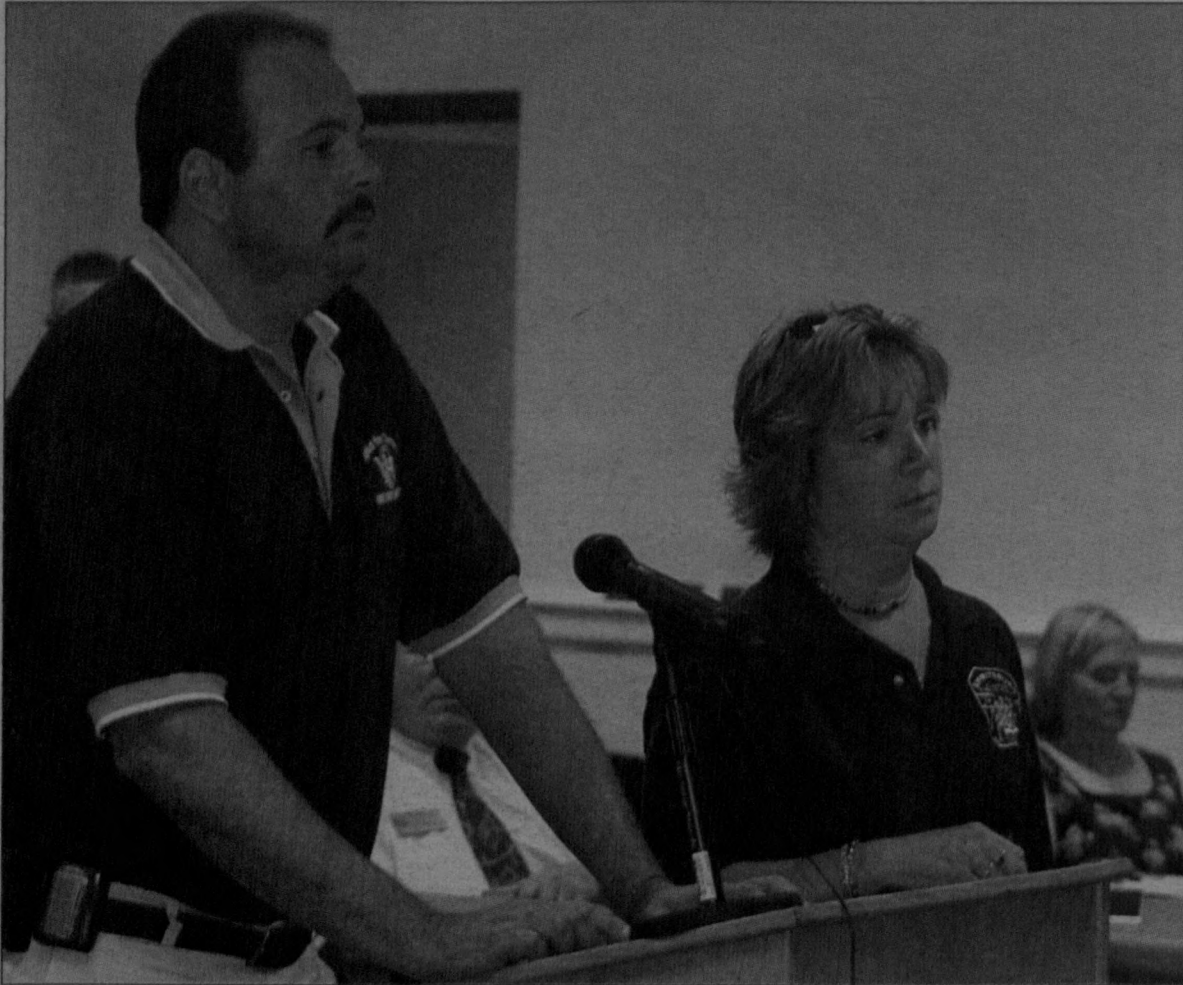


The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL III, No. 12

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

SEPTEMBER 1, 2004



—RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Vigilant Hose Company Chief Robert Rosensteel, Jr. (L) and ambulance company Chief Jeanette McGuire present their positions on hiring career employees to improve ambulance response at an August 30 special board of commissioners meeting.

Emmitsburg region faces first fire tax in its history

Staff Report

Emmitsburg remains the only Frederick County community without a fire tax, but that may soon change because of emergency response problems at the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company.

The town board of commissioners voted in favor of a 6.5 % fire tax August 30 to support the ambulance company's efforts to acquire two full-time career employees. This will ensure the station would be manned 12 hours, five days a week.

The commissioners also voted to monitor the company's

performance to determine if the coverage would need to be increased to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, assuming the county grants the company these two new hires.

Frederick County approval required

The Frederick County Board of Commissioners must approve the establishment of a new fire tax district and is scheduled to discuss the subject on September 2. If a decision is made to form a fire tax district in the Emmitsburg region, the county will also have to hold a

—Continued on page 6

Ambulance Company Suspends Chief

At a special executive session on Aug. 31, the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company board voted overwhelmingly to suspend Chief Jeanette McGuire.

Joe Pelkey, president of the ambulance company, said McGuire has been suspended "for her recent actions," but was unable to comment further on

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Commissioners lift moratorium, adopt taps allocation plan

Richard D. L. Fulton
Managing Editor

At the August 23 work session, Emmitsburg commissioners voted to rescind the sewer connection moratorium, and adopted the proposed Residential Sanitary Sewer Tap System Connection Allocation Plan.

Mayor James E. Hoover signed the ordinance rescinding

the moratorium and giving the go-ahead to the allocation plan on August 26.

The allocation plan will restrict the number of sewer tap connections allowed and determine how the 20 permitted sewer connections are to be allocated (see "Town reviews taps plan" in the August 11, 2004, issue of The Emmitsburg Dispatch).

The town will enter into a

consent order (CO) with MDE to address its degraded sewer collection system. No more than 20 new connections per year can be approved for the duration of the consent order. However, MDE can approve additional connections on a case-by-case basis during the term of the consent order.

According to Mayor Hoover and Town Manager David Haller, the MDE consent order

remains unsigned.

Appletree appeals permit denials

Appletree Homes, owned by developer Thomas Carolyn, appealed the denial of three zoning certificates before the town Board of Appeals on August 12, challenging the legality of the town's moratorium as well.

Carolyn's South Gate development is located off South

—Continued on page 7

Town, businesses partner to continue after-school program

Susan Allen
Staff Writer

Emmitsburg town government has established a public-private partnership to rescue "After-school Adventures," a popular recreational program for elementary school children in town. The Maryland state grant that allowed Frederick County to fund the program is no longer available.

Faced with losing the program, town manager Dave Haller

and town planner Michael Lucas enlisted the help of local businesses. They announced the plan at the August 2 Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners meeting. The commissioners committed \$10,000 to the project.

Michael Lucas is spearheading the effort to solicit donations from area companies. Donations are at the \$6,000 level, and growing.

Bollinger Construction Company, owned by Josh Bollinger, is the leading contribu-

tor. Other sponsors include Jubilee Foods, Emmitsburg Glass Company, Briggs and Associates Real Estate, The Carriage House Inn, and One More Tavern. One donor has pledged to provide two computers for the program.

"After-school Adventures" has always included supervised homework time, said program coordinator Erma Tressler. Some of the students use computers at home for their homework, so "it would be wonderful" to have

them available in their activity room at the community center.

Tressler has worked with the program since it began in January 1999. She said town officials have always supported it, because they wanted a structured recreational program for local students.

Bill Derbyshire, former Catoctin Community Agency School Services (CASS) coordinator, was also instrumental in

—Continued on page 3

Concerts in the Park
-see article on page 2.

Restoring historic barns
-see article on page 4.

Garden Club reaches golden milestone
-see feature on page 10.

Voting in the upcoming general election
-see details on page 16.

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.

Challenge to Harold C. Craig

The June 23, 2004 issue of this paper had a COPE article from Mr. Craig. He keeps singing the same song. He continues to bash the Bollinger family, Pat Boyle, Ted Brennan and Mayor Hoover.

Doesn't he know it yet? Annexation of these properties is a dead issue. It's time to move on to bigger and better things.

How long do you intend to beat a dead horse? Why don't you get down from your high horse and do something more constructive with your time?

If you can't find something to do for all of the citizens of our wonderful town, use your resources and money to complete the structural changes needed to your property. Repair the wall. Fix the leaning fence. School starts soon and many of our children use School Lane on a daily basis.

If you need assistance, ask the area developers for help. They may know some contractors looking for work.

- Larry Little
Emmitsburg

COPE President and Vice-President's actions disrupt Farmers' Market

As a member of COPE, I'm disturbed by the actions taken by the President (Catherine Forrence) and Vice President (Harold C. Craig, Jr.) of the organization regarding a disruption during the August 27 Farmers' Market.

At the August 24 COPE meeting the President stated she would be unable to attend the Farmers' Market on Friday and secured a volunteer, apparently to set up a booth as a Board of Elections Representative. Friday, August 27 was not a day that a Board of Elections representative was approved to set up a Farmers' Market sponsored booth.

The COPE President was, however, available at the market during the disruption, video cam-

era in hand. This disruption took place when I, as market manager, requested that the COPE member shut down the unapproved booth. (I am a volunteer on the Farmers' Market Committee and was elected Farmers' Market Manager by the two fellow volunteer committee members in April.)

Secondly, in my opinion, the behavior of the Vice President during the disruption, which included name-calling and finger pointing on his part, was entirely unacceptable.

In July, the President of COPE was approved by the Market Committee to set up a Farmers' Market sponsored booth as a representative of the Board of Elections on the first



—RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Many missed final concert in the park

Ray Marchman (left) and Phil Portier (right), the music duo known as "waking at seven," played oldies, country, and contemporary rock during this year's final free concert at Memorial Park, August 21.

The son of Bill and Bonita Portier, and formerly an Emmitsburg resident, Portier graduated in 1990 from Catoclin High School and earned his bachelor's degree in music from Mount St. Mary's.

Blending their tenor voices, the two performed from 7:30 p.m. until dark for about 20 people. One person commented, "People missed a great concert. The acoustic guitars and vocals were phenomenal."

The band performs primarily in the Annapolis area. To learn about upcoming concerts, go to www.wakingatseven.com.

The Emmitsburg Parks Committee sponsored the concert series.

Friday of every month.

All market participants are required to sign an agreement. Apparently, some dissatisfaction has arisen with the terms. Regardless of the validity of the arguments on either side, she should not have signed if the terms of her participation were viewed as unacceptable.

In addition, the tactics used to

force the issue were entirely inappropriate in my opinion as they were disruptive to the market vendors and customers and became entirely too personal in nature.

As a result of this occurrence, I will not be renewing my membership in COPE. It is unfortunate in these times of polarized opinions, that resolutions cannot be achieved in a less confrontational

manner. If we're truly interested in preserving our small town atmosphere and charm, we need more people to volunteer to help maintain and improve the positive aspects of Emmitsburg. We should not turn positive events into a battleground.

— Jennifer Staiger
Emmitsburg



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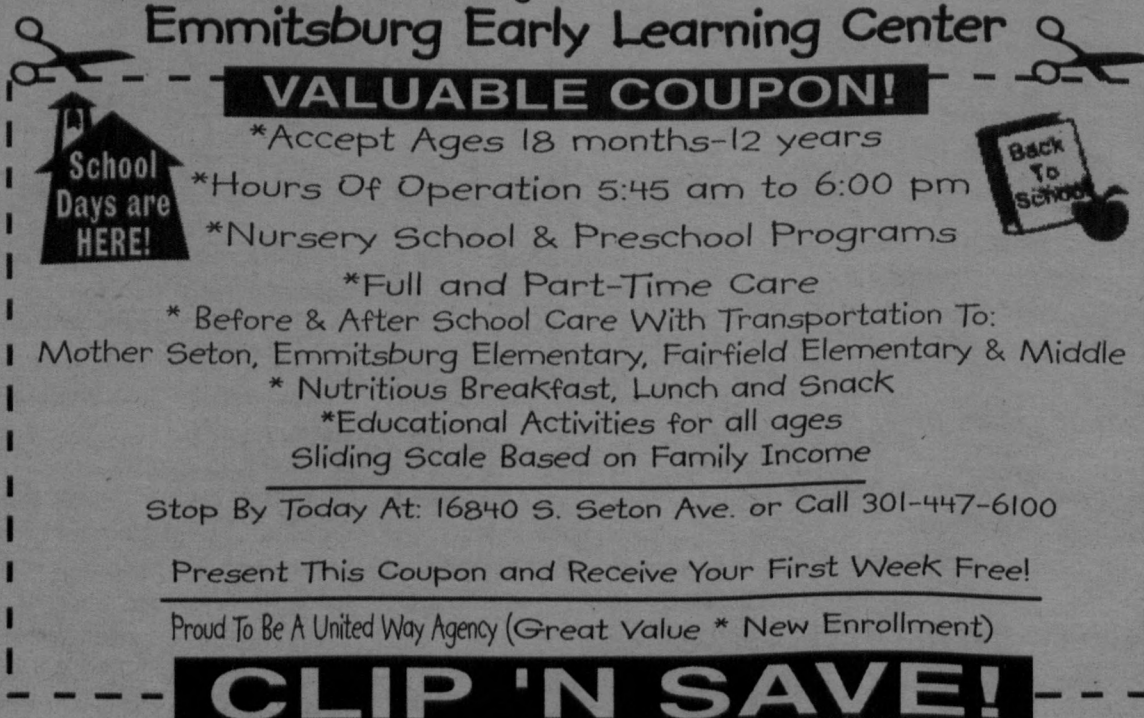
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100 Years Ago "In this place" From *The Emmitsburg Chronicle*

This column offers a regular look back at Emmitsburg through the eyes of *The Emmitsburg Chronicle* which first appeared on June 14, 1879, published by Samuel Motter. In 1909 the paper became known as *The Weekly Chronicle*. It continued regular publication, allowing for a 5-year hiatus during World War II, until February 9, 1977.

Show in Town

September 2, 1904 - Andrew Downie's big one ring show was in town Wednesday and gave two performances, one in the afternoon and the other in the evening, both of which were fairly well attended. This show is a good one and their performers are professional in their various lines. The street parade was a very creditable affair. This is the largest show that has visited this place for a number of years.

Cemetery Improvement

September 2, 1904 - No doubt by this time the entire community has seen the vast improvement that has been made at Mountain View Cemetery, where for the past two weeks a force of workmen has been busily engaged in beautifying the front of this naturally beautiful burying ground.

Instead of the unsightly approach conspicuously noticeable heretofore, a gently sloping terrace forms the front and Southern boundary, while a new driveway, to be completed in the spring, a hedge and the addition of ornamental shade trees will add greatly to the general appearance of the whole place.

It is understood that the improvements are but a few of those that are contemplated and that from now on the entire cemetery will be kept in proper condition.

The Mountain View Cemetery is a union cemetery (for all denominations) and its fine location and natural advantages should appeal to all who desire a beautiful resting place for their dead.

All business connected with this cemetery may be transacted through Mr. J. Henry Stokes.

Fairfield Item

September 2, 1904 - Fairfield, for a small place, cannot be excelled. Good pavements. Lots of shade trees. The town has five churches, two smith shops, four dry goods stores, one hardware store, two grocery stores, one barber shop, one shoe store, one drug store, two doctors, three dressmakers, one hotel, two boarding houses, two confectionery stores, two wheelwrights, one saddler, one baker and one farm implements store.

Corn Cannery Busy

September 2, 1904 - The canning of sugar corn, which is one of the leading industries in Frederick county, has been at its height during the week, and so great is the rush of corn coming in that some of the factories have been working day and night. These industries, located in Frederick city and county, are now employing nearly five thousand persons to put up this enormous crop which is the largest ever grown in Frederick county.

About 4,000 acres of land was planted in sugar corn this spring and the yield from this is almost an average of three tons to the acre, for which the farmers are receiving from \$10-\$12 per ton, as the corn is all grading as first class.

The Monocacy Valley Canning Company, owned by Charles W. Ross, Jr., and

Charles B. Staley will pack about 4,000,000 cans. The Frederick City Packing Company, owned by Rosenstock Bros., will put up 4,000,000 cans also, and the Colt & Dixon Company of Frederick, will turn out about 1,000,000 cans. The Roland Canning Company, which principally packs fruit, will turn out 100,000 cans of tomatoes and a like amount of fruit. At Buckeystown, Frederick county, the Buckeystown Packing Company will pack 2,000,000 cans this season.

The Monocacy Valley Canning Company at Walkersville will put up nearly 1,000,000 cans and the Adamstown Packing Company at Adamstown, which only commenced this season, will pack about 1,500,000 cans.

Lawn Party

September 9, 1904 - A very delightful lawn party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harmon on Tuesday evening, August 23. The evening was spent in playing games and general merriment. About half past eleven the guests retired to the dining room where a table, furnished with the luxuries of the season, was spread. The attendance was especially large there being about fifty persons present. The bashfulness of the young men was fully compensated by the energy of the ladies, who seemed to appreciate the privileges of leap year. About half past twelve the guests left for their homes after having spent a very pleasant evening.

After School Program

—Continued from page 1

getting the program established. "CASS will continue to work with the program and its parent advisory council," says current coordinator Debbie Wivell Swiderski. She would like to see even more parent involvement in the future.

Tressler hopes to enlist some Mount St. Mary's University students as volunteers. "We have had some in the past, but not last year," when the community center was being renovated. Usually the volunteers came through the Education Department and helped with homework and supervised games.

The program was designed to serve 30 students, and enrollment has been filled every year. "There's usually a waiting list too," said Tressler. She emphasizes that it is a recreational program, "not a child care program." Two adult staff members pick up the students from school

at the end of the day, around 3:30 p.m., and walk with them to the community center.

Their activity room is on the lower level, and "the kids love it." There is plenty of space for projects and games. They have a snack, provided by the parents on a rotating basis, followed by homework. Students play games in the gym (relay races, dodgeball, and the like). Board games are available as well, and most afternoons there is a craft activity.

The program ends at 5:30 p.m. Parents are expected to pick up their children no later than 5:45 p.m.

Emmitsburg Elementary and Mother Seton School distributed informational fliers to students the first day of school. Children in grades one through five are eligible to enroll in this free program. "After-school Adventures" begins October 18, 2004 and ends April 29, 2005. The group will not meet on school holidays. For information, contact Erma Tressler, 301-371-8851.

St. Joseph's High School Reunion

Saturday, September 18, 8 - 11 p.m. at Mother Seton School. Sponsored by the class of 1979, the reunion is their 25th, but open to all St. Joseph's alumni. BYOB - D.J. and set-ups provided.

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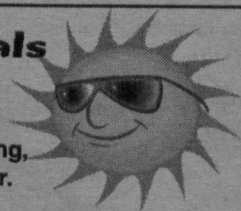
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