

*Season's Greetings To All*

# The Emmitsburg REGIONAL DISPATCH

Vo. II, No. 12

Gaining Strength Through Each Other

December, 1994



John Price contemplates his renovation project at NETC

*Dispatch Photo*

## "Widow's Walk" Renovated

During the renovation of Building N at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, painters discovered the "Widow's Walk" (built circa 1873) atop the building to be badly deteriorated. So much so, in fact, that most of the original 8 by 8 structure came down through a small trap door in a bucket. All that remained was one post, the balusters, and the finials.

John Price, of Emmitsburg, accepted the challenge of reconstructing and reproducing the structure. By using the remains of the post and other pieces, Price was able to determine the sizes of the original lumber. New lumber was milled to the original sizes by the Cavetown Planing Mill. The balusters and finials were stripped of many layers of paint, reconditioned, and treated and primed.

Assisted by Tracey Stockstill of Emmitsburg, and Robert Mumma of Rocky Ridge, Price used as much as possible the original construction techniques. Modern materials and techniques were used only in places where original conditions required a new solution to problems. The crew completed the project in two weeks. It is constructed so that it can be disassembled into sections that will fit through the 2-foot trap door that leads to the roof. The installation will take place soon. As you drive down the main entrance on the grounds, Building N is straight ahead. Look up.

## PUBLIC HEARING ON COUNTY PLAN SET

The Frederick County Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a formal public hearing in Emmitsburg on Tuesday, December 13, to receive oral comments on the Thurmont Region Comprehensive Plan. The regional plan includes specific information on future land-use patterns, and will determine future traffic patterns and how and where new development is to occur in the Emmitsburg area. The meeting will be held at the Emmitsburg Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend.

This scheduled public hearing in Emmitsburg is due to the loud outcry at the November town meeting of town residents who objected to the fact that the county had scheduled hearings in Thurmont, Dec. 8, and Winchester Hall in Frederick on Dec. 15th, and none in this place. They felt Emmitsburg problems should be discussed on Emmitsburg turf. Mayor Carr wrote a "strong formal request" to the County Planning and Zoning Commission to hold a meeting in Emmitsburg, and the scheduled public hearing for Dec. 13th is the result.

(Please see **HEARING** on page 3)

## SANTA WILL BE IN HIS SHANTY . . .

at the Emmitsburg Ambulance Building on S. Seton Ave on Thurs., December 15, from 6 - 8 p.m. The Lions are so sure of the positive reception of the Jolly Old Elf they have scheduled repeat appearances on

( Please see SANTA page 3)

## TOWN MEETINGS

### Planning and Zoning Meeting

Preliminary plans for the Southgate property were approved by members of the planning and zoning commission at their Nov. 28th meeting. Developer Fran Zeller told the commission that 37 lots are proposed for the 14.5 acre parcel. A little less than one and one-half acre is to be set aside for recreational purposes unless the mayor and town council except his proposal to upgrade the town park in lieu of setting aside this land. The Southgate property, located south of the Community Center and behind the homes on South Seton Ave., will be served by Cedar Avenue.

The commission agreed that non-profit organizations have only to apply once a year for sign permits, but request that the organizations notify the Town Office throughout the year, either by letter or verbally, before their signs go up. The commission also gave its approval for Rutter's Store to have a temporary 8x4 foot sign for 60 days.

In other business, the commission ruled that a basketball net and pole on the Town's right-of-way on Robindal Drive must be removed. The pole's proximity to the town water line and electrical connections is dangerous, and the family will be asked to move the pole to its own property.

Following the close of the business agenda, a workshop was conducted by David Whitaker, County Planner, regarding the Frederick County Comprehensive Zoning Plan for the Emmitsburg area. Discussion centered on the town's revisions to the proposed plan which included the placement of two bypasses around the town. The planning and zoning commission favors one north of Emmitsburg, connecting MD 140 east of town with 140 west of town by way of Welty Road, and a southern bypass which would use Annandale Road to connect US 15 with MD 140 west of town near Tract Road. These suggestions will be discussed at the public hearing to be held Dec. 13th

### Town Council Meeting

Mayor Carr, in his report to the Town Council, Dec. 5th, said he hoped all the people would continue to participate in the Lamplight & Holly Festival of Christmas [see **Calendar**, page 23, for list of events] and thanked the town's Decorating Committee, chaired by Anne Gingell, for preparing the greens that are hung on the Main Street lampposts. He also announced that the Frederick County Department of Planning and Zoning will hold a public hearing in Emmitsburg, Tuesday, Dec. 13th, at the Emmitsburg Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m. The mayor strongly encourages residents to attend.

A number of Silo Hill residents including Carl Brindley, spokesperson for the group, presented a list of grievances to be addressed by the Town Council. Their main concern was the poor taste of their drinking water and fear that it contained bacteria. They requested state records to know if it is safe to drink. They also asked for documents that would help them understand why their water bills have increased considerably in recent months.

Other issues of concern included annual assessment fees. They are assessed an annual \$86 fee for sewer lines going out to the rest area on Route 15 (which the homeowner doesn't learn about until closing on the house), and they want to know who else is being assessed for this sewer line, and why they are not being advised about it until the time of closing; homeowners in Silo Hill also pay a \$193 annual assessment fee, and they want to know what it is for and if the rest of the community is assessed this amount.

Mr. Brindley reported that snow removal in their development had not been satisfactory last year (large lumps of snow were left in the street after plowing which had to be removed by the residents) and he expressed concern that snow removal material used was not of the same quality as that used in other communities. He also asked that job descriptions of town officials be made available so as to know who to contact regarding specific issues.


Scott McClendon, also of Silo Hill, inquired why it took the town a whole year to fill in a hole dug in his front yard to access curb boxes (a definite hazard to his family, particularly his 2-years old daughter); what was the policy of duplicating public records (he was told it would cost \$6 to get a copy of the town budget); and was the position for the Town Manager advertised according to (Please see **COUNCIL** on page 10)

**TOWN COUNCIL DECLARES  
FREE PARKING ON  
EAST AND WEST MAIN ST.  
DEC. 1 THROUGH JAN. 3**

*Happy Holidays*

at 7:00 p.m. at the Emmitsburg Elementary School.

Other proposals made by the commission included a bicycle/pedestrian lane to run from MSM along the Old Emmitsburg Road and then into town, and sidewalk extensions to run from East Main Street out to the Jubilee leading to the new commercial center, and one to run from East Main Street out to Rutter's Store.




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**(HEARING from page 1)**

All comments at the Planning Commission's hearing will be limited to 5 minutes for individuals and civic organizations. Written comments on the plan should be sent to the Frederick County Planning Department, c/o James Gugel, Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church, Frederick, MD 21701. Written comments received by Dec. 15 will be considered by the planning commission prior to making recommendations to the county commissioners.

Copies of the Draft Thurmont Region Plan are available in the town office and at the Frederick County Planning Department Office in Frederick between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information contact Jim Gugel, Project Planner, at 694-1144.

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**(SANTA from page 1)**

Friday, Dec. 16 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 17, from noon to 2 p.m. during the Lions Club Annual Childrens Christmas Party.

For over sixty years the Lions Club has sponsored this event. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. Entertainment includes the appearance of J.J. the clown at 10:30 a.m. followed by snacks. Santa will visit from noon to 2 p.m. and will be giving each child a gift donated by the VFW.

ATTENTION: IF YOU ATTENDED THE FIRST LIONS CHRISTMAS PARTY IN DECEMBER 1929, PLEASE CALL EMMITSBURG LIONS HISTORIAN GENE ROSENSTEEL AT 447-2562. We are looking for pictures, news articles, oral reports of this and any other community events and activities that were sponsored by the Lions Club from 1929-1994. YOU ARE ALSO CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE 1994 PARTY.

This looks as if it will be an SRO performance. Come early. How many kids can sit on one lap?

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If you know of someone in need this Christmas season contact any Lions Club member or Mark Zurgable at 447-2020.

## COMMENTARY

100 Years Ago "In This Place"  
From The *Emmitsburg Chronicle*

Living is dynamic. Change is a given. Each of us, from our personal perspective, knows that we have to take changes as they come. Floating around in our minds is the nagging notion that if we don't control our own destiny then someone else will. In the case of changes that affect the good of the people someone drew a boundary on a map and said let there be government. And there was.

We have it and even though our system may be a bit of a morass, often inefficient, and lurching as it carries on its functions, the representational system we enjoy today seems to work fairly well—as long as the people participate.

Back in 1974 the wisdom of town officials was that the town didn't need a bypass. In 1994 there is discussion about two bypasses. You can place a sure-win bet that there will be heated discussion about the path they will cut through the countryside. "Change before you have to" would have been a good strategy to apply in '74.

One observer of governments noted that politicians will lead us in the direction they are pushed. Coming up in December will be a public hearing to discuss local proposals to be included in the Frederick County Comprehensive Plan. The residents of Emmitsburg are challenged by the opportunity to share their views and concerns about the proposals. Public discussion is good; it provides a rationale for leaders to lead.

There is no doubt that the people living along the routes of the proposed bypasses will want to have their say. Their voices will be weak since their recourse to political representation will be as lone individuals appealing to an often uninterested county government. Now is a wonderful opportunity for the town government to take the lead and formally invite the residents of the Emmitsburg Region (greater E-burg, if you will) to join with them in planning the destiny of this area. Otherwise we end up peering over our fences screaming "not in my backyard you don't!"

### DARE PROGRAM TAUGHT

Trooper Gail Treglia from the Maryland State Police taught the sixth graders at Mother Seton School seventeen one-hour sessions of the DARE program. DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. This program helps students recognize and resist the pressures that may influence them to experiment with tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, and other drugs.

They also learned how violence hurts everyone and how they can deal best with conflict in their lives. The sixth graders wrote, produced, and performed their own skits: "Don't Be A Geek," "Smoke Free," "How to Resolve a Disagreement," "Drug Net," and "Friends To Lean On."

Mother Seton School would like to thank Mayor Carr and the Emmitsburg Town Council, and the Knights of Columbus Brute Council for donating the DARE T-shirts to the participants in the program.

Dec. 7, 1894 - Tipton, the Gettysburg Photographer, will be at Rowe's Gallery, Emmitsburg, Thursday, Dec. 13. Photos made on this date can be delivered by Christmas. Also on Thursday, Dec. 20, the latter date for New Year's delivery.

Dec. 14 - On last Saturday night some person took a pane of glass out of the window of Mr. George Gingell's store on West Main Street. Nothing has been missed.

### To Number the Houses

Dec. 21 - A movement is on foot to have the houses in this place numbered, and a proposition to that effect will be placed before the town Commissioners at the next meeting for their approval or rejection. The numbering of the houses could cause no harm, and would be a great convenience to strangers. The cost of doing the work would not require a very large sum of money. The columns of the CHRONICLE are open for a general discussion of the subject.

### New School House Finished

Dec. 21 - The new public school house, in this place, has been completed and the teachers and scholars took possession of their new quarters yesterday morning, much pleased with their new domicile.

### S now

Dec. 28 - It began snowing Wednesday afternoon and continued during the night and part of Thursday. The snow being about 8 1/2 inches deep. This is the first snow that has fallen here this winter that has amounted to anything. The sleighers have been making good use of the opportunity offered them to enjoy the fascinating sport of sleighing, and the merry sleigh bells can be heard jingling from early in the morning until late at night.

### Midnight Singing

About midnight on Monday [ Christmas

(Please see 100 YEARS on page 5)

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