

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

Vol II, No.8

news and opinion in the service of truth

August 2003

We apologize.

This issue of your newspaper reaches you much later than anyone likes. We experienced unforeseen difficulties with a virus attack on our internet service provider. We will continue to try to publish on or near mid-month.

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

Development for 4,000-plus residents would be 2.9 miles from Emmitsburg

By Raymond Buchheister
Publisher,
and Bill Steo, *Editor*

A developer submitted a proposal on July 15 to the Planning Board of near-

by Liberty Township, PA, that would result in the construction of 1,144 houses on 709 acres approximately 2.9 miles from Emmitsburg. It would be called "Community of Liberty."

A new town? In a press release The

Wormald Companies says it planned the community as a "resort-like neighborhood" characterized by "intergenerational living, and community gathering places such as parks, ball fields, a central village center, and walking paths." It would have "an equestrian theme...with a significant equestrian facility, and riding trails."

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School days here again

By Susan Allen
Staff Writer

It's time for students to put away their bathing suits and get out pencils and paper. All Frederick County public schools opened on Monday, Aug. 25.

At **Emmitsburg Elementary School (EES)** class lists, transportation information, and bus route maps are posted on the front doors. Grades 1-5 returned to class on Aug. 25. The school sent written notice of opening dates and hours to families whose children are in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

A new Maryland law requires public elementary schools to establish full-day kindergarten by 2007-08. The Frederick County School Board is phasing in the new kindergarten program. EES is one of 8 county schools implementing the change this year.

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—RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Jim Hobbs, 69, harvests forage along Rt. 15 from his 23 acre field located on the Emmitsburg Rd. He owns 5 separate properties in PA along the MD line totaling 200 acres. His main farm was purchased by his father, Charles Hobbs, in 1941. When asked what he thought of the recent large scale development slated for the area, he said, "I really don't like to see the farmland eaten up." Hobbs, who owns Hobbs Trucking, has 90 head of beef cattle and has always had a hand in farming. He didn't say he'd never sell his property but commented, "As long as I can make my payments it will never be sold." Hobbs farms the 20 acre field Josh Bollinger recently petitioned the Town to annex.

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Emmitsburg and Thurmont present 47th Community Show

For the 47th year Emmitsburg and Thurmont will have their annual Community Show, at Catocin High School in Thurmont, MD. It begins Friday, Sept. 5, at 5 p.m.; community civic organizations will open the evening program with the massing of flags at 7 p.m. The Show closes at 4 p.m. Sunday.

Exhibits. Visitors during the 3-day event will be able to see exhibits of farm machinery and animals, including alpacas and emus. Exhibits will show products of garden and

household, goods canned and baked, flowers, quilts, sewing, other arts and crafts objects, and there will be a pet show. Sponsors will award ribbons and \$8,000 in prize money.

Contests. The Community Show will feature beef, sheep and swine Fitting & Showing contests and one for decorated animals. More than 70 head of beef, sheep and swine will be offered for sale.

There will be contests among people, too — the 24th annual Catocin Mountain Horseshoe

Pitching Contest and the 23rd annual Cross Cut Sawing Contest. Contestants will be matched by age and gender.

Youths and adults will stage a Barnyard Olympics in front of the school and a martial Arts demonstration in the new gymnasium.

Youngsters will be able to enter the petting zoo and take pictures of the animals during the weekend.

During the show the Thurmont Library will have books for sale in the old gymnasium.

Food. "Grand champion and reserve champion" baked goods will be sold. On Saturday the Thurmont

—Continued on page 3

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Emmitsburg Dispatch encourages its readers to express their thoughts and opinions about issues that appear in this publication or affect the community. Letters must be exclusive to the Dispatch and should be no longer than 300 words in length. They must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be used for verification. The Dispatch reserves the right to edit for content and space. Deadline for letters is the 15th of each month.

Enough Is Enough

It was troubling to hear that the Episcopal Church has elected a gay bishop. When will the Church, regardless of denomination, begin to stand up for the Bible it professes to believe in, and stop allowing the world to dictate the future?

In today's paper I also read that the media are now promoting more gay television programs because they realize they can make money off "gay programming." The article goes on to say, "It's about the money."

As a Christian community of faith we are called to be in the world, not of the world. The Bible clearly

states that homosexuality is not appropriate, neither is adultery, murder, stealing, lying, and so on. If we begin to tolerate sin in its many forms then it seems to me we are on the verge of becoming the next Sodom.

As Christians it is time to say enough is enough. If as Christians we are not willing to stand up for what Jesus taught us then we are as much to blame for this world crumbling at the feet of Satan as anyone else is.

—Rev. Wade Martin
Pastor, Trinity UMC,
Emmitsburg, Catoclin UMC

Needed: ban on development until infrastructure is adequate

The arrogance of developers is astounding. They must think the locals are simple, wanting the developers to get rich while the residents get problems, higher taxes, and poorer.

The arrogance of the developers' lawyers is equally astounding. Talk of development as good and inevitable is nonsense. Surely the lawyers are merely posturing for their clients' benefit. Obviously, sprawl overwhelming the infrastructures is bad, both for individual residents and the whole community.

Having been a neighbor of the Bollingers since Josh Bollinger was 5 years old, my natural inclination is to favor his application. But my mind

says, "No." Therefore, I suggest that the proposed annexation be defeated at every step, by Emmitsburg's Planning & Zoning Committee, and, if necessary, by the Commissioners, the Mayor, or by referendum.

To prevent a recurrence of this kind of attack by the developers the Town Commissioners should adopt an adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) banning all development until adequate infrastructure is in place. I believe that Emmitsburg; is almost alone of the municipalities in the County, if not in the State, in not having such an ordinance.

—Harold C. Craig, Jr.
Emmitsburg

If Town must grow, it should be as a village, not a sprawling suburb

I'm writing to convey to you my deepest concerns about the development that is unfolding in and around Emmitsburg. Emmitsburg, the home of my dear grandmother, Mamie Kelly, is a precious place. It really is a shining star and a historically significant place. I, like many, hate to see the town change, but I accept that some change is inevitable. However, I feel that the way the change is happening needs examination. It appears that a sprawl-like model is in place. Sprawl doesn't happen overnight. It isn't planned. It creeps up on you like a cancer and then it's too late and you can never go back.

You can't get the green countryside back. You can't escape the noise, pollution and traffic. You can't meet the

demands on the roads, police, fire department and schools, you can't enjoy a walk to church anymore, you don't know your neighbors and it's no longer safe for your kids to ride their bikes around town.

If Emmitsburg must grow, at least let it happen as an extension of the current village style, with grid streets and mixed-use of shops and homes, parks and open space. In this way, Emmitsburg will prevail as a unique community, a great place to visit, and a model town. How unbearably sad it would be to see Emmitsburg turn into yet another sprawling suburban mess of asphalt, gridlock and chain super-stores.

—Kathleen Kelly Walker
Falls Church, VA

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A word from the Publisher

The Emmitsburg Dispatch increases circulation, Steo resigns as Editor

Increased circulation. Beginning with this August issue The Emmitsburg Dispatch will be distributed to homes beyond the 21727 zip code area. This will increase the newspaper's circulation from 3,000 to 6,000 and satisfy many requests for home delivery from individuals who live just outside Emmitsburg.

The distribution will serve homes on Taneytown Rural Rt. #2, Thurmont Rural Rt. #2, and Fairfield Rural Rt. #2, and include homes in Carroll Valley and Rocky Ridge. The newspaper will continue to be dropped at locations in Emmitsburg and neighboring communities as before.

This increase in circulation comes on the one-year anniversary of this publication and is another step to establish the newspaper for the Emmitsburg community.

Mid-month Publication Date. In this first year The Emmitsburg Dispatch chalked up several accomplishments in its internal workings, and has suffered some setbacks. For some citizens the greatest cause of aggravation is not knowing when the newspaper will appear in print.

Establishing and adhering to a publication date has also been less than satisfactory for me. If The Emmitsburg Dispatch had the resources, it would already be a weekly edition, according to our long-range plan. Meanwhile, it will remain a monthly with a mid-month publication date.

This date was strategically chosen after a year of evaluation. One of the most important meetings for the Town of Emmitsburg occurs the first Monday of the month. At this Board of Commissioners' meeting the members make many decisions that affect the majority of our readers. If the paper were printed on the first of the month, some of its news would be a month late.

By adhering to a mid-month printing date the paper will feature news that is more up-to-date. An event such as Emmitsburg's July 4th Community Day will be reported in the July edition, not a month later.

Submission Deadlines. A mid-month publication date will require those submitting items to think ahead. The policy for all submissions will remain the 20th of the month preceding publication. Any submission not received by then will not be printed until the following issue and possibly

not at all. The Emmitsburg Dispatch will provide news from the last 2 weeks of the previous month, news from the publication month, and announce events scheduled at the end of the current month and beginning of the next.

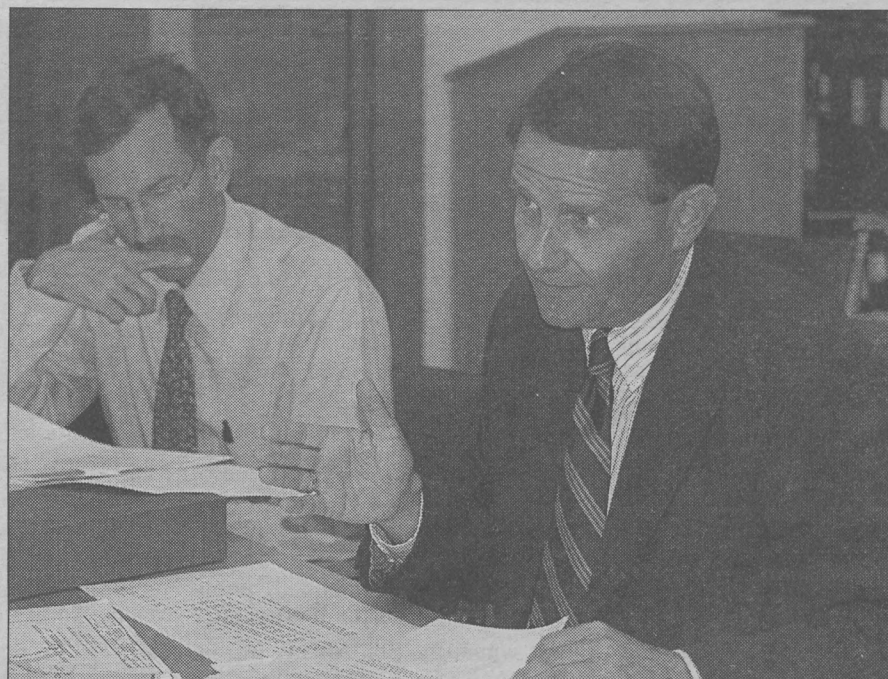
This newspaper is teetering over an unknown future. It has been my experience both in the 2 years I served the prior publication, and during this past year, that the survival of a small community newspaper suffers from the lack of income and a professional staff. As matters stand The Emmitsburg Dispatch may cease publication at any time.

After August Bill Steo will no longer serve as Editor of The Emmitsburg Dispatch. My ability to accomplish this past year's work was due to the endless amount of time this retired professor and editor was willing to give to his community. He now wishes to resume work on his writing projects and devote more time to teaching. I will act both as publisher and managing editor until the position of Editor can be filled.

News reporter sought. The Emmitsburg Dispatch seeks a news reporter who can work on a flexible schedule and take several assignments each month. This position involves going to meetings or other events in the Emmitsburg region. Our reporter must have the ability to gather accurate information, to write it correctly, and take photographs if necessary. We're looking for someone with a sense of responsibility to this job, with an ear for story leads, an investigative sense, and good communication skills. Respond by e-mail to publisher@emmitsburgdispatch.com, leave a message at 301-447-3039, or write to The Emmitsburg Dispatch, P.O. Box 358 Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

For my part I will continue to work in the service of truth in an effort to establish a firm foundation for The Emmitsburg Dispatch. This community needs a newspaper, to inform, educate, and to maintain a historical record. It is the arena in which ideas are shared and people can learn to grow in mutual understanding and solidarity. The newspaper, I think, has played a rich part in Emmitsburg's history and is vital for its future.

—Raymond Buchheister
Publisher



—RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

During a Planning and Zoning workshop meeting, new Town Planner Michael Lucas (R) presents results to the board of his onsite inspections of the Bollinger properties. Frederick County Planner, Jim Gugel (L), reviews Lucas' report.

Emmitsburg hires Town Planner

By Susan Allen
Staff Writer

The Town Council selected Michael H. Lucas as Emmitsburg's first staff planner on Aug. 4. There were 3 finalists. The full-time position will last at least a year, and has a \$40,400/year starting salary.

Although the position is a new one for the Town, Mr. Lucas finds himself on familiar ground. A native of Tennessee, he worked there for a number of years providing planning services for 7 rural counties and towns. His experience included training and coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Emmitsburg. "This is a beautiful area, and I enjoy living here," he said in a recent interview.

Mr. Lucas has been hired specifically to revise Emmitsburg's comprehensive plan and is already at work reviewing town ordinances and zoning regulations. The State of Maryland requires each town to have a comprehensive

plan for its projected growth and development. Emmitsburg's plan must be updated every 5-20 years; the last revision was made in 1998. In view of the rapid change and population increase in Frederick County over the last 20 years, Mr. Lucas thinks that 5 years is a "reasonable window" for looking back at changes and considering what is ahead.

Each town and its elected officials are responsible for setting policies to ensure the "quality of growth." Mr. Lucas emphasizes that "I don't set policy. My job is to be a resource" for the policy makers. Planners gather information, interpret data, consult state guidelines, and present alternatives to town officials.

"A planner may not know the answers, but must know where to go to get answers." And then his job is to "recommend and advise," always looking for potential and unintended consequences. "It's important to maintain the character of small towns while managing

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Community shows—

—Continued from page 1

Grange will serve a buffet supper. On Sunday Catocin FFA Alumni will serve a chicken barbecue.

Near the end all baked goods exhibited at the show will be auctioned in the auditorium.

Music. On Saturday evening at 7 p.m. the Westminster Municipal Band will present a "John Philip Sousa" concert, admission free. The Bumbaugh Family will perform on Sunday afternoon.

Visitors to the Community Show can see, all told, more than 2,500 displays, entered without fee by residents of the Catocin School area, and may themselves qualify door prizes, donated

ed by area businesses.

FFA Ambassador. Show sponsors say the highlight of the program will be the announcement of the 2003-2004 Catocin Future Farmers of America (FFA) Ambassador. They will honor the 75th anniversary of the FFA and the 40th anniversary of the Catocin Colorfest.

The Community Show Its sponsors are the Thurmont Grange, the Catocin FFA Chapter, Catocin FFA Alumni, Maryland Agricultural Fair Board and the Maryland State Grange. Details about the Show and its exhibits can be found in booklets available in area business locations.

No admission will be charged for the event, but a silver offering will be accepted.

EDITORIAL

Ban new housing development until facilities can handle population, traffic

A Town resident asks to develop a 9-acre property already in Emmitsburg to erect senior housing (see the July issue of The Emmitsburg Dispatch). The location seems ideal for seniors who could walk to most stores, churches, the library and Town offices. If the facilities to serve the property are already adequate, it is possible the Town can absorb the approximately 100 seniors who might live there.

But the same petitioner wants the Town to annex an adjoining 20-acre property he owns. Allegedly it would not require much change to the Town infrastructure. Maybe. In any case it

would change a lovely piece of land that helps keep Emmitsburg open and green, and it would add to the population density, increasing traffic on Main Street.

Shocking deficiency. In a letter to the Editor (p. 2), attorney Harold Craig puts his finger on a more basic problem underlying annexation/development. He says the Town needs an "adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) banning all development until adequate infrastructure is in place." Of course! It is shocking that the Town does not yet have one.

Developers are welcomed at the Town office where they brazenly ask

Emmitsburgians to pay to build or improve sewage and water mains that their plans require. They want Town citizens to pay for changes that give them profit and enable them to pollute the Town's air and jam its streets with traffic. Their arrogance, Craig observes, is "astounding."

Ignorance of negative impact. More astounding is that the Town manager, the commissioners, and the mayor have not made any serious evaluation of the negative impact of developments already allowed.

There are 221 already approved lots on which houses have not yet been built. The people who run Emmitsburg don't know what will be the impact on the Town of the approximately 530 people who will live in those houses. They have no statistical estimates of the pollution to be caused by the 400 or more cars those residents will drive along Main Street.

Then what justification can Town

officials offer for even *listening* to any new proposal for annexation and development? They should enact an APFO and hammer to the door of the Town office.

Close door to housing developers. Meanwhile, they should simply return any annexation/development proposals and not allow developers even to make a presentation.

All this was true last summer when they voted for the annexation of the Silver Fancy Farm, which citizens rejected. But now it seems certain that a new town, with potentially more citizens than Emmitsburg, will be built in Pennsylvania within 3 miles of the Square. The traffic from those 1,140 houses will flood Main Street beyond anyone's previous experience.

Emmitsburgians cannot prevent the new town from rising beyond the State border. But they can stop any new development here, without another referendum, we hope.

No rational basis for government benefits to homosexual couples

Several countries consider homosexual partnerships much the same as marriage, and give the couples most rights and privileges afforded to married couples, including tax benefits — The Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, the European Parliament, and some components of countries, like the Zurich canton of Switzerland and Canada's Ontario and Quebec.

The Canadian government declared in June that it will change the definition of marriage to include homosexuals. And recently Senator Hillary Clinton introduced a bill in the U.S. Congress to provide many of the rights of marriage to same-sex couples.

Homosexual marriage? Can homosexuals get married and so qualify for government benefits like married heterosexual couples?

This question has nothing to do with past injustices and cruelties to homosexuals, or whether homosexuals love each other, or whether their proclivity originates in genetics or choice. And whether they sin or not — though sin is by no means irrelevant to social policy — is a subject that deeply secular officials will not tolerate.

Those irrelevancies aside, it must be said that homosexuals cannot do

anything to marry each other, and homosexual couples cannot, therefore, qualify for government benefits as married. Whether they qualify by some other criterion is not the question. Yes, some homosexuals cohabit, love and care for each other, and engage in sex, almost like married people. They go through wedding ceremonies. But none of these activities make them married.

What makes a marriage exist?

1. A wedding does not create a marriage relationship. Both civil and religious courts acknowledge this fact when they issue declarations of annulment. An annulment means the couple was never married, even if the wedding ceremony was perfect.

2. Merely living together does not make people married. Many unmarried people, men and women, emotionally involved or not, live together and share expenses. That does not make them married.

3. Are people married because they love and commit themselves to each other? Understandably, some homosexual couples claim to be married by this standard. But not every pair of persons with mutual love and commitment are married. Many relatives and friends love each other profoundly and provide

all kinds of care, sometimes at great personal cost — and certainly are not married — children with parents whom they support, retirees, college students, golfing buddies. No. Love and commitment are a basis of marriage; they do not make it happen.

4. Finally, it is too obvious for comment that sexual activity does not make people married.

But, then, what can homosexuals claim would make them married?

Certainly not a government decree. Marriage is an event in nature whether or not it is made legal.

For thousands of years ordinary people have observed a man and a woman promising themselves to each other, coming together, and producing and rearing children. This extremely common event was too fundamental to analyze and define, except by philosophers. When philosophers did speak, they merely codified what everyone already knew — if a man and a woman intend to procreate and educate children, and if other conditions exist, they bring a marriage union into existence.

Marriage benefits. Now, the very reason why governments provide certain benefits to heterosexual couples is precisely because they are married and, presumably, intend to provide new citizens for the country and humanity. Through its governments civilized society gives aid to married couples, not just for rent payments or roses or

Viagra and condoms, but because it expects them to perform an absolute necessary service for the human race — perpetuate it.

Society cannot assume the same of homosexuals who cannot intend to procreate with each other, and cannot be married.

Homosexual couples may provide other services to the country and thereby qualify for government benefits under some title other than marriage. That's a different subject. They cannot, as couples, perpetuate humanity (lesbians who become mothers are not made mothers by their partners). So, they cannot qualify for government benefits as married.

That is the underlying issue before the Congress, many states, and foreign governments. Gay and lesbian couples want the benefits accorded to married couples, but cannot offer a reason why the government should judge them married. A government that says homosexuals can be married acts without reason and contradicts humanity's age-old factual understanding of marriage.

If the lobbyists, and vote-seeking politicians, prevail, tax relief may logically be sought by other cohabiting couples, any pair of platonic friends who share a passionate desire to help the world's poor, or to eat Oriental food.

—Bill Steo
Editor


The Emmitsburg Dispatch

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

TOWN NEWS

Town Manager's Report July 2003

Emmitsburg Town Manager Dave Haller's July report is excerpted and summarized here

Water

Staff has been tracking a leak in the water delivery system of 36,000 GPD.

The pump on well no. 5 failed and is being replaced.

AARO consultants completed State mandated tests on well no. 7, in Emmit Gardens.

The chain/gate on the Town-owned road/right-of-way by which the Harry Stahley property can be reached was vandalized the week of July 28. The posts holding the chain were knock down by a large truck or tractor — just one week after the Mayor offered to allow Mr. Stahley use of that road.

Water production & consumption for the month are as follows:

Average daily production: 343,885 GPD

Average daily total consumption: 343,885 GPD. This is up by 37,945 GPD or 12 percent from last month. We think this is the result of a delivery system leak.

Wastewater

Our first employed part-time mower technician has resigned and we have hired a replacement.

For July we treated on average 308,000 GPD at the wastewater treatment plant. The plant is approved to treat 800,000 GPD. For the first time in many months we did not have a wild water problem at the wastewater treatment plant. We only got 3.1 inches of rain during July. We only treated 300,000 GPD or more on 10 days, and our highest treatment was July

23, on which we got 1.4 inches of rain, and on that day we treated 717,000 GPD.

Streets

Staff performed weed control on the sidewalks of Main Street; painted curbs and No Parking areas around the square; vacuumed Main Street for Fourth of July activities; trimmed trees and maintained speed bumps and streetlights.

Parks

Staff refurbished the original Men's Softball Field, which appeared to have been unused and without any maintenance for a number of months.

Staff closed Silo Hill Park for 2 days to perform a weed control project; the park was closed to protect the children any exposure to pesticides.

Staff installed "NO LOITERING" signs at the Town pool.

Zoning

There were 18 permits issued during the month of July, including 4 new houses: one Pembroke, 2 Brookfield, and one Emmit Ridge

Other handicap ramp, above ground pool

Code enforcement

There were 85 tickets issued by the Code Enforcer for the month, 81 for overtime parking at meters.

Collection of funds/fines totaled \$1,807 — \$1,303.60 from parking meters, \$172 from flagging of tags with the state, and \$290 from parking ticket payments.

Subdivisions

Of 280 lots approved for building, houses have been built on 59 and are occupied.

A word from the Mayor

Valuable information acquired at Municipal League conference

In the 5 years that I have been involved in Emmitsburg Town Government, this is the first year that I attended the Maryland Municipal League conference in Ocean City. I was happily surprised and impressed with the amount of information made available to the participants. In previous years the Town Manager was asked to represent Emmitsburg at the convention. The convention was held from Sun., June 22, through Wed., June 25, 2003. Commissioner Rosensteel also attended the convention. The convention hosted numerous seminars where elected officials and municipal staff employees could learn new and proven techniques from each other. Seminars were instructed by experienced individuals who were able to assist participants with concerns and problems back home in their own municipalities.

I attended 6 seminars: Municipal Official Orientation, Municipal Ordinances & Resolutions, Parliamentary Procedure & Effective Council Meetings, Basics of City and Town Planning & Zoning, Web-enabling and Local Government Employment Issues. All of the seminars were very informative; however, I feel that the seminar, Basics of City and Town Planning & Zoning, was the most important one I attended. This seminar emphasized the importance of a Town having a good up-to-date Comprehensive Plan, Planning and Zoning regulations, and experienced staff (full-time, part-time, or contractual) in place before a developer comes to town wishing to devel-

op rural land. When a developer comes to a town, he/she is motivated by profit, which is their job. It is the town's job to plan ahead and put regulations in place that will prevent a developer from cutting too many corners to increase his/her profit. When weak regulations are in place, or when the Comprehensive Plan is not consistent to zoning regulations, or if you have inexperienced staff, a developer may develop land in a matter not satisfactory to the town's desire.


Another great seminar was the Municipal Official Orientation. This was attended by elected officials who had less than 30 days experience and as much as 30 years experience. With so many experienced and inexperienced officials in the same room together, there certainly was a lot to learn and share with one another. In this seminar we were split in two groups to discuss scenarios related to council members' performance in meetings, conflicts of interest, resolving difficult issues, and abstaining from voting.

Overall, I think the convention was of great assistance to the Town of Emmitsburg as well as other municipalities in Maryland. I hope that I am able encourage more participation next year from Emmitsburg. The convention provided a wealth of knowledge that can be shared with both staff and elected officials. Next year I intend to recommend several staff members attend some of the seminars.

— Jim Hoover
Mayor of Emmitsburg

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TOWN NEWS

Staff Report

Council overrides Hoover's veto, allows short setback on Ryan lots

The Emmitsburg Town Council unanimously overrode Mayor Hoover's veto of the R-1 rear building restriction line (BRL) at its August meeting. The clause allows houses to be built as close as 30 feet to the rear line of the lot. Previously they could be built no closer than 40 feet. The clause applies to new and existing houses only on existing lots no more than 130 feet deep. The near BRL will enable houses to be longer front-to-back, or have larger decks.

Ryan Homes asked for this change so that some of its lots could accommodate one of its house models. The Town commissioners, except Cliff Sweeney, met in the new development at the invitation of the builder so that he could show them what the request entailed.

Commissioner Boyle said at the

August meeting that the new measure would benefit the Town because, he claimed, larger houses would generate more tax dollars.

Standing by his veto, Mayor Hoover asserted in an interview with The Emmitsburg Dispatch that the measure would actually be costly to the citizens it affected. "I do not think the override was done in the best interests of the Town," commented Hoover. "It was done in the interest of the builder."

In a letter he had sent to the Commissioners explaining his veto, Mayor Hoover pointed out that their action was site specific and the amendment applied only to existing lots. He asked the Board to reconsider its action, saying, "I suggest that you look at all residential zones in Emmitsburg and not amend just one item." He asked them to amend the entire section to maintain equality for all. He stated, "If you are going to consider changing the BRL, it should be done to fit the

Town's needs, not one developer's."

Emergency Warning System approved, but funding to be decided

Creation of the Emmitsburg Emergency Warning System became an official Town agenda item for the first time at the Emmitsburg commissioners' August meeting. The system establishes means to warn residents of any emergency, from weather problems to national emergencies. Three units would cover the Town with warning sirens and voice instructions.

Mayor Hoover reported that the system would cost roughly \$100,000, which presents a significant financial obstacle. He also explained that the State and National Homeland Security Offices would not give any financial assistance for the project. Beginning in July, the Town began to impose a \$200 fee on every new house constructed, to maintain and upgrade the system once it's in place. Mayor Hoover asked the Commissioners to support him in the use of money from the Town's fund balance and/or to borrow it from the sewer and water enterprise fund to construct the warning system.

Town Manager Dave Haller suggested that a loan could be taken from the water and sewer fund to cover the cost of the system. Commissioner Elder opposed Haller's proposal, yet supported the project. The Town Council approved the measure 3-1 (Elder voting against), with a discussion to identify the source of funding to follow at a

later time.

Mount St. Mary's College and The National Fire Academy are also independently involved in the project, funding warning systems of their own.

Councilors want grass to be no more than 6 inches high

The Town Council voted unanimously to advertise for an amendment to Town ordinance 8.12.040 concerning the maximum allowable height of residential grass and weeds. The current ordinance allows for a grass and weed height of 18 inches. The amendment would alter the Town code to enforce a maximum height of 6 inches. Advertisement for the amendment will begin this month.

Well No. 4 to be connected to Town water system

Town Manager Haller requested the Commissioners support to connect well No. 4 to the Town's water system. The well is already approved by the MD Dept. of Environment. This connection will enhance the Town's existing water supply, adding 40,000 gallons of water per day. The cost of the project was nearly \$50,000.

Art Elder, the Town's water commissioner, suggested that well No. 6, familiarly called "Doc Carr's Well," also be connected to the system. Haller explained that well No. 6 was abandoned some time ago.

-Peter Mannix
contributed to this report.

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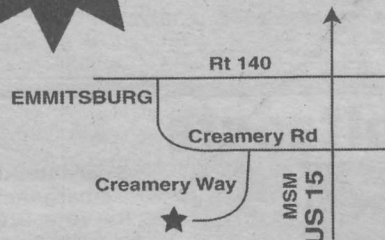
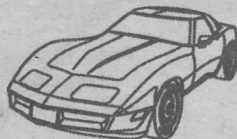


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Town Planner

—Continued from page 3

ing the growth."

Mr. Lucas prepared for his work in community planning with college study in history and political science at East Tennessee State University. He earned a master's degree in public administration and public policy at the University of Tennessee. "My father was the police chief in Chattanooga, so I always saw public service as a good vocation to aspire to."

In addition, Mr. Lucas holds a master of divinity degree from the University of the South in Sewanee,

GA. He has served as a pastor for 2 Lutheran churches in Pennsylvania, but is not engaged in that work now.

His southern heritage (and accent) might disguise Mr. Lucas' family connection to this region. One of his father's early ancestors was a Hessian (German) soldier who was captured during the Revolutionary War and imprisoned in Frederick. He chose to stay in the United States and settled in southern Pennsylvania. Coincidentally, one of his mother's forefathers was an officer in the Continental Army, whose assignment was overseeing Hessian prisoners in Virginia and Maryland.

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Pilgrim George, on the road for 33 years, visits Seton Shrine

By Bill Steo
Editor

Some area residents saw this man walking along Annandale Rd. in August. To some he may look like a prophet but claims to be only a pilgrim. He's George Walter, 62, and he's been walking for 33 years, on a pilgrimage to the ends of the earth to show that God alone suffices. "I am a sign that every person on earth is a pilgrim just passing through this life," he says. Pilgrim George, as he is called, has walked over 30,000 miles in more than 40 countries. For food and shelter, he relies on divine providence, as shown in the kindness of strangers.

In Israel an elderly Jew driving by on a Galilee road invited Pilgrim George to his home. He waited outside for 2 hours till the traveler arrived, and then his family prepared a meal for him and did his laundry.

In a Siberian village the town athe-

ist, who lived in a tiny house with his wife and 6 children, offered Pilgrim George hospitality. "He had a good heart. In the end, Jesus will not ask you what Church you belong to. What matters is what is in your heart."

Pilgrim George visited Emmitsburg on his way from the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. He came to visit the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The Daughters of Charity there treated him so hospitably that he visited with them for most of the day. He remained in Town for several days staying with the Franciscan Friars who reside on Annandale road.

During the winter months Pilgrim George keeps to a strict schedule of prayer and reflection, and a bit of exercise. Usually he reads 5 chapters of the New Testament and 2 of the Old Testament, and, 7 times a day starting at 4 a.m. (every three hours), he chants the psalms, so that he prays them all each week.

Outside the Game

No evidence Sosa cheated; look for cheating elsewhere

By A.J. Russo
Dispatch writer

The fans didn't vote for him. The players around the league didn't vote for him. Even Dusty Baker, his manager and National League All-Star manager, didn't vote for him to play in the Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

You're probably telling me to put a cork in it (sorry, couldn't resist), since you've already heard so much about the bat incident. But, despite the fact that one of baseball's treasures admits he made a mistake, and there's no evidence to suggest he purposely used the corked bat, we've convicted him of cheating and he didn't play in the All-Star game.

Whether or not you believe Sammy Sosa deserves to be ostracized for his mistake may be important, but it's not the subject of this column—cheating and the message we are sending young athletes, however, is.

We see it all the time—NFL offensive linemen holding defensemen by the jersey to prevent them from getting to the quarterback, basketball players who try to cut around them. Face-off specialists in lacrosse leaning their sticks just enough to get the advantage, pitchers greasing the ball, catchers moving their mitt to try to fool the ump into thinking it's really a strike, hockey players using their sticks to slow opponents. And who knows what goes on under the pileup after a fumble recovery,

ery, Should I keep going?

Professional and amateur athletes cheat—presumably, to get an advantage over their opponents. Subversively, whenever the ref or ump isn't looking. Often because winning the game is so important to them—more important than sportsmanship.

So, when we try to teach young athletes about sportsmanship, what we do tell them when the instant replay reveals that the lineman dragged his defensive opponent to the turf by his jersey, but didn't get caught? That's part of the game? Or, when the pitch was clearly low and the ump called it a strike because the catcher fooled him? That's always been a part of baseball?

Dad, what goes on under that pile-up? Anything goes, son—punching, eye gouging. Whatever it takes, as long as our team gets the ball. Isn't football a great sport?

How come the pitcher threw the ball at the head of the batter? Well, son ... to intimidate him. Isn't that against the rules, Dad? Well, yes, son, but pitchers need to do it. It's part of the game.

Athletes are heroes to kids. Athletic events are revered by young and old. If cheating is accepted as part of the game, are we off base (sorry, again) thinking that the same attitude may permeate into other parts of our lives?

Dad, do you cheat on your income tax returns?



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

PILGRIM GEORGE

HEY, MOM OR DAD...
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HEALTH

A word from the doctor

Five steps for building strong home environment for children

As we get through the muggiest part of the summer we are reminded that soon our children will begin another school year. For many of us this entails a flurry of activities to make sure that their clothing is ready, that summer assignments are completed, or at this point at least started, and that transportation issues are resolved.

Yet we should also take the time to consider some simple steps that are key to building a strong home environment. Here is a simple checklist of actions that you may want to continue or to start.

1. **Limit electronic time.** This applies to television, computers, computer games, and yes, even power tools. You can choose how you set these limits: limit the programs to be viewed, the number of hours, or the days of the week. This will be especially difficult with television as the ease with which we can turn it on makes it all the harder to turn it off.

But remember that the reason you are doing this is because there is a need to engage in activity that requires conversation (no lecture or soliloquy) among family members. Not only is this critical for younger children for their acquisition of language skills, but older children need to learn from listen-

ing to what you have to say.

2. **Eat at least one meal together.**

It does not matter which meal it is. As breakfast is usually rushed, dinner is usually the best time as it is at the end of the day and there is sufficient time for conversation. See what works best in your family. It may be that during the week dinner is the best choice and that breakfast is better for the weekends.

The goal to work towards is to eat at least one meal together on a daily basis. It is an added benefit if as part of the meal each person has a role in either preparing, serving, or cleaning up after the meal.

3. **Practice your faith.** This means more than going to a place of worship. As a family you should have regular discussions about how your faith is a positive part of your life.

4. **Engage in regular physical activity.** It is critical to make time to be together without having to do chores. Moreover, whatever activity you do should be fun for all and involve everyone in the planning and preparation. Perhaps every Saturday you will all go on a walk. Getting into the habit of regular physical exercise is a lifelong habit that is good for everyone in the family.

5. **Model** what you want your children to do. As children grow they need

to have models of how to handle themselves. Sometimes we communicate the wrong things through our own behaviors because we believe that, since we are adults, we should be able to do whatever we choose. Yet children are very observant and attentive and are well aware of what is right or wrong. While their peers are important, their first teachers are their parents.

There are simple things that adults can do which will be good for children to follow throughout their lives: do not smoke, and if you do smoke, please stop; consume alcohol only in moderation; do not use offensive language;

and, handle anger in a constructive way.

So as the new school year begins, let's do better than most of us do with our New Year's resolution and fully commit ourselves to helping our children grow in positive directions. As you work to make these 5 items part of your life, let me know of any tips that you would like to share with other readers. As parents, we need each other's wisdom.

— Jane L. Delgado, Ph.D.

Washington, D.C.

Note: You may write to Dr.

Delgado in care of this newspaper.

Downfall of healthcare system seen

I see the rapid collapse of our healthcare system in 2003.... with increasing unemployment, businesses no longer have to compete to attract workers by offering full health benefits. They're free to drop benefits altogether or limit them severely, and they can require workers to pick up more of the tab themselves.

So people end up paying for their health care out of pocket or doing without.

About the only part that is working is Medicare, and that is a publicly funded, single-payer program within the system. I don't think we're going to wake up some Tuesday morning and say, "Oh look, the health-care system collapsed," but it will become glaringly obvious over the next year that it is woefully inadequate. And since so much of our healthcare dollar is divert-

ed to profits and overhead, it will also become clear that it is grossly inefficient.

The question is what will take its place. Either the United States can join every other advanced nation and develop a national single-payer healthcare system, or we can keep going the way we are and eventually have a 3-tier system in which the wealthy get whatever health care they want, the middle-class gets some kind of stripped-down managed care, and the rest get nothing.

In that respect, we would be just like a Third World country. A national single-payer system—essentially Medicare for everyone—would be both better and cheaper.

—Marcia Angell, a physician,

former editor in chief of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Take Note:

Obesity nearly top cause of death

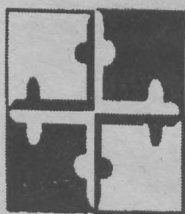
Tobacco causes more deaths in the United States than anything else, but obesity and a general lack of physical fitness is rapidly catching up, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Exercise: Hard work not enough

A construction worker strenuously

using body muscles every day, or an office worker who rides a bike or runs a treadmill at the end of the day — which one has less risk of heart disease?

If the office worker exercises regularly, he/she is much less likely to have heart disease than someone with a physically intensive job, researchers have found.



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Appointment: (410) 857-2999

Thurmont

Thursday, Sept. 11 and 25,

1-4 p.m.

Where: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church Parish Hall, 103 N. Church St.

Appointment: (301) 271-4488

Gettysburg

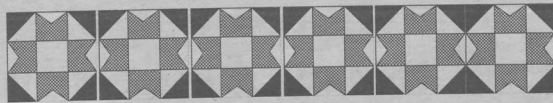
Thursday, Sept. 4 and 18,

9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Where: Gettysburg College's Musselman Stadium, W. Lincoln Ave.

Appointment: (717) 337-6469

Quilters Quilt codes



By Mary Ellen Cummings
Dispatch writer

Some people think that slave quilts were all made of scraps and pieces of cloth from old clothing, so-called utility quilts. However, surviving quilts with reliable stories of origin refute the thought that all quilts made by black women were thrown together to be used every day. Some were pieced designs of calicoes, chintzes and gingham. Others, now in museums, are very elaborate, such as *broderie perse* medallions cut from expensive chintz. But these were not "code" quilts.

Because some quilt-code blocks may have had different names in the ante-bellum period, it is difficult to

say definitely that the code did not exist, or that it was a way to aid slaves in their escape to freedom. Some present day quilt designers have brought out patterns for "Underground Railroad" quilts — designs which were originally called "Jacob's Ladder." *Connecting Threads*, a quilters' supply catalog have introduced a pattern for an Underground Railroad Sampler quilt using blocks listed in *Hidden in Plain View* (Tobin and Robard) as patterns used in code quilts.

Reference had been made to a "bonnet girl" quilt, but quilt historians say that "Sunbonnet Sue" did not exist until the '20s. In my research I found that there were quilts of such a

pattern in the early 1800s called "Sue Bonnet." Instead of being a little girl like Sunbonnet Sue, the figure was what we now know as a colonial lady with a hoop skirt and bonnet.

Most patterns in the code which Ozella McDaniel Williams said were in the code her ancestor taught her had equivalents in the African culture the slaves had lives in until their capture. The Wagon Wheel which is related in Tobin and Robard's book is different from that shown on the internet. Which is correct, or are they both wrong? Wheel patterns still are used in Africa.

In the Catholic Review for April 3, 2003, we learn of a woman in Illinois by the name of Clarice Boswell an African-American who received an inheritance of dozens of quilts from her grandmother. Her grandmother had told her of the "code" quilts, and some of the quilts she now owns were made with some

of the patterns that have been questioned by historians.

Dresden Plate is also a pattern in contention. In the code it is supposed to represent a window in a church in Dresden, Ontario, Canada. Historians say the church referred to does not have a "dresden" window. Perhaps interpretation has been too literal. Dresden china as reported by one family seamstress was used to draw a round pattern for a quilt — Dresden Plate?

Quilt authorities and other historians continue to say that suggestions of a quilt code "...greatly misrepresent the history of the Underground Railroad." However, Alex Anderson, host of Home and Garden presentation of "Simply Quilts" maintains "...the concept should have a place in the discussion, even if it's more folklore than fact. In the end we are addressing the Civil War and the plight of slavery."

Notes From Stoneyridge Farm

Barn cats

By Marcy Waterman
Dispatch Writer

We recently bought a small farm in Emmitsburg. When we entered our barn to check it out, we were greeted by a bevy of cats. They scampered in all directions, peering down at us from the hayloft and from inside the stalls. We counted 7 but there were several more that had not yet made an appearance. My husband is a cat lover and we always had a house cat or two, but we were surprised to see our cat family increase so dramatically.

Barn cats are different than house cats. In the winter a house cat will find a warm place to lie — on top of a TV set that has been running, in a window where the sun has been streaming in, or next to a radiator.

The barn cat's idea of the perfect spot on a chilly day is on top of a fresh pile of manure.

Another big difference is their choice of delicacies. Our barn cats get dry food, but a special treat is a bird or a mouse. They bring these treasures into the milk room to prove to us their prowess as hunters. They eat the best

part and leave us to dispose of the feathers or carcasses.

Our house pets may actually stalk a bird or mouse but more as amusement than sustenance. They like to jump up on the counter in the kitchen and check out whatever might be put there to cool for dinner.

This spring a number of our barn cats started to swell. They disappeared for several weeks. One morning some weeks later 3 of them appeared in the feed room complete with their new families — 12 kittens. We now had a kitten kindergarten next to our milk room to amuse us while we milked.

The kindergarten had a community kitchen. Any mother cat that lay down was immediately besieged by as many kittens as she had room for — her own plus several guests. We never actually determined which kitten belonged to which mother.

This will be the last year for the kitten kindergarten, as we will be rounding up all the mother cats for a trip to the vet as soon as the kittens are weaned.

In praise of our large cat family, we have never seen a mouse or rat in our barn.

Contemporary worship service

Trinity United Methodist Church is exploring the possibility of developing an informal weekly contemporary worship service. Pastor Wade Martin is seeking

persons interested in exploring, planning or leading some aspect of the worship service. Information: 301-606-8393; wademartin1983@msn.com.



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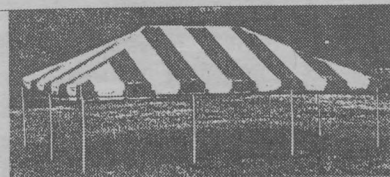
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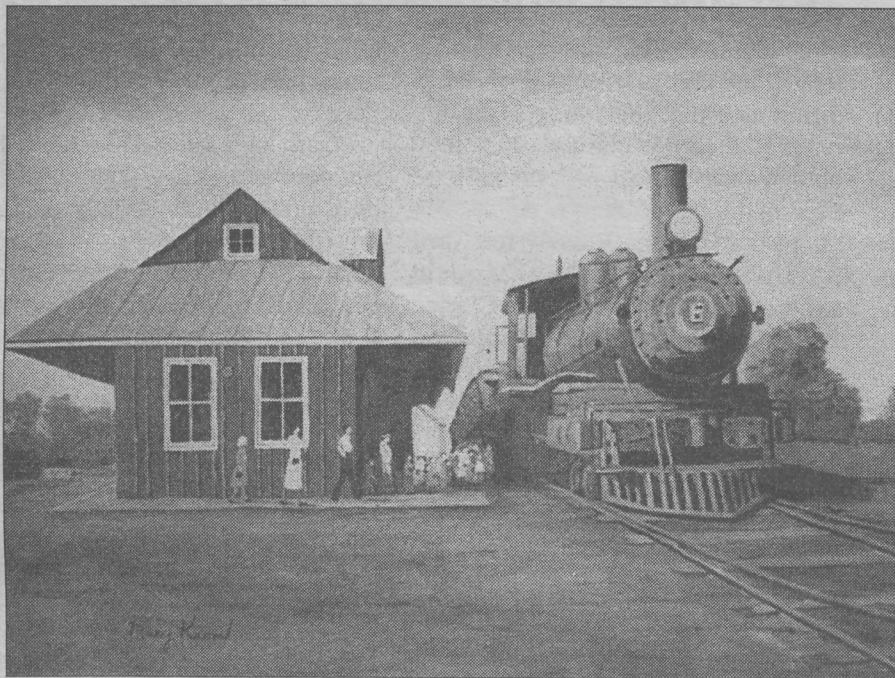
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PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

People To People is a section in The Emmitsburg Dispatch for personal and family news, announcements, and messages. Unlike Letters to the Editor this is paid space and has the lowest rate in the newspaper. It's not for businesses. The submission must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be used for verification. The Dispatch will only edit for punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.



The above photo is of a painting by artist Mary Krom depicting the Emmitsburg Train Station. The station was located just across the creek from where the post office is today. The painting, painted in the 1980's, was done from a photograph well after the railroad was sold in 1940. The Krom family is interested in the whereabouts of this painting. Contact Phil Krom with any information (301) 447-6844.

Marathon for charity

By Marion Lee

Mary van Buren, Activity Director at St. Catherine's Nursing Home in Emmitsburg, is preparing to run in her seventh marathon—this one in Honolulu, Hawaii!

Right now, Mary is in training, running at least 40 miles a week in order to be in shape for the big day, which will take place on December 14, 2003. "The needs of children always get my attention," says Mary. "Donations for this marathon will go to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Children from 60

different countries are cared for there."

Mary will pay for her transportation and lodging. All contributions go directly to St. Jude's. Many good people from Emmitsburg have supported Mary in the past. Again, she is asking for your support and prayers. If you would like to help, please send a check made payable to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Deliver it personally or mail it to:

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Family reunion of 36 descendants of Harry, Annie Wantz held in June

The descendants of Harry and Annie Wantz held their annual reunion on June 29, 2003, at the Indian Lookout Conservation Club grounds in Emmitsburg. All three remaining descendants of Harry & Annie attended the reunion this year with their children and their children's children among them: Mary Jean Houck, David B. Wantz, Sr., and James Edward Wantz.

The weather was a little humid, but the occasional breeze helped keep everyone cool. Our day started with the infamous horseshoe tournament and 72-yr-old Great-Grandma "Edie" is still pitching, but fell short as she gave winners, David B. Wantz III & Linda Wantz a run for their money!

Eldest female Mary Jean Houck

yelled "Bingo" as it was called by her brother and the eldest male, 72 years young, David B. Wantz, Sr. The youngest male, Drew Edward Wantz woke up from his nap, while youngest female, Ashley McGlaughlin anxiously awaited her turn to yell bingo like her great-grandma.

Thirty-six people attended this year's reunion, including Debbie Trimmer who traveled the farthest. As always, the food brought by each family that came was as best to be expected, including Stacy Wantz's ever-popular taco salad, which gave everyone a spicy treat that kicked the party up a notch! Everyone had a great time and we look forward to seeing more of the family next year!

5 Generations



(L-R) Teresa Fox Vann, Grandmother, Strasburg, VA; Dorothy Eiker Fox, Great-grandmother, Dickerson, MD; Jessica Vann, Mother, and Jewwleya Vann, daughter, Strasburg, VA; Robert Eiker, Sr., Great-grandfather, Emmitsburg, MD.

Looking Ahead

Sept 1. Annual Labor Day Festival 12 Noon until 5:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Thurmont, MD on the Church grounds on Church Street in downtown Thurmont. Family Style Dinner. Live Music by the Home Comfort Bluegrass Band, Bingo, Large White Elephant Sale, Bake Sale, Raffle, Country Store and Kiddie Games. Adults-\$10.00, children 6 to 12-\$5.00, 5 and under-free. Air Conditioned Dining Room and Ample Parking.

Sept 5. Catocin High FFA Chapter seeking response from all former members to attend the Friday night's Community Day program, beginning at 7:00PM. The Show will recognize the 75th anniversary of the National FFA. Recognition will include former members who served as Maryland State FFA Officers or have achieved the American Farmer (FFA) Degree. We request that former members complete a brief summary of their

activities and achievements to be displayed at the show. For form or information: Robert Beavan @ 240-236-8116 or 301-898-9139.

Sept 5, 6, 7. Old Fashion Tent Revival. Tom's Creek United Methodist Church. Services will begin Friday at 7:00p.m at the future site of Tom's Creek United Methodist Church, 2 miles east of Emmitsburg on route 140. Guest speakers are Pastor Jim Goforth and Pastor Jim Hamrick. Special music by Jim Twigg, Phil & Becky Karras, The Rock and Paul Rose.

Sept 7. Emmitsburg Concert in the Park-The Alesa Band. 2:00 p.m. Emmitsburg Memorial Park. Information: Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel 301-447-2435.

Sept 7. First Annual Crab Feast & Pig Roast 1:00- 5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Provincial House \$35.00 per person. Menu: All you can eat, Crabs, Crab soup, Roast Pork, Fried Chicken, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Baked Beans,

—Continued on page 19

—Continued from page 18

Corn on the Cob, Rolls, Desserts. Beverages: Soda, Beer, Iced Tea, Coffee. There will be a Silent Auction, Door prizes, Raffles and more! Adults Only! No Carry Outs! Only 275 tickets will be sold! Deadline for ticket orders are August 22, 2003. Tickets will be held at the door. Information: 301-447-7080 Sponsored by: Development Office Daughters of Charity. Will benefit the Sister Support Fund for the elderly and infirm sisters. Meal is provided by: Classic Affairs Catering Service and Trout's Seafood.

Sept 9. Choral Arts Society of Frederick soliciting singers. First rehearsal 7:45 p.m. in the rehearsal room of the Fine Arts Bldg at Frederick Community College. Information: 301-662-7356 or www.casof.org.

Sept 13. Peach Festival St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Rte. 550, Sabillasville, MD. 9:00 a.m. Eat in or Carry out soup, sandwiches and desserts, including peach pie, shortcake and sundaes. Vendors Welcome. Information: 301-241-3287 or www.STMarksSabillasville.org.

Sept 13. First Annual Fall Fest Taneytown United Presbyterian Church 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Rain or Shine. 32 York Street Taneytown, MD. Food, bake table, children's games, and entertainment by The Carroll County Ramblers. Information: 717-359-8054 or 410-346-6346

Sept 14. Emmitsburg Concert in the Park- Emmitsburg Community Chorus. 4:00 p.m. Emmitsburg Memorial Park. Information: Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel 301-447-2435.

Sept 20: Annual Alumni Dance: Saint Joseph's High School, Emmitsburg, MD 7:00 p.m. to 12 a.m. Mother Seton School, Emmitsburg, MD \$5.00 admission, BYOB - setups available. All Alumni & Guests are welcome Information: Maria Topper @301-447-2282

Sept 21. Basket/Cash Bingo. Emmitsburg Ambulance Building 300 S. Seton. Doors open at 12 noon. Games begin at 1:30 p.m. Light Fare Menu. All retired baskets. Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at door. Benefit for the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company Building Fund. Tickets or Information: 301-447-2073 or any member at 301-447-6626.

Oct 11-12. Ridgefest. Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church will host Ridgefest at Mt. Tabor Park in Rocky Ridge. Festivities include an apple butter boiling demonstration, flea markets, crafts, good home cooked food, and a country store. Rocky Ridge fireman will be selling their famous fried ham sandwiches both days. Mt. Tabor Park is home to the "big slide", a giant sliding board for kids of all ages - adults too. Information: 301-271-2674. Advance apple butter orders: 301-271-2880. Free craft and flea market space: 301-271-2135.

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