; grandchildren, Melissa O'Shea, Shawn, Tony and Landis Wivell, Kurt and Trisha Lunny, Dawn Moody, Cory and Kayla Krietz, Joshua Hobbs, Ashley and Shante Wivell, Jordan, Jessica, and Jonathan Wivell. Also surviving are 11 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased in addition to her husband by a son, Dennis L. Wivell, and by brothers, Ray, Clyde, and Willard Sherman, and sisters, Elsie and Sylvia Wivell.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 from Saint Anthony Shrine, 16150 St. Anthony Road, Emmitsburg, MD with the Rev. John Lombardi celebrant. Interment followed in St. Anthony's Cemetery, Emmitsburg. The family received friends on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 from 2 - 4 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m. at the Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home, 210 W. Main St., Emmitsburg. A Christian wake service was held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Frederick County Humane Society, 5712-D Industry Lane, Frederick, MD 21704.

Madeline L. Rightnour
March 9, 1920 - January 1, 2008

Madeline L. Rightnour, formerly of Emmitsburg, Md. and Hyattsville, Md. died peacefully New Year's Day at Doctors Hospital in Sarasota, Fl. She was a resident of Sarasota for 21 years preceding her death.

She was revered by all who knew her. She was a loyal and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Madeline will be greatly missed by the circle of friends and family who loved her.

She is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, Wales E. Rightnour, and by four children. Gerald E. Rightnour of Phoenix, Arizona, Thomas W. Rightnour of Mitchellville, Md., Richard A. Rightnour of Berkeley Springs, WV, and Anne J. Kearney of Sarasota. Also remembering her with love are daughters-in-law, Susan Rightnour, Kimberly Rightnour, son-in-law Thomas Michael Kearney and six grandsons and three granddaughters.

A memorial Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Sarasota Jan. 5, at 10 a.m.

DEATH NOTICES

Helen Sanders, of Emmitsburg, died Friday, January 4, 2008. Arrangements were made by the Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home, Emmitsburg.

Mary McIntyre, of Emmitsburg, died Tuesday, January 1, 2008. Arrangements were made by Keeney and Basford Funeral Home, Frederick.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Once upon a time in 1958, Marie said to Roy "another little one is here and it's not a boy!" We jumped with jubilee called her the *Baby of the family*.

Now the years have passed, Roy and Marie are gone; but we still have the baby, and my how she's grown!

She is still our little Sisty, but oh my goodness *Elaine is now 50!*

Happy Birthday Elaine Ebaugh



Love,
Your sisters
and brothers

BIRTHS

Jen and Chris Staiger, Emmitsburg, a son, Jan. 4.

Stephanie and Donnie MacDougal, Keymar, a son, Jan. 1.



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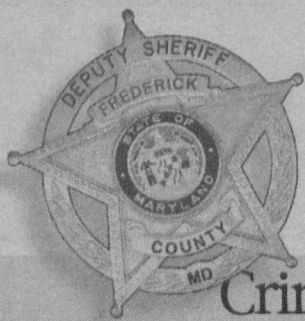
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| February 8 | Delmonico Steak
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PUBLIC SAFETY



C 10-43: For Your Information
**Community deputies
 serving Emmitsburg
 Crime Prevention revisited**

BY DFC JOHN BARTLETT
 Contributing Writer

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Several issues ago, I discussed some things that can be done to prevent burglaries. I would like to revisit some of the suggestions because there has been an increased number of burglaries and thefts in Emmitsburg the past several months. I believe many of these incidents could have been prevented if better security was in place. We all know, however, if someone is determined to steal or break into a place, it will probably happen.

Burglaries sometimes seem random, but they involve a process of some kind of selection. Burglars most likely choose a home or business that is unoccupied with access as easy as possible. They most likely look for places that have good cover, easy escape routes, older and less secured doors and windows, and little outside lighting. Thieves, when looking for something to steal, look for items left outside unsecured, cars parked in dark areas, especially unlocked cars. The best preventative measures to make burglaries and thefts harder to accomplish is to remember to lock car doors (even if you will be gone for a

short time), secure valuables (bicycles, yard decorations, etc.), and install and use quality locks on doors and windows.

We no longer live in the generation when doors and windows can be left unlocked with little fear of anything bad happening. The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program shows that there were 2,183,746 burglaries and 6,607,013 thefts in the United States in 2006. The UCR reported that the average dollar loss for burglaries was \$1,725.00. It also indicated that burglaries occur 58 percent of the time at night. Several things can be done to help prevent burglaries and thefts. Following is a list of some things www.crimedoctor.com suggests to help secure home and business.

1. Quality exterior doors and windows - Doors should be made of metal or have a solid core. Use a heavy-duty deadbolt lock with a one-inch throw bolt. Use a heavy-duty, four-screw, strike plate with 3-inch screws to penetrate the door-frame. Use a secondary locking system if a sliding glass door is in place. Use an anti-lift device to prevent the window from being lifted. Use burglary-resistant glass in accessible areas. Unbreakable polycarbonate also works well. Place

crime prevention or alarm decals on windows that at ground level. This will inform an intruder that the home or business has additional safeguards in place, and it may be just enough to cause the burglar to leave.

2. Lighting - Exterior lighting should allow 100 feet of visibility. Use light timers or photocells to turn on/off the lights. Use motion-sensor lights around the main doors, especially at the rear of the house or business. Burglars and thieves do not like their work spotlighted.

3. Alarms - Alarm systems should have an audible horn or bell. Alarms should be maintained and tested frequently.

These are just a few things that can be done to make it harder for a would-be burglar or thief. Even if these are in place, the most important thing is that they are being used. Make sure you always lock your home, business, and cars before leaving them unoccupied. Last but not least, if you would like the Sheriff's Office to come out to your home or business and complete a security survey, contact Cpl. Tom Johann at (301) 600-3909. Cpl. Johann can suggest ways to better improve the security of your home or business.

Making a Difference

Hillman gives gift of information



- PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE HILLMAN

Mike Hillman jumps Commander Scott on a course at Secena Valley Horse Trails outside of Washington. Hillman is an amateur rider who was once nationally ranked. Now he teaches teens to ride horses as one of his many services to the community.

BY CHRIS PATTERSON
 Contributing Writer

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Residents of Emmitsburg often recognize the name of Mike Hillman as the guy who tried to change the town's founding date. But they may not know that he is also the one who started and maintains Emmitsburg.net for free. Or that he teaches teens to ride horses very nearly for free.

Hillman, 51, is a nuclear engineer who moved to Emmitsburg in 1988. A respected amateur rider, once nationally ranked, he trains young riders at the home he shares with his wife, Audrey. The couple trades their considerable horse skills for a few hours of work from the students in the barn and with the horses.

Hillman gets energized just talking about the accomplishments of his students. And he gets almost as excited when he talks about his vision for Emmitsburg.net. The site gets 8,000 visitors per day, on average, which equals about 2.9 million hits per year. The most-popular items are the gardening and humor sections, and Pastor Wade's column, "Do Pets Go to Heaven," Hillman said.

But the web site is also home to links to area businesses, nonprofits, the town's government site and thousands and thousands of pages of local history. All of this information is totally free.

It was Hillman's work with the Emmitsburg Historical Society that led Mayor James Hoover to ask him to check into the town's founding date, then thought to be 1757. A celebration was being considered for 2007.

Hillman did not start out to upset Emmitsburg's proverbial apple cart, but he ultimately found documents verifying that the date was actually 1785, he said. And that is when the battle started, four years ago this month.

The discovery led to very heated town meetings and the final decision in August 2006 to remove the founding date from

all flags, documents and other publications. The only date shown would be the incorporation date of 1825, the commissioners decided.

It was a long-fought battle and one that took its toll on Hillman. But he never gave up on the town, the historical society or Emmitsburg.net. In fact, he has only expanded his vision to include more and more features, more and more pages and additional sites for other towns.

And though Hillman is expecting to retire in about four years and move away, he is already preparing someone to take over when he is gone. The site is paid up till 2015 and volunteer and Civil War historian, John Miller, will be the new webmaster, Hillman said.

Miller said Hillman is much like a father figure to him. "What he (Hillman) has accomplished with Emmitsburg.net is something that no other community web site has done before," Miller said.

He credits Hillman with creating a single-community source, one-stop internet portal for everything from Emmitsburg history, to information on local businesses and current affairs.

Hillman also helps nonprofits create and manage their own Web pages, such as the one run by the Community Foundation of Frederick County, said foundation president, Elizabeth Day.

"When the Community Foundation first wanted to develop a web site about seven years ago, Mike volunteered to take the lead in programming it and getting it off the ground....," Day told *The Dispatch*. "Mike continues to be our 'trouble-shooter,' responding to our calls for help wherever he is, and always with answers to our questions."

Hillman said he continues to work 2.5 hours a night on the site because he is not done.

"There is a whole generation of people moving to Emmitsburg who will discover Emmitsburg's history.... And I never want Emmitsburg's rich history to ever be lost again."

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Join Corporate Office Properties Trust for a
Fort Ritchie Community Update

to get information on the current development plan for *Fort Ritchie at Cascade*, which includes a mix of office, residential and retail uses.

When: Monday, February 4th from 7:30 to 9 pm

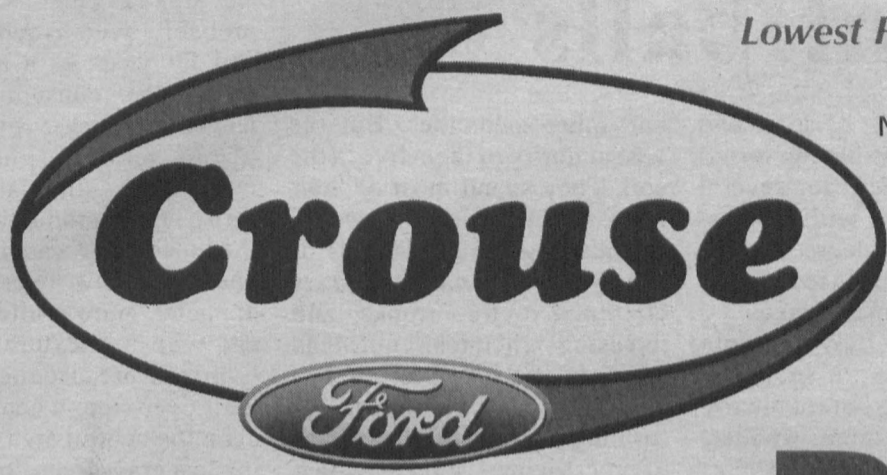
Where: Lakeside Hall at Fort Ritchie in Cascade, Maryland

Why: To provide residents in neighboring communities with a peek at what will be happening at Fort Ritchie over the next 10-15 years, including job creation, new development, a new community center, new homes, historic preservation, and leasing and business opportunities.

Questions or need directions? Call 301.241.4050 x1000

In case of inclement weather, please follow Washington County schools policy—if schools are closed, the meeting will be held on February 21; in case of delayed openings, the meeting will still be held at 7:30 that evening.





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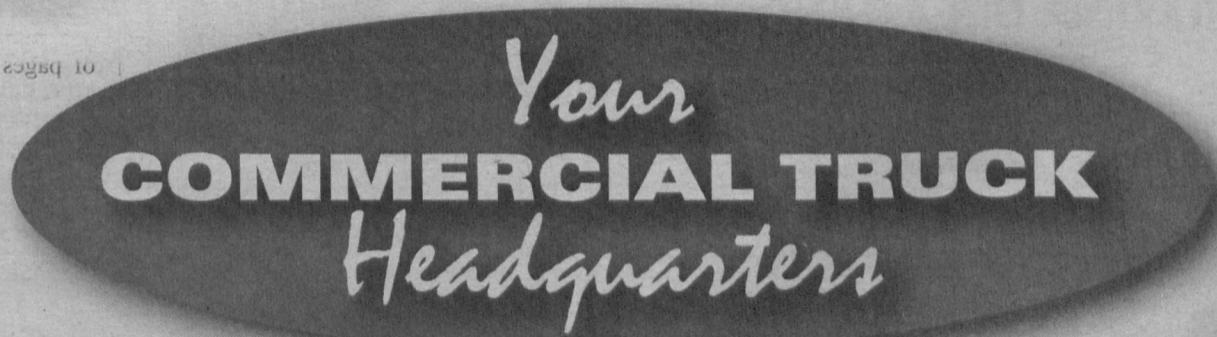
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The (retired) Ecologist

Tomato stakes and puffballs



BY BILL MEREDITH

Dispatch Columnist

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust."...
The Book of Common Prayer

No activity within the realm of human experience is more governed by tradition than gardening. From the earliest age, it was imprinted on my mind that there was a right way to plant everything; it had been handed down by generations of ancestors my grandmother had known personally and who were all somewhere up there watching to see that we did it right. So each summer we dried tomato seeds, stored them in jars in the cellar, and planted them in the spring when the moon was in the right sign. When the plants got a foot tall, they were tied to stakes with rags from old dresses or feed sacks. The stakes were made from small locust trees, and were kept and re-used for years. They were more than twice as tall as I was, and the vines would climb all the way to the top and start back down by mid-summer. And when the

tomatoes got ripe, you were supposed to take the salt shaker into the garden and eat them, unwashed, right from the vine.

Times have changed. Tomatoes now are hybrids, so you can't grow them from your own seeds, and they have been bred to have shorter vines that can be harvested by machines. But I still find pleasure in seeing a neat row of wooden stakes in the garden, so I cut my own stakes from the woods behind the house and use them year after year until they rot and break, just like all those generations did before me. It would save time, space and labor to buy new stakes at Walmart each spring and throw them away in the fall, but I can't bring myself to do it; somewhere, my grandmother may be watching.

The garden of 2007 proved to be an exercise in futility. Groundhogs ate the bean plants, squash bugs killed the zucchini, Japanese beetles attacked the beets and lettuce, and the drought finished off everything else. Even the weeds grew poorly, and as the year dragged to a close the only thing left standing in the garden was the row of tomato stakes. The new year started the way January should, cold, windy and miserable; but then, while the West Coast was bur-

ied under 11 feet of snow and the Midwest was having tornadoes, Emmitsburg got several days of sunshine with temperatures near 70 degrees. This left me with no excuse to avoid taking in the tomato stakes.

There were only a couple dozen of them, so it shouldn't have taken long, but inevitably it started my mind wandering. As I pulled up the stakes the bark began coming loose from the older ones, revealing networks of tunnels where bark beetles had been feeding. There are many kinds of these beetles, and they play an important role in nature; when trees die in forests, the beetles speed up the decomposition process so the wood will rot and return its nutrients to the soil. The odd thing about this is that although these beetles eat wood, they can't really digest it; they have no enzyme to digest cellulose. So it passes through their gut and is deposited like sawdust in the tunnel behind them as they chew their way along. This sawdust is attacked by fungi, which do have a cellulase enzyme; and the beetles then turn around and eat their way through the tunnel a second time, consuming the fungi. Looking closely at places where the wood was wet, I could see the delicate white threads, or mycelia, that make up the body of the fungus in the worm tunnels. This is the process of symbiosis that we all learned about in elementary biology.

There are thousands of kinds of fungi. Some cause plant diseases like the blossom-end rot of tomatoes; some, like yeast, produce food and alcohol; some produce antibiotics

and other medicines. But the vast majority of them live in the soil. They spend most of their lives as microscopic mycelial threads, digesting all kinds of dead plant material from grass clippings to tree trunks, and releasing chemical nutrients which keep the soil fertile. Periodically they reproduce by forming enormous quantities of microscopic spores, which are released into the air from structures like mushrooms, brackets or puffballs; thus the "ashes" of dead plants appear as clouds of dust. Their ecological importance cannot be overstated; they are the decomposers in the food chain, and without them all of the world's soils would be depleted of nutrients in a short time.

Puffballs are among the oddest of the soil fungi. I still remember the first one I ever saw; my father showed it to me when we were going to get the cows for milking one evening. It was a brown, baseball-sized lump on the ground by a dead log; he told me to kick it, and when I did it exploded into a cloud of brown smoke. I jumped on it repeatedly, and smoke kept coming out, though it clearly was not on fire. During the war when we played army games and searched for invading German soldiers in the woods, we found that puffballs made excellent hand grenades, except that you couldn't throw them very far. Luckily, the spores that comprised the "smoke" were not harmful, for we were covered with them.

One day last fall, Ruth Richards appeared at our front door holding what looked like a white basketball. It was *Calvatia gigantia*, the giant puff-

ball; she found it growing in a wet area near her house. It had probably been growing in the soil for years as a mycelium, peacefully consuming dead leaves and sticks; several days of rain following the drought must have stimulated it to form its reproductive body, the puffball. It was the biggest one I ever saw, over a foot in diameter, pure white in color and with the texture of freshly-mixed bread dough. It was a bit over-ripe; when we cut it open the central area was turning to a gray-green color where spores were starting to mature. We cut some of the white part into slices a quarter of an inch thick, and fried them in butter; they had an earthy taste, not disagreeable but not as good as commercial mushrooms. If we had got it a day earlier it might have been better.

Most of it ended up in our compost heap, but it did not go to waste; by now the whole area will be seeded with its spores. A mycologist named David Arora calculated that a puffball that size would produce 7 trillion spores (he didn't actually count them... by my reckoning, if you counted one spore per second, it would take you over 220,000 years to get to 7 trillion!). They can float in the air for miles, and they can lie around for years before they begin to grow. We are surrounded by them; you have probably inhaled several while you were reading this article. On these warm January days they are already starting to germinate in my compost heap, and the mulch they produce will enrich my flower beds next summer. And some of them also probably will find their way into the new tomato stakes I will have to cut next spring, and begin to feed the next generation of bark beetles.

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Community CALENDAR

January 17 – Open House at Frederick County Career and Technology Center for middle and high school students and parents. 7922 Opossumtown Pike, in front of FCC. 6 – 8 p.m. The Career & Technology Center provides opportunities to students by providing intensive training in 25 programs of study for both career oriented and college bound students. Get a head start on your future and save money by earning industry certifications and up to 27 college credits while still in high school. For more information call (240) 236-8500 or www.careertech.net.

January 19 – 5th Annual Emmitsburg Burns Night in JoAnn's Ballroom at the Carriage House Inn, 200 South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, Md. 6 p.m. Come celebrate the birth of the great Scottish poet and composer, Robert Burns. Proceeds go to the Building Fund of the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center, Emmitsburg. \$50 per person, \$25 is a tax-deductible donation to EOCC. Chefs John and Paul will prepare various Scottish dishes. We will have a bagpiper. For more information, contact Bill O'Toole, (301) 447-2690, (301) 471-1551, otoole@msmary.edu, or www.burnsnite.com. (Snow date January 20.)

January 19 – Crab & Shrimp Dinner at Thurmont American Legion. 5 – 8 p.m. Crab legs or Steamed shrimp, baked potato and salad. \$11. Unit 168 Thurmont, Md. to benefit V.A.

January 19 – Home Wine-making Class. Learn how to make wine at Adams County Winery from John, the Vintner. 1 - 3 p.m. Reservations required. Fee (717) 334-4631, www.adamscountywinery.com.

January 19 – "Comfort Measures Plus" at FMH Wellness Center, FSK Mall, Frederick. Natural pain management techniques. Advance registration and payment required. \$30 (240) 379-6000.

January 19 – Parzow Auctions in the e-ventplex at The Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md. (301) 977-6741. www.thegreatfrederickfair.com.

January 21 & 22 – Thurmont Thespians hold auditions for "All I

Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten- The Musical" at the St. John's Lutheran Church Social Hall at 7 p.m. Show dates, April 4 - 6 and 11- 13 at the American Legion Auditorium, Thurmont. Needed are 2-4 male actor-singers in their 30's thru 60's and 2-3 female actor-singers in their 30's to 60's. Demo copies and sheet music of the show songs are available from the director by e-mail thurmonththespian@myactv.net or call (301) 416-0864.

January 23 to 25 – Girls Softball Signups at Thurmont Middle School. 8U, 10U, 12U, 15U. 6 - 8 p.m. \$70, player's birth certificate. The Catoctin Recreation Council Frederick County Girls' Softball League. Register by February 15, 2008. For more information contact Bob Marlow (301) 271-7063 or Mike Walters (301) 271-7040.

January 25 – Basket Bingo at the Guardian Hose Company's activities building carnival grounds. 5 p.m. \$20. Proceeds to benefit Thurmont Community Medical Support fund. For tickets call (301) 271-4020 or any Thurmont Lions Club member.

January 26 – Youth Basketball Free-Throw Championship at Emmitsburg Community Center, Emmitsburg, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Local Brute' 1860 Council. 1 – 4 p.m. All boys and girls ages 10 - 14 are invited to participate in the local level competition. Winners will advance to district level competition; district winner will advance to state level competition. For more information call Roy Russell at (410) 756-2833 or e-mail rrussell@carr.org.

January 26 – Spaghetti Dinner at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Emmitsburg. 4:30 – 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children \$4 ages 6-12, under 6 free. Proceeds benefit Catoctin Pregnancy Center, 402 W. Main St., Emmitsburg. Special needs include baby food, formula, diapers, wipes. Used baby cribs and bassinets are also needed. *The shower will celebrate the birth this month of the 100 babies that were spiritually adopted last April.

January 26 – Parzow Auctions in the e-ventplex at The Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md. (301)

977-6741. www.thegreatfrederickfair.com.

January 26 & February 2 – Fairfield Baseball/Softball Registration at the snack shack meeting room on Steelman Street, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Registration is for baseball ages 5 – 12 and Pony league ages 13 – 16. Registration for softball is for ages 8 – 14. For more information contact Chuck Whitlow at (717) 642-5576.

January 26 – Wine Appreciation Class at Adams County Winery's farm winery. Wine education, wine tasting, delicious food and fun. 6 - 8 p.m. Reservations required. Admission fee. (717) 334-4631, www.adamscountywinery.com.

January 27 – Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at the new Emmitsburg Ambulance Company building 17701 Creamery Road. 1 - 4 p.m. The new building has seating for 385 people and is available for booking for events. Carriage House Catering, Classic Affairs Catering and One More Catering are the exclusive caterers for ambulance company events at the building.

January 27 – Grand Opening Celebration of Emmitsburg Ambulance Building, 17701 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg, Md. 1 – 4 p.m. Ribbon Cutting at 1 p.m., Open House and Guided Tours from 2 – 4 p.m. Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres from Carriage House Catering, Classic Affairs Catering and One More Catering. Music Provided by Classic Affairs DJ and Karaoke.

January 27 – Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Mother Seton School, 100 Creamery Road, Emmitsburg, Md. Home School Association's "all you can eat" fundraiser, 12 - 5 p.m. The menu includes plain, meatball, mild and hot Italian sausage sauces, salad bar, Italian bread, dessert and beverages. Adults \$7; children under 10 \$4; Children 2 and under, free. Carry out orders available. This event coincides with our Open House for all new and prospective families and anyone else interested in a tour and receiving information about the school.

January 28 – Red Cross Blood Drive, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 103 N. Church Street, Thurmont. 2 - 8 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. To schedule an appointment or for more information please call Terry at (301) 271-7872.

February 1 & 8 – "Where's the Instruction Manual?" Baby Care

Basics class at FMH Wellness Center, FSK Mall, Frederick. Advance registration and payment required. \$65 (240) 379-6000.

February 1 - 15 – Wolfgang Candy and Flower Fundraiser just in time for Easter. For information and order forms contact Julie (301) 271-3657 or Nancy (301) 271-1885, Thurmont Middle School PTA. Pick-up orders Friday, March 14 at TMS cafeteria 2:30 – 7 p.m.

February 2 – American Auctions in the e-ventplex at The Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md. (301) 639-8871. www.thegreatfrederickfair.com.

February 2 – "Saturday Express" Childbirth Education at Frederick Memorial Hospital, 400 W. 7th St., Frederick. \$110 per couple. For more information, call (240) 379-6000.

February 2 – CASH BASH at Our Lady of Mount Cannel Parish Center, Church Street, Thurmont. 2 p.m. Only 500 tickets will be sold. \$25. No tickets sold at the door. Ticket

includes food and refreshments. For ticket purchase or information call (301) 447-2367 or John Dowling at (301) 271-4439.

February 3 – Super Bowl Sunday. All day Bingo at Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. 17701 Creamery Rd. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., games begin at 2 p.m. \$80, Specials Paying \$100, Winner take all, \$1000 Jackpot and much more! No ticket needed. Full kitchen. For more information call Marylou at (301) 447-2073 or Diane at (301) 748-6894. Thank you for your continued support. All proceeds benefit the Ambulance Co. Handicap accessible and smoke free!

February 3 – Super Bowl Party at the Thurmont Community Ambulance Company. Watch the Super Bowl on the BIG screen at 3 p.m.; refreshments at 5 p.m. (ham, bar-b-que ribs, wings, drinks) \$25. No Tickets will be sold at the door. Ticket Deadline January 27. For information call (301) 271-2391 or (301) 748-5359. For other event information visit www.thurmontambulance.com.

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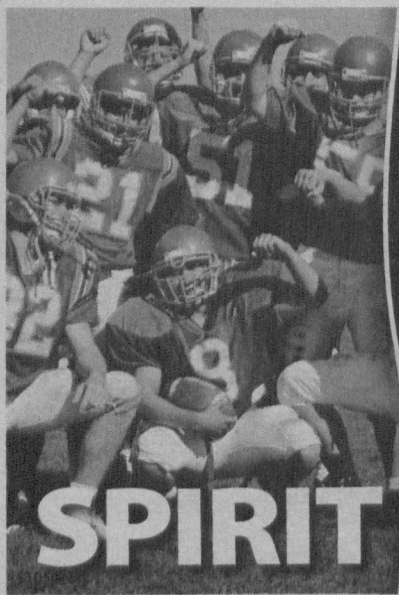
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for more information regarding our approach to classical Korean martial arts and personal protection.

Classes: children 6 years+, 6 – 7 p.m. Adults 18 years+ 7 - 8:30 p.m., at the Thurmont Elementary School, 805 East Main Street, Thurmont, Md on Mondays and Wednesday. For more information and class registration, call (301) 695-9352. All class fees are based on a monthly donation structure.



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CALENDAR

January 18 – Cirque Le Masque at the Majestic Theater. 7:30 pm. The awe and spectacle of a three-ring circus-live on stage. For ticket information (717) 337-8200, www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

January 19 – Black Violin at Mount St. Mary's Knott Auditorium, Emmitsburg. Musical Hip Hop Group. 9 p.m. For more information call (301) 447-5274 or Mayor James Hoover at (240) 629-6300.

January 20 – House Concert at Thorpewood with Cliff Eberhardt. 2 p.m. \$20. BYOB. To register call (301) 271-2823 or e-mail info@thorpewood.org.

January 23 – Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway at The Weinberg, 20 West Patrick St., Frederick, Md. 8 p.m. Give the gift of the Weinberg with tickets to 100 Years of Broadway. Award winning composer and lyricist Neil Berg brings the Great White Way to Frederick. Relive the magic and the music of South Pacific, Beauty and the Beast, Rent, The Wiz, and more. \$35, \$30, \$20. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org

January 24 – Jeff Cohen at Mount St. Mary's Knott Auditorium, Emmitsburg. Speaking on "An inside view of contemporary media: War, Race and the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr." 7 p.m. For more information call (301) 447-5274 or Mayor James Hoover at (240) 629-6300.

January 25 – PEAC Talent Show showcases thirty-five homeschooled children in this free, public performance staged by the Parents Educators of Adams County. Held at Cross Keys Village-The Brethren Home Community at 6:30 p.m. Call (717) 624-5203.

January 25 to 27 – Innkeeper's Civil War Grand Ball and Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Gettysburg Hotel. Dance class on Saturday in preparation for the dinner dance with music provided by Mu-

sic Americana. Period dress encouraged. (717) 337-1334.

January 26 – Hills of Home with Doc Watson, David Holt, and Richard Watson at The Weinberg, 20 West Patrick St. Frederick, Md. 8 p.m. Get ready for an evening of old-time mountain music and wisdom. Doc is revered as one of the world's best bluegrass and folk musicians. \$30, \$25, \$20. (301) 600-2828, www.weinbergcenter.org.

January 30 – Little Women – the Broadway Musical at the Majestic Theater. 7:30 pm. Louisa May Alcott's beloved story is a family favorite. For ticket information (717) 337-8200, www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

Through March 10 – "Forever Plaid" Four young, eager male singers, killed in a car crash in the 1950s on the way to their first big concert, are miraculously revived for the posthumous chance to fulfill their dreams and perform the show they never did. Way Off Broadway Dinner Theater, 5 Willowdale Drive, Willowtree Plaza, Frederick. Tickets (301) 662-6600, www.wayoffbroadway.com.

February 2, 3, 9, 10 – "Two Rooms" 8 p.m. Gettysburg Stage, Kefauver Center, 157 Lefever Street, Gettysburg. When an American university professor in Beirut is captured and held hostage by terrorists for three years, his wife tries to find her own ways to cope with the stress. Reservations suggested (866) 859-5192, www.gettysburgstage.org.

February 2 to 4 – "Amadeus" Jack B. Kussmaul Theatre, Frederick Community College. The classic confrontation between the mediocrity of Antonio Salieri, established composer in the court of the Austrian Emperor, and genius and child prodigy Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Fredericktowne Players. Tickets: \$6 - \$20. (240) 315-3855, www.Fredericktowneplayers.org.

February 4 – The Village Dinner Theatre of Gettysburg auditions at 241 Steinwehr Avenue, Gettysburg, Pa. 12 - 6 p.m. Auditions for new company members. (800) 570-4590 www.thevillagedinnertheatre.com.

February 3 – Common Ground on the Hill Concerts Series. 9 p.m. Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, Westminster. "Santa Cruz River Band," Southwestern folk music. 410-857-2771.

February 5 – Beausoleil Avec Michael Ducet at the Majestic Theater. 7:30 pm. Celebrate "Fat Tuesday" with Grammy-winning Cajun band. For ticket information (717) 337-8200, www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

February 6 – Family Group Decision Making at the Adams County Emergency Services Training Center is an innovative, strength-based strategy to enhance the involvement of families & Communities in caring for children, individuals and families. Free to Adams County representatives (\$10 for out of county representatives). 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lunch provided. Register by calling April Tyler at (717) 337-5837.

February 6 – Maryland Arts Day. Conference and statewide advocacy and grassroots campaign organized by Maryland Citizens for the Arts in support of state funding for the arts and for the Maryland State Arts Council. Bus leaves Frederick at 7:30 a.m. for meeting with legislators in Annapolis. Local artists, arts patrons, and other interested individuals can sign up by calling the Frederick Arts Council at (301) 662-4190.

February 7 – Nicaraguan Mural Artist. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Adams County Arts Council's arts learning center, The Imagination Station, 18 Carlisle St, Suite 201, Gettysburg. Internationally recognized Nicaraguan Primitivista mural artist Jose Ignacio Fletes Cruz will offer a painting demonstration. (717) 334-5006.

Thespians to hold auditions for "All I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten-The Musical"

THURMONT, Md. – The Thurmont Thespians will hold open auditions for all roles in their upcoming spring musical, Robert Fulghum's "All I Needed To Know I Learned In Kindergarten" on Monday and Tuesday evenings, January 21 and 22 at the St. John's Lutheran Church Social Hall from starting at 7 p.m.

The show will be performed April 4-6 and 11-13, 2008 at the American Legion Auditorium in Thurmont.

Needed are 2-4 male actor-singers in their 30s to 60s and 2-3 female actor-singers in their 30s to 60s. The musical is a series of sketches and monologues drawn

from the writings of philosopher-essayist Robert Fulghum's five published books and good storytellers are the key ingredient. The show has eight musical numbers, which can be done as solos or choral pieces, depending on the ensemble selected.

Spence Watson will direct the show. There are no set roles as the company will undertake multiple parts in the course of the play ranging from small children to very old men and women. There are 4-5 singing roles and 1-3 non-singing roles. Auditions will consist of reading monologues from the script or telling stories from other sources. Singers are encouraged to bring

a song or two with or without a CD, but can also audition with one of the songs from the show.

Demo copies and sheet music of the show songs are available from the director by e-mailing thurmonththespian@myactv.net or calling (301) 416-0864 and arranging pick-up in advance.

"All I Needed To Know I Learned In Kindergarten" is a musical journey through life from kindergarten through old age with Robert Fulghum's keen observations and wit about the meaning of a life well lived along the way. It is both funny and touching, humorous and humbling. It'll be a trip worth taking for the cast and audience.

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Activities
CRAB & SHRIMP DINNER
 January 19 at Thurmont American Legion. 5 - 8 p.m. Crab legs or Steamed shrimp, baked potato and salad. \$11. Unit 168 Thurmont, Md. to benefit V.A.

HOME WINE-MAKING CLASS
 January 19 learn how to make wine at Adams County Winery from John, the Vintner. 1 - 3 p.m. Reservations required. Fee 717-

334-4631, www.adams-countywinery.com.

GIRLS SOFTBALL SIGNUPS
 January 23 to 25 at Thurmont Middle School. 8U, 10U, 12U, 15U. 6 - 8 p.m. \$70, player's birth certificate. The Catoclin Recreation Council Frederick County Girls' Softball League. Register by February 15, 2008. For more information contact Bob Marlow 301-271-7063 or Mike Walters (301) 271-7040.

BASKET BINGO
 January 25 at the Guardian Hose Company's activities building carnival grounds. 5 p.m. \$20. Proceeds to benefit Thurmont Community Medical Support fund. For tickets call 301-271-4020 or any Thurmont Lions Club member.

SPAGHETTI DINNER
 January 26 at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Emmittsburg.

4:30 - 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children \$4 ages 6-12, under 6 free. Proceeds benefit Catoclin Pregnancy Center, 402 W. Main St., Emmittsburg. Special needs include baby food, formula, diapers, wipes. Used baby cribs and bassinets are also needed. *The shower will celebrate the birth this month of the 100 babies that were spiritually adopted last April.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
 January 28 at our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 103 N. Church Street, Thurmont. 2 - 8 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. To schedule an appointment or for more information please call Terry at 301-271-7872.

CLOTHES CLOSET
 February 4 at Thurmont United Methodist Church, Long Rd., Thurmont. Free clothing and household items for needy families. Newborn to adult. 6

p.m. First Monday of each month.

DEPRESSION AND BIPOLAR DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP
 February 7; meets the first Thursday of each month. 7 - 8:30 p.m. for more information call 301-447-2207.

CATOCTIN FFA CHAPTER COUNTRY BUTCHERING
 February 8 at Catoclin High School in the agricultural center. Sausage, pork chops, tenderloin, scrapple, pudding, ham, ribs and roasts. To order call Mr. Beaven at 240-236-8117. Orders must be placed by Jan. 29. Pick up orders in the Ag. Shop at CHS Feb. 8, 3 - 8 p.m.

13TH ANNUAL CABIN FEVER FESTIVAL
 February 9 & 10 in Historic Frederick, Md. Adults \$6, children 12 and under \$3. Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit www.cabinfeverfestival.com.

COUNTRY STYLE BREAKFAST
 February 10 all you can eat buffet at St. Joseph's Catholic Church Social Hall, 44 Frederick St., Taneytown, 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. Adults \$6, Children 7 - 10, \$3.50, 6 & under Free. Early Bird special 7

- 8 a.m. Adults \$5, Children 7 - 10 \$3. Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pan cakes, potatoes, hominy, sausage gravy, chip beef, toast, orange juice, tea and coffee. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph, Taneytown Council 11631.

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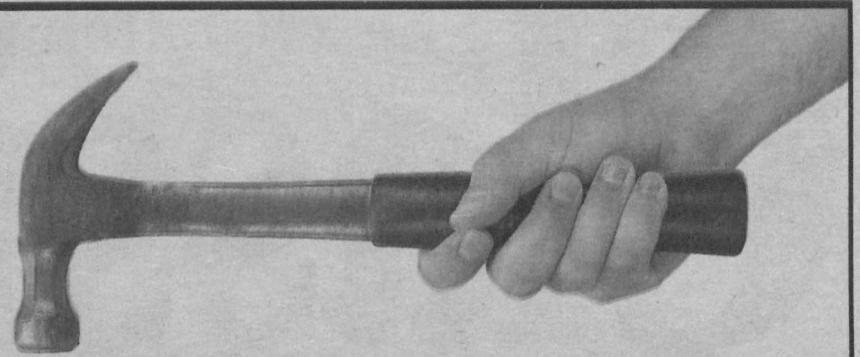
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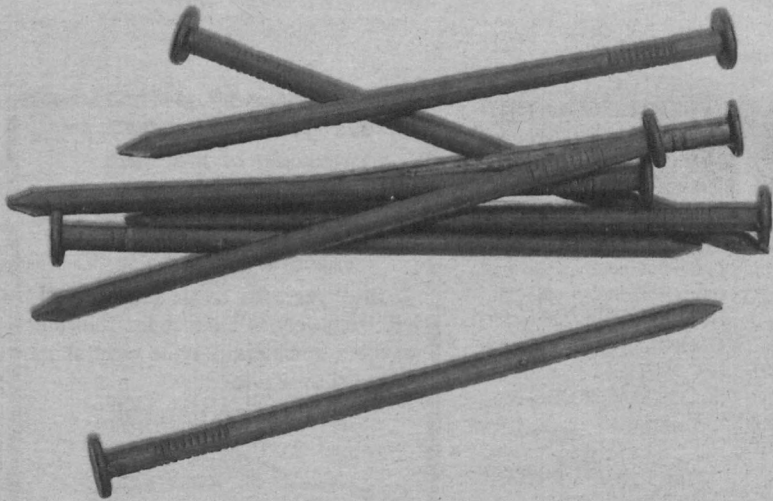
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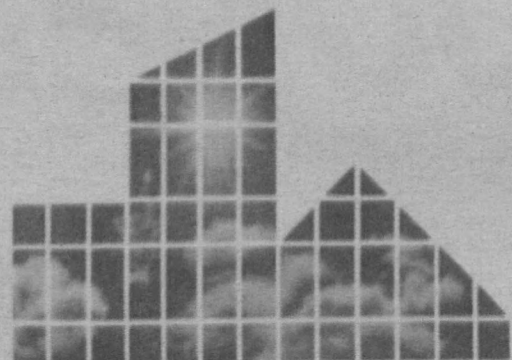


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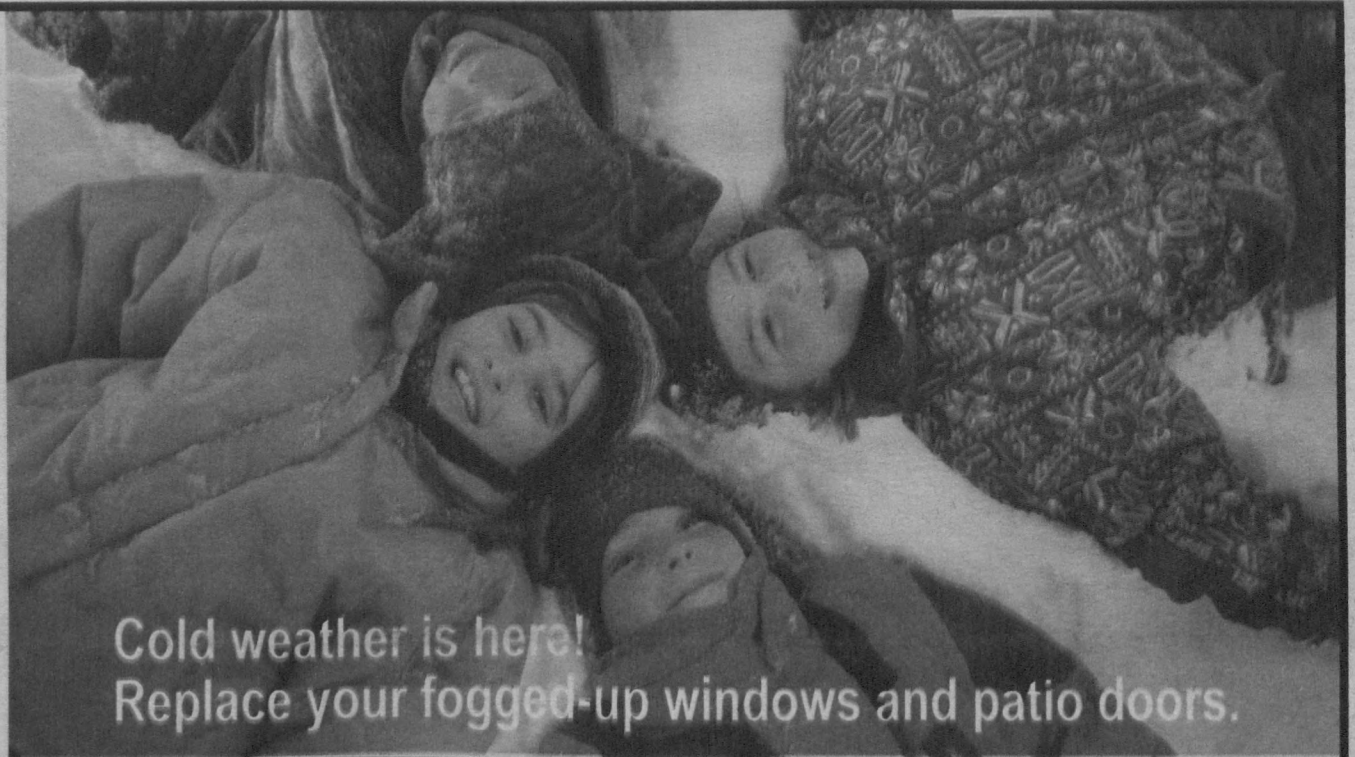
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Our Town

life in emmitsburg ■ january 2008

Toll Gate Hill is where the turnpike began

■ By Mike Hillman

Every building has a history, and every place a story, yet many remain shrouded in mystery, or worse, ignored because no one ever thinks to ask about them. For me, the first building that caught my interest was also a place - Toll Gate Hill.

When we consider the "good old days" we, of course, tend to remember with fondness. Life seemed simpler then, but that's because we didn't have to deal with roads ankle deep in mud for months during the spring or fall, or deep hard ruts that broke wheels in the summertime, or chest high snow that led to one's wagon or buggy frozen in for weeks. With rare exceptions, the maintenance of the road that went past one's home was the responsibility of the adjacent landholder.

Those rare exceptions were private turnpikes, and like today's modern turnpike, one paid a toll for using them. Turnpikes, also known as "plank roads" or "corduroys roads," were constructed by laying down planks of lumber upon which the wheels of a cart would roll. While the planks did prevent the wheels of the wagons

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■ looking back on emmitsburg

page 2

■ vhc's annual banquet

page 4

■ sweets on
main street

page 8



Our Town

life in emmitsburg

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Welcome to *The Dispatch's* newest publications, "Our Town - Life in Emmitsburg" and "Our Town - Life in Thurmont."

I grew up between Emmitsburg and Thurmont, literally. My family had a Thurmont address and an Emmitsburg phone number. Living between both towns gave me the opportunity to do things in both. I went to grade school at Mother Seton in Emmitsburg and high school at Catoctin in Thurmont. I played softball and danced in Thurmont and spent summers at the Emmitsburg town pool.

Even then I understood that as close as Thurmont and Emmitsburg are, each town had its own unique spirit - its own individual heart beat.

A few years after high school I moved to California. It wasn't until I left the area that I realized what a treasure "home" was. Now as Ray and I raise our four children here, I can't imagine living anywhere else.

As the owners of *The Dispatch* newspapers, Ray and I have solidified a primary goal of providing a real newspaper to both Emmitsburg and Thurmont, but we wanted a way to capture the unique voice and history that each town embodies, so we've created "Our Town."

The staff at *The Dispatch* is extremely talented, professional, and truly dedicated. Our writers are educated journalists with specific training and style. And the newspapers will continue to provide news - be it good, or bad - so that you will know about issues facing the community and be able to make informed decisions.

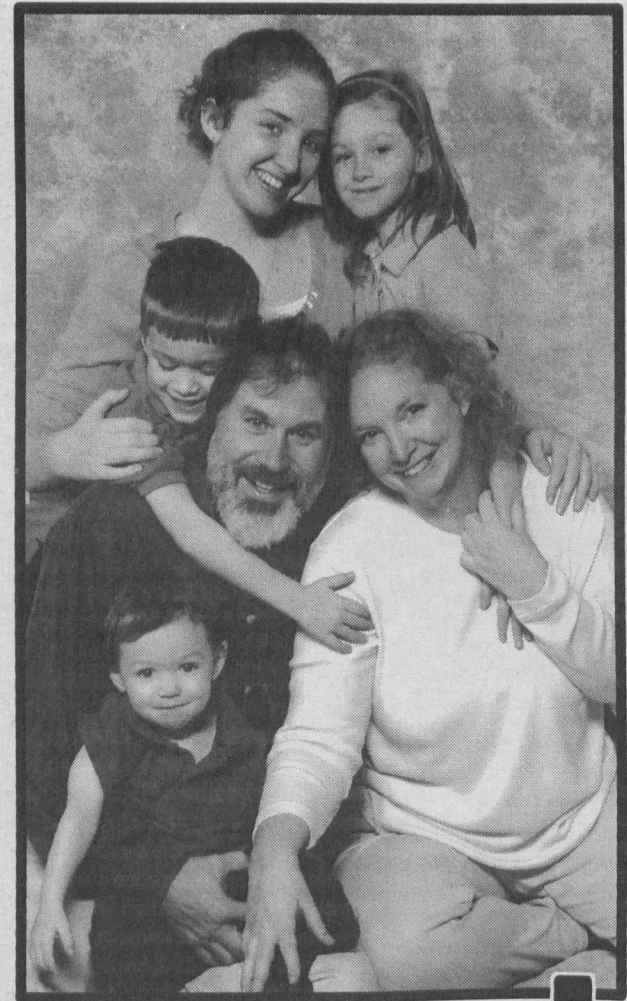
"Our Town" will give you a look into the people, places, and history of each town - a glimpse at the heart of the community, if you will.

Over the past five years we have had the great privilege of meeting so many talented and enthusiastic local writers. For a long time we've hoped to highlight these writer's work in a format unique to their style and love for their town, its people, places, and memories of times past. We think "Our Town" is just the publication to do so.

As we begin this venture, "Our Town" will be published once a month and appear as a regular insert in *The Dispatch* on the third Thursday. We are hopeful that businesses will take ownership of the publication and support it with advertising and that other writers and photographers will contribute to its content.

There is something special that brings people here - some people stay, some come and go, and some take something with them when they leave. Regardless of whether you have lived here all of your life, have moved here and now call this home, or are just passing through, please enjoy "Our Town." We do!

■ Jennifer (Brown) Buchheister



Ray and Jen Buchheister with Luke, Matthias, Rebecca, and Elizabeth.

■ Robert A. Rosensteel, Sr. / The Rosensteel Studio

Cover: Colorized Postcard - Northwest corner of Emmitsburg's square 1920. Photo courtesy of the Emmitsburg Area Historical Society.

Looking Back on Emmitsburg

This column offers a retrospective view of 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 Feb. 9, 1977.

100 years ago January 1908

RUNAWAY

On Saturday afternoon last, John Marks of Emmitsburg, while on his way to Thurmont met with an accident. When near the Standard Oil Co. tanks, one of the clips holding the spread on the wagon broke, the spread falling struck one of the horses and on the heels. The horse frightened and started to run, the other horse ran and both were soon beyond control. The spread was freed from the axle of the wagon; Mr. Marks was thrown out and the wagon somewhat de-

molished. Both horses ran through Thurmont at terrific speed and when near the end of Water street, took to the pavement and in their effort to leave the pavement one went to the right and one to the left of a telephone pole, the yoke and straps bringing them to a sudden stop, after which they made no effort to get away. The horses were not hurt, but Mr. Marks' right knee was cut and bruised severely. Dr. M.A. Birely of Thurmont dressed the wound.

PERSONALS

Dr. Jamison spent Sunday in Baltimore.

Mrs. E.L. Higbee is visiting in Lancaster, Pa.

Miss Helen Zacharias spent Monday in Baltimore.

Mr. Albert Patterson made a business trip to Baltimore.

Mrs. J.K. Byers and daughter, Ethel, and Luther Byers and Miss Carrie Bollinger, of Greenmount, spent last Thursday with Mr. S.H. Fitez.

Misses Zeppa Troxell, Alice and Clara Hockensmith, Edna and Vallie Fitez and Messrs. Roy Maxell, Edgar Stansbury, Frank Troxell and Newell Fitez, all of this place, spent last Thursday evening with Mr. George Clutz and family, of near Keysville.

Mr. W.H. Zimmerman spent Sunday with Mr. Charles Smith, of Slabtown.

One of the largest dances ever given in this section of the country was

held at the home of Mr. W.T. Sherman Sites near Fairfield. Over one hundred guests were in attendance; at times there were thirty couples on the floor at the same time.

Mr. J. Thomas Gelwicks was fifty-nine years old last Monday. Born on the 13th of January 1849 on the South Mountain, two miles South of town, near Mount St. Mary's College, Mr. Gelwicks has called Emmitsburg his home all his life. During this time he spent fourteen years in the west but always acknowledged this the home of his choice. He has been closely connected with the business life of this community ever since 1868.

50 years ago January 1958

GEORGE WILHIDE HEADS LOCAL BANK

George L. Wilhide a veteran of 36 years in the banking business, was elected president of The Farmers State Bank Tuesday at the annual election of officers and directors held in the banking institution.

Mr. Wilhide succeeds the late Millard F. Shuff as president. Mr. Shuff held this position for some 30 years. Mr. Wilhide has served with the local bank during his entire career and for the past 25 years held the position of cashier. Succeeding Mr. Wilhide as cashier and secretary to the board

of directors will be Harold L. Birely.

Elected to the vice presidency was Quinn F. Topper. Other directors re-elected were Oliver Weybright, Dr. W.R. Cadle, Dr. J. W. Houser, Clarence G. Frailey, Charles R. Fuss, and Arthur Elder. Judges of election were Charles F. Troxell and Thornton W. Rodgers.

The board voted to increase the number of directors from eight to nine and Roger I. Zurgable was elected as the ninth director. Other appointments made included Mrs. Marie C. Rosensteel as clerk and Mrs. Alice S. Shorb as book-keeper.

The local bank has shown rapid progress the past few years and now does more than \$2.5 million business annually.

Continued from page one

Toll Gate Hill

from sinking into the mud, it did nothing for the poor horses that still had to slog through the mud.

In addition to laying planks, turnpike companies also built covered bridges over streams and creeks, making their fording possible year round. It was usually at or near the bridges that the tolls were collected. And as the tolls need to be manned 24 hours a day, a toll house was usually built in which the toll keeper lived. Such was the case for the toll gate that once stood at the top of the hill on the road leading from Emmitsburg to Frederick.

The road from Emmitsburg to Frederick first started as a simple path to William Emmitt's Mill on Tom's Creek, and ended there as late as 1797. Sometimes thereafter the need for a faster route to Frederick led to the building of the Frederick turnpike (Old Frederick Road) and with it, a covered bridge over the creek.

History records the name of only one individual who held the position of toll keeper - Michael McFadden in 1880. Sadly we know next to nothing about the other men and women who held that position.

The toll for crossing the bridge with a wagon was 25 cents, 10 cents for horse and rider, and 2 cents for a person on foot. A hefty fee given that few earned more than a dollar a day at the time. Of course you didn't have to pay the toll. You could always take a side road down to a public ford and cross the creek there. But then you risked being stuck in the mud or breaking a wagon wheel on a rock in the creek.

Like tax collectors, toll

keepers were not held in the highest regard by the common man. In the 1912 novel on life in Emmitsburg - *The Contralto*, the author depicts the following exchange at the toll gate:

Nearing the toll gate he called to Bob to know if he had the change, the boy assuring him that he would fix it. Suddenly a lantern appeared, the team halting as Bob's grinning face looked out at one side of the wagon.

"Clerical dooty" he shouted; the bar swung up, the team passed through. The ladies laughed softly, while the Professor sought enlightenment.

"It's this way, Professor, you don't pay no toll when you're on clerical dooty. They know me and think I got the Rector in here."

"That isn't honest, Bob," the Professor replied severely.

"They don't keep their old roads up anyway," argued the red-haired sophist; "they wouldn't pay for it if one of my hosses broke his laig."

"You cannot convince a [Emmitsburger] that toll-gates are but evil institutions to be beaten whenever possible," explained Marion; "it's useless to argue."

When the toll gate was removed is yet to be discovered, but it was not so long ago that many old timers still refer to the hill as "Toll Gate Hill," and the brick gate keepers, the one next to the Getty Station as "Toll Gate House."

To learn more about Emmitsburg's rich history visit the Historical Society section of www.emmitsburg.net or join us at one of our monthly meetings, held the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the library.



The toll keepers house at the top of Toll Gate Hill was at one end of a 19th Century turnpike that ran from Emmitsburg to Frederick. Because the road was a toll road, it was kept up better than most roads, though the plank road certainly didn't make for a smooth ride.

Photo courtesy of the Greater Emmitsburg Area Historical Society

Wivell Family holds annual party

The descendants of Roy and Helen Wivell held their annual Christmas party at Mother Seton School on Dec. 30, 2007. Attendance was 217; the family now totals 472 people. Prayer for blessing of the food was led by Phyllis Green and Paul Wivell. The emcee welcomed everyone and gave an update for 2007. Babies born were Gavyn Lee Wivell, Logan Amos and Gracie Jean Hewitt. There were three weddings. Anniversary recognition was given to the 5, 10, 15 etc. couples and special congratulations to Tom and Mary Jo Wivell for celebrating their 50th anniversary in October and to Jim and Lorraine for their 56th anniversary in May.

No one was welcomed into our Roses-n-Thorn Club (over 60). Entertainment this year was the showing of videos taken in 1986, 1988, 1989 of the past Wivell Christmas Parties - lot of laughs.

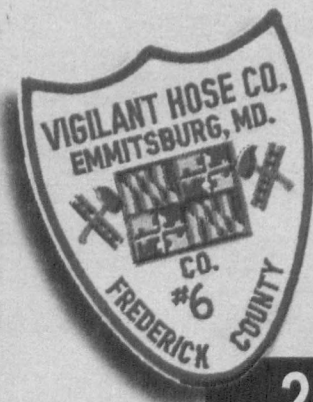
The following received door prizes: \$10-Jackie, Henry and Sue Wivell; \$5-Hallie Dawson and Randy Hoff; poinsettias-Mary A. Shields and Heather Wivell; Nativity pictures-Lori Kuhn, Walter Dillman and Amber Wilson; surprise gifts-Skylar and Ashley Wivell; fruit basket-Herbie Matthews.

The Wivell great-grandchildren portrayed the nativity scene. *Jesus*-Gracie Hewitt; *Mary*-Myllyn Oliver; *Joseph*-Ryan Blake, *Shepherds*-Kimmie

Shields and Carrie Reaver; *Kings*-Jarrett Cornbrooks, Nick Reaver and Robin Wivell; *Angels*-Jackie Oliver, Jennifer Cornbrooks, Julia Blake, Natalie Pearson and Chelsea Dawson. The crowd sang songs; compliments to Kathy Yoder for directing.

Santa did not show this year, so Arlene Putnam presented gifts to the children. In lieu of adult gifts, donations were made to Emmitsburg Food Bank, Catocin Pregnancy Center and Seton Outreach.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and the abundant buffet brought by family members. As always, the Wivell family wishes everyone a happy, healthy and most of all a holy new year.



Vigilant Hose Company Annual Banquet

124 years of service to Emmitsburg

2007 Statistics

In the first 11 months of 2007, the Vigilant Hose Company:

- Responded to 425 incidents with an average of 12 personnel.
- The first piece of equipment responded in average of 3:33 minutes.
- Arrived on scene in an average of 8:25 minutes.

Vigilant Hose Company held its annual banquet on Saturday, Jan. 5 at Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg. The 2008 officers were installed by the Maryland State Fireman's Association First Vice President Frank Underwood. The fire company was established 1884 and has served the community 124 years. The current building site was purchased in 1920 for \$4,500.

As part of the events of the evening, outgoing Ladies Auxiliary President Dot Davis presented outgoing VHC President Arthur Damuth with a check for \$30,000.



Jane Stoner (2nd from left) and Dave Stonesifer (2nd from right) were award the 2007 Member of the Year awards by outgoing fire chief Doug Ormer (left) and outgoing Vigilant Hose Company President Art Damuth (right).



The 2008 VHC Line Officers are (l to r on the front row): Chief Christopher Stahley, Deputy Chief James Click, Captain Shane Wivell, 1st Lt. Chad Umbel, 2nd Lt. Jason Powell and 3rd David Stonesifer. Not pictured is Assistant Chief Clifton Shriner. The 2008 Fire Police are (l to r on the back row): 1st Lt. Samuel Cool and 2nd Lt. Stephen Orndorf.

2007's Top Responders

1. Cliff Shriner (336 calls)
2. Jim Click (297 calls)
3. Randy Myers (259 calls)
4. John Hollinger (173 calls)
5. Charles Stuart (159 calls)
6. Kris Hagemeyer (156 calls)
7. Dave Smith (141 calls)
8. John Glass (140 calls)
9. Tony Kelly (138 calls)
10. Dav Stonesifer (132 calls)



Do you know the boys in the band?

We're looking for more information about this undated photo of the Emmitsburg Band. Do you know the date, occasion, or any of the people in this photo? Let us know by call calling (301) 447-3039 or e-mail at editor@thedispatch.us. The band was organized under a charter and, by popular subscription, money was raised to purchase the instruments and uniforms. For years afterwards, the band played at many municipal events.

My first days in Emmitsburg

By Ruth O. Richards

And the rains came and covered all the earth—No, this wasn't the flood of the Biblical Genesis, nor was it the flood of June 20, 1996. It was Labor Day weekend, 1940. Actually, it was August 31, the day I first saw Emmitsburg.

We crossed the bridge at Flat Run, water up to our hub caps, the last car over the bridge, we were told. We were hungry, and we began looking for a place to eat our first meal in Emmitsburg. Initially we were directed to Tokar's Tavern. That didn't suit us, so we went to the next recommended place, The Palms. No one suggested The Green Parrot, a "fancy place," on the corner of the VFW building. We probably couldn't have afforded it any-way, having had only \$200 when we left South Dakota on the day we were married. (One hundred dollars was a wedding gift; the other hundred we borrowed, to be paid back after John got his first check at the Mount.)

After our meal we went to our "new home," rented furnished from Mrs. Bruce Patterson in June before John came home to be married. John had said from the beginning, "Honey, it isn't very nice.

It's all I could find." He was right. It wasn't very nice. I called it a string house; one room right town was similar, but smaller. After another, from the sidewalk to the alley. No electric refrigerator, only an ice box, pretty though, painted red. No automatic furnace, only a hand stoked coal one, with a little side stove yielding a very limited amount of hot water. No vacuum cleaner to keep the floors clean, no washing machine, not even a radio to keep up with the news. I was less than pleased. Here I was, rain coming down in torrents, in a town where I didn't know a soul except the man I had been married to for a week. I wanted to go back to South Dakota.

It rained all night and into the morning. Feeling confined, and with nothing to do Sunday evening, we set out to find a theater. We didn't know about the Maryland Blue Laws prohibiting Sunday movies. We drove and drove, splashing along until we came to a bridge covered with water. We timidly crossed it, and then didn't know the way back to town. Later we decided that bridge was probably the one at Tom's Creek, at Four Points. What did we know about flooding, having come from the drought stricken Midwest?

I have a lot of memories of

our early days in Emmitsburg. The town itself was a curiosity. I had come from a small, sprawling Midwest city with lots of public facilities, parks, golf courses, swimming pools, many schools, and a big commercial center. John's home town was similar, but smaller.

The layout of Emmitsburg interested me. I could hardly believe

Here I was, rain coming down in torrents, in a town where I didn't know a soul except the man I had been married to for a week. I wanted to go back to South Dakota.

that in the vastness of America people would choose to build their houses touching one another: no side lawns, no front lawns. I was also surprised to learn that many of the shop owners lived in the same building or adjacent to their shops. I finally came to realize that Emmitsburg was a very old town compared to my home town in South Dakota, which in 1940 was only about 50 years old.

A different part of America

and a different kind of town—how would we ever get to know anyone? We soon learned that it wasn't going to be difficult. We began to have callers. First, other Mount professors and their families, then people who lived nearby called. We met people in the stores where we shopped, and by walking down and up the streets. In nice weather there were those who sat outside their houses in lawn chairs on the sidewalk, and we passed the time of day with them.

Actually, we ourselves were somewhat of a curiosity. Those we met were interested in knowing about the dust storms, a horrifying phenomenon. Our listeners were also interested in the drought, another horrifying experience that still gives me pangs of fright. And of course we had our common experience of the Great Depression. Everyone had and still has a story of those days to relate. Anecdotes and stories are a good way to get to know people.

Father Gordon had made it very clear to me that women were not welcome on the Mount Campus except on special occasions. I therefore had to find friends in town. That was not difficult. I still feel grateful to those women who helped me both in social adjustment and in other friendly ges-

tures.

I learned that Emmitsburg women played bridge, and John, who was a master player, took it upon himself to be my teacher. I was an apt pupil and soon found myself invited to bridge parties. It is hard to believe that, on an afternoon of bridge and luncheon, the women dressed in their prettiest frocks and hats and with pocket-books on their arms strolled down Main Street to eat outrageously rich desserts followed by a competitive game of bridge. I was a good player and won more prizes than I probably should have!

John's social life outside the Mount was an occasional game of bridge at home with other faculty members and a few town couples, and, on afternoons off, going to Chick Rosensteel's pool hall to shoot a game of pool. That way he got to know the male side of Emmitsburg.

As one month slid into another and we began to be a part of Emmitsburg, a year passed quickly and the war that had been lurking on the sidelines became a reality involving all walks of life. But that's another story.

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch in 1996.

Start thinking about your gardens

Join the Silver Fancy Garden Club on February 21 to learn how to make planting your gardens easier and more enjoyable this year. "Tips for Easier Gardening" will be presented at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Taneytown at 12:30 p.m. and light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Susie Heck (410) 756-1113 or Susie@infopathways.com.



Photo courtesy Mother Seton School

Mother Seton School's Class of 1958 were recognized at the Jan. 9 Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and later celebrated at a luncheon given in their honor at the school. Pictured from left to right: Tony Topper, Ann Ireland, Linda Schmidt, Donald Rohrbaugh, Gwen Topper, Sr. JoAnne Goecke (Principal), Dianna Papini, Sr. Mary Ann Bozel (teacher at MSS when the alumni attended), Mary Theresa Weedon and Genevieve Little.

Mother Seton School welcomes back the Class of '58

Fifty years ago, Mother Seton School was physically located on South Seton Avenue — where today the Emmitsburg Early Learning Center is housed. On January 9, Mother Seton School invited the Class of '58 to attend an Elizabeth Ann Seton liturgy at the National Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton Basilica and

afterwards celebrate their 50th graduation anniversary at a luncheon given at the school in their honor. For some, this was the first time to visit their alma mater at the Creamery Road location where there are now 389 students and classes for pre-kindergarten through the 8th grade.

Alumni took a school tour, saw pictures and articles

from their years at the school and shared stories and a lot of laughs. The Class of 1958 came to Mother Seton School from parish schools with many transferring in January of 1957 when the school first opened its doors.

Mother Seton School encourages alumni from all classes to send their contact information to the

Development Office at (301) 447-3165 or via the website at www.mothersetonschool.org. The school is interested in connecting with alumni for various events such as reunions and the upcoming bicentennial activities in 2010. Previous students are also asked to share their pictures, artifacts and stories with the school.

Emmitsburg Ambulance Company

January 27th

Grand Opening
Ribbon Cutting
Ceremony



The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Emmitsburg Ambulance Company building located at 7701 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg, will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on January 27. The new building has seating for 385 people and is available for booking for events. Carriage House Catering, Classic Affairs Catering and One More Catering are the exclusive caterers for ambulance company events at the building.

February 3 – Super Bowl Sunday. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for all day Bingo at the new Emmitsburg Ambulance Company located at 17701 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg. Games will begin at 2 p.m. \$80, Specials Paying \$100, Winner take all, \$1000 Jackpot and much more! No ticket needed. Full kitchen. Handicap accessible and smoke free! For more information call Marylou at (301) 447-2073 or Diane at (301) 748-6894. Thank you for your continued support. All proceeds benefit the Ambulance Company.

Small town life is about the people



Mary Jo Botham

When Jim Rada called and asked me if I would write an article or two for *The Emmitsburg Dispatch's* new publication *Our Town*, I thought about it for all of two minutes before I agreed to his request. There are so many human interest stories that I think are deserving of this publication.

My ties to Emmitsburg are very deep. My mother was born and raised here and as a child, my five sisters and myself spent many weekends visiting with

our grandparents on North Seton. Memories of my grandmother giving us a nickel each to buy candy and the store up the street, the glass cases filled with an assortment of penny candy—yes, it really was a penny then—and taking our delicious treasures back to the house to sit on the steps and decide which one of us got the most for our money.

Needless to say coming back to work for the Town of Emmitsburg after a long stretch of living in New England was quite a bit like coming home. House owners change, businesses come and go, people move, but there is nothing like the feel of small town living.

Then I ask myself, "What makes someone move from other parts to embrace small town living?" This is what I'd like to focus my articles on ... people ... the Emmitsburg residents, old memories

and new. I once heard the saying, "Those who can't remember the past are destined to repeat it." It was in a negative context, but now I am thinking that repeating the past might not be a bad idea as it relates to family life. Taking a step back, remembering a simpler time, a slower pace, might be an opening to embrace the kind of world we want to have again.

I'd like to have the opportunity to meet the people of Emmitsburg outside of the office and hear from them their stories and thoughts on growing up in small towns and also those who have moved from large cities to become a part of small town life. So if you see me walking around town, eating in one of Emmitsburg's great restaurants or see me in the town office, take a minute to tell me what you think about small town living and what your life here is like.

Indulge yourself with something sweet right on Main Street



Libby Briggs

Saturday. Oh, even better, Saturday morning. Everyone has a Saturday morning favorite ritual. At our house,

we look forward to it all week. It means we go for MOCHA COFFEE. Ostensibly it's for Grandma. She really likes it, BUT I REALLY LOVE IT! As spoiled residents of Emmitsburg, how far do we have to travel for this wonderful delight? To Main Street Sweets at 1 West Main Street! Not far at all and worth every step. Main Street Sweets is a wonderful shop shelved with ever so many temptations. Start with a mocha coffee, then step out, take the risk, how about a big cup of full-bodied Kona or any one of a favorable assortment. How about hazelnut or raspberry? And the list goes on.

Can't go to Grandma's house without taking some treats. And each week it's yet a different temptation. This week – lemon meringue in a two serving homemade pie.

In the summer Grandma goes for the fresh fruit and homemade custard tarts in their miniature pie shells. But her very favorite is a whipped delight in a formed chocolate boat. Grandma adamantly refuses to celebrate any birthday without Main Street's infamous three story, three types of chocolate cake. This cake is so good that friends

from Frederick and Potomac after tasting it now come to, you've got it – 1 West Main Street, Emmitsburg for their special events!

If you prefer your own inspiration, Main Street Sweets will decorate the cakes almost anyway you want from the Cinderella figures to the most elegant weddings and anniversary parties.

As I'm always hungry at 10 a.m. meetings, this month I ordered a box of whatever Main Street Sweets selected to box up, for a gathering of ten people – it was reasonably priced, ready when I walked in and easy to carry out. The goodies lightened up that meeting and to our surprise, the box was full of bite size brownies, rice crispy treats, éclairs, cream puffs, sugar bars, and

coffee cakes.

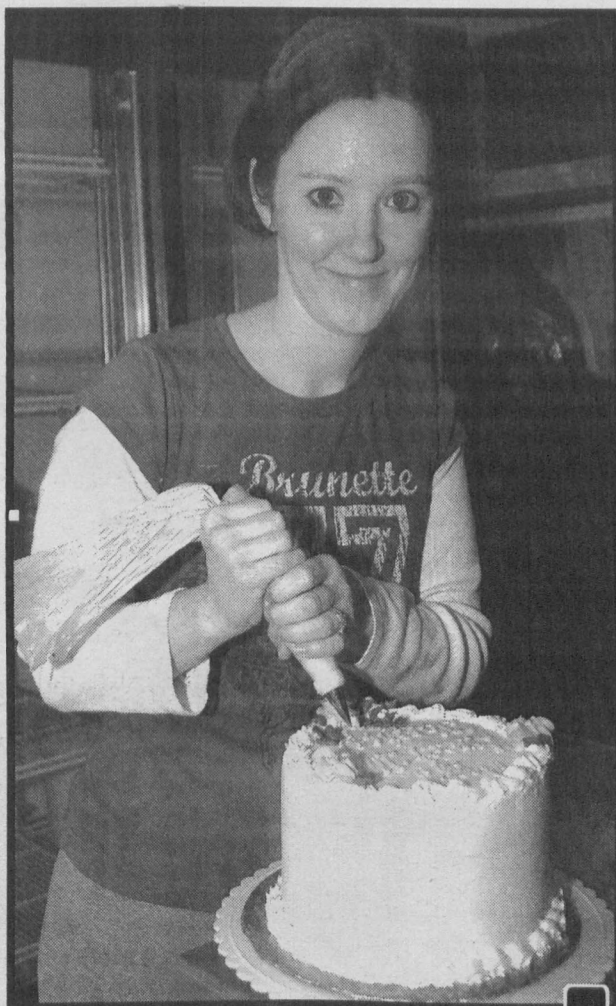
For the other "grands" in our life there is plenty to choose from. Yes, from the mouth of babes, our granddaughter was the first to remind us that "they do so have milkshakes and they are very good" so says the four year old. Along with store brewed iced tea, you can buy customized small bags of chocolates and candies. And for gift occasions there are cookie dough batches to make at home and gift bags or baskets filled with goodies.

With Valentine's Day not too far off or for any rhyme or reason, treat yourself or those to whom you want to give something special at reasonable prices – Main Street Sweets (301) 447-3955.



The shelves at Main Street Sweets are stocked with all types of sugary delights and fanciful flavors to satisfy any sweet tooth.

James Rada, Jr. / The Dispatch



Jennifer Winser completes the final touches on a "sweet 16" birthday cake.

Raymond Buchheister / The Dispatch

Jeanne Angleberger brings home the gold in the 2007 State Florida Senior Games



Jeanne Angleberger, formerly a resident of Rocky Ridge, participated in the basketball free throw competition during the Florida State Senior Games in Cape Coral last month. She gained eligibility when she won a bronze in the local competition earlier last year. She won the women's age 60-64 free throw shooting hitting 19-of-30 shots. Angleberger and her husband, Carl, reside in The Villages, an active, 55+ community in central Florida. Angleberger is pictured in the center with her medal along with the silver and bronze medal recipients.

James Rada, Jr. / The Dispatch

5th Annual Emmitsburg Burns Night

Come celebrate the birth of the great Scottish poet and composer, Robert Burns, at 6 p.m. on January 19 at the Carriage House Inn, 200 South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, Md. Proceeds go to the Building Fund of the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center, Emmitsburg. \$50 per person, \$25 is a tax-deductible donation to EOPCC. Chefs John and Paul will prepare various Scottish dishes. We will have a bagpiper. For more information, contact Bill O'Toole, (301) 447-2690, (301) 471-1551, otoole@msmary.edu, or www.burnsnite.com. (Snow date January 20.)

What is Safe and Sane?

By Sharon Hamilton

The Safe & Sane Graduation Committee is a nonprofit, tax exempt corporation established to address the very serious issues of youth drinking, drug use and driving behavior during one of the highest risk social events of their lives.

Safe and Sane is a place for our seniors to go to after graduation where they can celebrate all night in a safe and controlled environment. Parents can go home with a sane mind knowing their graduated senior isn't out on the roads and in unsafe places on a night that is statistically known as the deadliest night for young adults. We give away great prizes, good food and have many activities for the seniors to do the entire evening. But in order to do this, we need lots of help and support!!!

There are many opportunities to help, such as serving on a committee, assisting at fundraisers, working concessions, or attending our monthly meetings, just to name a few. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Catocin High School Media Center.

This is open to all parents with a junior or senior attending CHS. Help is always needed.

If you have any questions regarding Safe and Sane contact Lisa Kidd (301) 898-0963.

Upcoming Safe & Sane Activities:

Basket and Vera Bradley Bingo – Feb. 10, 2008. Doors Open 12:30, games begin at 2 p.m., \$15 advance, \$20.00 at the door. Contact Gladys (301) 447-2043 or Wanda (301) 524-3562.

Roy Rogers Night, Thurmont
Roy Rogers – Feb. 13, 2008 5-8 p.m. a percentage of the profits will go to Safe and Sane. When ordering, announce this to support CHS Safe and Sane.

March Restaurant Raffle - \$5 ticket one ticket drawn everyday in March. Contact Donna (301) 271-4212.

Dinner/Dance – March 15, 2008. Contact Donna at (301) 271-4212.

Golf Tournament- April 25, 2008 at Maple Run in Thurmont. Sponsors are needed. Contact Terry Eyler at (301) 271-1816.

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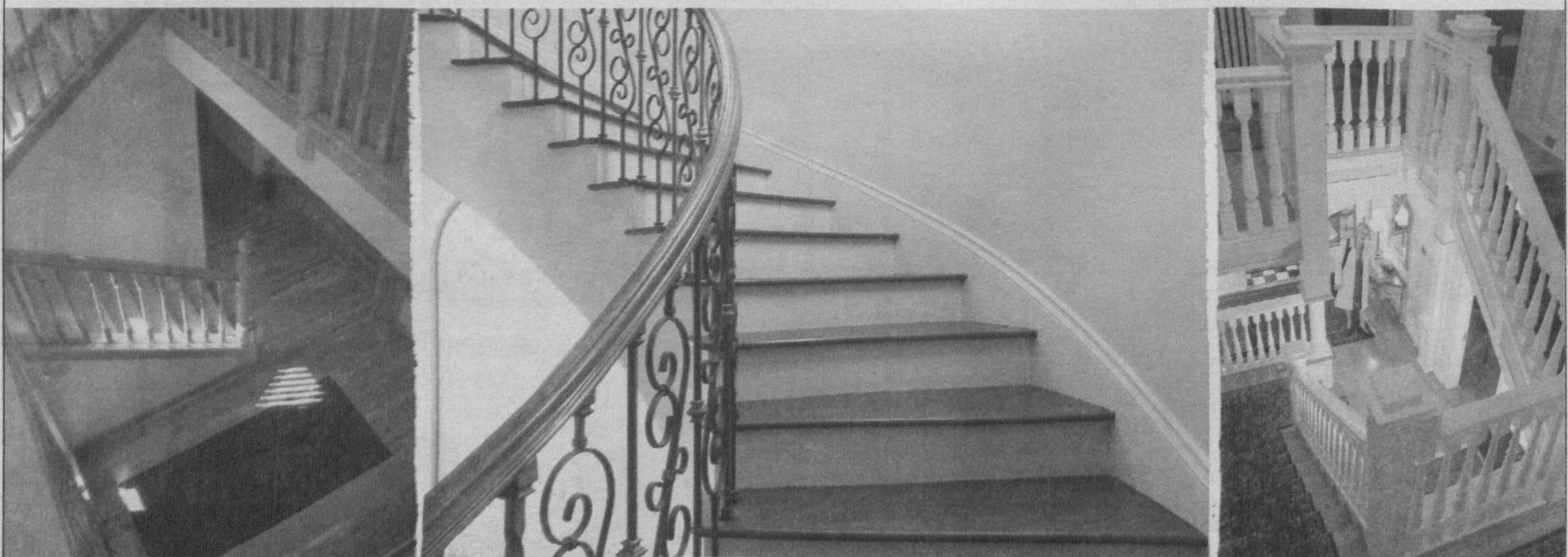
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