

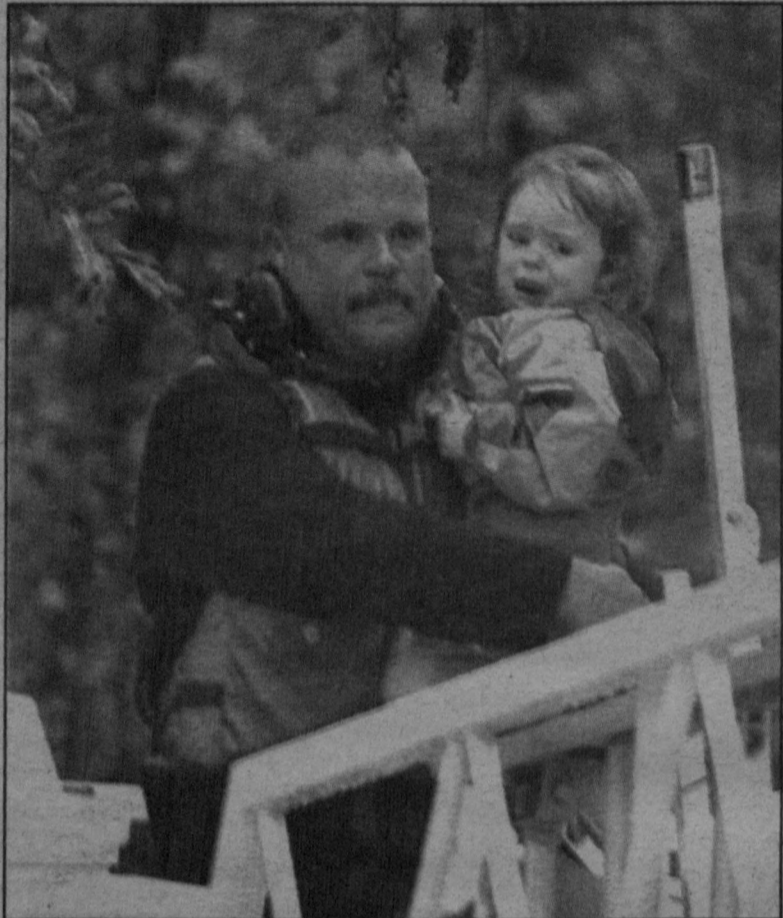


The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL III, No. 14

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

OCTOBER 6, 2004



Firefighter Chad Umbel rescues a two-and-a-half-year old girl from a flood-stranded vehicle during last weeks storm.

-ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL SR / THE ROSENSTEEL STUDIO

-See full story on page 3.

Commissioners consider first town election laws Recall provisions likely

Richard D. L. Fulton
Managing Editor

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners directed the town staff on Oct. 4 to draft an election law ordinance governing various aspects of conducting town elections.

The draft ordinance will also include measures to carry out recalls to remove elected town officials from office if 50 percent of registered voters feel they have not performed as expected.

The town has never had any formal election laws or rules, according to commission President William B. O'Neil, Jr., who said, "It's important to have an election ordinance in place before the next election."

The proposed ordinance, if adopted, might also require

a 100-foot, campaign-free zone around voting polls. Campaigners would not be allowed within the zone during voting, and handing out pamphlets within the zone would also be prohibited.

O'Neil said it was also important that identifications be checked before individuals vote to ensure they are local residents. "They didn't ask for mine (at the previous election) and I could have moved."

The ordinance could also require that candidates reveal financial contributions received during the campaign. Candidates would be required to "present a tally of all expenses" relating to their campaign, with the reports filed to be made available to the public within 30 days of the election.

The commissioners and

the mayor seemed in favor of a provision allowing recall of elected officials.

Although some communities allow 25 percent of the registered voters to call for a recall of an elected official, O'Neil believes that 50 percent in a community the size of Emmitsburg would be more realistic.

Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker agreed, "I like the idea of a recall, but I was thinking that 25 percent is a little low. I would slant more for a 50 percent (of the voters) on that."

However, the concept of instituting "poll watchers," representatives of the various candidates who would remain with the election judges during the vote count to observe the results, caused contention.

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U.S. flu vaccine supply cut in half – local residents may not get shots

Joyce M. Demmitt
Staff Writer

Flu vaccine may need to be rationed this season, and Frederick County flu clinics are on hold. A British company that produces half of this country's flu vaccine cannot ship 48 million doses, and the U.S. is coming up short.

The Chiron Corporation, located in the United Kingdom, notified the Center

for Disease Control (CDC), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, on Oct. 5 that a British regulatory agency has suspended its license to manufacture Fluvirin vaccine in its Liverpool plant for three months because some of it might be contaminated. This suspension prevents the company from releasing any flu vaccine for the 2004-05 season.

In responsetotheanticipated

shortage, CDC issued interim recommendations on Oct. 5 for who should receive flu shots:

- Children from 6-23 months, adults 65 and older.
- Persons 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions.
- Women who will be pregnant during flu season.
- Nursing homes and long-term care facility residents.
- Children 6 months-18 years of age on chronic aspirin

therapy.

- Health care workers with direct patient care.
- Anyone who lives with or cares for a baby younger than 6 months.

Frederick County clinics

The Frederick County Health Department (FCDH) has postponed its next flu clinic, scheduled for Oct. 14, waiting for federal decisions

-Continued on page 4

Jeanne brings heavy rain and high water

Staff Report

Tropical depression Jeanne, downgraded from hurricane status, left inches of rain and hard work for rescue workers and emergency personnel as she moved through Maryland and Southeastern Pennsylvania Sept. 27 and 28.

Beginning about 11 p.m. Sept. 27, Jeanne battered Frederick County with heavy

rain and high winds. According to Charlie Abell, manager of the Frederick Municipal Airport, .73 inches fell on Monday, followed by 3.27 inches on Tuesday.

Lucille Beale, who lives on Four Points Road, about three miles east of Emmitsburg, has been keeping rainfall records for the area for many years and

-Continued on page 3

Thousands of dollars missing from town coffers

Informed sources have told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that as much as four to five thousand dollars or more is missing, and

presumed stolen, from town funds. Investigators apparently have a suspect in mind and may be a current

-Continued on page 8

Hearing date set for Emmitsburg fire tax

County commissioners will hold a public hearing Nov. 9, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Mother Seton School on the proposed Emmitsburg fire tax.

Citizens can tell the commissioners which of the two tax rates under consideration should be implemented in order to provide career employees

-Continued on page 4

Security problems at the Community Center?
-see article on page 4.

Provincial House sisters take trip in WIENERMOBILE to Oriole baseball game
-see article on page 11.

Seniors settle back into Community Center with new activities
-see article 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 Emmitsburg Dispatch reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

Craig attacks Walbrecker's record

Commissioner Diane Walbrecker's letter in your latest issue ("Why can't we all just get along?" The Emmitsburg Dispatch, Sept. 15, 2004) is like cotton candy at the carnival. It is sweet, but mostly air. She is sweetening her image to divert attention from her record on various zoning, annexation and development issues.

I would like to know why she favored the developers and not town residents, while she was on the Planning & Zoning Commission and afterward. I refer to:

1. Allowing swales and

narrow streets in Pembroke Woods, which created drainage and parking problems unsolved to this day.

2. Favoring annexation of the Boyle and Bollinger tracts, when the sewer system and other public facilities were and remain inadequate to support them.

3. Backing Ted Brennan for town commissioner, who supported pro-developer and anti-resident actions.

4. Opposing or doing little to promote the referendums on the annexation issues, thereby turning a deaf ear to the voices of the residents.

5. Attacking COPE, the citizens' advocate, after upholding an improper ruling of the Board of Appeals in a development case.

Further, I would like to know why Commissioner Kumbayah was against exempting Emmitsburg Glass, our largest private employer, from an unreasonable town ordinance. Of doubtful legality, it could have cost them \$5 million for a useless bridge. Had Commissioner Art Elder, Bill O'Neil and Joyce Rosensteel not voted to remove the bridge requirement, Emmitsburg Glass would have moved to Pennsylvania, lowering our tax base and taking many jobs with them.

Sugar is sweet, but facts and truth are better for you and for me.

- Harold C. Craig
Emmitsburg

About: Kerry and/or Kerry

Kerry flip-flops on issues daily. This pro-con positioning connotes he is void of well-founded, clear, deep-rooted convictions. Kerry takes stands that are popular depending on the audience - everyone's approach.

To critically debate any administration policy is both a freedom and responsibility. I do! As Kerry challenges President Bush, a plan should be stated that remains steadfast for all to examine. Instead, only rhetoric and condemnation are forthcoming, lacking substance and constant direction.

Consider the following:

Kerry voted for and against gay marriage, capital punishment, for terrorists, N.A.F.T.A., the Patriot Act;

Kerry voted for going to war in Iraq and voted against the 87 billion funding for the troops, "I actually voted for it before I voted against it;"

Kerry voted against all major military systems employed currently; yet claims

he would do more to help the troops;

Kerry proposed #1452 amendment to disband the CIA (75 Democratic senators voted against it) while he criticizes the president for not getting good CIA intelligence;

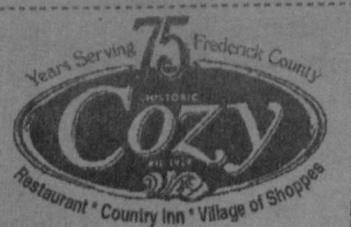
Kerry lacks understanding for the scrutiny of his military record when he made this issue the focus of his campaign.

There are more inconsistencies too numerous to list. Surely this record and lack of reflective decision-making is not the hallmark of a leader.

Think before casting your ballot. To vote only to oust any president is irresponsible and a blatant disservice to the treasured democratic process. Even while opposing and debating policy, the best man is required for these perilous times. Is it Kerry and/or Kerry?

I am certain it is not.

-Richard R. Little
Thurmont



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Combat veteran's dad speaks out

George Bush says he is a war president. True. He has led us into an unnecessary quagmire war that has killed or wounded 8,000 Americans; increased the national debt; distracted us from the hunt for Osama bin Laden; recruited many more terrorists; damaged our country's image abroad; and made the U.S. and the world less safe.

Meanwhile, he has widened the gap between the rich and the rest of us; imposed a heavy debt burden

on our grandchildren; failed to deal with job exportation and energy problems; and worked to undermine public education, women's rights, and religious liberty.

Do we really need four more years of this?

-Edd Doerr
Silver Spring, Md.

Editor's Note: The writer is the father of a Navy combat veteran.

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-ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL SR / THE ROSENSTEEL STUDIO

Deputy James Moxley hangs onto a tree in flood waters from Tom's creek, staying with a trapped family until rescue crews arrive.

Deputy risks life to help rescue flood-stranded family

A Frederick County Sheriff's Office deputy had to be rescued from rising floodwaters Sept. 28 because he refused to abandon a stranded motorist and her family.

According to Frederick County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Deputy Jennifer Bailey, around 6 p.m. Deputy James Moxley spotted a van on Annandale Road trapped in rising floodwater from Toms Creek.

"The driver was yelling for help, and said she had

babies in the car," Bailey told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

Bailey said Moxley saw the waters rising up to the windshield of the car, and plunged into the floodwaters, making his way to the vehicle to tell the family he had called for help.

Moxley remained with the vehicle until the Vigilant Hose Company responded with a ladder truck. "He saw they were upset and stayed with them until he was pulled from the water," Bailey stated.

The fire company volunteers conducted a "rapid

water rescue" operation, safely extracting the vehicle's occupants along with Moxley, who was also stranded.

The trapped Emmitsburg family included Jessica Wolfe, 19, Brentanon Wolfe, 20, a 13-year old girl, a two-and-a-half-year old girl, and a four-month old baby.

As a precaution, the baby was transported to the Frederick County Memorial Hospital for observation. Everyone is in good condition according to Bailey.

Tropical depression Jeanne causes sewage spill

The residual effects of Jeanne overwhelmed the Emmitsburg wastewater collection system Sept. 28-29, causing 206,500 gallons of diluted sewage to discharge onto fields and into creeks.

Heavy rains contributed significant amounts of wild water which the collection system could not contain. Wild water is any unwanted water that intrudes into the collection system.

Dan Fissel, superintendent at the wastewater plant, said the impacted area had been cleaned up and the streams were posted with warnings about the

presence of sewage. He said the streams would remain posted for a couple of weeks.

Fissel noted that residual solids contained in the sewage were racked up and placed in bags for disposal, and lime was spread over the areas impacted by the spill.

Sewage treatment plant employees notified authorities at the Maryland Department of the Environment of the spillage, as the law requires.

The plant experienced an earlier spill on Sep. 18 of 66,000 gallons of diluted wastewater, also the result of wild water overwhelming the system.

Election Laws

-Continued from page 1
results, caused contention.

Walbrecker noted that local town elections were based more on personal ideals than party politics. She said that instituting the poll watcher concept "gives it (the election process) that sense of partisanship. I hope the town doesn't become partisan."

Mayor James E. Hoover agreed, "It would be very difficult to get election judges

results, caused contention.

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Mayor James E. Hoover agreed, "It would be very difficult to get election judges

building a stream bank berm and dredging the streambed at the curve. (See "Agency says 'no' to Flat Run flood control costs" in the July 21, 2004 issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.)

North Gate's only entrance flooded

For several hours during the afternoon of Sept. 28 North Gate residents could neither enter nor leave the development because Flat Run Creek had overflowed, covering the bridge and entrance to the development on North Seton Avenue with

several feet of water.

The water was at its highest near the evening rush hour, but began receding after 6 p.m.

North Gate currently has only one entrance. A second entrance to the development planned at Irish Town Road has never been constructed because the development has not been completed.

Jeanne

-Continued from page 1

recorded 5 inches of rain from Jeanne.

County officials reported more than 20 road closures because of rising water and many rain-related traffic accidents. In Emmitsburg there were a number of storm-related incidents.

Vigilant Hose Company out in force

The Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) had multiple crews monitoring weather conditions and assisting individuals throughout the storm. Chief Bob Rosensteel, Jr. said the company had 31 members on duty and all fire trucks and other apparatus

working in some capacity. The fire company monitored high water, pumped out basements and conducted a rapid water rescue (see story on this page).

Flat Run overflows its banks

The Emmitt Gardens homes on First Avenue, located along the sharp bend in Flat Run, were flooded again. The stream flooded five backyards and residents had to pump out their basements. One woman who has only lived in her home for three months had been told flooding was rare, but her basement said otherwise.

Vigilant Hose Company personnel monitored the area throughout the day in case residents had needed to be evacuated.

Emmitsburg Mayor James E. Hoover has been working for some time to secure funding for measures to prevent flooding along this bend in Flat Run. Recently the Army Corps of Engineers recommended



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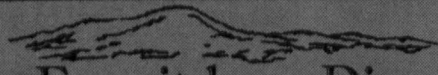
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Fire Tax

-Continued from page 1

A 6.5 percent (of each \$100 of assessed real estate value) tax would support part-time, paid coverage; while a 13.5 percent tax would help pay for full-time, paid assistance.

On Sept. 2, the county dispatched a county ambulance and crew to Emmitsburg to help

ensure more reliable emergency responses. The vehicle and crew are based at the Vigilant Hose Company firehouse.

The county based the crew at Vigilant because of the lack of sleeping quarters at Company 26, and the ambulance company's current management problems, including the recent suspension of Chief Jeanette McGuire.

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.

100 Pound Pumpkin

October 7, 1904 - Mr. John Barry, of near town, is the champion pumpkin grower. He raised several very large ones, among which is one that weighs 100 pounds. This is hard to beat.

EHS Literary Society

October 7, 1904 - The pupils of the Emmitsburg High School met on Friday afternoon, September 30, 1904, to reorganize the EHS Literary Society. Mr. Joseph Shuff acted as temporary chairman and Miss Lucy Adelsberger, temporary secretary. We then proceeded by electing permanent officers: Mr. Joseph Shuff, president; Mr. Carson Frailey, vice-president; Miss Lucy Adelsberger, Secretary; Mr. Robert Sellers, treasurer; Miss Helen Shuff, librarian; Miss Bertha Springer, organist, and O.A. Horner, corresponding secretary. Miss Lucy Adelsberger, Miss Clara Rowe and Mr. Robert Sellers were appointed to act as committee, and Manchuria was chosen for the subject for the next meeting. We adjourned to meet Friday afternoon October 14, 1904. O.A. Horner, Corresponding Secretary.

Flu vaccine

-Continued from page 1

that give directions to state health officials.

On Oct. 6, Health Officer Dr. Barbara A. Brookmyer announced that FCHD did not purchase or use Chiron flu vaccine. FCHD did receive a partial shipment from a different manufacturer, but it was totally used at the Oct. 4 flu clinic. The Federal Government and the State of Maryland may request that remaining flu vaccine supplies be reserved for individuals at highest risk.

Because the process of

The Great Frederick Fair

October 7, 1904 - The Forty-fourth Annual Exhibition of the Frederick County Agricultural Association will be held this year on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st of October. With but two weeks off every indication points to the fact that the coming Fair will be the greatest ever held. More money has been expended in securing attractions than ever before and up to the present time the entries in every department are far more numerous than has ever been known. Secretary, J. Roger McSherry, who has personal charge of the Bench show looks forward to the biggest exhibit of dogs that has ever been seen in Western Maryland. Last year there were five hundred entries, this year he expects something like one thousand.

The racing this year will be a tremendous feature. Among the entries already made are horses that are guaranteed to do great work. It is likely that more than one new record will be established on the Frederick track, at least such are the expectations. The Managers have gone far beyond the usual limit in the way of securing attractions in front of the grand stand. Daily exhibitions will be given as usual by some of the best talent in this country and in Europe. There will be about fifteen separate and distinct acts - any one of which is worth a trip to the Fair to see. The machinery and poultry exhibits will undoubtedly be larger this year than usual. A fine large building is in the course of

erection which will be known as "Headquarters" for the machinery exhibitors. In order to have every one reminded of the Great Fair, the Managers have employed eight advertising agents and two inspectors to post everywhere an announcement of the coming exhibition. In addition to this ten thousand catalogues and five thousand dog show premiums, lists have been mailed to well known people throughout the north, south, east and west. In response to this preliminary work the Secretary is busy listing exhibitors in every department and judging from what has already been received there can be no doubt that the Fair will be larger along every line this year than at any time in the past.

It is a well established fact that the Farmers of Frederick County raise some of the finest cattle in the country, and for years this department has been the wonder and admiration of thousands of people. The Managers of the Fair hope that our home farmers will continue their interest in the way of exhibiting their stock; if so, the fullest expectations will be realized, and realized in a manner that will fully justify the prediction that the coming Fair will be the best, in every sense of the word, ever held in Frederick County.

Gettysburg community flu shot program

According to Cindy Gilbert in the Public Relations and Communications Department of Gettysburg Hospital, flu clinics will be offered as scheduled, at least as of Oct. 6. Staff ask that only those in CDC's greatest need categories request shots, on the "honor system."

Flu vaccinations will be offered at several community locations. No registration is required. The fee is \$18 and Medicare Part B is accepted.

Gettysburg Village
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Gettysburg Hospital
 Community Rooms

Nov. 3, 2-6 p.m., Nov. 5, 6-8 a.m., Nov. 6, 6-9 a.m., Nov. 12, 6-8 a.m., Nov. 13, 6-9 a.m., Dec. 1, 2-6 p.m.

Call the Gettysburg Hospital Health Information Line for further information: 717-334-4646.

manufacturing flu vaccine is lengthy, none can be made now to use this flu season.

Dr. Brookmyer anticipates that a supply of the nasal FluMist will be available. She said, "We are investigating the possibility of offering that as an alternative for healthy individuals between the ages of five and 49."

FCHD is uncertain about dates for future flu clinics. For up-to-date information, call the Flu Information Hotline, 302-631-3035, or visit www.frederickhealth.org.



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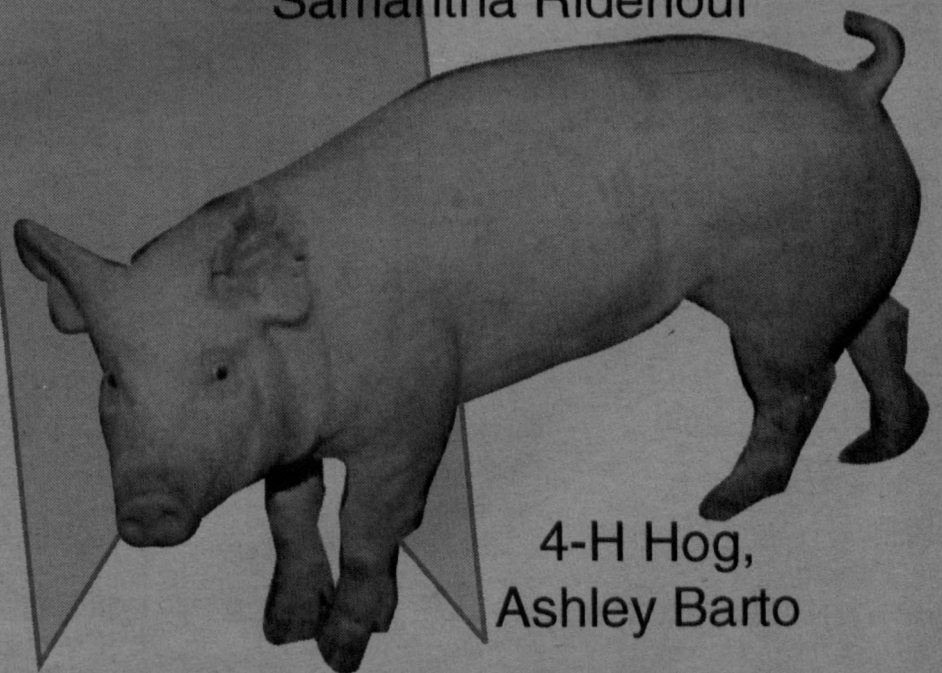


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TOWN NEWS

Alleged security problems at community center

Staff Report

Security at the Emmitsburg Community Center may be compromised by missing keys and other breaches, according to William B. O'Neil, Jr.

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioner's President e-mailed Frederick County Commissioner Jan H. Gardner and Town Manager David Haller on Sept. 23 expressing his concerns over reports of compromised security at the community center.

O'Neil wrote, "Members of the Friends of the Library, Emmitsburg Branch, have communicated that they are concerned about security at the above-referenced facility. They relate that on a number of occasions building doors have been left unlocked and lights left on in various parts of the building."

"Upon personal inspection, and after consultation with personnel who monitor the building and check on such matters, I have learned that security concerns are very real."

Breaches have led to alleged confrontations

O'Neil's e-mail refers to several incidents. On one

occasion, hearing noises coming from the basement, the building monitor encountered "an individual in the building who clearly did not belong, tossing things about as if searching for something and exhibiting generally destructive behavior."

In his correspondence, he further stated, "On another occasion, a young couple was persistently trying to gain entrance into the building."

Further, O'Neil mentioned that a group of youths had managed to block an entrance to allow reentry to the building.

County says town is responsible for security

Frederick County Commissioner Jan H. Gardner told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, "The lease between the county and Emmitsburg stipulates that the town will provide security for the building and serve as building manager."

These responsibilities including closing and locking the building at night and monitoring the status of various sets of keys.

O'Neil pointed out in his e-mail that keys "are an antiquated manner of security." Keys are easily lost and it is expensive and time-consuming to re-fit and

re-key. He suggested installing a keypad, using a numerical code, or using a card swiping entry system for the building. In either case numbers could be changed easily.

According to Gardner, "There have been discussions at the county level of going to a card system, but that has to compete in the budget with everything else." The county is responsible for more than 50 buildings.

Gardner is following up with O'Neil on the security issues, and suggested that the town "needs to have a discussion" to determine if this is an on-going problem.

Town Manager David Haller told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that he is in communication with the county regarding the alleged security breaches, but is not in a position to comment at the present time.

Mayor proactive about security

When asked by *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* to comment on Community Center security, Emmitsburg Mayor James E. Hoover said, "Letters have been sent to each agency occupying the building on more than one occasion about doors being left unlocked." Hoover and Dave Haller have sent several letters "during the last few months."

Hoover confirmed that Haller is working to verify the security breaches at the center and is working with the county to determine what needs to

A word from the Mayor Emmitsburg honors Fallen Firefighters

Again this year I had the great honor of representing the town of Emmitsburg in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. The Fallen Firefighters Memorial was established in 1981 and has become one of the many great features of Emmitsburg. As most of you can see by the banners that now hang in town each year at this time (first weekend in October), it is very important to me that the town of Emmitsburg take an active role in showing the families of the fallen firefighters from all over the United States how much Emmitsburg appreciates the service they provided.

Each year there's an average of 100 men and women nationwide honored for a line of duty death. This

be done. Although day-to-day security is the town's responsibility, the building belongs to the county.

No building monitor

When asked the name of the building monitor, the mayor responded that there is no building monitor.

The building custodian is frequently in the center. Although he is conscientious

-Continued on page 7

year there were 110 men and women honored. As part of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service, the Fallen Firefighters Foundation provides grief-counseling sessions for family and friends of the fallen firefighters, a candlelight vigil at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and several opportunities for families to meet and support one another as they go through this difficult time together.

When I became mayor in 2002, I did not know why the town never participated in the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. This is a national event that takes place in our town every year and the town government did not participate or create a relationship for over 20 years (since the foundation was established). I called the Foundation and met with Chief Ron Siarnicki. Chief Siarnicki was pleased to know that the town is interested in participating in the annual event and offered his assistance to make the town a welcome partner.

Since that time, I have been invited as mayor to speak at the opening ceremonies each year. In 2002, the town posted large banners at each entrance to town; in 2003, we added the smaller banners that hang from the light poles on Main Street; in 2004, I was asked to become a member of the planning committee for the 2004 Memorial Service weekend. As a member of the planning committee I requested to have the annual Red Helmet riders pass through town on their ceremonial ride for the laying of the wreath on the Firefighters Memorial.

It continues to be a major goal of mine to build new relationships of this type for the town and to continue improving the current relationships with Mount Saint Mary's, Provincial House, The Fire Academy and the Emmitsburg business community. I am very pleased with the new relationships that have been established with the state, federal, county and municipal governments over the past two years.

-Jim Hoover
Mayor of Emmitsburg



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Local residents watch water from Flat Run overflow stream banks at North Seton Avenue.

Flood waters rise on North Seton Avenue Tuesday, September 28, to close off the only entrance to the North Gate subdivision.



Commissioner suggests town is targeting him with tickets

Richard D. L. Fulton
Managing Editor

Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners President William B. O'Neil, Jr. wants town staff to explain why he is apparently the sole recipient of parking tickets at Pembroke Woods.

"I would like to know why my residence is apparently being targeted for the issuance of tickets," O'Neil wrote in an Aug. 25 e-mail to the town.

The *Emmitsburg Dispatch* obtained a copy of the e-mail pursuant to the Maryland Open Records Act.

The town has acknowledged that one ticket was issued on or after Aug. 9, but denies issuing tickets to any Pembroke Woods resident prior to that date.

Town staff says verbal warnings were given

In his e-mail O'Neil wrote, "I have neighbors adjacent to my home who have had numerous parties and they have never received a warning or parking ticket."

Town Zoning Enforcement Officer Eva Miller told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that, in fact, verbal warnings were given on the same day to attendees at an O'Neil social function, and to Pembroke residents Laura and Jeff Ines.

According to Miller, she had arrived at Pembroke on patrol "quite awhile back" and saw cars parked on the street

in front of both the O'Neil and Ines homes. When asked about her arrival, she told several individuals that the cars were parked illegally. Miller said the homeowners had the vehicles removed and she issued no tickets.

O'Neil told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* on Sept. 22, "They (what alleged parking violators received) may have been warnings, not tickets. I do know that people were upset."

Commissioner assures tickets received, but the numbers keep changing

O'Neil has stated at several town meetings that guests attending social functions at his Pembroke home have been cited for parking violations.

He previously told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that guests at his daughter's "sweet 16" party had received "five to six" tickets and that "a couple of tickets" were issued during condolence visits after his aunt's death.

However, at various town meetings, O'Neil has said that his guests have collectively received as many as 23 parking tickets.

At the July 26 planning and zoning meeting, he claimed that as many as 15 to 17 parking tickets were issued at one event and six more on other occasions.

He told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, "I'm not making this up. I've got better things to do

than play Chicken Little with the parking tickets."

Legal authority to issue tickets?

O'Neil asked *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* to find out the town's policy regarding issuance of tickets at Pembroke Woods.

Town Planner Michael Lucas told the paper, "The official policy of the town is to enforce the law."

O'Neil questions the town's actions. "The town has not taken dedication of the roads, and because of that, has no legal authority," O'Neil stated.

Security

-Continued from page 6

and takes personal pride in the center, he is not the building monitor. The Frederick County sheriff's deputies assigned to Emmitsburg patrol the building.

Town office policy states that each agency occupying the building is responsible for securing its own area at the end of the day.

Hoover noted, "Typically the library is the last agency to leave the building. They're responsible for securing any remaining open doors on their way out."

If there is a town meeting that lasts later than the library is open, the person in charge of the meeting is responsible for locking the back doors leading to the parking lot.

Friends of the Library baffled

In speaking with Bo Cadle, president of the Friends of the Library, Emmitsburg Branch, *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* learned that although concerns that the Community Center was not always locked were voiced at the last Friends meeting, neither he nor Joan Fisher, the Emmitsburg Branch Library Manager, contacted O'Neil.

How O'Neil learned

If the town has no legal authority to enforce parking restrictions in Pembroke Woods, O'Neil maintains,

about the discussion is "a big mystery" according to Cadle. He said he received notes from both O'Neil and Gardner about the unlocked doors which caused him to wonder, "What's going on?"

Library manager says communication is key

Fisher told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, "We are secure."

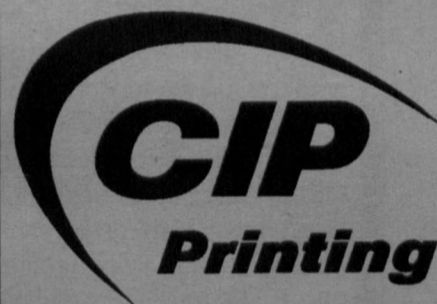
She pointed out that many people use the community center, visiting the library, the community agencies, the senior center and using the gym.

"The public needs to be able to have access to the building," Fisher noted, but with that access can come issues, in part because the building has front, back and side doors and many groups have keys.

Communication is improving among those using the building, according to Fisher, so that doors are not locked when others are still in the building and are locked by those who are last to leave. Unless there is a town meeting, library staff usually secures the building when the library closes.

Fisher did not contact the commissioners about building security issues, but said that Mayor Hoover and Dave Haller have been actively working to resolve them.

"Their accepting my fine (issued to a guest at O'Neil's home on or after Aug. 9) was an illegal action."



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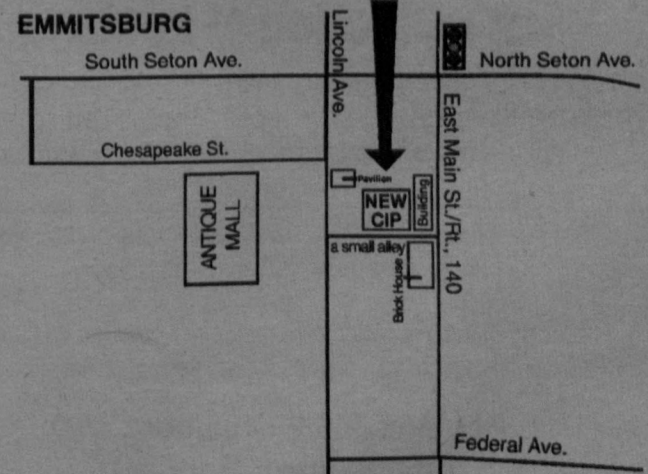
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BUSINESS

Glass Company may not need to build expensive bridge

Richard D. L. Fulton
Managing Editor

Emmitsburg Glass' efforts to build a facility along Creamery Road seemed imperiled when it was learned that they might have to build "a bridge to nowhere" costing "millions" to gain approvals.

The glass company recently acquired a ten-acre tract of land abutting Creamery Road on the East side of Rt. 15, intending to build a new 35,000 square foot facility to house its expanding business.

The land was part of an annexation approved in 1990, but which carried a stipulation that the developer of the tract would have to contribute toward the construction of a new access road and a bridge over Flat Run Creek.

An expensive bridge to nowhere

Town Planner Michael Lucas told the board of commissioners at their Sept. 22 work session that the town planning and zoning board has recommended removing the

stipulation.

Lucas noted that, "Emmitsburg Glass contends that bearing responsibility for constructing a bridge across Flat Run Creek ... makes it cost-prohibitive for this firm to proceed (with building their new facility.)"

Building the proposed connector road to join the bridge could only happen if development occurred along the proposed right-of-way, producing the financing necessary to build the road.

"The fact remains that there are no plans to commit public funds either by the county or by the town for this project," Lucas concluded.

COPE VP and others rally behind effort to keep company local

Sheridan (Dan) Reaver, president of Emmitsburg Glass, told the board, "If this condition is not removed, we're going to be looking outside Emmitsburg, maybe not even in the area (to relocate)."

"I bought this property as my second choice. My first

choice was not feasible, and the price was right (for the current proposed company site)," he said. Reaver told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that the first location was not feasible due to the building's design.

Town Manager David Haller said ballpark costs for conducting studies on spanning the creek before construction and then building the actual bridge could run as high as five million dollars.

Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE) vice president Harold Craig, Jr. asked the board to consider lifting the road and bridge-building stipulation.

"This (stipulation) was unreasonable when it was proposed," Craig stated. "I think the legality (of the stipulation) was illegal and open to question from the beginning."

Former board of commissioners President Patrick Boyle also favored deleting the stipulation and added, "I would hate to see the Reaver boys leave Emmitsburg. They have been good for the town."

The present glass facility, located at the East Industrial Park along Creamery Road, has been sold to W.F. Delauter & Son in conjunction with their proposed relocation from Thurmont. Reaver is leasing the building from Delauter, pending the glass company's ability to relocate.

Sheridan (Dan) and Gregory Reaver currently own Emmitsburg Glass Company, established by five Reaver brothers in 1988 at Castle Farms. The company now employs nearly 80 workers.

Board President William B. O'Neil, Jr. moved, and the commissioners agreed, to direct town staff to prepare a resolution that would remove the bridge-related stipulation attached to the property.

Osteopathic Center given conditional approvals

The town planning and zoning board tentatively approved an amended site plan from the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Care Clinic on Sept. 27.

The facility is located in a divided house on West Main Street. The historic structure, built in 1790, is being renovated to accommodate the clinic.

The town had approved a clinic site plan in 2002. But the addition of sidewalks on a neighboring property and more parking necessitated revising and resubmitting the site plan, according to Town Planner Michael Lucas.

An easement agreement is pending with the neighboring

property owner for the sidewalks, and, pending approval by the mayor and commissioners, town property could be used for the additional parking spaces.

The clinic owner had previously paved and improved a tract of town land to use a portion of it for nine parking spaces.

The board granted approval premised on the signed easement agreement and the granting of additional parking spaces on town property.

Clinic owner Dr. Bonita J. Krempel-Portier said she would like to relocate from Thurmont to the Emmitsburg building in fall 2005.

Bid awarded in sewer line repair

Emmitsburg has awarded the bid for repairs to the Flat Run wastewater collection system to W.F. Delauter & Son, Thurmont.

The board of commissioners approved Delauter's \$834,932 bid at their Sept. 22 agenda session.

Two previous rounds of bids were rejected because of high costs. Town staff and the

engineering firm modified the scope of work and the design specifications. Town Manager David Haller said the reworked yielded an acceptable bid.

Haller was confident the repairs should reduce some of the influx of storm water into the system, "if not a good portion of it."

Work is anticipated to begin the last week of December.

EBPA discusses future town projects

Emmitsburg Business and Professionals Association (EBPA) President Pat Larson, manager of Sleep Inn, announced future projects at the group's monthly luncheon, held Sept. 23 at the Carriage House.

Included among these projects is the production of a new town brochure, a map of the town, and working to help tackle some of the town infrastructure issues.

Larson also said the town welcome signs should be overhauled because, "People

can barely read them."

The EBPA president would also like a seminar on main street preservation and revitalization, recently held in Thurmont, brought to Emmitsburg for interested attendees.

Joe Volz, a columnist with the *Frederick News-Post* was the luncheon guest speaker.

Missing Money

-Continued from page 1

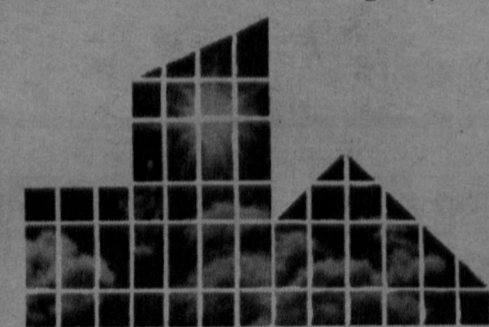
or former town employee.

Because of the ongoing investigation, town officials have been reluctant to release details. Town Manager David Haller referred questions from *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* regarding the alleged theft to the Maryland Attorney General's Office.

Maryland State Attorney Scott L. Rolle would say only that the Maryland State Police are conducting the investigation of the theft.

It is unlikely that the theft is related to any security issues at the Community Center (see story on page 6).

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OBITUARIES

Mr. Vaclav Novak

Mr. Vaclav Karel Novak, 76, Emmitsburg, died Sept. 13. Born Sept. 20, 1927, in Czechoslovakia, he was a son of the late Karel and Marie Hasove Novak.

Mr. Novak was a printer, retiring from Moore Business Forms, Thurmont, after years of service. He also devoted time to his love of farming.

Surviving are two sons, Bob C. and Dan F. Novak; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a sister, Marie Sachova, of the Czech Republic.

Funeral services were held Sept. 16 at Stauffer Funeral Home, Thurmont, with the Rev. Judith A. Moller, pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, officiating. Interment was in Blue Ridge Cemetery, Thurmont.

Mr. George Sanders, Sr.

Mr. George Robert Sanders, 84, Emmitsburg, died Sept. 17 at Gettysburg Hospital, Gettysburg, Pa.

Born Aug. 16, 1920, in Fountaindale, Pa., he was the son of the late Robert Henry and Blanche Cecelia Sprankle Sanders.

He was a member of St. Anthony's Shrine Parish, Emmitsburg, and a member of the Holy Name Society. He loved being with his family and enjoyed growing flowers, especially roses.

Mr. Sanders was a flight engineer with the U.S. Air Force during World War II; and owned and operated Sanders Garage in Emmitsburg for 35 years.

Surviving are a son, George Robert Sanders, Jr.; one daughter, Alma Cecelia Topper; four grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; three nieces and nephews; five brothers, Marshall, Thomas S., Paul, Raymond and John Sanders; and three sisters, Anna Waysack, Rita Wiley, and Mary Bowne.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered Sept. 21 at St. Anthony's Shrine Parish, Emmitsburg, with his pastor, the Rev. James Hannon, as the celebrant.

Interment was in St. Anthony's Shrine Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

Sr. Margaret Flinton, DC

Sister Margaret Flinton, DC, 86, former French teacher and Chairman of the Department of Modern Languages at St. Joseph College, Emmitsburg, died Sept. 23 at Villa St. Michael.

The former Margaret Josephine Flinton was born in Troy, New York, to Matthew and Clara McGowan Flinton.

Margaret graduated in 1935 from Catholic Central High School, Troy, and entered the Daughters of Charity in 1936. Sister Margaret received her B.A. from St. Joseph College in 1943; her M.A. in 1945 from The Catholic University of America; and her Ph.D. in French from the Sorbonne University, Paris, in 1953.

Sister Margaret was a volunteer translator/interpreter during numerous Daughters of Charity general assemblies. She conducted workshops on Louise de Marillac, co-founder of the Daughters of Charity, in the U.S., the Philippines, and several sessions in Spanish in Bolivia. In 1989 Sister Margaret retired and moved to the Villa.

Surviving are one niece and four nephews, numerous grandnieces, grandnephews, and cousins in New York and Virginia.

A Mass of Christian burial was offered Sept. 28 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg.

Mr. George Hanes

Mr. George Richard Hanes, 71, Emmitsburg, died Sept. 30 at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

Born in Point of Rocks, Md., on Sept. 4, 1933, he was a son of the late Charles William Henry and Helen Mae Roberts Hanes.

Mr. Hanes was a veteran of the U.S. Army and had farmed for many years and worked for the Farmers Co-Op.

He was a member of Saint Luke's Lutheran Church, Point of Rocks.

Surviving is his sister, Mary Wivell and husband Carroll of Emmitsburg, and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside funeral services were held Oct. 6 in Saint Paul's Cemetery, Point of Rocks, The Rev. Marina C. Flores, pastor

of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, officiating.

Anna Margaret Martin

Mrs. Anna Margaret Saylor Martin, 80 Dern Road, Emmitsburg, died Sept. 30 at the Kline Hospice House, Mt. Airy.

Born Aug. 20, 1924 in Motter Station, Rocky Ridge, Md. she was a daughter of the late James M. and E. Grace Riffle Saylor.

Her husband George J. Martin died Dec. 24, 1963.

She was a member of Incarnation United Church of Christ, Emmitsburg, where she was on the consistory for 15 years, served as deacon and elder, was a former Sunday School Superintendent; a member and former officer of the Women's Guild; a member of Emmitsburg Senior Citizens. With her husband she was a founding member of the Emmitsburg Grange and Emmitsburg Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Martin was an original member of the Emmitsburg Community Chorus for 35 years, where she was privileged to sing at the Canonization of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. She was a member and past president of Emmitsburg Council of Churches; a member of the Emmitsburg Food Bank; a member for 63 years and officer of Emmitsburg High School Alumni Association; and an Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery board member. She worked at Saylor's Store, Motter Station, and was meal manager for the Department of Aging at Emmitsburg Food & Friends for 13 years until her retirement Dec. 1997.

Surviving are four children, Susan E. Allen & husband Jay, Emmitsburg, James D. Martin, Hagerstown, Edith L. Long, Emmitsburg, John R. Martin & wife Imogene, Frederick; grandchildren, Brian T. Long, Angela S. Forrest & husband Pete, Rebecca G. Allen, David G. Allen, and Christopher G. Martin; great-grandchildren, Victoria A. Long, Taylor N. Long, and Jordan B. Long.

Sisters-in-law, Blanche Saylor, Pearl Saylor, Anna Mort, Gladys Keilholtz, brother-in-law, Bernard Fink, Sr. and many friends at Emmitsburg Senior Center will remember her.

Funeral services were held Oct. 4 from Incarnation United Church of Christ, with her Pastor Rev. Reginald Rice,

assisted by Rev. Ted Haas.

Pallbearers were Jay Allen, Brian Long, Pete Forrest, David Allen, Chris Martin, Brian Glass, Jim Keilholtz, and Bernard Wivell.

Interment was in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to Incarnation Sunday School or Emmitsburg Food Bank.

The publisher and staff of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* extend sincere sympathy to *Dispatch* staff writer Susan Allen and her family on the death of Susan's mother, Anna Margaret Martin.

Fight at Catoctin High School results in charges

Two fights at Catoctin High School, Thurmont, on Sept. 27, resulted in seven individuals being charged with various offenses.

According to the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, "numerous deputies" from the sheriff's office responded to the school at 7:49 a.m. for a reported fight involving five male students.

The fight took place in the front lobby. Police brought it under control and the students were taken to the school office, according to police.

Subsequently, two adult family members of two of the teens involved in the skirmish came to the school, but allegedly refused to sign-in at the front

desk, at which point a second fight erupted in the front office.

Police responded again and broke up the fight.

Charged with disorderly conduct and disturbing school operations were Luc F. Jean, 22, and Josue Jean, 18, both of Emmitsburg. Luc F. Jean was further charged with threatening a student.

Five juveniles were charged with one to two counts of second-degree assault. All five were further charged with disturbing school operations.

The adults received criminal summonses for their alleged offenses, while the juveniles were referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice.



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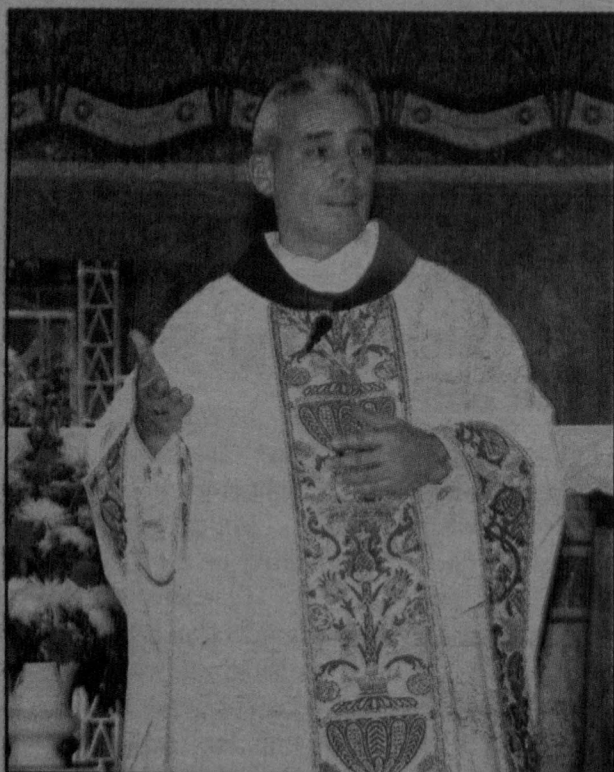
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RELIGION

Annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Joseph W. Estabrook, D.D., newly ordained Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, preaches to pilgrims at a eucharistic celebration for the Sea Services held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton on October 3.

The Daughters of Charity hosted the Annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services, a Eucharistic Celebration in honor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 3 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg. The sea services include the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Merchant Marine.

The pilgrimage was once again sponsored through the generosity of a 29-member committee, primarily retired Naval Officers and their spouses; and by the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.

Admiral James D. Watkins, USN (Ret.), committee chair,

has been closely associated with the Shrine and the Daughters of Charity since 1975. He helped establish the celebration, "A Day for the Navy," sponsored by the Navy Chaplains Office. Admiral Watkins also spearheaded the patronage of Mother Seton for those in the sea services.

His Excellency, Joseph W. Estabrook, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A., was the principal celebrant and homilist. Several concelebrants joined Bishop Estabrook. A ceremonial guard from the Military District Washington, D.C. presented the colors. The Naval Academy Catholic Midshipmen Choir sang.

'America For Jesus' rally in D.C. set for October 22

Christians from all over the U.S. are being encouraged to head to the National Mall in Washington, DC, on October 22 for an event focused on prayer and fasting for the nation. The event is organized by Virginia-based "America for Jesus" and targets Christians who are concerned about the moral direction of the country. The "America for Jesus" event begins at 6 a.m. and will run until midnight. The focus is

intercessory prayer.

While "America for Jesus" is not a political rally, an effort is being made through the event to encourage Christians to be politically aware and to vote, exercising their right to voice their values. Planners are expecting the rally to attract tens of thousands of people and to include Christians from many denominations and geographic regions. Info: www.americaforjesus.org



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Brooke Harig, a 4th grader at Mother Seton School, holds Princess to receive a special blessing from Rev. Stephen Trzeciecki, C.M.

Blessing of the Animals

Students at Mother Seton School brought their pets to the annual "Blessing of the Animals" on Oct. 4, feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.

Rabbits, dogs, cats, gerbils, and the occasional hermit crab were among the animals receiving the blessing from Rev. Stephen

Trzeciecki, C.M., Associate Pastor of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg.

St. Francis, patron saint of animals, was known for his love of nature and respect for all creatures. He is often depicted in paintings preaching to animals and birds. The son of a wealthy Italian merchant, St. Francis discarded all his worldly

possessions to follow Christ, sharing the Gospel and living a life of simplicity, poverty and humility. He founded the Franciscan Order (Order of Friars Minor) in 1209, received the stigmata, the marks of the wounds suffered by Christ at his crucifixion, while praying in 1224, and died in 1226.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Life Chain protests killing unborn

On Oct. 3 people who uphold the dignity of human life, born and unborn, formed the Emmitsburg Life Chain. It was a linkage of over 50 people of all ages and denominations originating

in the town square.

Since 1987 this annual demonstration has been duplicated on the first Sunday in October, Respect Life Sunday, at the same time of the day in each time zone along

main streets throughout the United States. The events now occur in more than 1000 cities. For one hour the demonstrators carry signs, and pray for an end to abortion on demand.

WIENERMOBILE takes them out to the ballgame

Joyce Demmitt
Staff Writer

Wishes do come true, and a group of nuns from the Provincial House at St. Vincent's and their young companions relished their trip to watch the Orioles play the Boston Red Sox on Oct. 3, courtesy of the Oscar Meyer WIENERMOBILE.

Anne Wantz, activities assistant at St. Vincent's Care Center, Emmitsburg, saw a TV commercial promoting the "Oh, I Wish" contest. She talked with the sisters and they all agreed, "It would be nice to take a trip to an Orioles game." They wanted to "have a feast," weenie whistles "to cheer the Os to victory," and they wanted to take children with them.

Anne sent in the sisters' request. Hers was one of 50 letters selected from



-PHOTOS BY RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

What's that in Emmitsburg's town square? Something you don't see everyday - it's the Wienermobile! The giant hotdog on wheels took nuns from St. Vincent's Provincial House to Camden Yards for an Orioles baseball game on October 3.



All the excitement drew out the attention of the news media. A news caster from the local NBC affiliate ask the nuns how they got so lucky.

Below - Anne Wantz, activities assistant at St. Vincent's Care Center saw a Oscar Myer TV commercial promoting the "Oh, I wish" contest. She and several of the nuns from the center entered, and were one of 50 selected from 70,000 entries to get their wish.



among 70,000 entries. She won the Wienermobile for the day, driven by two young "hotdoggers." Winning the contest also brought \$5,000, half of which covered the Orioles' trip and half went to St. Vincent's activities department to enhance the sisters' lives.

When the Wienermobile pulled up under the canopy at the Provincial House entrance, a cheering crowd was waiting. Twelve people went to Camden Yards. One of the sisters is an avid Orioles fan; for another, it was her first game. All the children rode in the Wienermobile, and the Emmitsburg fans ate, laughed, and cheered the Os to a 3-2 victory over the Red Sox.

Six Wienermobiles cover the country, showing up in parades and lots of retail events. Drivers give out weenie whistles by the handful, pose for countless photos and collect donations for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

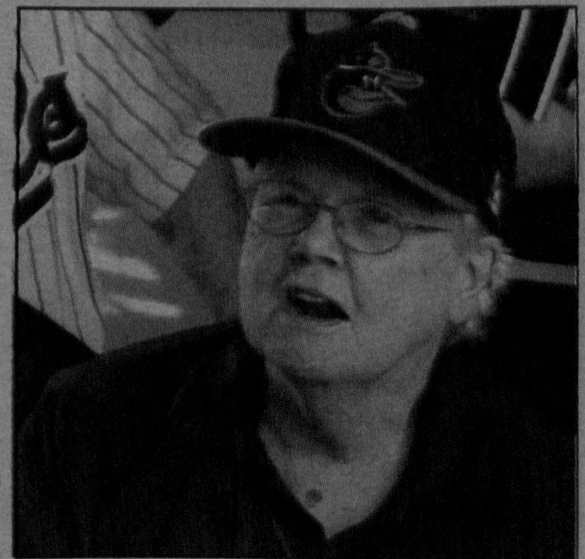
More than 1000 people apply each year for

"hotdogger" positions. The women who drove the Emmitsburg group are recent college graduates, Trina DeMarco, 22, and April Lopez, 23.

DeMarco, a Penn State public relations major, said the job is "a great way to travel the country the first year out of college." Hotdoggers have to give up the jobs after a year, but DeMarco said once you travel for one year straight, you're ready to move on to something else.

She and Lopez, a Michigan State advertising major, have 10 wishes to do between October and December. After four or five in Baltimore, they head to Florida the last week in October.

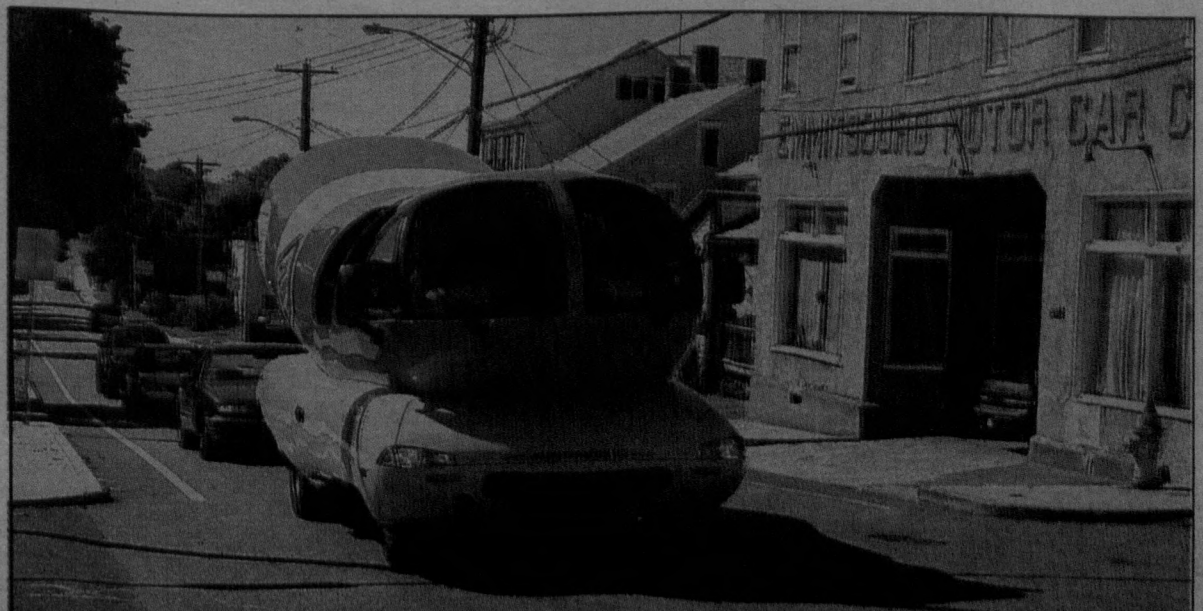
They traveled from Emmitsburg to Gettysburg, and stayed in a haunted inn,



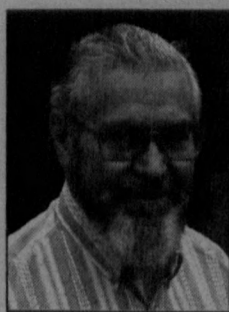
Sister Anne Black tells reporters that this is her first time seeing a baseball game in a stadium.

"to break up the monotony of staying in hotels."

Asked if they ever sleep in the Wienermobile, DeMarco, laughed and said, "No, it's not a Weeniebago."



The (retired) Ecologist Of Worms, Legends, and the Last Man Who Knew Everything



Bill Meredith
Dispatch
Writer

"The study of natural history in the leisure of my life, since I was 14 years of age, has been to me a constant source of happiness; and my experience of it is such that independently of its higher merits, I warmly recommend it as a pastime, than which, I believe, no other can excel it"... Joseph Leidy (1823-91)

Joseph Leidy was Professor of Paleontology at the University of Pennsylvania for several decades in the 19th Century, and was the first person to discover dinosaur fossils in America. But he did

not limit himself to the study of fossils; in fact, a biographer described him as "the last man who knew everything." He wrote articles about all kinds of animals, from microscopic amebas to dire wolves. He was especially interested in parasites, and illustrated them with intricate drawings that are marvels of precise observation. I first became aware of him early in my career because he discovered, named and illustrated many of the animals I taught about in my own courses. As I reflect back on my own career, I find the quotation cited above, despite its convoluted syntax, expresses my own feelings exactly.

Biologists are surely the luckiest people in the world; more than any other group of people, we are blessed with a variety of things to occupy our interest. Ostensibly, we study

the plants and animals around us because they are important in agriculture, medicine and economics; but beyond that, these living things can be beautiful beyond description, and they challenge our minds with lives and behaviors that are often more intricate and bizarre than anything fiction can conceive. And best of all, these things are all around us.

After church on a recent Sunday, I was approached by a young man who hesitantly asked if I could answer a question for him. He had found a strange worm swimming in a discarded flower pot in his yard after a rain, and wanted to know what it was. It was about six inches long, very slender with no discernable difference between head and tail; and it swam clumsily by lashing about, frequently twisting its body into knots. From his description I recognized it as a horsehair worm. These worms are fairly common, although nowadays most people have never seen them. When they do show up, they are in places like birdbaths, pets' water dishes, or buckets that have been left out in the yard. Various species of them are found all over the world; and several of the American species were named by Joseph Leidy.

I remember finding a horsehair worm in the basin under the pump in my grandmother's yard when I was a small child. In those days


everyone had seen horsehair worms in the rain barrels that were used to collect rainwater off the roof of the house for washing, and when I asked Grandma what it was, she knew immediately. She said it was formed by a hair from a horse's tail that had come to life when it dropped into the water. This puzzled me because we had no horses at that time, but Grandma said a bird had probably carried a hair from another farm and dropped it there. She saw nothing unusual about this; after all, in 1866 when she was born, most country folk still believed in Spontaneous Generation, the theory that lower animals were formed from non-living material. Years later, when I went to college I learned that Dr. Leidy was one of the scientists who proved spontaneous generation did not occur. I also learned about horsehair worms and the legend that gave them their name.

The legend held that sometime in the Fourth Century B.C. King Gordius of Phrygia created a very complex knot which he used to tie a chariot to a post in the town square. The strands of the knot were interwoven in such a way that the ends of the rope were hidden from sight inside the knot. It became known as the Gordian Knot, and local oracles declared that whoever untied it would become the next ruler of Phrygia. No one could figure out how to untie it until Alexander the Great invaded the area. He examined the knot and simply cut it in half with his sword. In one stroke he solved the puzzle, fulfilled the oracles' prediction, and provided us with a classic

metaphor; 2,300 years later, we still refer to the solving of a tough problem as "cutting the Gordian Knot."

Horsehair worms typically twist themselves into knots when swimming, so they were given the name, *Gordius*, by the first biologists to describe them. Their lives are nearly as complex as the knot for which they are named. Dr. Leidy found that a worm six inches long laid a string of eggs that was over three times its body length and contained six million eggs. The eggs hatch into microscopic larval worms that become parasites in the bodies of insects such as grasshoppers or crickets. I used to give my zoology students grasshoppers to dissect, and it was not unusual for someone in the class to find one whose entire abdomen was filled by a horsehair worm; the worm would be folded and twisted into a complex knot in order to pack its six-inch body into that cramped space. As the worms grow, the infected grasshoppers weaken and become thirsty; they seek water and eventually die. The horsehair worms then work their way out of the bodies of their dead hosts and return to the water to mate and lay their eggs.

When we see wildlife programs on television, we are tempted to think all of the really interesting creatures in the world live in some exotic place like a rain forest or the arctic tundra. This can lead us to disparage the places where we live. The horsehair worm can help us to counteract this view; it reminds us that we don't have to be a Joseph Leidy to enjoy the natural world. Even in Emmitsburg there are strange and wonderful things to be seen. All we have to do is look.



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MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

HomeCOMING

Uganda to England. England to the United States. United States to England. And back again to Uganda? For the first time since her birth, Sabira Vohra, assistant director of the Mount's Career Center, is making her way back to her native country of Uganda.

By Erin Bradin, C'05

Vohra's paternal grandparents were Indian, but had settled in Uganda when her grandfather became lost at sea during a business trip, landing in Africa rather than Sri Lanka. Her family, like many other Asians in Uganda during this time, became affluent business owners. By the time Vohra was born in Masindi, early in the 1970s, Uganda was controlled by dictator Idi Amin. Under his presidency, an estimated 400,000 people were killed because the leader wanted to Africanize the country, cleansing Uganda of other ethnicities. Two of those believed murdered were Vohra's grandfather and uncle. According to her, several men from Amin's regime came to her house in the middle of the night, demanding that the two men come with them. Neither were seen again.

Vohra and her parents were given 90 days to depart the country—leaving behind their property and belongings. Many others also fled during this time due to the horror and bloodshed under Amin. Because Uganda was a British colony, most sought refuge in England. Vohra was only nine months old when her family uprooted their lives and moved there.

Now, 30 years later, Vohra and 15 members of her extended family have decided to return to their homeland. "I see this experience as a great opportunity to visit the country where

I was born in and experience some of the places and lifestyles my family often talks about," Vohra said.

Because of Uganda's current economic status, and because she is in the education field, Vohra thought it would be nice to raise money for supplies needed for school children there. They are in great need of basic supplies, such as paper, pencils, crayons and rulers.

Vohra will be leaving September 30th and will be gone for approximately two weeks, spending 11 days in Uganda, and the remainder of the time visiting friends and relatives in England.



"The Mount community has been wonderful, raising over \$1,500 dollars, which is great and will go a long way in Uganda"

Sabira Vohra, assistant director, Career Center

A VISION FOR Continuing a Mission of Distinction

The Mount Board of Trustees recently adopted a *Vision Statement* for the future of the university. Focusing on these eight distinct goals, the board specified a desire to take the Mount to new levels of excellence.

- Goal 1 ♣ Mount St. Mary's will celebrate its bicentennial in a manner that will enhance the national identity of the University.
- Goal 2 ♣ Mount St. Mary's will develop a nationally recognized student life program.
- Goal 3 ♣ Mount St. Mary's will strengthen its academic programs through national accreditation and expansion of academic programs.
- Goal 4 ♣ Mount St. Mary's will enhance and strengthen its faculty and staff.
- Goal 5 ♣ Mount St. Mary's will complete a comprehensive campaign focusing on enhancement of the endowment.
- Goal 6 ♣ Mount St. Mary's will fully implement the *Vision of Vocation* initiative to provide greater emphasis on vocations for the church, as well as national leadership and service.
- Goal 7 ♣ Mount St. Mary's will strengthen its Board of Trustees to enhance its responsibilities in direction, policy and oversight.
- Goal 8 ♣ Mount St. Mary's Seminary will strengthen its program of human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation, with emphasis on the integration of these areas of priestly formation, and in the context of the needs of the Church in the United States.

This *Vision Statement* will serve as a catalyst to engage the community in continuing the Mount's mission and developing a strategic plan to build the university.

If you would like a copy of the adopted *Vision Statement*, please contact the Office of the President at 301-447-5600.

MOUNT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Art Opening/Lecture, Meg Rahaim
October 28, 2004
6:00 p.m., Memorial Gallery

Disabling Disability Myths: The Ultimate Learning Experience
Wednesday, October 20
7:30 p.m., Knott Auditorium
Chris Skinner, Director of the Chris Skinner Organization, Inc. will explore issues of cultural sensitivity towards people with disability.

Acrobatic Lakota Hoop Dance Musical Show
Thursday, November 4
7:30 p.m., Knott Auditorium
Kevin Locke, a member of the Lakota tribe will incorporate traditional flute and vocal songs, historical and cultural narratives with Native sign language, hoop dancing and audience participation.

"Crazy for You" - Mount Theatre
November 4-6, 8 p.m., November 7, 2 p.m.,
November 11-13, 8 p.m., Upper Flynn Hall
For ticket information, please call the office of Visual & Performing Arts at 301-447-5308

"A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America"
Wednesday, November 17
7:00 p.m., Knott Auditorium
Dr. Peter Steinfels, nationally prominent Catholic writer, educator and speaker.

Men's Soccer (home)
Oct. 15 v. Farleigh Dickinson, 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 17 v. Sacred Heart, 2:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer (home)
Oct. 10 v. Sacred Heart, Noon
Oct. 12 v. Howard, 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 19 v. Longwood, 3:00 p.m.

VISION OF VOCATION EVENTS

A program of theological exploration funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

I Am Sam
Thursday, Oct. 21
6p.m., Laughlin Auditorium
Explore the value of and reasons for work as well as disability rights. Discussion following the film.

Book Discussion
The Courage to Teach
Friday, Oct. 22
3:30-5 p.m., O'Hara Dining Room
Join faculty and staff to discuss Parker J. Palmer's book *The Courage to Teach*.

Spiritual Exercises
Sunday, Oct. 24
4 p.m., Pangborn Chapel
A member of the theology department will lead participants in Ignatian prayer. All events are part of A Vision of Vocation, a program designed to strengthen vocational exploration, strengthen lay ministry programs, promote discernment of religious life and ordained ministry.
For details contact the *Vision of Vocation* Program Office at 301-447-5600.

Volunteer Service Fair
Tuesday, November 9
11-1:30 p.m., Patriot Hall
The Volunteer Fair will provide information about various service opportunities like the Peace Corps, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry Program, Catholic Charities Volunteer Corps and Catholic Volunteers in Florida.

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AGRICULTURE

Self-Guided farm tour— Family Festival @ the Farm

The Frederick County Office of Economic Development and the Agriculture Business Council Public Relations Committee will host the Family Festival @ the Farm, Oct. 16 and 17.

This free weekend event will offer the general public an opportunity to have fun and learn about Frederick County's diverse agriculture industry.

Family Festival @ the Farm will offer hands-on activities. Farm visitors will be able to

pick grapes off the vine, pet an alpaca, take hayrides to the pumpkin patch, participate in a scavenger hunt and enjoy all the different amenities out on the farm.

Eleven working farms are participating: Brookfield Pumpkins, Chestnut Hill, Elk Run Vineyards, Glade Link Farms, Hedgeapple Farm, Lilypons Water Gardens, Mayne's Tree Farm, The Mount Airy Alpaca Company, Myersville Trolley Festival,

Scenic View Orchards and Schifferstadt Architectural Museum.

A printed guide including a map and description of what participants will experience at each farm is available through the Frederick County Office of Economic Development (OED), Frederick County Visitor Centers, and Frederick County Public Libraries. Download the brochure from the FF@F website: <http://www.discoverfrederickmd.com/funfarm/>

For more information, contact the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, 301-694-1058, or visit the festival's website.

Frederick County farmland preserved through Installment Purchase Program

Ray Van Horn, Jr.
Contributing Writer

Through the Installment Purchase Program, 402 acres of farmland in Frederick County have recently been approved for preservation, and 38 more applications have been submitted.

Instituted in 2002, the Frederick County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has protected numerous acres of county farmland. The Installment Purchase Program restricts development on prime local farmland by placing easements on participating landowners' farms.

Pending approval by the county, the Installment Purchase Agreement gives applying landowners tax-free interest payments on the easement value for a specified duration, between 10-20 years. At the end of the term, landowners receive the full maturity principal as a balloon payment.

As part of the Maryland

Land Preservation Program, landowners who meet minimum requirements may request the creation of an Agricultural Land Preservation District. Required are a minimum of 50 acres unless the land adjoins a property currently enrolled in the preservation program; and a minimum of 50% Class I, II or III soils; or a minimum of 50% Woodland Groups 1 or 2.

Recently joining the program are the 126-acre Marietta and Carole Stup farm on Mountville Road in Adamstown; the 77-acre Donald and Ella Lenhart farm, Lenhart Road near Lewistown; the 53-acre William and Dixie Flynn farm, Coppermine Road near Johnsonville; and the 146-acre Roger Troxell farm on Old Kiln Road near Thurmont.

Funding approved by Frederick Board of County Commissioners has already procured 37,386 acres through easements, with 28,419 acres permanently preserved. Frederick County projects a goal of 100,000 secured acres

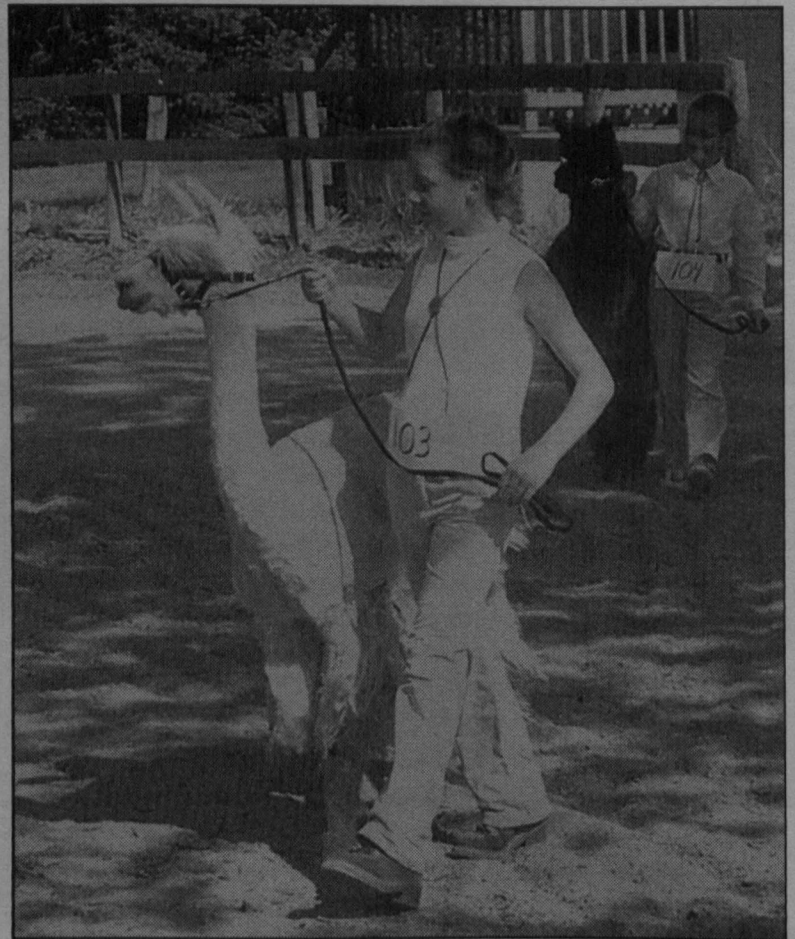
through the land preservation program by 2020.

According to Land Preservation Administrator Tim Blaser, "The Installment Purchase Program provides landowners a great opportunity to get equity from their property without having to develop the land."

Blaser also cites the importance of preserving farmland. "Back in the seventies, we realized there was a great loss of agricultural land." About that time the Maryland Land Preservation Program became an entity, and "in 1980, easements of agricultural land became a county priority," Blaser notes.

Blaser stresses the rapid disappearance of agriculture in Frederick County over the years, which prompted the Installment Purchase Program. The program's emphasis is to protect land for food and fiber production and to limit commercial and residential sprawl. Blaser believes the program encourages appropriate agricultural land use in a way that ultimately looks out for Frederick County's future.

Applications can no longer be submitted during 2004, but Frederick County accepts applications every year. This year's applicants will be ranked on a point system during the fall, and then presented for easement beginning in February.



-SUBMITTED PHOTO

4H members show their alpacas at the Frederick Fair Sept. 18.

Frederick County's 4-H Alpaca Project

"No, that's not a 'little llama,' it's an alpaca." Kids involved in this year's Frederick County 4-H Alpaca Project educated Frederick fairgoers about alpacas and their work with them.

From a modest beginning three years ago, the Alpaca Project has grown to 25 kids and 5 host farms. During the eight to 10 week project, each participant agrees to work on a host farm for at least two hours and must complete a two-hour community service project. The kids learn about alpaca anatomy, training, and how to take care of their animal. They need not own an alpaca: host farms lease them for \$1.

Alpacas belong to the camelid family, and are cousins of the llama. The alpaca is originally from regions in Bolivia, Peru, and Chile. They were first imported into the United States about 20 years ago. Alpacas are primarily raised for their fiber and as breeding stock, but they are also used for therapy and make wonderful pets.

The 4-H Alpaca Show at the Great Frederick Fair on Sept. 18 had three parts: obstacle, showmanship, and a written test.

In obstacle, the animals completed jumps, going under tents, backing up, changing

pace, moving across bridges, and opening up gates while the young person held the lead.

In showmanship, the kids were graded both on their ability to handle the alpaca safely and on knowledge of their animal.

The kids walked their alpaca around the ring and then "set up" their animal in a specified spot. The judge called competitors forward one at a time and asked them an alpaca-related question, usually the location of a specific body part. Competitors tried to describe that part's location, rather than pointing and giving away the question. Handlers are also sometimes asked to show the animal's teeth or their toenails. Safety and presentation of the animal are paramount.

The written test is given as a way to enhance the kid's knowledge of alpacas.

Farms donating animals for this year's project were Brookmere Alpacas, Woodsboro; Middle Eight Farm, Mt. Airy; Whispering Meadows, Mt. Airy; Sandhill Alpacas, New Market; and South Mountain View Alpacas, Middletown. The host farms, the advisory board, active parents and willing kids worked together to make the project a positive and successful experience.

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SPORTS

Outside the Game

Wise up, American Athletes

A.J. Russo
Sports Editor

I watched Keyshawn Johnson catch a long pass from Vinny Testaverde in Dallas' win against the Browns last week. It was near the goal line, but Johnson was tackled just short of scoring. He seemed disappointed, shaking his head in disgust, walking off the field. The Cowboys scored on the ensuing play and the camera flashed back to Keyshawn on the sidelines, body turned away from the play, still brooding over this inopportunity. Maybe he was thinking about the missed points that could have helped him with his next contract negotiation.

Then came the news of the Ryder Cup upset. The Europeans came to Oakland Hills as underdogs, but again proved to be the best in the Ryder Cup with their greatest performance, handing the Americans their worst loss in the 77-year Ryder history. Team Europe has won the Cup four of the last five times, and seven of the past 10. Interestingly, the Americans have more majors, higher world rankings, greater star power, but still got clobbered.

This reminded me of the recent Dream Team Olympic performance (or lack thereof). A group of top NBA stars - although, not the very top, but still among the best - lost three games at the Olympics and settled for the bronze.

Do you notice the same trend I do? Johnson, the U.S. Golf and Basketball Teams played as individuals - only concerned about themselves - not the team. The U.S. teams,

both favored to win by more than a little, played at times like they were distracted, unmotivated, and selfish - like they were competing for a spot on ESPN's Top Ten Highlights. Teams that play as a team are much more successful: Argentina's basketball team and Europe's golfers showed us that. Wise up, American athletes.

I'm not sure of the link between the attitude of U.S. athletes and the boos that accompanied U.S. performances at the Olympics, but despite that, there were some interesting and significant outcomes associated with the Athens Games. Here are my top five:

Drugs, drugs ... no drugs.

Growing suggestions that IOC president Jacques Rogge would falter in his attempt to carry out his promised war on doping in the Olympics were proven wrong. Twenty-plus victims spilled tears instead of sweat as they queued up to file out of the athletes' village in disgrace.

Dream team can only dream

The days of U.S. domination at the Olympic basketball tournament are over, and so, it appears, is the fans' love affair with the "Dream Team," as the team - which collectively probably makes more per year than all the people of Ethiopia combined - settled for bronze.

Thorpe beats Phelps in Race of the Century

Ian Thorpe showed Michael

Phelps what it meant to be a swimming icon, clawing out a victory over Pieter van den Hoogenband in the Olympic 200m freestyle, as Phelps settled for bronze in the Race of the Century. Phelps still went on to win six gold medals, eight medals total.

Tears on the street for Paula Radcliffe Radcliffe's double implosion on the streets of Athens in the marathon and on the track in the 10,000-meter, created some conflicting views in Britain. One newspaper created a new phrase, "Doing a Radcliffe," the act of prematurely quitting.

Sad times for Marion American superstar Marion Jones made a tearful empty-handed exit from the Olympics, finishing an unhappy campaign four years after being the golden girl of the Sydney Games. The 28-year-old placed fifth in the long jump and was then involved in a baton change blunder in the 4 x 100-meter relay, which left the United States quartet out of the medals for the first time since 1980.

A.J. Russo, Ph.D., is a professor at Mount St. Mary's University and the author of eight novels and more than 30 scientific papers. He is the former head coach of men's lacrosse at RIT and Mount St. Mary's and is currently head coach of Hood College's men's lacrosse team, scheduled to play its first season in 2005. His science thriller, "The Healer," his book of related short stories, "Dah-Link," and his most recent novel, "Spliced," are all available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of Mount St. Mary's University or Hood College.

Catoctin High School joins Coca-Cola Football Hometown USA Challenge

Wal-mart and Coca-Cola are sponsoring Catoctin High School in the Coca-Cola Football Hometown USA challenge. The CHS Marching Band could win up to \$6,500.

The band has set up a display called "Reach for a Coke" at the Rt. 26 Wal-mart, and held a pep rally there on Sept. 21. They

have also participated in several charitable events including a raffle for preventing blindness, a bake sale for The Children's Miracle Network, "Vote with a coke" new voter registration, and bingo with senior citizens. Students urge everyone to visit their display at Wal-mart.

Catoctin Mountain Park Fall Activities

Fall Color Walks

Sundays, Oct. 10 and 17 and Saturdays, Oct. 16 and 23 1:30 and 3 p.m., Hog Rock Parking Area

How will this season's mix of abundant rainfall and dry periods affect the fall colors in Catoctin Mountain Park? Take a short walk with a park ranger to learn why the leaves change

and how weather affects fall color. Is there a scientific reason or does mysterious Jack Frost deserve the credit?

Catoctin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Rd., Thurmont, MD. For directions, information about the park, activities and volunteer opportunities, visit www.nps.gov/cato or call the Visitor Center, 301-663-9388.

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From Fairfield:
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Senior Citizens Settle Back into Community Center, Offer New Activities

Susan Allen
Staff Writer

Eight months after returning "home" to the Emmitsburg Community Center, the Emmitsburg Senior Citizens organization has established a full schedule of activities.

The building's lower level houses their main activity space, dining room, and kitchen. The county's lunch program, "Food 'n' Friends," serves adults 60 and older at noon Monday through Friday, except on county holidays. Lunch costs \$3 and reservations must be made 24 hours in advance. On Oct. 1, a subsidiary of Overlea Caterers began providing the meals.

During the summer, the seniors initiated a last Wednesday of the month covered-dish luncheon, which will continue every other month through the fall. The next luncheon will be Oct. 27 at noon. Everyone is encouraged to wear a Halloween costume and compete for prizes. Upcoming are the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

The seniors also use two activity rooms. One is designated the game room, and includes a new pool table purchased in spring, along with a new electronic darts game. Program coordinator Linda Umbel hopes

to start a "grand-dads and grand-kids" darts league, and welcomes all comers. Please call if you are interested.

The second activity room is used primarily for strength-training classes every Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. The hour-long class employs hand weights and includes stretching exercises and low-impact routines.

Meeting day is always the third Tuesday each month. Following AARP's example, membership is open to anyone 50 and older. There are no dues. "You just come," says Umbel.

Steve Stoyke, a licensed practical nurse with the Frederick office of the Department of Aging, comes on meeting-day mornings to conduct blood pressure checks and answer questions about medications, nutrition, and other healthcare topics. The monthly meeting usually features a speaker or entertainment. Monthly calendars and other information are distributed.

Beginning Oct. 4, Umbel will lead a seasonal crafts class on Mondays at 10 a.m. At 12:30 p.m. every Monday, interested seniors carpool to the Taneytown Bowling Center. Local resident Francis Smith is trying to regenerate the art group, which meets Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday is also

"game day," alternating bingo and cards (500). A bridge club now meets on "cards day" too. Fridays are devoted to canasta; newcomers are welcome.

The Department of Aging provides a 14-passenger van and driver Art Damuth of Emmitsburg. Transportation is available to and from the center for the daily lunch program; to Jubilee Foods on Thursdays (senior discount day); and to Frederick once a month for shopping. A donation is requested to support the transportation service. Damuth also delivers meals to eligible citizens unable to come to the center.

The group hosts monthly evening events open to the public, including game nights and card parties. Games nights are the third Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. The last night card party for 2004 is scheduled for Oct. 27 at 5:30 p.m. For information and lunch reservations, contact Linda Umbel, 240-629-6350.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Veterans' Day Exhibit

The Maryland Room and the Frederick County Veterans History Project host programs and exhibits. The Frederick County Veterans History Project is sponsored by the Friends of Frederick County Public Libraries. For information about the program, the exhibit, or how you can participate in the project, call 301-694-1368.

October - November - Display of local veterans' military memorabilia, C. Burr Artz lobby and Maryland Room

Storytimes

Babies with Books (birth-24 months with an adult) 4th Tuesdays, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m.

Two Terrific! (age 2 with an adult) Tuesdays, Oct. 5 and 12, 10:30 a.m.

Family Storytime (ages 3-5 with an adult) Wednesdays, 7 p.m. and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

"Did you know?" Series (ages 6-11)

Create your own masterpiece! Maryland watercolorist, Erika Walsh, known for her minimalist, "wet on wet" paintings will provide a demo and workshop. Bring your enthusiasm and an apron. Each participant will take home a completed flower watercolor. Class size limited to 15. Saturday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m.

For Teens

Teen Book Club (grades 6-12) Come join our newest book club. Get together with other teens to discuss great books. Stop by the desk for this month's selection. 3rd Tuesdays, Oct. 26.

Everyone's knitting, why not you? (grades 6-12) Get ready for winter by making your own sweater! Ruth Richards will provide instruction during four weekly sessions. Call or visit the Emmitsburg Branch to pick up a supply list. Oct 5, 12, 20, 26, 4-5 p.m. *Registration required.*

Anime/Manga Festival (grades 6-12) An Anime Film Fest with popcorn, trading card matches, displays and prizes. A special "How to Draw Manga" session will be held from 2-3 pm. Come as your favorite character if you wish! Saturday, Oct. 23, 1-5 p.m. *Registration required.*

Special programs for the family

Stampin' Up!® (adults) Explore the world of rubber stamping. Nicole Seitler (of Stampin' Up!®) will be your tour guide, showing how quick and easy it is to create a work of art using stamps, specialty papers, and ink. Discover a world of images that can be used to make greeting cards or in scrap booking. Thursday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. *Registration required.*

Third Thursdays at Thorpe Wood (ages 3-5) Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries host a monthly preschool story program at beautiful ThorpeWood Environmental Center, Old Mink Farm Road, Thurmont. Enjoy special nature-related stories and activities. Register monthly at info@thorpewood.org or by calling ThorpeWood at 301-271-2823. Oct. 21, 1-2:30 p.m. *Registration required.*

Knitting Circle (adults and teens) Check out the great selection of knitting books at the library and join us in the Knitting Nook. Learn basic knitting stitches, share skills and swap yarn and information. For every level knitter - beginner to experienced. Call for information, or just show up with some yarn and needles! 3rd Thursdays, Oct. 21, 4 p.m.

Scarecrow Stuffing (all ages) 3rd annual scarecrow stuffing extravaganza. Bring old clothes, a pillowcase, and accessories to create a one-of-a-kind friend. Straw will be provided. Oct. 9, 11 a.m. *Registration required.*

Book Discussion Groups/Adult Reading Club

Evening Club: 2nd Tuesdays, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. "Lovely Bones" by Alice Sebold.

Afternoon Club: 2nd Fridays, Oct. 8, 1 p.m. "The Forest Lover" by Susan Vreeland. **Non-fiction Book Club:** Oct. 21, 1 p.m.

This new book discussion group is reading "Nickel and Dimed" by Barbara Ehrenreich.

Programs are held at the renovated Emmitsburg Library in the Community Center on Seton Avenue. To register or for information, call 240-629-6329.

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Thurmont Regional Library - Citizen input sought, site selected

Staff Report

The new 25,000 square foot Thurmont Regional Library will be built at the corner of Moser Road and Thurmont Boulevard on a parcel of land donated by the town. Forcing future town buildings further back on the lot concerned Thurmont Mayor Martin Burns. Nevertheless, Thurmont town commissioners unanimously approved locating the library on the front portion of the 18.3-acre parcel at their meeting Sept. 21.

Library staff had sought citizen input about the building at a meeting Sept. 7 at Catoctin High School. Approximately 25 citizens, including Mayor Burns and Commissioner Wayne Hooper attended.

A regional library, with Sunday hours

Darryl Batson, Director of Frederick County Public Libraries (FCPL) said on Sept. 7 that part of a regional library's function is to support area branches (like Emmitsburg) with training space, broader range of collection, and Sunday hours. At present only the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick has Sunday hours.

As a regional library, Thurmont will probably have two community rooms, one to accommodate 25 people, one for 100. The larger room would have computer access and AV hookups.

According to Batson, the library will emphasize the agricultural heritage of the area. A special area, a subset of the Maryland Room at C. Burr Artz, would house historical documents and memorabilia. The room would have additional security and a controlled environment for document preservation. The Frederick

County Pomona Grange has donated its records to the FCPL, as has the Maryland Agricultural Extension Service. Batson hopes that local granges and FFA groups will also donate their records.

The building

The library is slated to be 25,000 square feet, compared with approximately 2,000 square feet in the present Thurmont Library. The total budget will be approximately \$7.5 million. The Frederick County project manager is Don Harper.

The architectural firm, Phillips Swager Associates, Peoria, Illinois, will design the building. The firm is certified in "green architecture," which includes energy-saving features, and effective building orientation. Firm representatives shared anticipated design features with the audience and asked for reactions.

Citizen input

Citizen suggestions included an open, casual, but separate children's space, more parking, bike racks, outdoor space for special events, display cases and public bulletin boards, more computers and classes. Those present preferred a traditional-looking building, with native plants and a water feature, perhaps incorporating locally made bricks or local stone.

Batson assured everyone that easy accessibility for senior citizens and the disabled would be incorporated into the design.

Erin Dingle, Thurmont Branch Manager, said, "Citizens of northern Frederick County have been waiting for a long time for this (new Thurmont library, regional library service).

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Betty Meredith displays the fruit – and vegetables – of her labor.

Betty's Canning Factory

Ruth O. Richards
Special to the Dispatch

Stop the presses; get out the canner; bring up the jars. It's canning season, and Betty Meredith is off and running. It's a horse race; it's a freight train. Betty is making sure that not a veggie or fruit in all of Frederick County is wasted.

Food preservation is not a new idea, nor did it originate with Betty. Civilization took a giant leap forward when man learned ways to preserve food, thus allowing him to abandon

his nomadic life and stay in one place. The word "canning" has become generic, and when food is put into jars to kill germs and prevent spoilage, the process is called "canning." Betty Meredith carries on this tradition in a monumental way.

Although hers is not a commercial adventure, it is done very nearly on a commercial scale. On her kitchen counter now, as I write, there are jars – not dozens, not scores, but hundreds of jars – quarts, pints and jelly glasses, all filled to the brim in capturing Northern

Frederick County's bountiful harvest from this growing season -- everything from apricots to zucchini.

There are sauces, cucumber pickles, both dill and sweet, and zucchini pickles; beans, both whole and cut up; asparagus, broccoli, beets, sauerkraut, half peaches and spiced peaches, pepper relish, whole fruit and jellies. This incomplete list is an attempt to describe the scope of this operation.

Not to wonder where all this produce comes from. The frenzy begins each year when the Meredith's own garden

-Continued on page 18

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Canning

-Continued from page 17

begins to bear. Betty has lots of friends who know of her passion for canning and give her their excess. Carol Staub, Brooke Miller and Dale Deatheridge, all of whom have large gardens, keep her supplied all season long. Betty often picks the fruit she cans whole and makes it into jelly, going this year to Bea Keilholtz for blackberries and to Catoctin for blueberries.

I asked Betty how long she had been canning and she said she started when she was eight years old. She helped her mother with the jars because her hands were small enough to get into the jars to really get them clean (a ploy mothers have used for generations to get help with the canning). I then asked her how long she and Bill have been gardening. This is her story:

Bill and Betty fell in love while they were in high school.

Bill graduated from college a year after Betty graduated from high school. Because they knew they were going to be married, they started a little nest building. Bill's family lived on a farm, and Bill asked his father for a piece of land for him and Betty to have their own garden. There's nothing like planting seeds, weeding and harvesting a garden to promote togetherness. And so in 1954, fifty years ago, Bill and Betty began in earnest a venture that has lasted to this day.

They were married in Aug. 1955 and moved to Morgantown, W. Va., where Bill earned his M. S. degree. In 1957 it was on to Mount St. Mary's College, where Bill was a professor of biology for the next 41 years. They first lived on campus in "The Shacks," where there was no place for a garden; but in 1960 they moved to Faculty Row into the house Professor and Mrs.

Shaughnessy had occupied for 20 years. Prof. Shaughnessy had worked a lovely garden beside his house, and that spot was just waiting for Bill and Betty's vegetables. They also got to know the Geesies, who lived on the Mount's farm, and were allowed to use part of their garden too.

In 1968 they bought Jim Hays' house on West Main Street and the land behind it on Lincoln Avenue. There they had a large plot on which to grow what I remember as a huge garden. In 1989 they built their present house on part of that garden, but saved a portion of it. Here is where all of this year's activity began, and will repeat itself for years to come.

However, before even thinking about next year, the present yield must be dealt with. Although it's a beautiful sight, all these jars can't be left on the kitchen counter top; Betty has to have a place to cook. The first step in the removal of these jars is to the Emmitsburg-Thurmont Community Show at Catoctin High School. This annual event began in the 1950s before Emmitsburg and Thurmont schools came together, when each town sponsored its own Community Show.

When Betty first saw the show's booklet in the '50s, she said, "I can enter all those categories: cooking, canning and baking." Which she did. And that was the beginning of the accumulation of blue ribbons Bill said were "lying around the house by the basket-full." Betty became a regular in the Emmitsburg show, and when the schools merged in 1969, she continued. She dropped out for a while, but has been back for the past three years.

After the show is over and the jars are all back home, what then? Well, grandson Matthew will have blackberry pies all winter ... lucky Matthew ... and Dottie Phelan will get her pepper jelly. As for the rest, the Meredith family will eat from those jars all winter long.

The fruit, jellies, pickles and vegetables will be taken to the basement and stored on shelves Bill built for just that purpose. And when the jars are empty, they will be returned to the basement to wait for the process to begin anew. Once again the refrain from Ethel Waters' old popular song will ring through my head, "She certainly can, Can Can."

LOOKING AHEAD

Oct. 8-9 - St. Anthony Shrine Fall Yard and Bake Sale. 8 a.m. St. Anthony Shrine Parish, Emmitsburg. Space available, \$10 per day, \$15 for two days. Food will be available both days, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Oct. 9 - 40th Annual Adams County Apple Harvest Festival. 9 a.m. South Mountain Fairgrounds, 10 miles NW of Gettysburg on Route 234. Apple products, live country music, arts and crafts, antique cars, steam engines, orchard tours, food. Information: 717-334-6274 or 717-677-9413.

Oct. 9-10 - 41st Annual Catoctin Colorfest. 9-5. Thurmont. More than 360 juried arts and crafts vendors selling in three areas of town.

Oct. 9-10 - Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church Festivities. Mt. Tabor Park in Rocky Ridge. Apple butter boiling demonstration on Saturday; apple butter will be available for sale. Advance orders: 301-271-2880. Flea market, crafts (call 301-271-2674 for free space), home-cooked food, Rocky Ridge firemen's fried ham sandwiches, a country store and more. Mt. Tabor Park is home to the "big slide," a giant sliding board for kids of all ages. Sponsored by the Willing Workers. Directions: follow Route 77 to Rocky Ridge, turn onto Motters Station Road. Park is just ahead on left.

Oct. 9-10 - South Mountain Creamery's Harvest Celebration Open House. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Middletown, Md. Petting zoo, hayrides, horse and buggy rides, tours thru the state-of-the-art processing plant. Hands-on demonstrations: butter and ice cream making. Enjoy farm raised beef or pork bbq sandwiches and homemade ice cream. All of the meat is raised on site and available for sale. Sample dairy products and sign up for home delivery service. Free admission and parking.

Oct. 13 - Emergency Preparedness Class. 7-9 p.m. Emmitsburg Town Office. Learn valuable steps necessary for an emergency plan, and discover helpful measures for making your family and community safer. The first 15 registered will receive emergency kits to take home. Cost: \$10. Information: Michael T. Heller, 301-846-2685.

Oct. 13 - CHS Safe and Sane Class of 2005 Meeting. 7 p.m., Catoctin High School Media Center. Safe and Sane will sell restaurant raffle tickets, Boyd's Bears and CHS blankets at Catoctin Colorfest.

Oct. 15 - Freaky Friday Corn Maze. 7 p.m. Lawyer's Farm, Route 550, Thurmont. Sponsored by St. Anthony's Shrine and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Bring flashlights and wear boots or old sneakers. Adults \$6; children 6-12, \$5. Register by Oct. 13: 301-447-2367.

Oct. 16 - Turkey & Oyster Dinner. 1 to 6 p.m. St. Joseph's Hall, DePaul Street, Emmitsburg. Turkey, oysters, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, sauerkraut, applesauce, cranberry sauce, dessert, hot and cold beverages. Adults \$12; kids (5-9) \$5; under 5 free.

Oct. 16-17 - Third Annual Frederick County Family Festival @ the Farm. Self-guided tours: visit any or all of the 10 participating farms. Activities include picking grapes, pony rides, wagon rides to a pumpkin patch, alpaca petting. Guide available. Information: 310-631-3037.

Oct. 18 - "Third Thursday at ThorpeWood." 1 to 2 p.m. Storytime, craft/activity and a snack. Free, geared to kids 5 and younger. Reservations required: 301-271-2823.

Oct. 19 - Salvation Army Christmas Applications. 1-6 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center, Catoctin CASS Office. Information: Salvation Army, 301-662-2311; Catoctin CASS, 240-236-1770.

Oct. 19 - Band Fest. All Frederick County Public High School marching bands will be performing at Catoctin High School. Admission \$4. FCPS employees and those with Sunshine Cards admitted free.

Oct. 19 - Emmitsburg Water Committee Public Forum. 7:30 p.m., Emmitsburg Town Office. Free. The evening's topic is "Water Conservation: what you can do."

Oct. 20 - Parent Workshop, "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Media Violence and its Impact on Children." 6-8 p.m. Sabillasville Elementary

-Continued on page 19

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Looking Ahead

-Continued from page 18

School. Collaboration between Catoctin CASS and Families Plus. Dinner from 6-6:30. Program begins at 6:30. Childcare provided. Registration required for dinner and childcare. Child Care Choices continuing education credit for Md. childcare providers. Registration: 301-694-9002.

Oct. 21 - Rubber Stamping Class. 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Branch Library. Nicole Seidler, Stampin' Up!® demonstrator, will be your tour guide for hands-on exploration of the world of rubber stamping. Information and advance registration: 410-756-6474.

Oct. 30 - ThorpeWood Potluck Picnic. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Celebrate fall in the meadow at ThorpeWood's Stoney Lick Farm. Pumpkin carving, hay rides, bonfire relay races, scary stories, face painting, scarecrow making, kids' crafts and games. Learn all about bats. Cider, cookies and healthy fall snacks. Free and open to the public. Reservations strongly encouraged: 301-271-2823.

Oct. 30 - Halloween Dance/Party. 8 p.m. to midnight. St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Emmitsburg. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Brute Council 1860. Live music by "Tommy Can't Count" band. Open to the public. Costumes, prizes, fun. BYOB, set-ups

available. Admission \$10 (includes door prize eligibility & snacks).

Oct. 30 - Concert tribute recreating the Glen Miller Army Air Force Band. 8 p.m. Weinberg Center, 20 West Patrick Street, Frederick. Performance by The Brooks Tegler Big Band featuring trombonist, Jay Gible, as Glenn Miller and vocalist, Jamie Zemarel, singing the songs of Sgt. Johnny Desmond. The 16-piece band wears authentic World War II Army Air Force uniforms. Dress in period style for the best-dressed contest. Prizes. Tickets: \$32, \$30, \$27, and \$22. Call 301-228-2828, 301-228-2838 (TTY), stop by the Box Office, or purchase online at www.weinbergcenter.org.

Nov. 6 - Party of Parties Fundraiser. St. John's Lutheran Church, 15 N. Church St., Thurmont. Consultants from Pampered Chef, Longaberger, Tupperware, Homemade Gourmet, Premier Designs, two Merry Merchants and Teddy Bear Treasures will help you with holiday shopping. Door Prizes! Lunch is included. Information: 301-271-7613.

Nov. 14 - Basket Bingo. Thurmont Carnival Grounds. Sponsored by Catoctin High School Safe and Sane Class of 2005. Doors open 11 a.m.; bingo starts at 2 p.m. Tickets, \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Refreshments available. Tickets: 301-271-2464.

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VOTER ALERT

General Election voter registration
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NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

In their Honor

Attending the 22nd annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, Oct. 1-3 in Emmitsburg, were fire service members from 34 states, friends and family of firefighters who died while on duty in 2003.

This national event honored 107 firefighters, including one from Guam; 105 men, two women, and three from previous years, ranging in age from 18 to 81. Eight were from Pennsylvania and three from Maryland. None was a Frederick County resident.

An evening Candlelight Service at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton followed Saturday's Family Day activities.

The next day, people crowded on the grounds at the National Emergency Training Center campus. To a steady drum cadence and the haunting sounds of bagpipes, the 500-member honor guard marched across academy grounds to begin the Sunday memorial service.

Chief R. David Paulison, Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the family nature of fire service he noted that 1.3 million firefighters protect the United States.

After the presidential wreath was placed at the fallen firefighters monument, state elected officials, Sen. Paul Sarbanes, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, and Representative Roscoe Bartlett read the names of the fallen firefighters. Tears flowed as loved ones received a single red rose and a folded American flag.

Forming the Sea of Blue, uniformed fire service personnel stood side by side as a final tribute to their fallen comrades and their families leaving the service

