

The Emmitsburg REGIONAL DISPATCH

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Gaining Strength Through Each Other.

August, 1994

Yvette Semler Appointed New Town Manager

Mayor Carr and members of the town council, after passing an ordinance allowing them to hire a Town Manager, appointed Yvette Semler to the new position at the town meeting held July 11th. Ms. Semler has worked in the town office for the past two and a half years.

"Every small town needs a Town Manager," Mayor Carr said. "It's important to have someone who knows what's going on, and we're lucky to have Yvette."

Yvette grew up in Germany where her father served in the military. A scholarship took her to the University of Arizona where she majored in Animal Health Services, with plans to become a veterinarian.

Following her graduation from the university, Yvette returned to her family who now reside in Hagerstown. She decided to "take it easy" for awhile before pursuing further studies. She answered an ad for the

position of Zoning Administrator in Emmitsburg.

"I still remember the evening my dad drove me over for the interview. I was so impressed with the beauty of the area," she said. "The street lights were on, the streets were clean — I fell in love with the town." And she got the job.

Duke Martin was the Director of Public Works when Yvette was hired and she worked closely with him, learning all aspects of the job. "He was an excellent teacher," she said, "and still provides me with counsel." When Martin left his position she assumed his duties. Mayor Carr appointed her Coordinator of Public Works when he took office.

As Town Manager Yvette will continue to coordinate all public works, but will also have the responsibility for overseeing the financial matters of the town.

"My job is really one of salesmanship," (Yvette said. "I want to do what is best for Emmitsburg, but I have to present those ideas to the commissioners and get them to go along with me. Sometimes they have better suggestions, so we compromise. We have a mutual respect for each other and I feel we work well together."

According to Yvette, the most difficult part of her job is seeing things that need to be done and being patient until funding is available to do them. She feels the greatest challenge facing Emmitsburg today is the upgrading of our water treatment and distribution system. It is her hope that this will be one of her first accomplishments as Town Manager.

The diversity of the job and working with the public give Yvette the most satisfaction. "I'm here to handle complaints (Continued on page 7)

ELLIOTT SEEKS OFFICE

Delegate Donald Elliott has announced that he will seek reelection to the Maryland House of Representatives. This year's campaign in state district 4B will include Emmitsburg voting district 5. The local district has been included in district 4B as a result of adjusting boundaries to account for changes in the population.

In noting that he has not served in Frederick County in the past, Elliott, in a letter to the *Dispatch*, said, "I have not been involved in any local decisions affecting Emmitsburg or Frederick County. As a member of the Carroll and Howard County delegations, I have participated in legislation which impacted these jurisdictions. I think, in general, that my voting record would be described as conservative."

Elliott feels that "the concerns and problems of Emmitsburg are not too different from those of other jurisdictions in the state.



Rep. Donald Elliott

A notable exception to this is the fact that District 4B is rural, and farming is the livelihood of many of the people in the region."

(Continued on page 5)

Lion's Club

ONE MILE RUN

Four-Year old goes all the way

The second annual Lion's Club one mile run was held on Sunday, July 3, 1994, winding through the streets of Emmitsburg as part of the annual Community Day Festivities. Forty-six runners completed the race, an increase of 13 over last year.

Frank Kelly, 32, of Frederick, MD, won the event for the second year in 4 minutes and 58 seconds, bettering his last year's time by six seconds. Rounding out the top 5 finishers in the men's division were Chris Nitchie, 17, Concord, NH, 5:14; Chris Higgs, 15, Emmitsburg, MD, 5:41; Thad Stultz, 16, Fairfield PA, 5:59; and Jeremy Shields, 13, Emmitsburg, MD, 6:40.

Lealia Price, 14, of Smithsburg, MD, won the women's division for the second (Continued on page 11)

ROUNDS

TOWN MEETING

Mayor Carr, in his report to the Town Council at the July 11th meeting, noted that the study entitled *Evaluation of the Community Center* has been completed. Copies will be made available at the town office for all to see. The report includes three different strategies that could be followed in developing the building. It will be used when town officials and delegates meet with county officials to make final recommendations regarding the building's restoration and use.

Two residents of Emmitsburg, Tom Humerick and Forrest Knipple, attended the town meeting to protest Commissioner Tom Gingell's derogatory remarks about Vietnam veterans made at a June 22 public workshop. Humerick asked Gingell why he had made such a comment, and Gingell replied that the nation had just celebrated on July 4th the signing of the Declaration of Independence which protects his right to say what he wants. Gingell also expressed his displeasure with the article in the *Frederick News-Post* which gave an account of the remark. He said that it had not included the fact that he had proposed that each of the town commissioners give \$10 to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

Forrest Knipple reminded the council that at least six Emmitsburg area families had members who served in Vietnam. Humerick asked the Mayor and Council for a public apology. Commissioner Hollinger stated that the comment in question did not reflect the thoughts of the entire council and ended the discussion.

Eugene Myers questioned the accuracy of the water meter on his property. He stated

AUGUST MEETINGS AT TOWN OFFICE

Aug. 1 - Town meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 25 - Parks and Recreation, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29 - Planning and Zoning, 7 p.m.

Note: Public workshop meeting date set at town meeting. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

that "there was no way" he could use 193,000 gallons of water in a four month period. The commissioners said they will investigate even though a new meter has been installed.

Mr. Don Briggs and partners of the Pembroke Housing Development appealed to the commissioners to seek ways of speeding up the installation of water and sewage lines to serve the Pembroke development. Originally the lines were to run through the proposed Brookfield development. The question of ownership and current site plans for the Brookfield site has forced reconsideration of the lines' course. The commissioners expressed a desire to resolve this problem and will meet informally with Pembroke representatives to consider alternative solutions to the lines installation.

R & J Builders were granted eight residential water taps so they can begin construction on new units at their Warthen Way development located on West Main Street.

Twenty-nine residential water taps were made available to the Silo Hill Development of the Ausherman Company for units under construction that will begin soon. During the discussion of the allocation of water taps Commissioner Gingell pointed out that the limiting factor is not the number of taps that can be allocated, but the amount of water that is available. The town is currently working on strategies for increasing the water supply.

A new Cub Cadet tractor was purchased from Harrington and Sons to replace the old unit. The new tractor will be used for grounds-keeping and mowing the town parks and recreational fields.

The proposed newspaper ordinance affecting the distribution of free newspapers and related littering problems is being studied by the town attorney and will be presented at the August town meeting.

Mrs. Patty Ortner of Silo Hill, acting as a concerned citizen, told the commissioners that she had contacted the state highway department concerning using the right-of-way along route 140 between the end of East Main Street and the street leading into Silo Hill. Ortner suggested the installation of a sidewalk that would make walking to and from town safer for residents of the developments as well as shoppers. She reported that the state agreed to the use of the right-of-way for this purpose, but that the expense of construction would have to be borne by the local government. The commissioners ex-

pressed a willingness to investigate the various options and will work on ideas and suggestions in search for a resolution to the problem.

Police Report

The town deputies reported that in June there were two accidents, three CDS violations, one case of property destruction, and one domestic dispute. They made 65 mobile patrols and 52 foot patrols. They made one criminal adult arrest. Twenty-eight moving traffic violations were awarded, nine warnings issued, and two vehicle repair orders given. Deputy Horner, being fluent in Spanish, was called to serve as a translator in one case. Nineteen business escorts were made. (Continued on page 7)

MAYOR'S COMMENT

Emmitsburg's mayor and council support all veterans. We respect them for what they have done for us as individuals and for the town and country in preserving our democracy and way of life.

It is unfortunate that one member of the town council, himself a veteran of World War II, made a statement that belittled Vietnam veterans. We on the town council can't retract something we never said and don't agree with. The statement by that one council member was made on the spur of the moment. None of the council knew what he was going to say. Publicly, the council through its president has stated that the mayor and other council members do not agree with, or support, the one council member's thoughts or statements concerning Vietnam veterans.

The right to speak one's mind and have stated opinions is one of the cornerstones of our democracy. That right, when it causes personal hurt and mental anguish, is at times abused. The council feels that this particular incident is an example of abuse of the right to speak one's thoughts. The mayor and council hope that an occurrence of this nature will never happen again and they will strive to that end.

An Efficient Operation

By now all property owners in town should have received their real estate taxes, annual garbage and sewer statements, and second quarter water billings. The tax statements were prepared by the county, the others prepared by the Town Clerk. All bills were mailed together which saved the town approximately \$500 in postage. Thank you, Karyn and Helen, for your work in completing this project.

-- CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS --

SENIOR CITIZENS

The long, hot days of summer have been with us, but can you believe it's August? It seems that school just ended, but it will soon begin again in the last week of this month.

Here at the center we have been keeping cool with air conditioners and fans. We've played a lot of cards and bingo. We also watched "Mrs. Doubtfire" on the VCR. During August we plan to have our annual picnic lunch, catered by Mountaingate Restaurant, on Tuesday, August 16 at 12 noon. Also on the same day we will have a flower show with prizes for the winners. All entries must be entered by 11:00 a.m. that morning.

On Wednesday, August 31, we will have a pizza party at the "Hut" at 5:00 p.m. Reservations are a must and \$1.00 must be paid with your reservation. Following the party we will return to the Center for some card games.

Our afternoon Bingo will be held August 4th and 18th. The "500" parties will take place on Aug. 11th and 25th.

We will be going to Corneys's Corner for lunch August 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26. Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance for all lunches. Anyone 60 years or over is eligible to participate in the meal program each weekday. For information call Anna Margaret at 447-6253.

Here are some special dates to remember: Sept 9, 10, and 11: Community Show at Catoctin High School; Sept. 15: Night card party, 6:30 p.m., public welcomed, \$2 per person; Sept. 20: birthday party, 12 noon, covered dish luncheon.

The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. each week. Lunch is served each day at 12 noon. Come join us for food, fun, fellowship; we'd love to have you with us.

ARTS LEAGUE

The Emmitsburg Arts League has been enjoying a summer of "paint-outs," meeting as a group and painting at various outdoor locations. Our regular meeting will resume on the second Thursday of each month beginning on September 8. If you are interested in becoming a member please pick up an application in the library or at Her Studio Gallery.

HEALTHSCOPE

A Senior Healthscope, sponsored by the Frederick County Commission on Aging, will be held Tuesday, August 30, 1994, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Thurmont Senior Center, 806 East Main Street, Thurmont, Maryland.

Free screenings for nutrition, blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol of persons 60 years of age or over will be provided by the Wellness Center of Frederick Memorial Hospital. A registered dietitian will discuss your individual diet with you and answer your questions.

Personnel from the Frederick County Cooperative Extension Service will offer taste testing and recipes for healthy eating.

Plan to spend about half an hour to get this valuable information at no cost. Preregistration is required. Call 271-7911 for an appointment.

EBPA

The Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association has begun plans for a Grand Opening of our new Visitors Center Museum in the Community Center Building on South Seton Avenue. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by an auction of goods and services donated by our Emmitsburg businesses and our friends. This event will take place on Saturday, September 17, at 12:00 noon. The Visitors Center is open when staffed by volunteers. We invite anyone interested to be a volunteer.



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COMMENTARY

Voter's Responsibility and Power

Bars were closed when polls were open, history tells us, to keep vote-peddling under control and to counter the affect of corrupting forces on the voters during the heat of a political contest. Nowadays there are hardly enough voters to make vote-peddling a viable enterprise. Times have changed and perhaps it is appropriate to consider a new election-day strategy—shut down TV and open the bars. This might get the voters out of the house and in closer proximity to the polls.

On September 13th, from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., we are to have another opportunity to participate in the selection/election process, an opportunity often more appreciated in emerging nations than here. One can't help but sense an unvoiced slightly cynical attitude of "why bother?" The answer to this question is that our government is of the people and is charged with responding appropriately and equitably to public opinion. There are however, some critically important concerns that come along with this ideal: who is responsible? who has the power?

Responsibility and power are part of the mix of government, They help determine how political decisions are spread among the citizenry or granted to smaller

special interest groups. Even on local levels power brokers exert their influence. It is a part of the political game; it always has been and always will be. How responsibility and power are handled by candidates and office holders helps form our perception of government. How the responsibility and power of participating in elections is handled by the voters sends clear messages to the politicians.

Voters need to prepare before making their mark. Some questions to research include the following: what is important to me and my community? how do the candidates perceive the issues? what is the character of the candidates? how do the candidates accept responsibility and wield power? how can I get myself to the polls? The voters' responsibility is to gather information in time to answer these questions. The voters' power comes from casting their ballots and becoming part of the checks-and-balances process that insures fair representation.

The election in September is a primary. This is the time to support and select the candidate who best represents your views. Too often voters neglect the importance of this part of a general election. Keep checking in the local newspapers for information by and about the candidates. Or better still, appoint yourself a committee-of-one and call the Frederick County Board of Elections at 694-1006 to learn the names of the candidates, the offices they are seeking, their addresses, and phone numbers. If these folks want to represent you, they should be available and open to talk with you about issues and what they believe.

There are two ways to register: get a registration card from the town office and follow the simple instructions, or call the election board at 694-1005 and they will mail you a registration form. Either way you must be registered by August 15th to vote.

100 Years Ago - "In This Place" From the *Emmitsburg Chronicle*

New Teacher

August 3, 1894 - Mr. L.D. Crawford, of Sabillasville, Md., has been appointed principal of the public schools in this place. Vice Prof. E. B. Fockler, resigned. Mr. Crawford is an experienced teacher and is very highly recommended by the School Examiner and School Commissioners of Frederick County.

An Exciting Time

August 10, 1894 - There was quite an exciting time at the residence of Mr. Charles Keilholtz, near town on Wednesday. Mr. Harry McNair, a stock dealer, went to Mr. Keilholtz's for the purpose of purchasing some lambs. He was driving a colt which he tied to the wagon shed. Mr. Keilholtz, with two helpers, was hauling rye from a stack with two horses in a wagon. Mr. Keilholtz and Mr. McNair went to the field where the sheep were in pasture, leaving the two men to put the load on the wagon. From some cause or other, Mr. McNair's colt made a plunge and fell to the ground. The two men went to the colt to assist it in getting up, and while thus engaged, the two horses in the wagon started to run. The men left the colt lying on the ground and started after the runaway team. The horses ran along a post and rail fence and finally the off-wheel horse jumped the fence. They ran a short distance with one horse on either side of the fence before they were captured, breaking down three panels of fence, being the only damage done. There was not so much as a scratch on either of the horses, which seems almost miraculous. Mr. McNair's colt was also unhurt, although both shafts of the vehicle were broken.

What Became of the Ice?

August 24, 1894 - A few nights ago several large pieces of ice disappeared from Mr. Albert Smith's ice house, in this place. Mr. Smith is at a loss to know what became of the ice. It is incredible to suppose that these large cakes melted during these cool nights, and the supposition is that it must surely have been a very mean person who would carry away another man's ice in the dark of the night without securing permission from the owner. Especially at this season of the year, when ice is such a scarce and valuable article.

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