

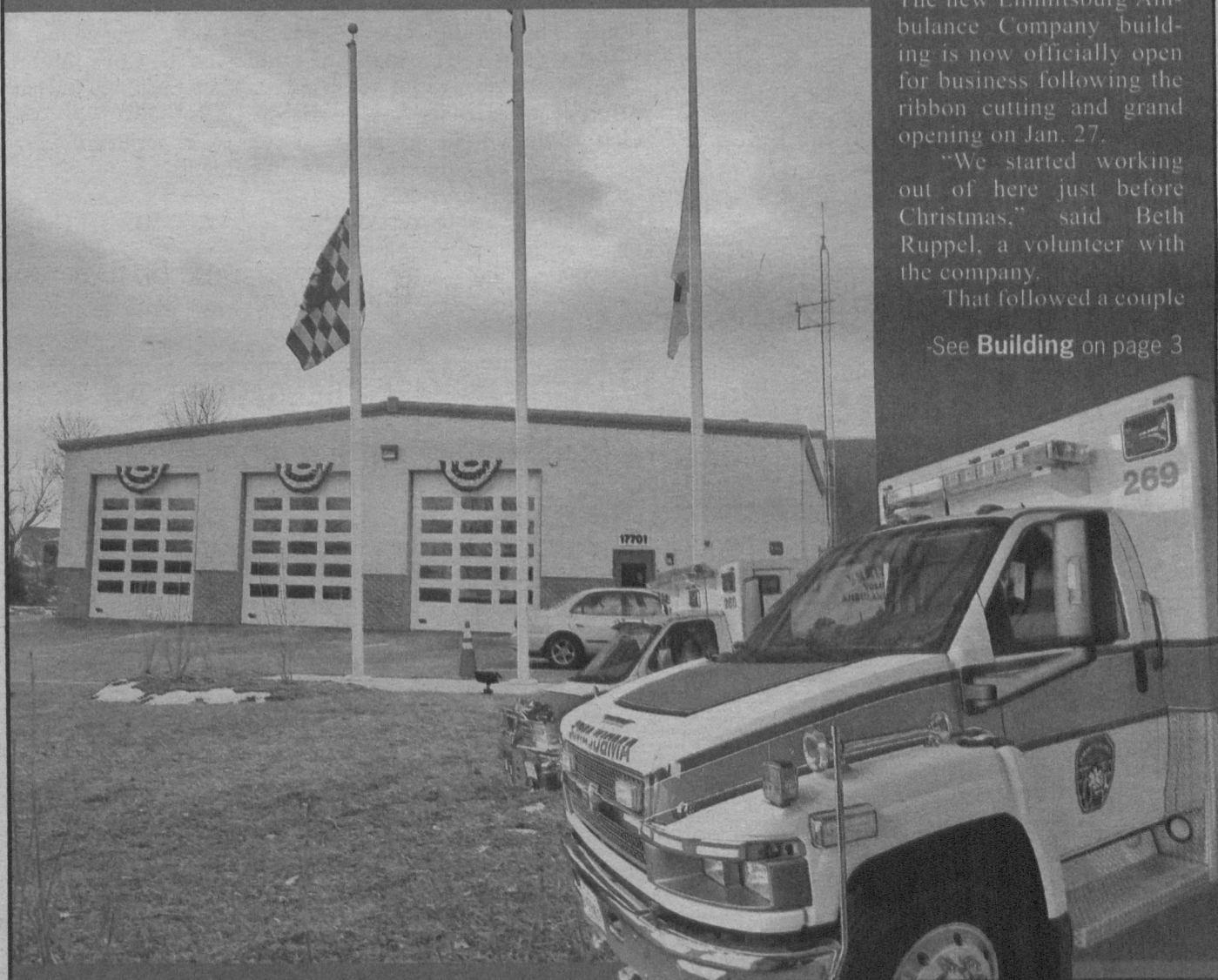
# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL VII, No. 3

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

FEBRUARY 7, 2008

## New ambulance company building officially dedicated



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

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The new Emmitsburg Ambulance Company building is now officially open for business following the ribbon cutting and grand opening on Jan. 27.

“We started working out of here just before Christmas,” said Beth Ruppel, a volunteer with the company.

That followed a couple

– See **Building** on page 3

## Emmitsburg lifts water restrictions after six months

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

EMMITSBURG, Md. – Emmitsburg has lifted its water restrictions as of Feb. 5.

Emmitsburg Town Manager Dave Haller told the town commissioners during the Feb. 4 meeting that water consumption in the town was in line with the historical usage for this time of year.

“The best news of all is our wells have fully recovered and our reservoir is within one foot of the spillway,” Haller said.

The town has been under water restrictions since August 2007 and under an outdoor water ban since October 2007. At times this fall, the wells were down as much as 18 feet and the reservoir at Rainbow Lake was down 5 feet.

With the town’s water resources recovered, Haller told the commissioners, “I can’t think of any reason to keep a restriction in place.”

The commissioners agreed and removed the restrictions that had banned all outdoor water

**The best news of all is our wells have fully recovered and our reservoir is within one foot of the spillway.**

Dave Haller  
Emmitsburg Town Manager

### This Issue

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Cipperly is new town planner

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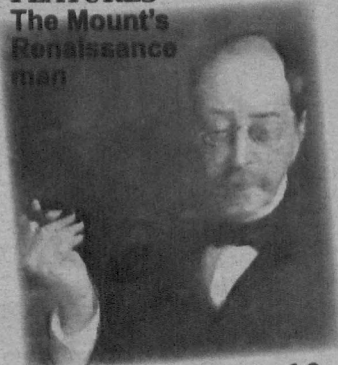
How much water does Emmitsburg have left?

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■ **BUSINESS**  
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■ **FEATURES**  
The Mount’s Renaissance man



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## Revitalizing Main Streets in small towns

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

THURMONT, Md. – Many people will tell you Mayberry doesn’t exist. Quaint towns with thriving Main Streets are a thing of the past that only exist in old movies and TV shows ... or in Maryland Main Street Communities like Thurmont, Frederick and Taneytown.

“Being a Main Street Community has brought us new stores and shops,” said Nancy McCormick, Taneytown economic development director.

Maryland Main Street is a revitalization program created in 1998 by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The program helps improve the economy, image and appear-

ance of Maryland’s traditional downtown business districts.

“Main Street is an avenue to increase grants and visibility for the whole town of Thurmont,” said Vickie Grinder, Thurmont’s Main Street manager.

According to the Maryland DHCD, the Maryland Main Street program, which now includes 18 communities, has led to \$74 million in investment in those communities and created 400 new businesses and 1,800 new jobs.

Grinder said that the process of becoming a Maryland Main Street Community in 2005 was only the first step. The designation opened doors for the town, but it also showed other doors that the town needed to get through for additional opportunities.

“What it’s done for us is gotten more people to invest in their properties and upgrade them,” McCormick said.

Grinder also points out that the revitalization affects the entire town, not just the Main Street area.

“Some grants are just for the designated Main Street, but others are for any business in town. You just have to know where to find them and that’s what being a Main Street can help you do,” Grinder said.

Since becoming a Main

Street Community in 2005, Thurmont has gotten grants to help refurbish the old trolley trail, restore the Thurmont Trolley, improve building facades, get street signage, produce a brochure and pursue a town marketing study.

“It’s been a slow process but we’re starting to reap the benefits,” Grinder said. “When you add it all together, you’re looking at over \$200,000 it has brought to the community.”

– See **Main Streets** on page 3

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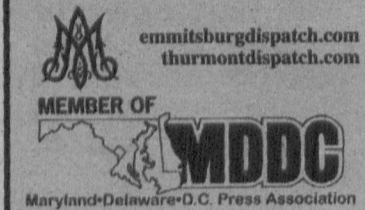
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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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 *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.

**Upset with doctor's charges**

I have always had the utmost respect for Emmitsburg physician Dr. Christine Curley until recently. It's bad enough that doctors overcharge for their services, and it's true that I can find another physician, but I'm sure they too will operate just as she is. For the most part, a doctor makes an educated "Guess" at best when trying to diagnose a patient's symptoms and the most we can do as a patient is hope that the doctor is right when making that guess. I recently was charged \$5 for having Dr. Curley's office fax my prescription into the mail order service that I use. Five dollars for a fax! Come on, I can understand

prices go up for certain things but \$5 for a simple fax? I can understand \$1, maybe \$1.50, but \$5??? I am beginning to wonder what or who is more crooked, a dog's hind leg, a politician, a prison inmate or doctors. I think it is safe to say the least crooked is the dog's hind leg. For the record, I was told up front that there would be a \$5 charge for the fax and I agreed to it, but the more I think about it, the more frustrated I become. Well, thanks for leaving me have my say. It didn't fix the problem but I do feel better.

Bob Hankey  
Gettysburg, Pa.

**Craig prefers good judgment in a President**

In politics it seems that no matter how much intellect, education and experience a politician has, he is not precluded from talking nonsense. I refer to Bill Clinton's mentioning Barack Obama's lack of experience. What presidential experience does Hillary have? What presidential experience did Bill have before his election to the presidency? If the governorship of Arkansas is the necessary kind

of experience, why does he not endorse Mike Huckabee. The only person with presidential experience is an incumbent, and one can see what good that experience has done the country. Fortunately, the Constitution prevents a recurrence of that fiasco.

As to experience, give me judgment!

Harold Craig  
Emmitsburg

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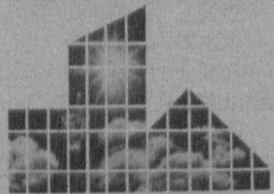
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# Main Streets

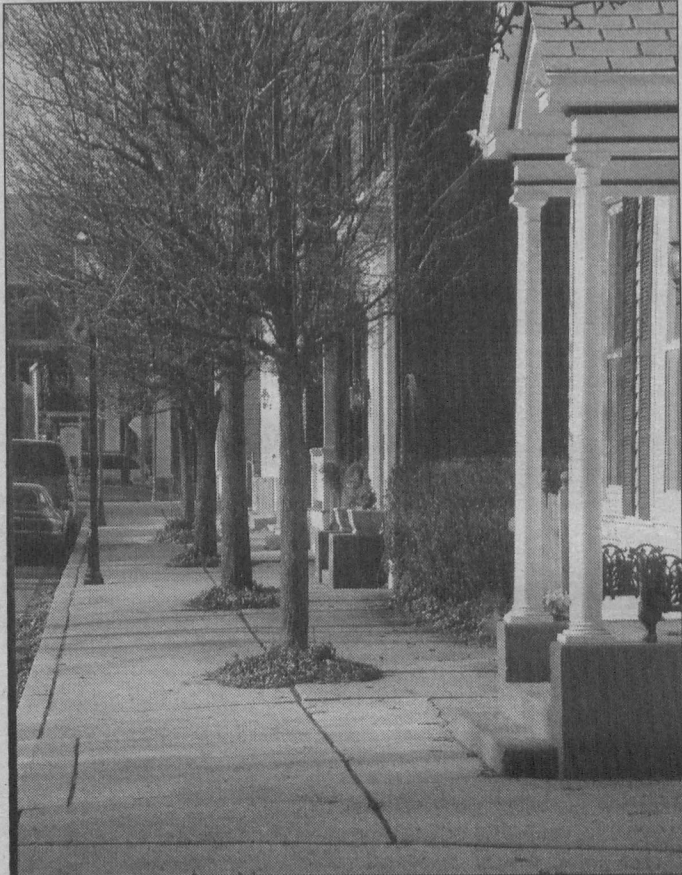
-Continued from page 1

Emmitsburg was once a part of the program, but dropped out. Now Mayor James Hoover says there is some interest in becoming part of the program again, but the state hasn't been forthcoming with answers to questions from

the town.

"The state has not added any Main Streets in 2006 or 2007 and there are no plans to add any in 2008," said Grinder.

Hoover said he would like to get either Grinder or McCormick or both to come and speak to the town commissioners about the process of becoming a Main Street Community.



- JAMES RADA JR. / THE DISPATCH

Maryland's Main Street program is helping preserve the downtown Main Street of 18 Maryland communities. Emmitsburg was once part of the program and Mayor James Hoover is interested in becoming a member community once again.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Archbishop visits Emmitsburg

EMMITSBURG, Md. - Catholic Archbishop Edwin O'Brien of the Baltimore Archdiocese will be in Emmitsburg on Sunday Feb. 10. He will celebrate Mass in the morning at Mount St. Mary's University and then visit St. Joseph's Catholic Church in town from 12:45 - 1:15 p.m.

- J. Rada

### KoC free-throw winners

EMMITSBURG, Md. - Dylan Goins of Emmitsburg was the winner of the 13-year-old category of the Emmitsburg Knights of Columbus 2008 Basketball Free-Throw Contest. Tye Russell of Emmitsburg was the winner of the 12-year-old category. Winners of each age bracket will advance to the district-level competition for a chance to compete at the state level competition. The district-level competition will be conducted Feb. 17 at the Walkersville Ambulance Hall.

## Building

-Continued from page 1

weeks of moving equipment from the old station on South Seton to the new location at 17701 Creamery Road. Company members say the new location has excellent access to Route 15.

"You don't have to fight the red lights and congestion," said Keith Phelps, an Emmitsburg Ambulance volunteer.

Construction of the \$2.3-

million station began in June 2006. Besides enlarged bays that can hold up to five vehicles and equipment rooms, the new station also features a large public room that seats 380 people and has a commercial kitchen. It can be rented out for parties and dances.

"We've already done a wedding reception and a funeral," said John Ruppel, an Emmitsburg Ambulance volunteer.

Some of the other features of the new building include a

repair shop for minor repairs on the ambulances, a decontamination room, a room for all of the medical equipment the paramedics use. On the second floor of the building are the bunkrooms, meeting rooms and a weight room given to the company by the Emmitsburg American Legion and VFW.

"We will also be a disaster shelter as soon as we get our generator," Beth Ruppel said.

The former ambulance company building will become a Frederick County Fire Mu-

seum and a National Fire Heritage Center that houses records

and documents from fire companies across the country.

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## TOWN NEWS

## Town Meetings

**Town Meeting**  
February 18, 7:30 p.m.

**Parks Committee**  
February 19, 7:30 p.m.

**Planning Commission**  
February 25, 7:30 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Emmitsburg Town Office, Emmitsburg Community Center, 300A South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. For information, call (240) 629-6300 or visit [www.emmitsburgmd.gov](http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov).

## Sue Cipperly is new town planner for Emmitsburg

BY JAMES RADA JR.  
News Editor  
[jrada@thedispatch.us](mailto:jrada@thedispatch.us)

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Emmitsburg's new town planner is on the job and her name is Sue Cipperly.

"It's an intriguing opportunity," Cipperly said during a phone interview. "Emmitsburg has a lot of things going on for a small town."

Cipperly accepted the position, which will eventually phase out the need for the contracted services of Jakubiak and Associates, the Annapolis consulting firm that has been updating the town's master plan.

Jakubiak and Associates' services cost Emmitsburg about \$85,000 in 2007. Cipperly's salary about half of that amount.

Cipperly lives in Gettysburg and has experience as a municipal and county planner. She spent eight years with the Adams County Planning Office as a county planner and five years with the Town of Queensbury, NY, finishing as a senior planner.

"Through these employment situations, I have dealt

with zoning and subdivision matters, comprehensive planning, water supply, stormwater management, housing issues, etc. I have also worked with organizations such as the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin on matters of water supply and stormwater management that affect both Pennsylvania and Maryland," Cipperly wrote in her application letter to the town.

Eighteen candidates applied for the position of town planner. The town's human resources consultant did the background and reference checks on the candidates and passed the most-promising ones onto Mayor James Hoover and Town Manager Dave Haller for an interview. Hoover then conducted a second interview later.

"I believe that this person is a good fit for the community and for us," Hoover said during the Jan. 23 town meeting before Cipperly had been identified.

"I was very impressed with the spectrum of her knowledge and her manner when being put under that pressure (of the interview)," Haller added.

As Cipperly comes into the position, Commission President Chris Staiger outlined a couple of priorities he wanted her to focus on: 1) Look at the town's development ordinance and make recommendations for revision or improved smart growth and 2) Look at the town's proposed adequate public facilities ordinance and make recommendations for revisions.

## Administration will submit work plans to commissioners

BY JAMES RADA JR.  
News Editor  
[jrada@thedispatch.us](mailto:jrada@thedispatch.us)

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Emmitsburg Town Commissioners used the occasion of hiring a new town planner to take a more-active role in the hiring of high-level town employees and have brought more oversight to the positions.

During the discussion about whether to approve Mayor James Hoover's recommended candidate for town planner, Commission President Chris Staiger made a motion that the town commissioners be included in the interview process for potential town employees filling positions at grades 11 and 12 (the two highest levels on the Emmitsburg town government pay scale). The motion passed 4-0.

Staiger had taken exception to not being included in the process to fill the town planner position. Hoover said that in the past, the commissioners have rarely done so.

"I think the only time in the history of town that it happened is when I got hired," said Town Manager Dave Haller during the Jan. 23 town meeting.

Following the approval of that motion, Staiger then made a motion to extend an offer of employment to Sue Cipperly as town planner but with conditions. The conditions were that the town manager, town clerk and town planner begin submitting work plans to the commission for all projects that would

take more than 32 total hours to complete. The plans would entail the goals to be achieved with the project, the steps to be taken to complete the project and the timeline for the project. In addition, failure to submit such work plans would be a grounds for dismissal.

"We're building a little empire here in people and resources and I think we need to have a little more oversight," Staiger said.

Hoover said that tying the conditions to the offer of employment was "crazy." Commissioner Cliff Sweeney agreed with him and voted against the motion, which still passed by a 3-1 vote.

Following the meeting, Staiger said his intention is not to micromanage the town administration to keep abreast of what projects are being worked on and their status.

"My goal is really just to have a reporting mechanism that works," Staiger said.

He did say during the meeting that he was willing to discuss the conditions further and tweak them if necessary. Hoover, who could have vetoed the motion, decided instead to take a wait-and-see approach.

"I don't have issues with the basic directive," he said. "I have an issue with lumping it all together."

Hoover said he would wait at least a month, maybe more, before commenting on how well the work plan directive is working out. He believes that town administration will need at least that long to adjust to the new policy.

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## TOWN NEWS

## Pensions costing town more than thought

BY JAMES RADA JR.

News Editor

jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Emmitsburg will have to pay nearly \$1 million over the next 25 years to ensure its full-time employees are fully vested in the Maryland State Retirement and Pension plan. It's quite a bit more than they were expecting.

"The way this report reads, we're paying \$38,921 a year to retroactively vest employees," said Emmitsburg Commission President Chris Staiger. "That's \$973,000 that the town's on the hook for."

He noticed a financial note in the town's most-recent financial audit that stated the town was going to be paying \$38,921 a year for 25 years to fund retirement benefit for employee service prior to the time the town joined the state system July 1, 2006. Staiger said he was surprised at both the length of time for payments and the total amount.

Meeting minutes from the Feb. 20, 2006 town meeting (where the commissioners voted to join the state system) both support and don't support Staiger. The minutes state, "The payment can be spread out 25 years..." However, the minutes also state the principal payment would be \$318,265 and the annual payments would be \$28,000. While a recalculation was expected, it was supposed to be "slightly" increased, according to the minutes.

The actual annual payment has turned out to be 39 percent higher, which will cost the town \$273,025 more over the 25 years than it originally anticipated.

Staiger said that the discussion had always been that the principal amount would be repaid over 10 years not 25 years.

While Staiger was against joining the state retirement system, he said, "It is what it is. We voted on it and we're going through with it."

He just wants to make sure the total amount won't break the town budget.

"The folks who wanted this and forced this through weren't worried about the cost," Staiger said. He identified the "folks" as members of the town administration.

"I'm not going to believe for a minute that the numbers were purposely withheld," said Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover.

Hoover did say he was somewhat surprised to find that the pay-back period to join the retirement system would take 25 years. He is not against finding a way to pay it back quicker.

"While it is something to con-

sider and possibly do, I don't want to take that kind of money from our fund balance," Hoover said.

The town's fund balance is the amount of money left over each year, which is added to an accruing account. In fiscal year 2007, Emmitsburg had an excess of \$68,430 at the end of the year, which brought the fund balance up to \$645,610, according to most-recent town audit. That amount represents 42 percent of the town's general fund. The Government Finance Officers Association recommends, at a minimum, that a government maintain an unreserved fund balance of no less than 5-15 percent of its general fund, or of no less than 1-2 months of general fund operating expenditures.

At the 15 percent level, the town would only need to maintain a fund balance of \$229,648, which would potentially free up \$415,962 for other purposes, such as paying off the remaining amount to the state retirement system.

Hoover is concerned about cutting the fund surplus back that far because he remembers a time when the town had to borrow money from the bank to make payroll. He doesn't want to be caught short like that again.

"I could see paying off half of it now and then waiting 5-10 years and pay off the rest later," Hoover said. Though willing to use fund balance, he said he wouldn't want it to go below 25-30 percent of the general fund.

Staiger feels that's a step in the right direction. He believes other places in the town budget, including the capital budget, could be trimmed a bit. Such cuts could make up the difference and pay off the retirement system fully, saving the town hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest.

## No water. No growth.

BY JAMES RADA JR.

News Editor

jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — No water. No growth. It's as simple, and as complex, as that for Emmitsburg.

On the surface, it seems simple because if the town can't serve a property with water and sewer, then the town shouldn't okay it. The complexity comes from the fact that some properties have had zoning (and with it, implied water and sewer service) for years and were not built; and on the commercial side, projections seem to outstrip the reality for commercial growth in town.

However, for the state to accept the town's revised master plan, the town can't plan on allocating more water for future growth than is currently available.

Emmitsburg Town Manager Dave Haller recently updated the town planning and zoning commission on just how much available water the town has.

"The only thing I have to bring you are some facts. I don't have any silver bullets, or as my friend Larry said, golden carrots, and I'll try to give you some tools to make your decisions," Haller said.

The town has two wells that it will be bringing into service. Both of these wells will be treated at a new treatment plant in Emmet Gardens. The new plant will be designed to resemble a home so that it fits in better with the community.

"At a minimum you're three years out to put that plant on line," Haller said. "If there are any delays related to finance

or whatever, it could go to five but more likely three years."

Even with the two new wells, the town will have an excess of approximately 143 taps to allocate. Haller said that he is hoping that the Maryland Department of the Environment will allow a higher water allocation for well J, which would increase the number of taps available somewhat.

"There's a little flexibility, but there's not a lot," Haller said. "Basically, it (state law) says that you can't approve anything that you

can't serve."

This means that there is very little new growth the planning and zoning commission could approve. For the most part, any new development through annexation would also have to bring its own water source that could serve the proposed development.

The planning and zoning commission will hold a special meeting on Feb. 12 to discuss how these water limitations will affect growth decisions that the commission had already made.

## EMMITSBURG WATER CAPACITY

WATER CAPACITY	AMOUNT
<b>EXISTING WATER CAPACITY:</b>	463,000 *GPD
- ALLOCATED USAGE IN 2005:	327,000 GPD
- 20 PERCENT BUFFER	65,500 GPD
<b>UNALLOCATED CAPACITY</b>	70,500 GPD / 235 TAPS
- TAPS SOLD SINCE 2005	39 TAPS
- TAPS NEEDS TO SERVE INFILL	513 TAPS
<b>DEFICIT TO MEET OBLIGATIONS</b>	317 TAPS
+ TAPS FROM WELL 7	277 TAPS
+ PRELIMINARY TAPS FROM WELL J	183 TAPS
<b>TAPS REMAINING FOR GROWTH:</b>	<b>143 TAPS</b>

\* GPD stands for Gallons Per Day

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## REGIONAL NEWS

# Ft. Ritchie re-development plan well received by local community members

BY CHRIS PATTERSON  
Contributing Writer

CASCADE, Md. — Organizers of a meeting Monday, Feb. 4 about the re-development plan for Ft. Ritchie only planned for about 100 people to attend, but easily 200 showed up for a standing-room only meeting.

However, unlike many public meetings where the issue of development is raised, the surrounding community, which is located where two states and four counties converge, gave all indications of being very happy about the plans.

Changes presented by the development company,

Corporate Office Properties Trust, and PenMar Development Corporation are big.

In 1998, the Ft. Ritchie military base closed its gates, leaving a loss of 1,500 jobs in its wake. In 1997, PenMar Development Corp. was formed as a public instrumentality with the purpose of overseeing the conversion of the base to civilian uses. In 2006, PMDC sold the base to COPT.

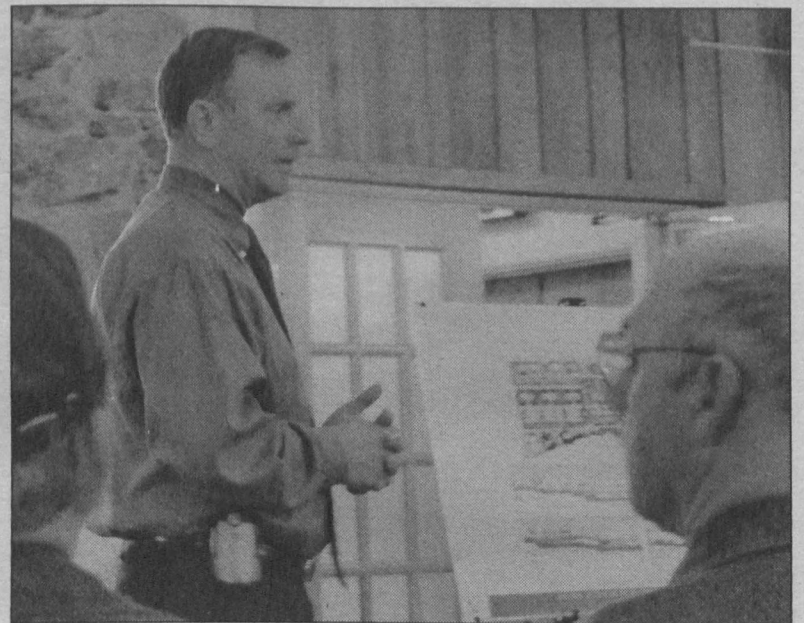
Bringing the lost jobs back to the area is an important part of what COPT must do. In fact, Rich Rook, Executive Director of PMDC, said there is a legal requirement that COPT bring back 1,400 jobs within nine

years or they will pay a "substantial amount of money."

Plans for the 591-acre site include 250 acres of revitalized forest area, the development of trails, parks and ballfields around the two lakes, protection and rehabilitation of buildings in the historic district, the development of a commercial retail area for shopping and work, a restricted business area for a few high-security businesses, rehabilitated water, electric and sewer, and a residential area with around 674 housing units that includes new and rehabilitated homes.

Chuck Fiala, Senior Vice-President of COPT, said that the company's vision was to return Ft Ritchie to its "heyday", when it was "a place where you can live, work and play."

One concern of many in attendance seemed to be calmed



— CHRIS PATTERSON / THE DISPATCH  
**Chuck Fiala, Senior Vice-President of Corporate Office Properties Trust, answers questions from a crowd of around 200 during a community meeting to talk about COPT's redevelopment of Ft. Ritchie.**

satisfactorily. The historic treasures of Ft. Ritchie are being

appropriately protected and rehabilitated wherever possible. Also, wherever demolition is necessary, the company is recycling everything from concrete and concrete reinforcers to steel beams.

Dan Reaver, co-owner of Emmitsburg Glass Co., said he attended the meeting to find out more about future opportunities for his largely commercial glass company to bid on projects. After the meeting, Reaver said he was particularly happy to hear about the coming 350,000 square-foot of commercial space.

"I think it's very good to have the business in this area," Reaver said of the plan. "We look forward to the opportunity to come up here and do a lot of the work."

Sharon Riddell, 32, of Cascade, said she was particularly happy to hear about the community center and to learn about the coming jobs. Her husband commutes to Gaithersburg and she commutes to Frederick, she said.


Laurie Shiffler, 33, also of Cascade, said she is not concerned about the increased residential units because she believes they will create an overall increase in property values in the area.

Shiffler's mother, Carole Ditch, 57, said she was most pleased to hear that PMDC will be funding renovations to Cascade Elementary School. "We've lived here 36 years and they've never done anything to it," she said.

There is also going to be funding for renovations that will allow Hagerstown Community College to begin offering classes in the fort. The community college will begin offering classes as early as March of this year.


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**Jim Kittinger**

Age 64, plays golf (his game needs a lot of improvement)  
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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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REGIONAL NEWS

# Frederick County and municipalities spar over tax revenues

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

FREDERICK, Md. — In an effort to “fight fire with fire,” the Frederick County Commissioners have tried to put a crimp in municipal budgets because they perceive a proposed bill supported by the municipalities would harm the county’s budget.

“This is an effort to pander to someone’s constituency, the delegation’s constituency,” County Commissioner John L. Thompson Jr. said during the Jan. 16 county commissioner’s meeting. “You fight fire with fire.”

He was reacting to a bill proposed by the state delegation that would give municipalities 30 percent of any future increases in the county recordation tax. Since the recordation tax revenues have been increasing by about 10 percent a year over the past few years, county revenues would still increase, but only by seven percent a year. The bill would mean about \$560,000 more a year to Frederick County municipalities.

“I think the delegation needs to know if they shift our revenue to the municipalities, it will undo our budget,” County Commission President Jan Gardner said during the meeting.

This is because portions of the recordation tax are dedicated to school renovations, agriculture preservation and nursing homes.

Thurmont Mayor Martin Burns pointed out in an interview that the bill would not cost the county anything. “The county still gets its current level of funding,” Burns said. “They just have to share the amount of the increase. Transfers occur in municipalities, but they’ve never given us more money. You can’t tell me that’s fair.”

He said when the counties received the authority to charge recordation fees, the statewide pool of revenue was divided up, with counties getting \$5.2 million and municipalities getting \$300,000. Since that time, the county portion has increased to more than \$600 million while the municipal portion has not changed at all, according to Burns.

The county governments see it as a way for municipalities to try to increase their revenues on the backs of county taxpayers. If the bill goes through, the Maryland Association of Counties will submit a bill in the state legislature to keep the municipalities from receiving the 17 percent of county income tax they receive. Gardner said that most municipalities would be worse off under that scenario.

On a county level, Thompson wanted to eliminate the tax equity revenue. This is tax money the county returns to the municipal governments that pays for services provided by both the county and municipality.

“At some point we have to not just simply be a punching bag for people who want to have everything under the sun funded by county taxpayers,” Thompson said.

While it seemed a majority of the board were willing to support Thompson’s plan, Commissioner Kai Hagen was not among them. “Tit for tat doesn’t lead in good directions, usually,” he said.

After some discussion, the commissioners voted instead to lower the county tax rate to municipal residents by an amount that would match the value of the tax equity to that municipality.

“Most of the taxpayers don’t realize there is a tax equity payment from the county to the town governments, but we hear all the time about how they are paying twice for different services,” Gardner said in a phone interview.

She said although the change was suggested as a reaction to the recordation tax bill, the Maryland Municipal League and Maryland

Association of Counties have reached a consensus on it, which has eased tensions somewhat. However, Gardner still feels the new way of dealing with tax equity is worth discussing.

“If it becomes a big deal with the municipalities, we won’t do it, but it’s still worth having the discussion,” Gardner said.

It is on the agenda for the county/municipalities meeting on Feb. 21.

Burns said, “I would have no problem with what they did, but they did it without talking to us. It’s not costing the taxpayers a dime more. It is just less revenue kicked back to the town.”

Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover said in an interview, “I think it’s an attempt on behalf of the county commissioners, maybe on behalf of Lennie Thompson personally, to make the municipalities be viewed in a negative light.”

The change will almost certainly force the municipalities to raise their tax rates by whatever the tax equity amount would be. In Emmitsburg, this could be as much as 11 cents on the tax rate. The other option would be for the towns to cut services so they would not have to raise the tax rate as much.

# Taneytown announces “Holiday of Trees” winners

TANEYTOWN, Md. — The Taneytown History Museum has announced the winners of the people’s choice awards for “Holiday of Trees 2007.”

**Four Foot Trees:**

- 1st Place – Pheasants Forever
- 2nd Place – Megan Taylor Foundation
- 3rd Place – Grace United Learning Center

**Miniature Trees:**

- 1st Place – Wilma Brown, Longaberger Baskets
- 2nd Place – Matthew Dow, DDS
- 3rd Place – Taneytown Senior and Activities Center

The museum raised over \$4,000 during the event. The money will be used to buy supplies, display materials and museum equipment.

Corporate sponsors for the event included Evapco and Taney Corporation. To see pictures of all of the trees and event pictures, go to [www.taneytown-museum.org](http://www.taneytown-museum.org)

The museum will open again in March with a new art exhibit displaying works of John Taylor on the second floor, and several new exhibits on the first floor. Check the museum web site for dates and times as March approaches.



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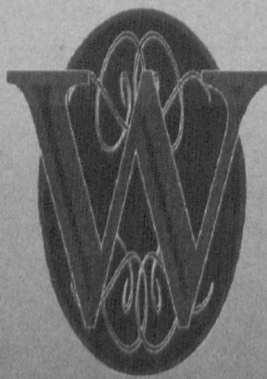
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## BUSINESS

### St. Catherine's is one of Frederick County's family-friendly businesses

EMMITSBURG, Md. — St. Catherine's Nursing Center in Emmitsburg was chosen as one of Frederick County's top 10 family friendly businesses.

The Frederick County Office of Economic Development, City of Frederick Department of Economic Development, Frederick County Workforce Services and the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce selected the winners of the 2008 Family Friendly Businesses. The winners were based on responses to a Family Friendly Practices Survey that was emailed last year to more than 900 Frederick County employers.

"As St. Catherine's moves forward with their Mission of Ministry, they consider themselves blessed to nurture a 'model community' for all their associates where spirituality is embraced in our call to serve each other," St. Catherine's Administrator Lou Vogel said.

St. Catherine's Nursing Center is a 69-bed comprehensive care nursing center. It is sponsored by the Daughters of Charity and Health Ministry of Ascension Health. The company has 102 employees working at St. Catherine's.

The Family Friendly Business Practices campaign is part



- JAMES RADA JR. / THE DISPATCH

St. Catherine's Nursing Center was chosen as one of Frederick County's family-friendly businesses by the Frederick County Office of Economic Development. The winners were honored at a Jan. 14 ceremony in Frederick.

of a countywide partnership between business, government and the community dedicated to increasing quality of life opportunities for Frederick County employees. A Family Friendly business is any employer in Frederick County, including corporations, privately owned businesses, non-profit associations, and federal, state and local government agencies that have the highest ranking for meeting the Family

Friendly criteria.

The other winners were: Canam Steel Corporation, CitiMortgage, The Columbia Bank, DynPort Vaccine Company, Frederick County Bank, Lockheed Martin, Mason Dixon Interiors, Smith Barney and Style Gymnastics.

The winners were honored at a Jan. 14 ceremony at the C. Burr Artz Library.

- J. Rada

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Protect your home against radon

EMMITSBURG, Md. — January is Radon Awareness Month and A Closer Look is a local business that can help make you make sure your home is free of this tasteless, odorless gas.

The U.S. Surgeon General is urging all Americans to test their homes for radon this month. Radon kills about 20,000 Americans a year and is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

However, radon exposure can be prevented if you test to see if there is a problem. For more information, call A Closer Look at (240) 367-7043.

### Men's Oasis adds new massage therapists

THURMONT, Md. — Men's Oasis Barber Shop & Spa has added three new massage therapists to its spa staff. Devon Casey, Robin Davis, and Patricia Snoots are now on hand to help with the demands of the spa. The three women are certified massage therapists and help their clients relax utilizing techniques from standard Swedish to deep-tissue massages and various styles in between. Men's Oasis is also offering 20 percent off of all services over \$10 through the end of February. Call for an appointment at (301) 271-3777.

### Local designer brings holiday warmth to historic house

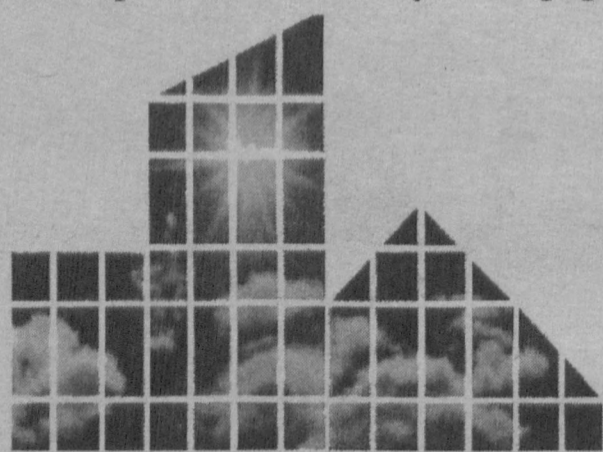
FREDERICK, Md. — Sa-billasville-based Meredith Design Group decorated the Historic John Derr House for a gala open house and holiday tour that took place on Dec. 14. Designer Laura Meredith transformed the 6,500 square-foot landmark's interior with original period art and traditional German Christmas décor.

The 18th century structure, which is listed by the Maryland Historical Trust on the National Register of Historic Places, was completely restored during a two-year effort by David Blackmon with the help of local architect, Bob Cummings.

The Meredith Design Group specializes in redesigning both residential and commercial

properties for sale or lease. The company also provides special event planning and production services for a diverse clientele. The firm produces a variety of events ranging from intimate parties to large corporate meetings. For more information, visit their web site at [www.MeredithDesignGroup.com](http://www.MeredithDesignGroup.com).

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## BUSINESS

## St. Catherine's one of the best nursing homes in county

BY STEPHANIE LONG  
Dispatch Staff Writer  
slong@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, MD. — St. Catherine's Nursing Center scores tops in Frederick County for quality of care and a close second for overall satisfaction.

Commissioned by the Maryland Health Care Commission and a part of the Maryland Nursing Home Guide, the Nursing Home Family Satisfaction Survey was completed by family members of nursing home residents' and contained 58 items that assessed seven different domains or aspects of residents' life and care. The survey looked at 224 homes across the state, and 9,575 people completed the survey.

Overall, St. Catherine's received a 97 percent satisfaction score, state-wide the average was 86 percent, and 100 percent of those surveyed would recommend St. Catherine's to someone else.

Frank Schmersal, whose mother lives at St. Catherine's, is one of those who filled out the survey and would recommend St. Catherine's to anyone.

"St. Catherine's, by far, is the most welcoming and definitely the place to go," Schmersal said.

For Louis Vogel, Administrator and CEO of St. Catherine's, the results of the survey reflects St. Catherine's mission.

"It's always about the relationship, the ministry, caring for people... it's about people," Vogel said. "We're very small but we have a lot of love to give."

One of those who contributes to that mission is Sue Osterman, a social worker at St. Catherine's, and someone who many refer to as a "cheerleader" and "heart" of St. Catherine's.

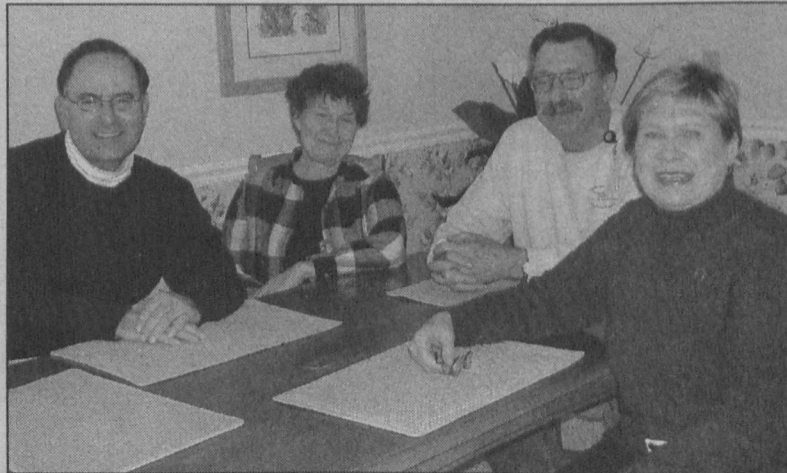
"It's a family experience, we're a community," Osterman said. "You get to know people and stop in and see people."

Even for new residents, there is an immediate sense of community and caring felt.

"It's very nice, they're so accommodating and helpful," said Jack Pinion, a new resident who moved to St. Catherine's from another home to be closer to his son. "At Manor Care they just did their job, but here it's different, they're so helpful. If you need something, the nurses aid jumps to it."

For the past 13 years St. Catherine's has been catering to the needs of its residents, welcoming in residents of all beliefs, faiths and backgrounds for long-term or short-term stays.

In keeping with the goal to



— STEPHANIE LONG / THE DISPATCH

Lou Vogel (left) is administrator of St. Catherine's Nursing Home and Sue Osterman (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) is a social worker at the nursing center, which placed tops in the county in customer satisfaction in a state survey. Frank Schmersal's (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) mother and Penny Jurchak's (right) mother both live at St. Catherine's.

give residents "a life without limitations," St. Catherine's offers residents many different activities to participate in, from therapeutic horseback riding, trips to Ocean City, musical guest on Fridays and the opportunity to attend Mount St. Mary's University and audit a class.

Irene Roop is one of those residents who has been able to participate in many of the activities St. Catherine's offers, including taking classes at the Mount. For Roop, St. Catherine's has been home for several years and those who work there are, in a sense, a part of her family.

"They're caring from the

top down," Roop said. "And one thing I've enjoyed so much is going to Mount St. Mary's, it's been a privilege."

A former Children's Librarian, Roop has audited several courses at the Mount and said she also enjoys participating in many other activities at St. Catherine's, including the gardening club and the card club, an activity she never participated in before.

"I wasn't a card player, but now I can win now and then," Roop said with a smile.

To view the results of the survey, go to: [mhcc.maryland.gov/consumerinfo/nhguide/facilityresults.aspx](http://mhcc.maryland.gov/consumerinfo/nhguide/facilityresults.aspx).

## Trish Rowe earns top Exit Realtor award for Pennsylvania

WAYNESBORO, Pa. — Exit Preferred Realty Realtor Trish Rowe has been named the #1 Outstanding 2007 Realtor for the State of Pennsylvania for Exit Realty. She also earned Top Realtor for all local Exit Preferred Realty Offices.

Exit Realty has 31 offices in Pennsylvania and around 500 agents.

Rowe has lived in the area for over 30 years and has been an Exit Realty Realtor for more than a year. She said her love for people, quick follow up, and hours of dedication to her wonderful buyers and sellers helped her achieve this title. Rowe also places God first in her life and relies on his blessings to get her through this changing market.

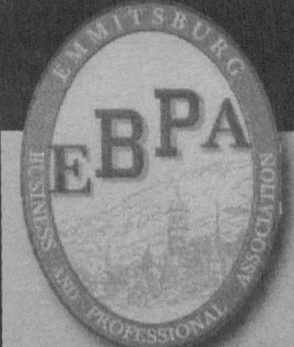
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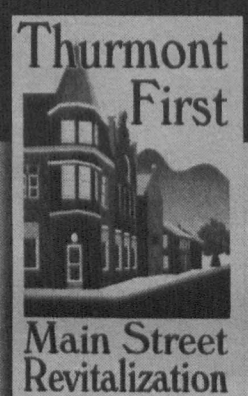
ing or buying in Maryland or Pennsylvania, you can contact Rowe at (717) 642-6733 or [www.trishrowe.com](http://www.trishrowe.com).

— J. Rada



**Emmitsburg Business and Professionals Association Meeting**

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### Thurmont Economic Development Meeting

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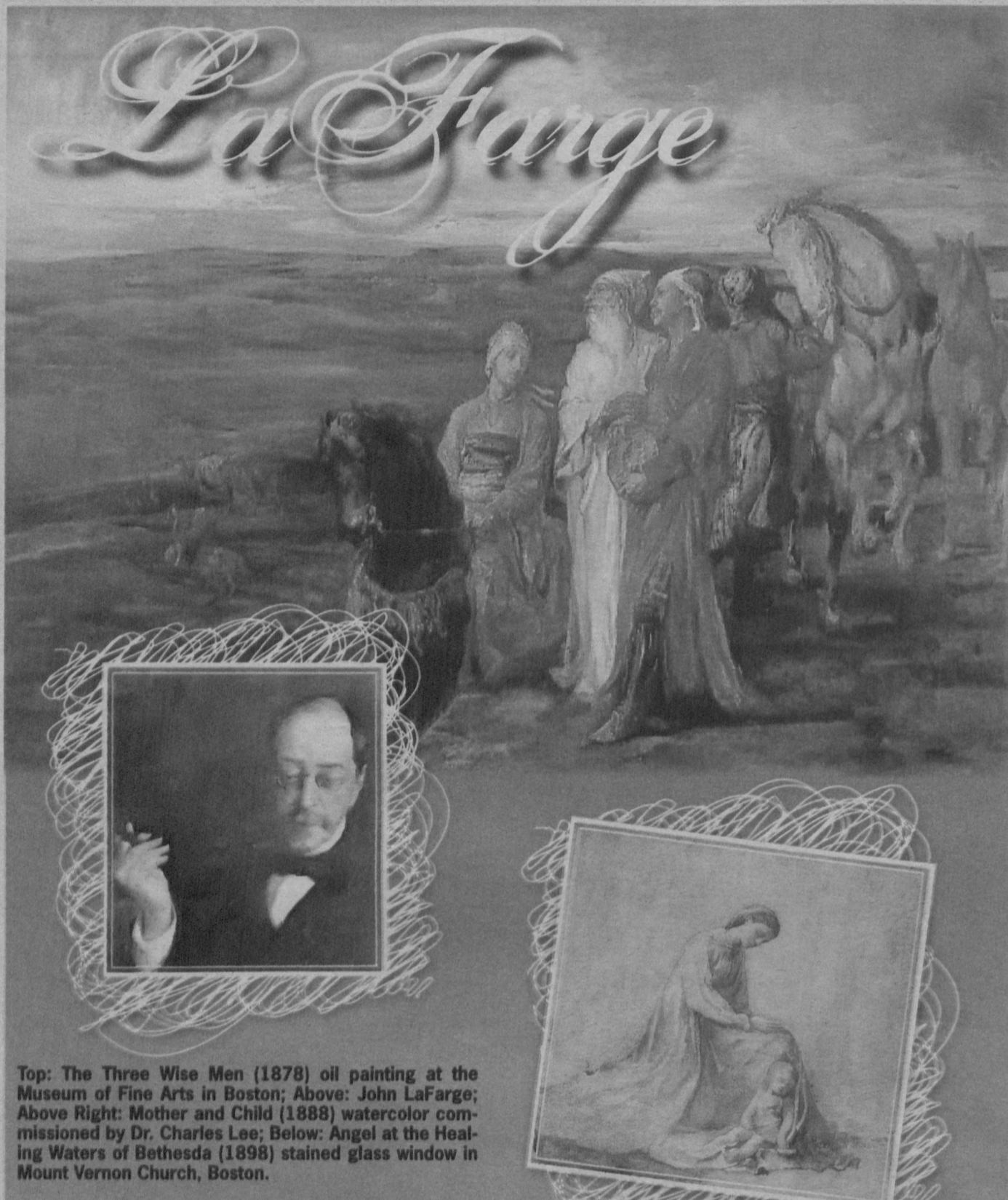
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Top: The Three Wise Men (1878) oil painting at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston; Above: John LaFarge; Above Right: Mother and Child (1888) watercolor commissioned by Dr. Charles Lee; Below: Angel at the Healing Waters of Bethesda (1898) stained glass window in Mount Vernon Church, Boston.



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

*Editor's Note:* This is the fifth in a series of articles The Dispatch will be featuring to highlight the year-long celebration of Mount St. Mary's University's bicentennial.

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Statue of Liberty was introduced to her husband by a Mount St. Mary's graduate.

French sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi created his first plans and model for the iconic Statue of Liberty in the New York studio of John LaFarge, a Mount graduate from the Class of 1853. LaFarge also introduced Bartholdi to Jeanne-Emilie Baheux de Puyieux, the woman who would model for the statue. Bartholdi and de Puyieux eventually married in LaFarge's Rhode Island home.

Had this been LaFarge's only contribution to the art world, he might have remained a footnote in history, but it is only a small piece of the art legacy LaFarge crafted for himself.

"In 1853, a student at Mount St. Mary's College drew sketches of classmates... Wandering the Catoctin hillsides, he also sketched landscapes of Frederick County scenes. This youth, John LaFarge, found a love for art there in Frederick County and grew to become one of the greatest artistic minds of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in America," according to web site for The Dreaming, a public art project in Frederick.

LaFarge was born in 1835 and was sent to attend the Mount at age 15. Following his graduation, he became known as a painter, magazine and book illustrator, stained-glass window designer and writer. He was also a co-founder of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The museum's web site calls its founder, "A quintessential 'Renaissance man' of the American Renaissance, he responded to and encouraged the eclectic tastes and interests of his sophisticated patrons."

Despite his impact on the world of art, LaFarge nearly became a lawyer. He even practiced law for a time after his graduation. "Though his interest in art was aroused during his college training at Mount St. Mary's and Fordham University, he had only the study of law in view until he returned from his first visit to Paris, where he studied with Couture and enjoyed the most brilliant literary society of the day," according to the Catholic Encyclopedia.

LaFarge's rise to fame began with a mural that transformed the interior of Boston's Trinity Church in 1876.

He was also the first to experiment with opalescent glass and copper wire instead of lead lines to attach the pieces. His techniques were later commercially refined by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Besides being a founder of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, LaFarge also founded the Society of American Artists and the Society of American Mural Painters.

LaFarge also never forgot his alma mater, serving as the first vice president of the New York Alumni Association of Mount St. Mary's College in 1905.

He died in 1910.

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**EDUCATION**

**“College Night” at Catoctin High brings college reps, local students and parents together**

BY SUSAN ALLEN  
Contributing Writer

THURMONT, Md. – Twenty-two colleges and technical institutes sent representatives to an open house “College Night” held at Catoctin High School on Jan. 16. Area students and their parents turned out in large numbers to the school cafeteria to speak with the representatives, gather up brochures and take notes. Guidance counselor Curtis Howser and Career Center advisor Tom Caravela both estimated attendance at 200-250 over the course of the evening from 6:30-9 p.m. The program included a general orientation to the financial aid process presented in the auditorium by David Reeder, director of financial aid at Mount St. Mary’s University, which at-

tracted approximately 50 persons. Caravela was “very pleased with the broad range of schools” represented. There were two-year schools such as Frederick Community and Hagerstown Community Colleges as well as four-year colleges, large public universities (University of Maryland-Baltimore County), small private colleges, and technical schools and colleges. Geographically the schools spanned five states—Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Ohio—and the District of Columbia.

Although some students questioned the timing of the event, which was scheduled in the middle of exam week, they were glad to “actually talk” to people, said Jaime Orndorff of Emmitsburg, who either worked for or

had attended the various schools. Caravela says that the feedback since then has been very positive. Students and parents alike have reported getting “lots of very useful information.” He believes that Reeder’s briefing on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and procedures for scholarship applications was “very important, because the whole process can be intimidating to parents.” The college reps he has spoken with felt they had made “important connections to students [and] met a population they don’t usually reach.”

For next year’s College Night, Caravela is hoping that “some community supporter(s) will come forward with a scholarship door prize” to add incentive and build student attendance even higher.

**Former Mount President Passes Away**

BY STEPHANIE LONG  
Dispatch Staff Writer  
slong@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. – Hundreds of mourners gathered Jan. 25 at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mount St. Mary’s to celebrate the life of Emeritus Mount St. Mary’s President George R. Houston, Jr.

Houston, who peacefully passed away from pancreatic cancer on Jan. 19, served the Mount from 1994 to 2003 as it’s 23rd president, during which time he oversaw the construction of the Knott Auditorium as well as many other projects.

Most recently Houston was honored with a Bicentennial Medal presented on behalf of the Mount at the opening of the Mount’s bicentennial celebration.

“President Emeritus Houston was an inspiration and an effective leader,” said Mount President Thomas H. Powell. “He was recently honored with a Bicentennial Medal recognizing his generosity of spirit and his unyielding support to strengthen the Mount’s foundation. His legacy will continue to benefit future generations of Mount students.”

Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover, said that although he did not work with Houston on a one-on-one basis, “The commitment he provided to the Mount goes without saying.”

A graduate and former faculty member of Georgetown University, Houston was re-



- ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL SR. / THE DISPATCH

**Former Mount St. Mary’s President George Houston’s life was celebrated at a Mass at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 25. Houston died of pancreatic cancer on Jan. 29.**

cruited from Georgetown in 1994 while serving as the managing director of Georgetown’s endowment fund.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions may do so at the Mount or Georgetown.

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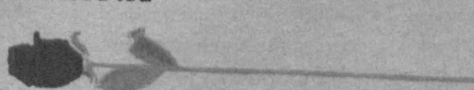
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SPORTS

# Catoctin Cougars attack in Polar Bear country

BY TERRI BRYANT  
Contributing Writer

THURMONT, Md. — Sixteen novice wrestlers from the Catoctin Youth Wrestling team traveled to the Northern Polar Bear Novice Wrestling Tournament held on Saturday, January 19, 2008 in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. Only those wrestlers with than less two years experience are eligible to participate. Ten out of the 16 wrestlers took home medals for their achievements and the Cougars placed 4<sup>th</sup> in overall

team standings.

- First-place winners were Nolan Brightshue, Jaken Campbell, Zachary Scott and Kevin Simmel.

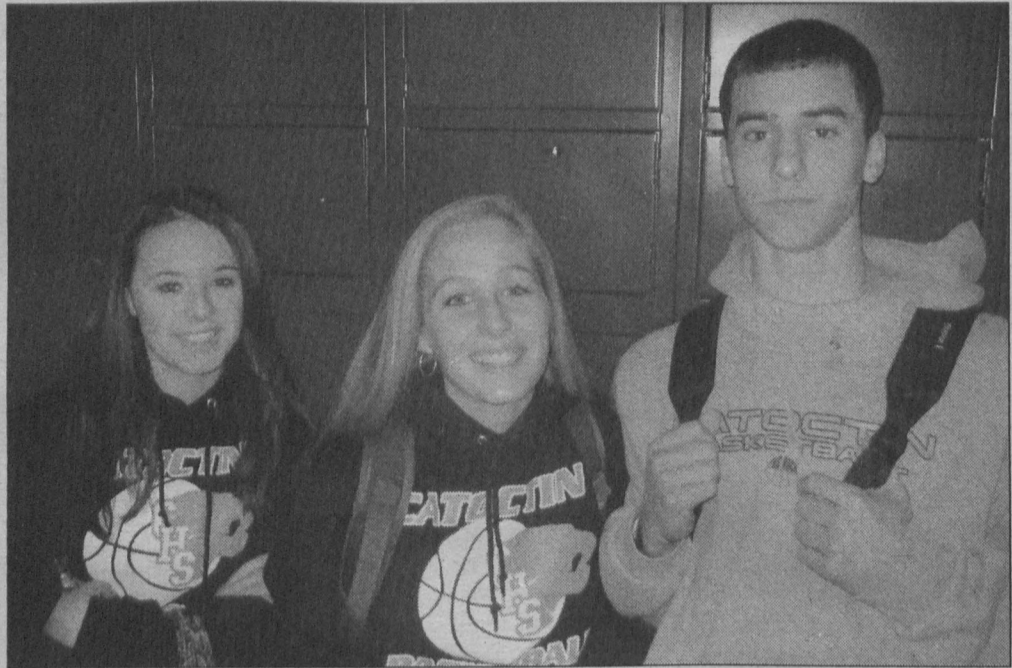
- Second-place winners were Zachary Bryant and Garrett Buckley.

- Third-place winners were Noah Ruby, Jacob Small and Joshua Small.

- Fourth-place winner was Dakotah Goff.

For more information regarding the Catoctin Youth Wrestling program, visit [cyawrestling.net](http://cyawrestling.net).

# Award-winning Cougars



- TINA DELAUTER / THE DISPATCH

The Lady Cougars participated in the FCC Holiday Classic Tournament Dec. 28-29. They placed second in the tournament overall. Kylie Late (left) and Emily Delauter (middle) were chosen as All-Tournament players for Catoctin High School. Late led the Cougars with 16 points in their game against Tuscarora and Delauter led the Cougars with 14 points and 10 rebounds in their game against St. John's. The Cougar boys participated in the North Carroll Holiday Hoops Tournament on Dec. 26-27. They also placed second in the tournament. Matty Thompson (right) was chosen as an All-Tournament player for Catoctin. He led the Cougars with 25 points in their game against Mt. Michael's.

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**THE WAY FORWARD FOR LAY MINISTRY AND CATECHESIS**  
March 6-8, 2008  
On March 6 and 7 join local, national and international presenters for a look at the future of lay ministry. On March 8, the 10th Annual Central Maryland Formation Day explores the challenge of bringing the teachings of Christ to a new millennium.  
More information at [www.msmary.edu/callings](http://www.msmary.edu/callings)

**ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM**  
April 3, 2008  
**Marion Burk Knott Auditorium**  
Speaker: Professor Patricia Hampl  
Regents Professor and McKnight Distinguished Professor at the University of Minnesota  
Patricia Hampl first won recognition for *A Romantic Education*, her memoir about her Czech heritage, awarded a Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship in 1981. Hampl's fiction, poems, reviews, essays and travel pieces have appeared in many publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Best American Short Stories* and *Best American Essays*.

**BICENTENNIAL STAMPED CARD DEDICATION CEREMONY AND MARYLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT**  
April 26, 2008  
8 p.m., **Athletic Recreation Convocation Center**  
The Mount presents, as part of the dedication of the United States Postal Stamped Card, a performance by the MSO, the Mount Chorale and pianist John Wickelgren. The all-Beethoven program will feature two major works, particularly the 5th Symphony which premiered in 1808. Special guests: Elizabeth Shulze, music director and conductor of the MSO and Dr. Andrew Rosenfeld, guest conductor, Mount St. Mary's professor of music.  
This event will be free and open to the public but tickets are required.  
Tickets are not yet available. For more information call 301-6122 x4475.

**THE MOUNT ON THE FOOD NETWORK?!**  
March 13 at 10 p.m.

Watch the crafty cake makers of Charm City Cakes recreate the famous Mount St. Mary's cupola ... only an edible version. The Mount episode is scheduled to air on the Food Network's *Ace of Cakes* on Thursday, March 13 at 10:00 p.m. The Mount's history and our Bicentennial are featured.

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**SPORTS**

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**BOYS BASKETBALL VARSITY**

*Jan. 11 - Boonsboro 73, Catoctin 70*

Kyle Beard led the Cougars with 18 points, and Matty Thompson and D.J. Doyle each had 13 points.

*Jan. 12 - Middletown 54, Catoctin 43*

Matty Thompson had 10 points for Catoctin.

*Jan. 15 - Brunswick 79, Catoctin 60*

Matty Thompson had 15 points for Catoctin, and D.J. Doyle had eight rebounds.

*Jan. 22 - Catoctin 60, North Hagerstown 59*

Matty Thompson had 19 points and five steals, and Kyle Beard

had 14 points and four steals for Catoctin.

*Jan. 25 - Maryland School for the Deaf 93, Catoctin 83*

Trey Thompson led the Cougars with 27 points, Matty Thompson had 18, and Justin Albright had 17.

*Jan. 29 - South Hagerstown 87, Catoctin 66*

Matty Thompson had 18 points, Trey Thompson had 15 points, and Adam Cordell and Justin Albright each had 11 points for the Cougars.

**BOYS BASKETBALL JUNIOR VARSITY**

*Jan. 11 - Catoctin 71, Boonsboro 46*

Paul Barbour had 13 points for the Cougars and Nick Nowaczyk had 10.

*Jan. 22 - Catoctin 57, North Hagerstown 54*

Kolby Maly and Nick Nowaczyk each had 15 points for the Cougars.

*Jan. 25 - Catoctin 50, Maryland School for the Deaf 40*

Nick Nowaczyk led the Cougars with 16 points, and Paul Barbour had 11.

*Jan. 29 - South Hagerstown 58, Catoctin 50*

Kolby Maly had 14 points for Catoctin.

**BOYS BASKETBALL FRESHMEN**

*Jan. 14 - Catoctin 59, Frederick 34*

Sean Reaver led the Cougars with 11 points, and Nick Maxey and Landon Routzahn each had 10 points.

*Jan. 29 - Catoctin 49, Middletown 20*

Landon Routzahn led the Cougars with 13 points, followed by Nick Maxey with 12.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL VARSITY**

*Jan. 11 - Boonsboro 54, Catoctin 31*

Tara Stackhouse and Kayla Opel each had seven points for the Cougars.

*Jan. 15 - Brunswick 69, Catoctin 61 (OT)*

Katelyn Keilholtz led Catoctin with 17 points, Brittany Chmelik had 12, and Tara Stackhouse had 10.

*Jan. 18 - Walkersville 55, Catoctin 38*

Tara Stackhouse led Catoctin

with 10 points, followed by Hannah Metheny with eight.

*Jan. 22 - North Hagerstown 56, Catoctin 19*

Hannah Metheny had eight points for the Cougars, and Katie Despeaux had six.

*Jan. 24 - Tuscarora 72, Catoctin 53*

Kylie Late led the Cougars with 13 points, Brittany Chmelik had 12, and Hannah Metheny had 11.

*Jan. 29 - Catoctin 56, South Hagerstown 27*

Katelyn Keilholtz led the Cougars with 15 points, Tara Stackhouse had 10, and Emily Delauter had nine.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL JUNIOR VARSITY**

*Jan. 11 - Boonsboro 52, Catoctin 30*

Megan Peomroy had eight points for the Cougars, and Devan Dewees had seven.

*Jan. 15 - Catoctin 45, Brunswick 30*

Devan Dewees led the Cougars with 10 points, and Megan Peomroy had eight.

*Jan. 18 - Walkersville 60, Catoctin 14*

Katie Lambert had five points for Catoctin.

*Jan. 22 - North Hagerstown 60, Catoctin 22*

Megan Peomroy led the Cougars with 11 points.

*Jan. 24 - Tuscarora 48, Catoctin 32*

Amanda Kline had 15 points for the Cougars.

*Jan. 29 - Catoctin 48, South Hagerstown 15*

Amanda Kline had 13 points for Catoctin, and Megan Peomroy had 12.

**WRESTLING VARSITY**

*Jan. 3 - Middletown 45, Catoctin 26*

Dusty Kidd won 15-3 and Travis Kokoski won 11-1 for Catoctin. Tommy Rej and Brad Maze had pins for Catoctin.

*Jan. 3 - Frederick 37, Catoctin 33*

Tommy Rej won his match 8-5. Dusty Kidd, Jon Sweeney and Brad Maze pinned their opponents.

*Jan. 12 - Hub Cup Tournament*

The Catoctin Wrestling team placed 11th out of 18 teams. Jon Sweeney placed 4th. Gerritt Baer placed 5th. Sean Chilson placed 5th. Tommy Rej placed 6th. Dusty Kidd placed 7th. Travis Kokoski placed 7th. Chris Sigler placed 8th.

*Jan. 16 - Catoctin 45, Boonsboro 33*

Jon Sweeney won his match 9-2. Miriah Stone, Travis Kokoski, Gerritt Baer and Chris Schildt all pinned their opponents.

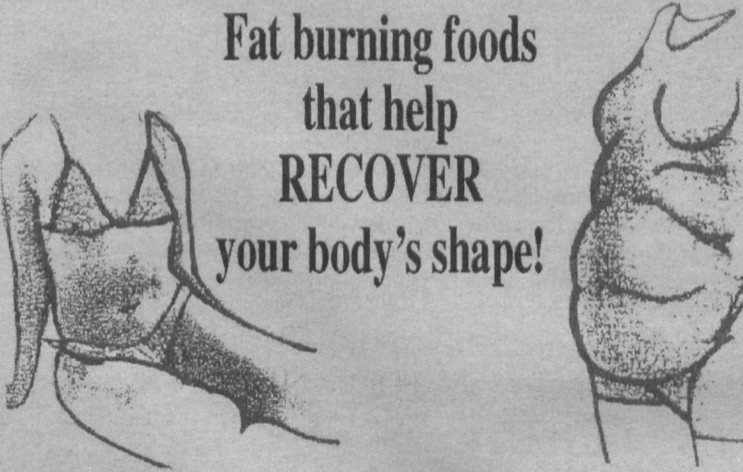
*Jan. 21 - Catoctin 55, Linganore 16*

Chris Sigler, Dusty Kidd, Sean Chilson, Brad Maze, Anthony Terpko, Jon Sweeney, Kyle Sanders, Gerritt Baer and Travis Kokoski all won their matches. Mason Francis and Tommy Rej pinned their opponents.

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RELIGION

Experience Emmitsburg Lenten series

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The Emmitsburg Council of Churches presents the Community with Jesus. Lenten Series every Sunday evening of Lent at 7 p.m.

- **Feb. 10** – Incarnation United Church of Christ, 124 W. Main St., Rev. Judy Kelly (301) 447-3163.
- **Feb. 17** – Toms Creek United Methodist Church, 16252 Toms Creek Church Rd., Sr. Ellen Eisenberger (301) 447-3171.
- **Feb. 24** – Elias Lutheran Church, 100 W. North Ave., Barbara Anderson (301) 447-6239.
- **Mar. 2** – St. Joseph's Parish, 47 DePaul St., Rev. Jon Greenstone (301) 447-2326.
- **Mar. 9** – St. Anthony's Parish, 16159 St. Anthony Rd., Rev. Wade Martin (301) 447-2367.
- **Mar. 16** – Emmitsburg Presbyterian, 415 W. Main St., Fr. Vincent O'Malley (301) 447-2413.
- **Mar. 23** – Easter Sunrise Service at The Grotto, Rev. Reg Rice.

Shrine web site becomes more interactive

EMMITSBURG, Md. – For years, the web site for the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton was as simple as Seton's life had been. With the recent restructuring of the site, it still highlights Seton's life and service to the poor, but it now does it interactively by providing curriculum for educators, highlighting the Shrine's tourist attractions, and offering a larger variety of novenas, prayers for special intentions said over a nine-day period.

"We want to share Mother Seton's life and her accomplishments with those who are not familiar with her, especially the youth," said Lori Stewart, Direc-

tor of Communications for the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Daughters of Charity Emmitsburg Province.

The new Seton Shrine web site – [www.setonshrine.org](http://www.setonshrine.org) – features a virtual tour of the shrine grounds, the basilica/visitor center/museum/gift shop and prayer room.

The Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was built in 1965 and dedicated a minor basilica in 1991 by Pope John Paul II. It was designed and crafted by Italian and German artisans who incorporated mosaics, rich marble and bronze, and designed the multiple stained glass windows. These designs for

the windows and mosaics illustrate themes such as the Marian, many of the Saints, depictions of the Daughters of Charity performing the seven corporal works of mercy, the Evangelists, and an Arc of Angels.

"The site provides quick links to our other web sites: The Daughters of Charity – ([www.thedaughtersofcharity.org](http://www.thedaughtersofcharity.org)) and the Seton Legacy of Charity 2009 Bicentennial Celebrations – ([www.setonlegacy.org](http://www.setonlegacy.org)), which is planned for 2009," Stewart said. "The site will continue to be updated with tools such as online donations, and printable Memorial cards in the near future."


In God's Hands Coffeehouse celebrates four years



In God's Hands Coffeehouse opened its doors in ministry four years ago and during that time, many different churches, worship styles and generations have been represented. The coffeehouse has featured local bands just starting their ministries to mature groups which come from New York to Mississippi. Completely funded through donations, the coffeehouse offers a relaxing atmosphere, live music, free food and fresh coffee for those who want to fellowship. For more information on dates, times and performances, visit [www.ighcoffee.com](http://www.ighcoffee.com).


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## ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

### SENIOR EVENTS

Senior Events in February

No matter what the groundhog saw last weekend, we know that Old Man Winter will still be with us for awhile. And though our fingers and toes may be chilly, our hearts will warm with affection on Valentine's Day, and with love of country as we vote in the primary election and remember our nation's leaders on Presidents' Day. Don't forget we have an extra day this month—Feb. 29! We're calling on men 55 and older to get our pool league started again.

The seniors encourage all eligible persons (50 years and older) to join them for regular program activities and special events. Our lunch program is open to those 60 and older. The center is lovely and the "natives" are friendly! Check us out!

#### Special events

**February 12** – Center closed for primary election.

**February 13** – Speaker: Fred Balus, Frederick County Mental Health Dept., 11 a.m.

**February 14** – Valentine's Day party.

**February 18** – Center closed for Presidents' Day observance.

**February 27** – Sharon Lynn, Dept. of Aging, question-&-answer session, 9-noon.

**February 28** – "Heart Health,"

**Deb Rhoades, Extension Service,** 11 a.m.

#### Regular activities

**Bowling:** Mondays at Taneytown bowling center. Carpool; meet at center at 12:30 p.m.

**Strength Training & Conditioning:** Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. Dress comfortably, wear athletic shoes. Participants will use small weights. Free.

**Bingo:** February 13 & 27.

**Cards, 500, and Bridge Group:** February 20

**Men's Pool:** Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

**Pinochle:** Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

**Cards & Games:** Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

**Shopping at Jubilee Foods:** Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

*Programs are held in the Community Center on South Seton Avenue. Call for lunch reservations 24 hours in advance. The senior center will close whenever county offices are closed. To register for special events or for information, call program coordinator Linda Umbel, (301) 600-6350.*

### LIBRARY EVENTS

February at the Emmitsburg Library

#### Storytimes

**Babies with Books** (birth-24 months with an adult) February 6, 13, 20, 27 at 10:30 a.m.

**Two Terrific Storytime** (age 2) February 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10:30 a.m.

**Head Start Storytime** (ages 3-5) February 5, 12, 19, 26 at 9:45 a.m.

**Pre-School Storytime** (ages 3-5) February 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10:30 a.m.

**Family Storytime** (all ages) February 6, 20, 27 at 7 p.m.

**Happy Hearts Storytime** (all ages) February 13 at 6:30 p.m.

#### Children's Programs

**Night Owls** (ages 9-12) An evening of games, crafts, snacks and lots of laughs. Registration required. February 4 at 4 p.m. February 23 at 2:30 p.m.

#### "Did You Know?" Series

(ages 6-12) Celebrate Chinese New Year by learning more about China. February 9 at 11 a.m.

#### Reading Rocks!

(ages 10-12) Read your choice of *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan or *Year of the Dog* by Grace Lin. February 11 at 4 p.m. Registration required.

#### Karaoke Café

(ages 11 and up) Enjoy Karaoke at the library. February 16 at 2 p.m.

#### The Book Bunch

(ages 6-11) Read and discuss *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan. February 20 at 4 p.m.

#### Emmitsburg Elimination Spelling Bee

(age 9-14) Finalists will advance to the championship spelling bee on Mar. 7 February 21 at 7 p.m. Registration required.

#### ART (Artistic Readers Time)

(ages 3-6) Storytime with fun books and a coordinating art project. February 25 at 10:30 a.m.

#### Teen Programs

**Movie Makers Club** (grades 6-12) Learning about directing, writing and

acting in movies. February 5 at 7 p.m.

**Animé Club** (grades 6-12) February 8 at 6 p.m.

**Knit 1, Bead 2** (teens and adults) Bring your favorite craft materials, relax, exchange ideas and learn new skills. February 19 at 6:30 p.m.

#### Adult Programs

**Leaving a Legacy: Write About Your Life**

Learn to record your personal accounts of life "back when", to share with others. February 4 at 1 p.m.

**Friends of Library Board Meeting** (adult) February 11 at 7 p.m.

**Tuesday Evening Book Club** (adults) February 12 at 7:30 p.m.

**Non-Fiction Book Club** (adult) February 14 at 1 p.m.

**Knitting Nook** (teens and adults) February 21 at 4 p.m.

**Genealogy Focus Group** (teens and adults) February 28 at 7 p.m.

*Programs, unless otherwise noted, are held at the Emmitsburg Library in the Community Center on South Seton Avenue. Registration or information: (301) 600-6329.*

### FAIRFIELD SENIOR EVENTS

Senior Events at the Fairfield Senior Center

All seniors in greater Fairfield are invited to take part in the following events, which are held in the community room in St. John's Lutheran Church at 13 W. Main Street, Fairfield, Pa.

#### Special Events

**February 11** – Visiting Angels speaker "Hospice Care" 10:30 a.m.

**February 13** – Happy Valentine Brunch, 11 a.m.

**February 14** – Senior outing, 12 – 3 p.m.

**February 18** – Closed - President's Day

**February 20** – Blood pressure check, 10:30 a.m.

**February 21** – Bowling at Sunshine Lanes in Waynesboro. Meet at the senior center at 9 a.m.

**February 27** – Asera Care speaker, "Cooking for One."

**February 28** – "Lets Talk

*To register for special events, call (717) 642-6523.*

**Food**" with Eleanor Pella: "Bean Mine."

#### Regular Events

**Exercise:** Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Wear athletic shoes.

**Line dancing:** Monday and Fridays, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Needlework:** Mondays, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Needlework of all kinds; bring the project that you're working on.

**Cards and Games:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Beginning Exercise:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.:

**Chat time:** Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Lunch:** Monday – Friday, 12 p.m. Please sign up 48 hours ahead of time.

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#### INFORMATION NIGHTS

**Mon., Feb. 25 or Thurs., Feb. 28**

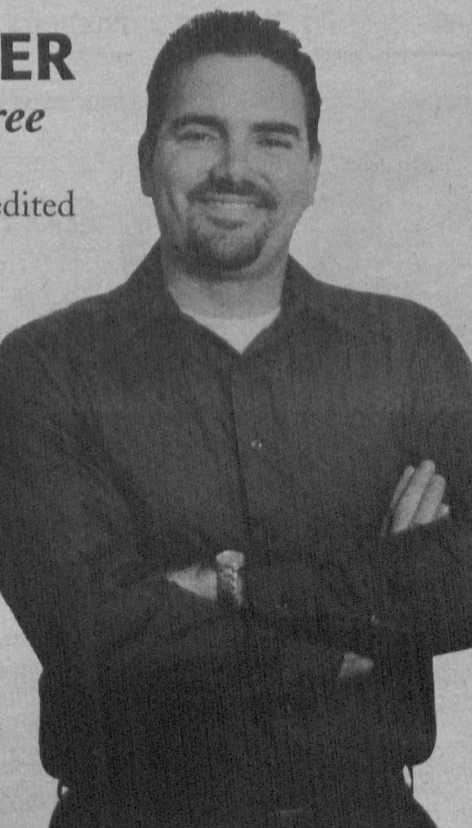
**6:30-7:30 PM**

**Snyder's of Hanover Corporate Headquarters (Multipurpose Room), 1250 York St., Hanover (next to the Factory Store)**

**RSVP recommended. To register your attendance, email [extended@ship.edu](mailto:extended@ship.edu)**

For more information, contact  
Shippensburg's Office of Extended Studies  
717-477-1502 • [extended@ship.edu](mailto:extended@ship.edu)  
[www.ship.edu/extended](http://www.ship.edu/extended)

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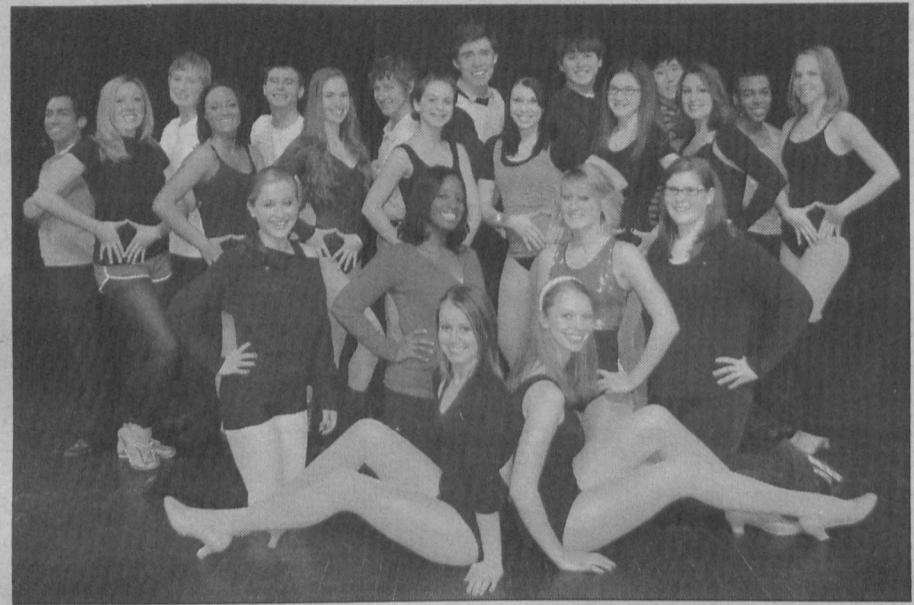
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**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Confessions of a chorus girl**



- PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EICHELBERGER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
The cast of the upcoming production "A Chorus Line" at the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center in Hanover, Pa. include Dispatch staff writer and graphic designer Stephanie Long (back row, right).

BY STEPHANIE LONG  
Dispatch Staff Writer  
slong@thedispatch.us

HANOVER, Pa. - "Step kick kick leap kick touch, again! Step kick kick leap kick touch, again!" That's the life of a chorus girl, that's my life. You see, I love to dance. I've done it since I was four years old, and nothing gives me more satisfaction and fulfillment than dancing. So when I saw an ad for auditions for a musical at the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center I decided to give it a shot.

A few auditions later I found myself in the cast of "A Chorus Line" living the life of a journalist and graphic designer by day and a chorus girl by night. Instead of spending my weeknights attending town council meetings, I began spending my weeknights with high school students and a few people my

age, memorizing dance steps and song lyrics written long before I was born.

There are nights when I enjoy rehearsal, when I learn a lot and have fun, and then there are nights where I find it more difficult, when thoughts of work, deadlines, other commitments and sleep deprivation impede my concentration and lead to frustration.

Yet, regardless of the fact that I am in the chorus, or "Cut Team" as its referred to in "A Chorus Line," I enjoy being a part of the show and experiencing something different. Previously my only experience on stage has involved yards of tulle, pointe shoes and a brief stint as a dancer in "The Music Man" my senior year of high school, thus being a part of "A Chorus Line" has exposed me to musical theatre and all that it entails.

Although I'm not sure I would

have been able to admit it before, I am learning from teenagers, a generation I often look at and think, at the ripe old age of 23, "Wow, it wasn't like that when I was that age." Being in "A Chorus Line" has, in a sense, renewed my faith in the future generations as I've seen the dedication and hard work that my younger peers are willing to put in.

True, Hanover, Pa., may be a few hundred miles away from New York City, but the cast is truly talented, as is the director, music director and choreographer. I'm no Broadway Baby, that's for sure, but I'm a chorus girl and I get to dance, even if only for a few eight counts. I get what I need, and I think, at least for "A Chorus Line," I wouldn't have it any other way.

"A Chorus Line" will be performed at the Eichelberger Center in Hanover, Feb. 14-17. Call (717) 637-7086 for more information.

**OBITUARIES**



**Valerie Lynn Walter**  
January 3, 1960 -  
January 16, 2008

Valerie Lynn Walter, age 48, Emmitsburg resident of 35 years, died on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at her home peacefully in her sleep. She shared a home on Keysville Road with her fiancé, Wayne Gorman.

Born on January 3, 1960, at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Tex., the youngest of seven in a military family, she was the daughter of the late Betty Jean Plowman and Harry B. Plowman of

Quincy, Pa. She was a graduate of Waynesboro High School and completed her education with an Equestrian Degree at Meredith Manor College in Waverly, W.V. Valerie created a career and lifestyle around her passion for horses by teaching her children horsemanship skills and to anyone else that shared the same desire to learn. She was a devoted mother, sister, friend, fiancé and soon-to-be grandmother.

Surviving in addition to her fiancé and father are three daughters: Marie Walter of St. Louis Park, Minn., Karen Walter of Emmitsburg and Christina Walter who is with child; her children's father, John D. Walter of Emmitsburg; five siblings: John, Alex and Chris Plowman, Libby Rogers and Kathy Winkler.

A Memorial Mass was offered at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 16150 St. Anthony's Road, Emmitsburg, where the family received friends beginning at 9 a.m. The Rev. Jack Lombardi served as Celebrant and the services continued with inurnment at the Grotto.

Arrangements were made by Stauffer Funeral Home, Thurmont. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.stauffer-funeralhome.com](http://www.stauffer-funeralhome.com).

**Sister Winifred McKay, DC**  
October 28, 1915 - January 11, 2008

Sister Winifred McKay, DC died Friday, January 11, 2008 at Villa St. Michael, the province's retirement residence in Emmitsburg. She was 92 years of age. Phyllis Winifred McKay was born in Newark, Ohio to James and Mary Morgan McKay.

Sister is survived by a niece, Mary Lou Jones of Berlin, Md., and several grandnieces and grandnephews.

A Mass of Christian burial was offered Jan. 15, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Daughters of Charity Support Fund for the Elderly and Infirm Sisters, 333 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.



# Arts & Entertainment

## C A L E N D A R

**Through April 19 – Goldilocks and the Three Bears.** Way Off Broadway's Children's Theaters delightful story of the little girl with the golden curls returns to the Children's Theatre to open the 2008 Season. While camping in the woods, Goldilocks pays a visit to the cottage of the Three Bears. But in WOB's story, Goldilocks isn't the Bears' only visitor - a number of traveling salesmen try to peddle all kinds of products to the good-natured Bears in this fun family musical. (301) 662-6600, [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).

**February 7 – Nicaraguan Mural Artist** at The Imagination Station, 18 Carlisle St, Suite 201, Gettysburg. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Internationally recognized Nicaraguan Primitivista mural artist Jose Ignacio Fletes Cruz will offer a painting demonstration. (717) 334-5006.

**February 9 – Draw and Paint Super Heroes** at Emmitsburg Community Center, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Draw your favorite Superhero and bring the character to life using watercolors. A fun and colorful art project will be made during this one-day program. Ages 6 - 10 years. \$20. To pre-register call (301) 600-2936.

**February 9 – Messy Masterpieces** at Emmitsburg Community Center, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. Children can experience art through this 4-week hands-on class. Create modern masterpieces while discovering colors, textures, and shapes. Dress for a mess (old clothes) and bring a smock. Ages 3 - 5 years. \$35 per participant. Saturdays 10 - 11 a.m. To pre-register call (301) 600-2936.

**February 9 – Myq Kaplan Comedian** at Mount St. Mary's Knott Auditorium, Emmitsburg. 9 p.m. For more information call (301) 447-5274 or Mayor James Hoover at (240) 629-6300.

**February 9 – Valentine's Weekend Ghost Tour** sponsored by Ghostly Images of Gettysburg. Tour departs from the Jennie Wade House, 548 Baltimore Street. 7 p.m. For ticket information (717) 334-6296, [www.gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com](http://www.gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com).

**February 9 & 10 – "Two Rooms"** at Gettysburg Stage, Kefauver Center, 157 Lefever Street, Gettysburg. 8 p.m. 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 (866) 859-5192, [www.gettysburgstage.org](http://www.gettysburgstage.org).

**February 11 – Little Scientist** at Emmitsburg Community Center, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. Mondays, 6 - 6:45 p.m. Let your future scientist investigate and experience the wonderful world of science through hands-on projects in this 4-week program. Ages 4 - 5 years. \$25.

To pre-register call (301) 600-2936.

**February 12 – Trinity Irish Dance** at the Majestic Theater, Gettysburg. 7:30 pm. Powerhouse performance by Mark Howard's champion Irish dance troupe. For ticket information (717) 337-8200, [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org).

**February 14 – Imam Yahya Hendi** at Mount St. Mary's Knott Auditorium, Emmitsburg, speaking on "Islamic and Catholic Narratives

for Justice and Peacebuilding: An American Muslim's Perspective" 7 p.m. For more information call (301) 447-5274 or Mayor James Hoover at (240) 629-6300.

**February 14 – Anne of Green Gables** at the Majestic Performing Arts Center, Gettysburg. For ticket information (717) 337-8200 [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org).

**February 15 – 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Jazz Ensemble Concert** at the Ma-

jestic Performing Arts Center, Gettysburg. For information (717) 337-8200, [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org).

**February 15 – "Echoes of the Past"** at Knott Auditorium, Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg. 7 p.m. Actress Maxine Maxwell weaves in and out of 150 years of history to explore the turning points in the lives of five remarkable and courageous women. Free. Open to the public. (301) 447-5366.

**February 16 – Music Gettysburg** presents a Valentine with Wayne Hill and Friends Michael Matsinko and Buzz Jones in the Chapel at the Lutheran Theological Seminary. Performance is FREE and open to the public. 7:30 p.m. For more information visit [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org).

**February 17 – College Community Orchestra Pops Concert** and Eric and Phoebe Fennell, guests vocalists at the Majestic Performing Arts Center. 2:30 p.m. For information call (717) 337-8200 or [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org).

**February 20 – Art Club Series** at Emmitsburg Community Center, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. Wednesdays 5 - 6:30 p.m. Each session will focus on a different style and technique of art. All materials provided. Ages 8 - 13 years. Painting (2 weeks) \$30, Print Making begins March 12 (2 weeks) \$30. To pre-register call (301) 600-2936.

**February 22 – Lincoln at Gettysburg** weekend sponsored by the Bed and Breakfasts INNside Gettysburg. For information call the Lilghtner Farmhouse at (717) 337-9508.

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# Community CALENDAR

**February 8 – Catoctin FFA Chapter Country Butchering** at Catoctin 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.

**February 8 – February Breakfast** at Thunderhead Bowling Center in Taneytown. 7:30 a.m. \$8. Speaker, Ted Zaleski, CC Director of Budget and Management, How the State Budget Cuts will Affect You As A Resident and Business Owner. Call (410) 751-1100 x 20 for reservations no later than Wed., Feb. 6.

**February 9 – Turkey, Country Ham and Oyster Dinner** at Lewistown Vol. Fire Dept. 11101 Hesson Bridge Rd. 12 – 5 p.m. served family style, all you can eat. Adults \$13.50; children 5 – 10 \$6.50, children under 4 free. Carryout's \$14.50 (301) 898-9988.

**February 10 – Music Gettysburg** presents Jocelyn Swigger, Pianist at the Chapel of the Lutheran Theological Seminary. 4 p.m. FREE. Open to the public. [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org).

**February 10 – “Share Sunday For Babies”**, contribute new baby material items to benefit mothers and families in need, sponsored by St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus Council 11631 during its Country Style All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast

Buffet fund raiser, 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Social Hall, 44 Frederick St., Taneytown. All baby items will be delivered to an area crisis pregnancy center serving women and families in need. Information: Vincent Perticone, (410) 756-4886.

**February 10 – Catoctin High School Safe-n-Sane Basket Bingo** at the Thurmont Activities building, 12:30 p.m., games begins at 2 p.m. \$15 in advance \$20 at the door. For information or tickets please call Gladys Hemler at (301) 447-2043 or Wanda Routzahn at (301) 524-3562. [www.catoctinsafeandsane.com](http://www.catoctinsafeandsane.com). Proceeds benefit CHS 2008 Safe and Sane program.

**February 10, 17 & 24 – Overeaters Anonymous** meets weekly at various locations around Frederick and Washington Counties. Sundays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Christ Reformed Church, 12 S. Church St., Middletown. Please call ahead to verify time and location. For more information visit [www.frederickregionoa.org](http://www.frederickregionoa.org) or call (301) 694-3554.

**February 13 – Catoctin High School Safe-n-Sane meeting** at CHS in the media center. 7 p.m. All Jr. and Sr. parents are encouraged to attend. Help is always needed. Sharon Hamilton (301) 447-3679. March Restaurant Raffle \$5 ticket; one ticket drawn everyday in March. Contact Donna at (301) 271-4212.

**February 13 – Roy Rogers Night** at Thurmont Roy Rogers. 5 – 8 p.m. 20 percent of the profits will go to

CHS 2008 Safe and Sane. Upon ordering announce this is to support CHS Safe and Sane.

**February 13 – Partnership for Land Use Education Spring Seminar Series** at the Adams County Ag and Natural Resources Center will feature Understanding Density. 7 p.m. FREE For information call Judy Chambers at (717) 334-6271, ext. 300 or [chambers@psu.edu](mailto:chambers@psu.edu).

**February 13, 20 & 27 – Like to sing?** Women of all voice parts are invited to join the Clustered Spire Chorus! Wednesdays, 7 - 9 :30 p.m. at St. Thomas More Academy, 3989 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, MD. For more information call Cindy (301) 644-1589.

**February 14 – Thurmont Mom's Club** meets the second Thursday of each month at Graceham Moravian Church, Rocky Ridge Rd. 10 a.m. (301) 271-5415.

**February 15 – Valentine's Day Dance** at Thurmont Amvets Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd. 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. “Great Train Robbery” Classic Rock band. Tickets \$15 for purchase at Amvets. Benefits Veterans Hospital. 21 years or older to attend. (301) 271-3371.

**February 15 – Friday Nights Lenten Fish Bakes** at Our Lady of Mount Cannel Church parish hall, Thurmont. 5 - 7:30 p.m. Adults \$9, children 4 – 12 \$5, 3 and under free. Proceeds go to our Knights of Columbus charitable projects. For more information call (301) 271-4439.

**February 16 – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Jesus Loves Me Sweetheart Breakfast** at Fellowship Baptist Church, 110 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield, Pa. Hosted by our youth to benefit retreats, missions, and fellowship activities. 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Suggested Donations: Adults: \$5, Children/Se-

niors \$3. Please RSVP to (717) 642-6767.

**February 16 – Oyster/Country Ham Dinner** at Creagerstown St. John's Union Church Parish House, Creagerstown, Md. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Adults \$13; children 7 – 12 \$3. Carry outs \$14. All proceeds go to the restoration of the 1834 Union Church.

**February 16 – Staying Warm in the Winter** at Thorpewood. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. What do you do if you are lost in the woods? What should you carry on every hike? \$20 (301) 271-2823.

**February 16 & 23 – Maple Sugaring** at the Strawberry Hill Nature Center and Preserve, 1537 Mount Hope Road, three miles outside Fairfield, Pa. 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. for individuals and families; 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. for organized groups. \$3 for non-members. Reservations required. Call (717) 642-5840.

**February 16 & 23 – Annual Pancake-and-Sausage Breakfast** at Mt. Hope United Methodist Church, located a mile west of Strawberry Hill at 1945 Mt. Hope Road. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturdays during Maple Sugaring. Adults \$5; children 6 - 12 \$2; children under 5 free. All proceeds benefit Strawberry Hill's programs.

**February 17 – DAYTONA “500” Party** at Harney VFW Activities Building, 5801 Conover Rd., Harney, Md. 12:30 p.m. 3 Big-screen TV's. Food, beverage and cash bar style. Advance tickets \$22 with reserved seats and tables available. (\$25 at door if seats are available) Sponsored by and proceeds benefit Terra Rubra Lions Club Girls softball program and the field building fund. For tickets call (443) 395-4618 or (410) 751-1673.

**February 17 – All you can eat Buf-**

**fet Breakfast** at The Greenmount Fire Company, 3095 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, PA. (5 miles south of Gettysburg on Business Route 15.) 7 – 11 a.m. Adults \$6; children 6 - 10 \$3; under 6 free.

**February 17 - Spaghetti Dinner** at St. Mary's Church, 256 Tract Road, Fairfield. 3 - 6 p.m. Adults \$6, children 6 – 12 \$3. Information (717) 642-8815.

**February 19 – Grief Support Group** meets for the next six weeks (Thursdays) in the Gettysburg Hospital Pastoral Care Conference Room. 7 p.m. To register call Barbara Schmitthenner at (717) 334-2012.

**February 21 – Grief Support Group** meets for the next six weeks (Tuesdays) in the Gettysburg Hospital Pastoral Care Conference Room. 2 p.m. To register call Barbara Schmitthenner at (717) 334-2012.

**February 21 – Silver Fancy Garden Club.** Please join us to learn “Tips for Easier Gardening.” Trinity Lutheran Church, Taneytown, 12:30 p.m. Light refreshments served. For more information contact Susie Heck (410) 756-1113 or [Susie@infopathways.com](mailto:Susie@infopathways.com).

**February 23 – Henn Basket and Pottery Bingo** at Mother Seton School, 100 Creamery Road, Emmitsburg. 6 p.m.; bingo at 7 p.m. Tickets for 20 games are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Specials, raffle and food and drink are also available. All are invited. To order tickets call (301) 447-3161.

**February 23 – Optimist Club Oyster Feed** at the Gettysburg Fire Hall. All you can eat Oysters. 12 - 3 p.m. For tickets contact a member or Mark Grazulewicz at (717) 337-3620

**February 23 & 24 – Bernese Mountain Dog Show** in the e-ventplex at The Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md. (301) 831-1081. [www.thegreatfrederickfair.com](http://www.thegreatfrederickfair.com).



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**Services**

**ARTISAN RENOVATIONS**  
Specializing in older homes from Victorian painting to restoration, carpentry and repairs. For truly professional service call (410) 756-6746, MHIC 40978.

**GUITAR LESSONS**  
Acoustic/Electric. Beginners to advanced. All styles. All ages. Taught by an instructor with over 20 years of teaching and performing experience. Call Brent for details at (301) 271-0860 or e-mail [brent@brentpro.com](mailto:brent@brentpro.com).

**Misc. Sales**

**REFRIGERATOR/CLOTHES DRYER**  
Kenmore, double door w/ icemaker and water dispenser. Works great. \$150. Clothes Dryer, electric, almost new. \$100. Call (301) 992-1941.

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Residential/Commercial Sales, Service, Parts. Large showroom and test-drive area. Harrington's 5825 Conover Rd., Taneytown, Md. (410) 756-2506.

**SCOOTERS, MOPEDS & ATV's**

Retro Scooter, \$799; VIP Scooter, \$1,099; 110CC 4-Wheelers, \$899, with front and rear brakes, remote starter, alarm system, auto transmission, adjustable suspension, adjustable speed limit control. Mini 2-Stroke Harley Choppers, \$299. All prices include set-up and shipping or delivery. Fitzgerald's Auto & Cycle Service, Emmitsburg, Md. (301) 447-6274.

**For Rent**

**APARTMENT**  
2 bedroom upstairs apartment with separate kitchen and living room, balcony. Yard, garage plus drive-

way. Fairfield Schools. On Route 16. No smoking or dogs. \$550/month plus utilities. (717) 642-8659.

**OFFICE/RESIDENTIAL UNITS**

16 and 18 North Church St., Thurmont. 3 bedrooms, 1 full bath, \$1,000; 2 bedrooms, 1 full bath, \$950. Both include oil, water and trash. Units can be used for residential or office space. Security Deposit required. No pets. Call (301) 524-8628.

**Activities**

**FFA COUNTRY BUTCHERING**

February 8 - at Catocin 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.

**BREAKFAST**

February 8 at Thunderhead Bowling Center. 7:30 a.m. \$8. Speaker, Ted Zaleski, CC Director of Budget and Management. How the State Budget Cuts will Affect You As A Resident and Business Owner. Call (410) 751-1100 x 20 for reservations no later than Wednesday, February 6.

**TURKEY, COUNTRY HAM AND OYSTER DINNER**

February 9 at Lewistown Vol. Fired Dept. 11101 Hessong Bridge Rd. 12 - 5 p.m. served family style, all you can eat. Adults \$13.50; children 5 - 10 \$6.50, children under 4 free. Carryout's \$14.50 (301) 898-9988.

**MUSIC GETTYSBURG**

February 10. Jocelyn Swigger, Pianist at the Chapel of the Lutheran Theological Seminary. 4 p.m. FREE. Open to the public. [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org).

**"SHARE SUNDAY FOR BABIES"**

February 10 contribute new baby material items to benefit mothers and families in need, sponsored by St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus Council 11631 during its Country Style All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast Buffet fund raiser, 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Social Hall, 44 Frederick St., Taneytown. All baby items will be delivered to an area crisis pregnancy center serving women and families in need. Information: Vincent Perticone, (410) 756-4886.

**SAFE-N-SANE BASKET BINGO**

February 10 at the Thurmont Activities building, 12:30 p.m., games begins at 2 p.m. \$15 in advance \$20 at the door. For information or tickets please call Gladys Hemler at (301) 447-2043 or Wanda Routzahn at (301) 524-3562. [www.catocinsafeandsane.com](http://www.catocinsafeandsane.com). Proceeds benefit CHS 2008 Safe and Sane program.

**Speak Automotive**

Sales Center		Service & Lube Center
00 Focus 81K	\$5,800	MD State Inspections
00 Blazer 4DR 107K	\$5,995	Alignments
00 Durango 74K	\$7,995	Tires
00 Explorer 76K	\$7,995	Oil Change
03 Gr. Caravan 64K	\$9,995	Brakes
04 Gr. Am 52K	\$10,500	Batteries
02 Silverado 67K	\$10,995	Mufflers
03 Durango 76K	\$11,995	Transmission Flush
02 Trail Blazer 64K	\$12,500	Engine/Transmission Repair & Replacement

**OPEN SATURDAYS!**  
[www.SpeakAutomotive.com](http://www.SpeakAutomotive.com)  
301-271-4700  
at the corner of Roddy Creek Rd. and Rt. 15 N. Thurmont, MD

# GET THE JOB DONE!

Local Businesses and Professionals serving the Mason-Dixon Area

<p><b>Hardware</b></p> <p><b>Zurgable Brothers Hardware</b></p> <p>Home Improvement Supplies. Stay Local. Start Here.</p> <p>Open Monday thru Friday 7am - 6pm, Saturday 8am - 5pm, Closed Sundays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Valpar Paints</li> <li>✓ Hardware and Tools</li> <li>✓ Lumber</li> <li>✓ Garden Supplies</li> <li>✓ Mulch</li> <li>✓ Sakrete Concrete</li> <li>✓ Snow Shovels</li> <li>✓ Ice Melt</li> <li>✓ Holland Gas Grills</li> <li>✓ Red Wing Shoes</li> </ul> <p>and much more...</p> <p>16663 Old Emmitsburg Road - Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727 <b>301-447-2020</b></p>	<p><b>Auto Repair</b></p> <p>Custom Painting Mechanical Work</p> <p>Color Matching Insurance Claims All Work Guaranteed</p> <p><b>Doug's Auto Body &amp; Repair</b></p> <p>2896 Tract Road Fairfield, PA 17320</p> <p>717-642-9261</p>	<p><b>Oil</b></p> <p>John Glass - President Tammy Glass - Vice President</p> <p>Jim Glass - Treasurer</p> <p><b>MASON-DIXON OIL COMPANY</b></p> <p>301-447-3199</p> <p><b>Call for Price &amp; Delivery</b></p> <p>9402 Waynesboro Pike, corner of Rt. 140 and Tract Road</p>	<p><b>Towing</b></p> <p>Friendly Service Reasonable Rates</p> <p><b>GENE'S TOWING</b></p> <p>SNOW REMOVAL Parking Lots * Driveways Jump Starts * Flat Tires * Lock Outs</p> <p>Need a jump? Now offering full battery service! Batteries Available.</p> <p>Office: 301-447-2243 Mobile: 301-676-0842 Fax: 301-447-2381</p> <p>Eugene B. Troxell Emmitsburg, MD 21727</p>
<p><b>Landscaping</b></p> <p><b>Baumgardner Farms Landscaping</b></p> <p>Lawn Maintenance seasonal clean-up/seeding/mowing/mulching, etc.</p> <p>Flower Garden/Bed Installation</p> <p>Specializing in Water Gardens</p> <p>Ask about other services (including snow removal) Contact Chad at 301-418-1353</p>	<p><b>Lawn Services</b></p> <p><b>R &amp; M Lawn Services LLC and more...</b></p> <p>240.674.5746 717.642.9463</p> <p>General Lawn Maintenance Hauling • Painting • Snow Removal</p> <p>Kim Valentine • 3644 Bullfrog Rd. • Fairfield, PA 17320 • Insured</p>	<p><b>Dining</b></p> <p><b>The Palms Restaurant</b></p> <p>16-20 W. Main St. Emmitsburg, MD 21727 301-447-3689</p> <p>*Serving Breakfast, Lunch, &amp; Dinner *Daily Specials *Homemade Soups *Beer, Wine &amp; Cocktails</p> <p>Terry Rydor Doug Long</p>	<p><b>Lumber</b></p> <p>LOG YARD 301-447-3000</p> <p><b>JOHN H. COBLENTZ &amp; SONS</b></p> <p>LICENSE #14</p> <p>Buyers of Standing Timber and Veneer Logs Lumber Sawn to Order</p> <p>15842 St. Anthony's Rd. Thurmont, MD 21788</p> <p>Dave 301-271-7587 Terry 301-271-4177</p>

Reserve your space and be visible to over **75,000** people a month!

To list your business please call Lori at 301-447-3039 or e-mail: [advertising@thedispach.us](mailto:advertising@thedispach.us)

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And now you can share it  
with your friends and family.



Historical collectors' postcards of Emmitsburg and/or Thurmont are now available at:

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| <b>In Emmitsburg:</b>  | <b>In Thurmont:</b>       |
| • Antique Folly        | • Cool Beans              |
| • The Total Look       | • The Cozy                |
| • Village Liquor Store | • R.S. Kinnaird Memorials |

To be notified when new cards in the series are available, call (301) 447-3039 to be added to our mailing list.

**The Dispatch**  
COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS  
News and Opinion in the service of Truth

The Dispatch Community Newspapers  
invites you to be part of

# Spring Time

A Mason-Dixon area guide to activities,  
services & events for Spring 2008!

Over 30,000 Direct Mail Distribution to Adams  
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100% market saturation  
in these zip codes...

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
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PUBLICATION DATE: MARCH 6, 2008  
DEADLINE FOR ADS: FEB. 15, 2008

Call Lori at The Dispatch to reserve  
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301-447-3039 advertising@thedispatch.us

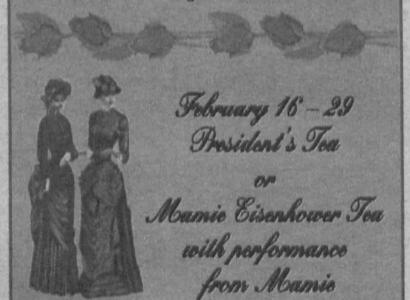


Restaurant/Country Inn • Village of Shoppers • Camp David Museum

## Cozy's Tea Room

Available Mon. - Sat. 11:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
(Reservations Required)

Sweetheart Tea  
February 1 - 15



February 16 - 29  
President's Tea  
or  
Mamie Eisenhower Tea  
with performance  
from Mamie

Choose from:

- First Ladies Tea
- Full Afternoon
- Lite Afternoon
- Dessert Tea

Cozy  
301-271-4301  
CozyVillage.com  
Thurmont, MD

Our Floral items will be arriving on Tuesday, February 12th

# Valentine's Day Specials

**Jubilee** foods  
*Premium*  
MEATS • SEAFOOD • DELICATESSEN

EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND  
301-447-6688

## Dozen Premium Boxed Roses

12 premium roses, baby's breath  
& ferns in an attractive gift box

\$24.99

## Rose Vase

3 roses in vase with greens \$8.99

Single rose in vase with greens

\$4.99

## Dozen Rose Bouquet

12 roses, baby's breath & ferns in a  
beautiful bouquet

\$19.99