

# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL III, No. 16

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

NOVEMBER 3, 2004



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

According to company officers, ambulances stand by waiting at the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company to run second and third due calls. The company has been on back up status since County Commissioners placed an ambulance and crew on 24-hour seven-day-a-week coverage for the Emmitsburg Area.

## Ambulance Company pleads for support

### Staff attempts damage control

Staff Report

A new chief, Richard Sharer, will lead the effort to salvage the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company's reputation and prove that is still a viable operation.

As the hearing date for a town fire tax nears, the company distributed a two-page letter asking the community for support and striving to correct alleged inaccuracies in the news.

Signed by ambulance company president Joe Pelkey, the letter went to homes in the first due response area.

"For the last few years, we have seen our response to emergency calls falter," Pelkey wrote. "We have a challenge, and we will meet it with confidence in our membership and our community."

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## Residential sprinkler ordinance submitted-would apply to new construction

Richard D. L. Fulton  
News Editor

The installation of residential sprinkler systems could be required for new construction if the town passes an ordinance drafted by board

of commissioners President William B. O'Neil.

O'Neil prepared a draft ordinance for town staff and his fellow commissioners to review, taking up the charge previously led by former commissioner Ted Brennan, dating back to

early 2003.

"The intent of this ordinance is that it should be applied to new home construction at a date and time to be determined," O'Neil wrote Town Manager

## The Great Emmitsburg Fire

Joyce M. Demmitt  
Staff Writer

At 11 p.m. on June 15, 1863, just 16 days before the Battle of Gettysburg, a fire began in the Beam and Guthrie Livery Stable in Emmitsburg. By the time it was brought under control the next morning, three of the town's four blocks had burned, and nearly 20 per cent of the town's population had suffered losses.

Because townspeople had no effective way to extinguish the flames as they attacked the wooden structures, the fire

spread quickly. Beginning in the Beam and Guthrie stable, which evidence suggests stood on what is now the parking lot of the Emmitsburg Antique Mall, the fire set adjoining stables and homes ablaze. Traveling along Main Street toward the town square, it continued past the square for two blocks, crossed Main Street and burned back toward the square.

Lawrence Dwen, Emmitsburg shoemaker, was among the first to lose his home. Dwen had immigrated

-Continued on page 3

## Emmitsburg fire tax hearing

A county-sponsored hearing on the proposed Emmitsburg fire tax is scheduled for 7 p.m., Nov. 9, at the Mother Seton School.

The county commissioners will be taking comments prior to reaching a decision about providing career (paid) employees to assist the town ambulance company with emergency medical service. The tax rate will depend on what level of service county officials feel is needed.

People residing outside Emmitsburg would be advised to look at the map on pages 8-9 of this issue to see if they will be affected by the fire tax.

**Investigation concluded on missing town money**  
-see article on page 5.

**Security problems continue at the Community Center**  
-see details on page 5.

**South Gate basements built in spite of probation**  
-see article on page 6.

**New pastor called to Incarnation Church**  
-see feature on page 10.

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## 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.

## Commission President urges town harmony

I am writing regarding Mr. E. Eugene Myers' recent letter commenting on a host of issues.

Your service, Mr. Myers, like anyone else who has served or will serve their community, should never be brought to question. Public service is, to me, one of the highest callings we may fulfill in life and, as such, I sincerely thank you for your past service to our town.

While it is true that we may differ on the issues of the day, Mr. Myers, I truly believe that we all have honorable intentions to make Emmitsburg a better place in which to play, learn, live, work, and worship.

I have been truly blessed

to have my family and I so warmly welcomed into such a lovely town and I am honored and humbled by their faith in electing me as their one of their commissioners.

While I regret that you and I may disagree on some of the issues, Mr. Myers, this is not always a bad thing, because it invites full discussion of the issues and is a healthy component to any democracy. Please know that you are always welcome in our council chambers, as is your opinion.

Each of us, whether citizen or public official, is free to exercise free speech and their vote in any way they deem appropriate.

As we near this special time of year, Thanksgiving and Christmas, I would ask that everyone, myself included, make their best effort to set aside personal differences and work together for the common good, as nothing can ever truly be gained by striking a note of bitter discord.

To that end, Mr. Myers, I shall hold you in my prayers.

— Bill O'Neil  
Emmitsburg

*Editor's Note: The writer is also president of the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners and former president of COPE.*

## COPE VP Counters Myers

Unfortunately, in your Oct. 20 issue Mr. E. Eugene Myers showed that he is not up to date on what is going on in Emmitsburg. COPE was not formed as a vendetta against the Boyles or anyone else. It was formed to prevent Emmitsburg's inadequate infrastructure from being overwhelmed, while preserving the amenities and allowing controlled low-impact growth.

The Maryland Department of the Environment is well aware of the town's sewer failures. It did not need to be told by COPE. When Mr. Myers was mayor and commissioner, he should have taken the lead in solving

these long-term problems. Fortunately, Emmitsburg has two commissioners in Bill O'Neil and Art Elder who are well informed and active in promoting the interest of the town and not the developers, whether out-of-town or homegrown. Former commissioners Cliff Sweeney and Ted Brennan cannot be said to have done the same thing.

The lawsuit Mr. Myers referred to was proposed to get a court ruling on an improper ruling the Board of Appeals made without the due process required by the Constitution and contrary to the interests of the town.

As to Mrs. Barbara Mullinix's complaint, even Mr. Myers must understand

that commercial zoning does not justify maintaining a nuisance. Incidentally, former commissioners Sweeney and Brennan voted to expand the commercial zoning to include a car wash after Mrs. Mullinix moved here. As to Commissioner Elder's car wash, there is no reason for anyone to complain about it. It is not a nuisance.

Town meetings and COPE meetings are open to the public. Mr. Myers should go to them. Then, instead of uninformed and hostile remarks he might have a factual basis for his opinion. COPE is here to solve problems, not create them.

— Harold C. Craig  
Emmitsburg

## Mystery Solved

In a recent *Dispatch* article about potential security problems at the Emmitsburg Community Center, Bo Cadle, president of the Friends of the Library, Emmitsburg Branch (FoLEB), was curious how I learned about the discussion between he and Joan Fisher, Branch Library Manager.

As a member of and donor to the FoLEB, I am on their mailing list. Their discussion was on the front page of the recent FoLEB newsletter. As a commissioner, I took their concerns to heart, made the necessary inquiries, and took appropriate action.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate FoLEB, Bo Cadle, and Joan Fisher, on the sterling job they are doing, not only establishing a vastly expanded library for the Emmitsburg area, but in offering people of all ages a wide variety of literary gems and stimulating programs. Kudos to you both, and all of the members of FoLEB for your hard work and dedication in making Emmitsburg a richer place in which to live.

— Bill O'Neil  
Emmitsburg Commissioner

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.

## New Bell

November 4, 1904 — The new bell for the Presbyterian church was placed in position in the steeple of that church on last Thursday afternoon. The bell which has a very fine tone, is a gift to the church by Mr. A. Annan Honer, and was purchased through Messrs. J.T. Hays & Sons from Meneely & Co., manufacturers of West Troy, N.Y. On the outside of the bell appears this inscription: "Presented by A. Annan Horner in Memory of His Father, Major O.A. Horner, Toms Creek Presbyterian Church. Incorporated, 1761."

## Election Next Tuesday

November 4, 1904 — Election day next Tuesday, November 8. The polls will open at 8 o'clock in the morning and close at 6 o'clock in the evening. In Emmitsburg District the polls will be held at the following places: In Precinct No. 1, at Philip D. Lawrence's shop. In Precinct No. 2, at J. M. Kerrigan's coach shop.

November 4, 1904 — The study at the Lutheran parsonage, in this place, is being torn down, and a wide concrete walk will be made through the parsonage grounds from the pavement to the Lutheran church.

November 4, 1904 — Miss Herring, the well-known impersonator and elocutionist will give an entertainment at the Opera House, Saturday night, Nov. 5 at 8 o'clock. Admission 20 cts; children, 15 cts; reserved seats, 25 cts.

Much has been given us, and much will rightfully be expected from us.

— Theodore Roosevelt

Roosevelt and Fairbanks  
Elected by a Sweeping  
Majority

November 11, 1904 — The above is the result of the election on Tuesday last for President and Vice-president of the United States, and the Republican majority is conceded to be the largest in the history of the country. Of the 476 electoral votes, the Republican candidate received 343. In 1900 President McKinley received 292 electoral votes, and Bryan 155, a majority of 137 for McKinley.

## Parker to Roosevelt

At 8:30 p.m., Tuesday Judge Parker sent the following congratulatory telegram to President Roosevelt: "The people by their vote have emphatically approved your administration and I congratulate you." Alton Parker.

President Roosevelt sent this telegram to Judge Parker: "I thank you for your congratulations." Theodore Roosevelt.

President Roosevelt issued a statement in Washington saying, that "under no circumstances, will I be a candidate for or accept another nomination."

The Vote In  
Emmitsburg District

November 11, 1904 — The election in this place Tuesday passed off quietly, as usual. From surface appearances less interest was taken in this campaign in this place, than was ever known before in a presidential contest, although a fairly large vote was cast at the election on Tuesday. This year the total vote cast was 695, out of a total registered vote of 779. The democratic plurality in this District being only 21. At the Presidential election in 1900 the total registered vote in this District was 860, and the total vote polled was 790, giving Bryan, Democrat, a plurality of 82.

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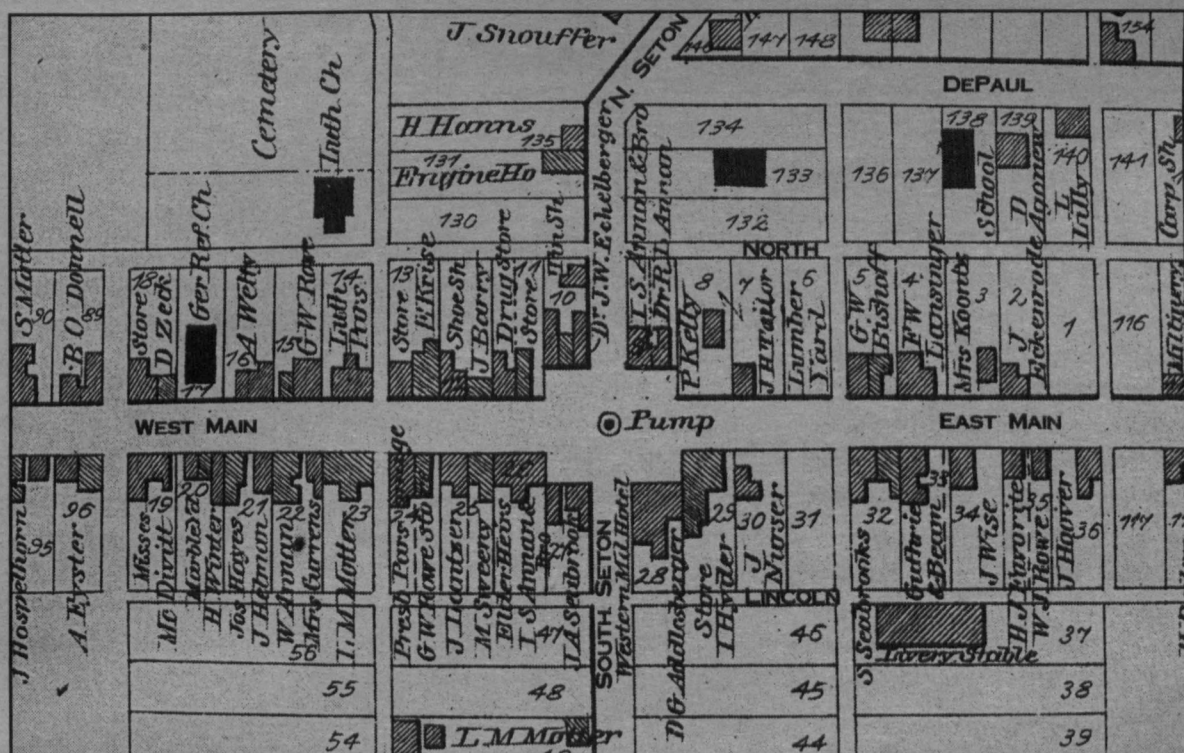


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The Beam and Guthrie Livery Stable where the fire started can be seen in the lower right-hand corner in this detail of an early Emmitsburg map. Courtesy, Archives Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

## Great Fire

-Continued from page 1

to Frederick County in 1828, and was listed in 1840 as a member of the Emmitsburg fire company.

Last to burn was the City Hotel, which Daniel Wile had purchased in 1856 or 1857. The hotel was home-away-from-home for families attending graduations at Mount St. Mary's College and St. Joseph's Academy. Wile had razed the building and built a new four-story hotel in 1859, only to see it totally destroyed four years later, with \$10,000 worth of damage.

People carried furniture

from their homes to other houses, only to have it burn there. One newspaper account mentions, "An old lady came to the writer with a basin of water and insisted upon his throwing it on a burning house."

After midnight The Rev. Dr. John McCloskey, brought boys from the Mount to help put out the fire. McCloskey was then vice-president and procurator at Mount St. Mary's, later serving as president of the college from 1871-1877.

There was only one fire engine in town at the time. People filled it by hand with buckets of water from local wells and cisterns. Working through the night, citizens had the blaze under control by 7

a.m.

Credited with finally containing the fire was the decision to place wet blankets on the roof of the Decklemyer house, located on one corner of the square.

### Damage assessment

The 1860 census recorded 32 families, including 973 people, living in Emmitsburg. By most accounts the 1863 fire destroyed at least 28 houses, leaving 43 families homeless, a total of 189 people.

Robert M. Preston's account about the fire on [www.emmitsburg.net](http://www.emmitsburg.net), states that 42 property owners lost nearly \$82,000, representing approximately 22 percent of the value of all real and personal property of Emmitsburg citizens.

### Fear of rebel action

While Emmitsburg burned, the townspeople were already on edge with armies of the North and the South both marching nearby toward what would be the bloodiest battle of The Civil War, only a couple of weeks hence.

People living in the surrounding countryside heard the town's church bells ring, and many moved closer to see the flames. But few ventured too close for fear that the rebel army had set Emmitsburg on fire, as they had done to Chambersburg, Pa.

Many believed an arsonist, perhaps a rebel sympathizer, started the fire. Gettysburg's newspaper *The Star* and

## Great Emmitsburg Fire destroys residential and commercial buildings

Beginning with the Beam and Guthrie Livery Stable, and nearby stables, the fire destroyed Dwen's home followed by the homes of William Waters, Dr. J.W. Eichelberger, J. F. and D. F. Adelsberger's shop and Michael C. Adelsberger's house.

Houses down the north side of Main Street that burned belonged to Dr. William Patterson, J. F. Adelsberger, D. G. Adelsberger, Patrick Kelley, George Bishop, Francis McGraw, James Hospelhorn, Upton Koontz, Caroline Zimmerman, Jacob Harner, and John Hopp.

When the flames crossed Main Street, they consumed

the homes of Hugh Daily, James Morrison, John Hoover, George Cunningham, James Wise, John Miller, Henry and George Winter, Mrs. E. Smith, Jesse Nusscar, Joshua Shorb, and all attached stables and outbuildings.

Last to burn was the City Hotel, which Daniel Wile had purchased in 1856 or 1857. The hotel was home-away-from-home for families attending graduations at Mount St. Mary's College and St. Joseph's Academy. Wile had razed the building and built a new four-story hotel in 1859, only to see it totally destroyed four years later, with \$10,000 worth of damage.

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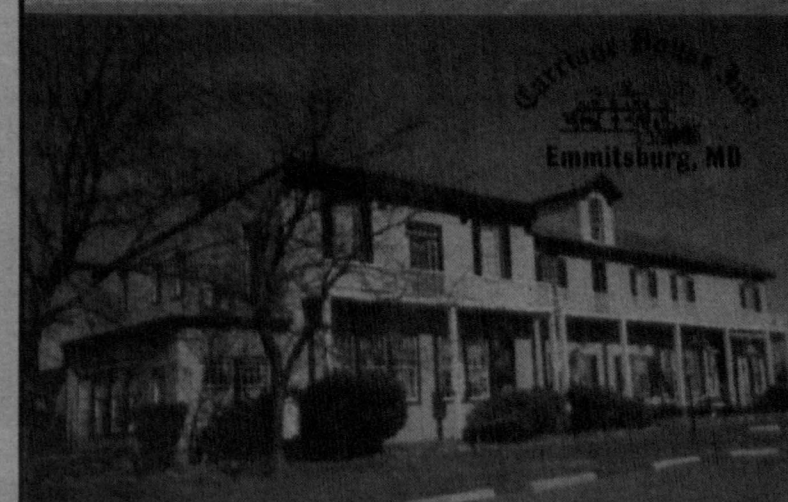
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# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

NEWS AND OPINION IN THE SERVICE OF TRUTH

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## EDITORIAL

*From the news editor's notebook ...*

### Over and above ... deserves special recognition

Richard D. L. Fulton  
*News Editor*

I am somewhat disappointed by the town administration's lack of public response to the heroic rescue conducted by Deputy James Moxley on Sept. 28.

Deputy Moxley literally risked his life to aid a family trapped in floodwaters generated by a raging Tom's Creek in the wake of heavy storms unleashed on the region by the remnants of Tropical Depression Jeanne.

Instead of simply standing high and dry on solid ground shouting words of encouragement to the trapped family as he awaited assistance

to help rescue them, Moxley waded through the floodwater until he reached the trapped vehicle.

Not only did Moxley stay and offer comfort to the trapped individuals while the floodwaters not only raged, but also continued to rise, but he himself became trapped and had to be rescued as well.

But he would not abandon the family and chose to remain close at hand.

In the end, an adult, a young adult, a teenager, a toddler and a four-month old baby were safely removed from the vehicle. Moxley was safely recovered by the further heroism of members of the Emmitsburg Vigilant Hose Co.

I've been involved in heavy rescue and fire in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and I've seen a lot of police in action in a lot of life-threatening situations.

Moxley's rescue remains high on the list of what I have observed among those who sometimes find themselves inspired to go over and above anything they would be expected to do under the circumstances.

You cannot train a police officer to do this sort of thing. It does not come from the manual. It comes from the heart.

The town owes Deputy Moxley a tremendous public "thank you" for this demonstration of valor. The world is short of heroes. Let's at least take the time to praise a local one when it is warranted, as is the case in this instance.

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## Town News

### Community Center doors found unlocked Security problems continue unabated

Richard D. L. Fulton  
News Editor

In spite of the efforts of board of commissioner President William B. O'Neil, Jr. to draw attention to lax security reported at the town community center, problems continue.

The latest reported incidents include community center doors left unlocked overnight on weekends, as recently as the weekend of Oct. 23.

Lewis Smith, an employee of Scott Key Center, Frederick, told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that he continues to find unlocked doors at the center, and has reported the matter to Town Manager David Haller.

Scott Key Center provides

maintenance services for the county-owned community center.

"I found three doors open around 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning (Oct. 24)," he said. Smith stated that he has previously encountered intruders in the building during closed hours, and that doors are still not being locked.

Lewis blames much of the problem on malfunctioning door catches. He said some of the doors that shut automatically do not close with enough force to re-engage the locks.

Also, he said, "If the wrong door (of a pair of doors) shuts first, the other door may not (properly) engage (the lock)."

Lewis also noted, "Somebody not employed

by the town has keys to the building." He could not be more specific with any names.

He pointed out that the library, which uses an electronic lock system, does not have intruder or door locking problems.

Mayor James E. Hoover told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that an electronic locking system is not necessarily the answer.

"If the doors are not engaging (shutting properly), then an electronic locking system would not improve anything," he said, noting that the circuit would not be completed to allow an electronic lock to function.

Lewis said he walked through the building with Haller for over an hour pointing out problematic areas in building security. He added that town water and sewer staff had said doors were unlocked when they arrived at the town hall.

Attempts to contact Haller and water and sewer staff were unsuccessful by deadline for this article.

Problems with security at the community center came to the attention of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* through an e-mail sent Sept. 23 from Commissioner O'Neil to Frederick County Commissioner Jan H. Gardner and Town Manager Haller.

Commissioner Gardner told the newspaper that security at the county-owned community center is the town's responsibility.

Haller previously stated he had been communicating

with the county regarding the reported security lapses.

(See related story, "Alleged security problems at community center," in the Oct. 6, 2004, issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.)

### Town News Update ...

### Investigation concluded on "missing" town money

Staff report

According to a Maryland state's attorney, an investigation into thousands of dollars allegedly missing from town funds has proven "inconclusive."

Scott L. Rolle, Frederick County State's Attorney, told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that investigators were not even able to establish that money was actually stolen.

"We're pretty well done (with the case)," he said. "No further action is planned at this time."

Rolle said it could not be determined if the money was stolen, was lost, or is simply unaccounted for due to other reasons.

"There is no evidence (to cause authorities) to proceed with criminal charges ... At this point, the book is closed. The results (of the investigation) were inconclusive," Rolle explained.

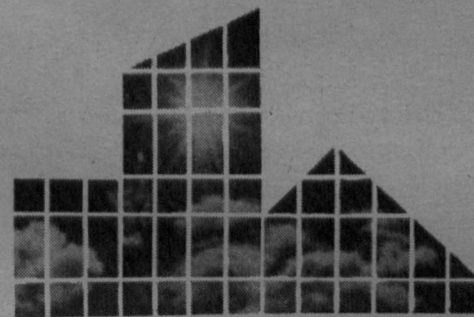
The state's attorney did not rule out the possibility that additional information could cause the case to be reopened.

*The Emmitsburg Dispatch* learned in September that four to five thousand dollars or more was allegedly missing from town coffers. Information received by the newspaper

also suggested the town had a suspect in mind.

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office had been the lead investigative agency on the case.

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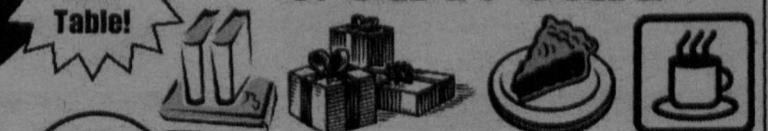
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## Emmitsburg supports Bush more than 2-1

Preliminary vote tallies from Emmitsburg in Tuesday's National Election demonstrated strong support for "staying the course" with the incumbent president.

Residents voting at the Emmitsburg Elementary School cast 1,344 votes, (67.87 percent), for President George W. Bush (R), and 611 votes, (30.81 percent), for Senator John Kerry (D).

Few voted for presidential candidates other than Bush or Kerry, with all others running amassing only 28 votes collectively.

In the senatorial race, Senator E. J. Pipken (R)

garnered 52 percent of the local vote, while Barbara Mikulski (D) carried 45.96 percent.

In the congressional race, Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R) received 70.23 percent of the votes, while challenger Kenneth T. Bosley (D) received 26.37 percent.

For Circuit Court 6 judge, Theresa M. Adams ran virtually uncontested and received 89.49 percent of the local vote, with write-ins receiving 26 percent.

Regarding the question about judge of special appeals, the town overwhelming voted yes, at 89.49 percent, with 10.51 percent voting no.

These are preliminary results as of Nov. 3.

## Town commissioners will no longer serve on appeals board

The Emmitsburg Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended that the mayor and Board of Commissioners not appoint sitting commissioners to serve on the Board of Appeals.

Citing potential conflicts of interest, the commission moved to eliminate the town commissioner's seat from the appeals board, and substitute a community representative.

One of the roles of the

Board of Appeals is to review and possibly reverse town commissioner decisions.

Regarding serving on both boards, Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker noted, "Having sat on the Commissioners' Board, it was very uncomfortable and it created a lot of difficulty having that person (a fellow commissioner) on the Board of Appeals as well. I wholeheartedly support this."

## A word from the Mayor

### Fire tax for Emmitsburg

For the past several weeks the Emmitsburg community has been inundated with information concerning the need to have a fire-taxing district. Several months ago the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company sent a letter to Frederick County Fire and Rescue Service about the difficulties the ambulance company was having handling the large volume of calls from its first due responder area.

The Emmitsburg Ambulance Company should be commended for their 50 years of service. They have taken great pride in providing a 100 percent volunteer service during that time. I know it was not an easy decision to request career service employees. Obviously, the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company's Board of Directors only had the safety of the community in mind when they made this request.

On Nov. 9 the Frederick County Board of Commissioners will hold a special meeting at Mother Seton School to discuss the level of service needed to meet community demands for emergency ambulance service.

Regardless of the decision made by the Frederick County Board of Commissioners to supply part-time career service employees, 12 hours a day, five days a week (12/5), or full-time career service employees, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7), the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company should remain an active ambulance service in our community. For the past several years they have been dispatched on approximately 1000 calls each year. This is equivalent to and exceeds numbers from some ambulance companies in Frederick County serving much larger populations.

The Emmitsburg Ambulance Company's first due response area far exceeds the corporate limits of the town of Emmitsburg. See the detailed map on page 8 and 9 or go to <http://www.co.frederick.md.us/emmitsburgTax>. All property owners within the first due response area will be included in any fire tax approved by

the Frederick County Board of Commissioners.

If the county supports part-time 12/5 service, it will increase our county property tax 6.5 cents. Full-time 24/7 service will increase our county property tax 13.5 cents.

The current fail rate of the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company is at or above 30 percent. I believe it is fair to say that the average number of the total failed calls are split equally, 1/3 during daytime service hours, 1/3 during evening hours and 1/3 during weekend and holiday hours.

Because the failed calls occur during all shifts, I would be very concerned if Frederick County provided anything less than 24/7 service at this time. If the Frederick County Board of Commissioners only approves 12/5 service, it will only improve 1/3 of the current failed calls.

I realize to provide 24/7 service would be an increase in our county property tax of 13.5 cents and that this may cause a financial burden for some residents of the greater Emmitsburg area. However, I feel the financial burden is the lesser of two evils in this matter. When emergency situations occur, time is of the utmost importance. The difference of having an ambulance arrive in 8-12 minutes versus an ambulance arriving in 20-30 minutes could be the difference between life and death. As the greater Emmitsburg community grows and puts an increased demand on emergency service, the danger of that probability increases.

While Mount Saint Mary's University, the Fire Academy and the Provincial House are enormous assets to the town, they also create an additional demand for emergency services. The average student population at Mount Saint Mary's University and the Fire Academy combined exceeds the total population of the town of Emmitsburg. When you include the staff of these two facilities, it exceeds the population by several hundred people. With these numbers in mind and knowing the size of Emmitsburg's first due response area, it is easy to see why there is a need for additional manpower to support ambulance service in Emmitsburg.

At this time, I am suggesting that we support full-time career

service employees for 24-hour-seven-day-a-week coverage with a 13.5 cents tax increase. Again, I would be concerned if we only support part-time 12-hour-a-day five-day-a-week service.

Four years ago, Emmitsburg fought against any fire tax being implemented and the town was successful in avoiding the tax. Now the county is providing Emmitsburg with full-time coverage with no fire tax revenue in place to cover any of the staffing expenses.

If we support full-time service, the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company will still continue to be dispatched on emergency calls. They will not be shut down. However, this will provide them with the needed time to recruit new members, provide them with the required training, and continue to make improvements in the management of the ambulance company, which they have already started.

With additional active members and management improvements, the ambulance company should be able to demonstrate that they are able to respond to additional calls within the required time without a failed response time. If this can be done, then we may have sufficient ammunition to petition the county to reduce its level of service and most importantly the fire tax from 13.5 cents to 6.5 cents.

I know it is typical that once taxes are put in place, they never get decreased. However, in this instance, if we asked to have the tax decreased, we will be doing so because we are also asking to reduce the level of services we would be receiving.

It is my desire to see the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company remain an active volunteer service to our community. However, at this time I feel the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company needs to turn this situation into a positive one by decreasing the number of failed responses. They can do that by focusing on improving the management of their current organization and implementing strict policies and procedures to prevent failed response times.

— Jim Hoover

Mayor of Emmitsburg



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View of Emmitsburg after the 1863 fire, taken from the field by Willow's Rill on the Daughters of Charity property. St. Joseph's Catholic Church can be seen without its steeple. Its construction wasn't completed until 1868. Photograph taken by either Alexander Gardner or Timothy O'Sullivan. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

## Great Fire

-Continued from page 3

*Sentinel* announced June 27, 1863, "A ruffian named Eli Smith has been arrested and confined in Frederick jail, on suspicion of having been the incendiary."

### The fire's aftermath

Aid came to survivors from many directions. Friends took in neighbors and near-strangers alike. Mother Ann Simeon Norris, DC made the White House a refuge for people while they rebuilt their lives. One recipient of the sisters' generosity was Dr. William Patterson, who lived in the White House until his death in 1871.

Nearby communities sent money and supplies. Citizens solicited funds as well. They appointed a committee to travel to Baltimore to seek help. They collected a good deal of money, which they combined with other local aid to help those who had lost nearly everything.

Some victims of the fire left town, not to return, but many came back. George Beam, in whose stable the fire had started, returned in the 1870s and reopened his livery stable.

Preston records, "By 1870, just seven years after the fire, three-quarters of those who remained were doing as well or better than they were in 1860, according to the value of their property." Only two individuals who remained seem to have suffered unrecoverable losses: Patrick Kelly, a tailor, and Francis Smith, the owner of King's Tavern.

From 1870 to 1888 a total of 82 new houses were built, as well as shops, barns and other buildings. Sidewalks were paved; there was a town

fountain, and a railroad to Rock Ridge. Added were a bank, a three-room public school, new Presbyterian and Lutheran churches, Euphemia's school, the Emmitt House, a creamery, a bakery, a printing office, and the town's newspaper, *The Emmitsburg Chronicle*, which began in 1879.

*The Chronicle* report calls the time of the fire one of darkness. By 1870 reporters noted that the many improvements, combined with the brilliant glow from lamplights scattered throughout town, dispelled 1863's gloom.

Note: Sources consulted for this article include Robert M. Preston's "The Great Fire of Emmitsburg," [www.emmitsburg.net](http://www.emmitsburg.net);

John A. Helman's "History of Emmitsburg, Maryland;" John Thomas Scharf's "History of Western Maryland;" *Emmitsburg Historical Society's "Historic Emmitsburg. A Walking Tour;" "The Star and Sentinel" newspaper, Gettysburg, Pa., scrapbook of Zourie Hyder Wentz (1854-1940), [www.historybyhand.com](http://www.historybyhand.com), the Historical Society of Frederick County, the Maryland State Archives, the Maryland Rooms of Frederick County Public Libraries and the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and Phillips Library at Mount St. Mary's University; with special thanks to Sr. Betty Ann McNeil and Bonnie Weatherly, Archives, Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg.*

## Southgate basements were built in spite of prohibition

Richard D. L. Fulton  
News Editor

Apparently the result of an oversight, Apple Tree Homes built a number of basements at Southgate at odds with their previously approved site plan.

The town planning and zoning board agreed Oct. 25 to grant retroactive approval to a revised Southgate site plan to allow for basements, once the revised plan is submitted and approved.

Apple Tree Homes, developers of Mountainview at Southgate, South Seton Avenue, will amend the plan approved by the town in 2003. At that time the presumption was that the homes would be built on slabs.

Since then the county has approved a storm water management plan for Southgate. Included are home foundation gravity drains, with sump pumps installed to serve as back-ups to prevent water from pooling in the basements. Home elevations are also

higher than originally planned to facilitate gravity drain systems.

According to Apple Tree owner Thomas Carolyn, the fact that an amended site plan had not been previously submitted was "an oversight."

Carolyn told the planning and zoning board, "From the get-go, that was part of our process, to put them (amended plans) in."

He said that installing the gravity drain systems would cost \$3,000 to \$4,000 per home.

All on-site drains will ultimately empty into the storm water retention pond, and will not discharge into the public wastewater collection system, according to project engineer Allen T. Grumbine, Jr., Harris, Smariga & Associates, Inc. of Frederick.

Town Planner Michael Lucas told the board that future homeowners would be responsible for maintaining the portion of the gravity drain system within their property boundaries.

### Decision Making for Teens: Choosing a Healthy Lifestyle

Nov. 17 from 6-8 p.m. Catocin High School. Workshop for parents sponsored by Families Plus and Catocin CASS. Dinner provided 6-6:30, program 6:30-8:30. Childcare provided. Registration required for childcare and dinner: call 301-694-9002 or 240-236-1770.



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## Ambulance company

—Continued from page 1

### Company says member numbers are inaccurate

Pelkey told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that membership numbers former chief McGuire and fire company representatives gave the town and the county were inaccurate. McGuire reported that 30 company members ran 523 calls in 2004 with only six active members, three of whom are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

"This is why she (McGuire) is no longer the chief," Pelkey declared. "She filled out the forms for 15 (EMT) members herself." The paperwork to which Pelkey referred was needed to obtain a Maryland state seal of excellence for the ambulance, and requires the company to have 10 EMTs on staff.

Pelkey said the ambulance company has 75 members, about 90 percent of whom are active, and 22 EMTs, 14 of whom live within the critical two-mile radius of ambulance company headquarters.

Pelkey provided *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* with a list that actually includes 78 members, 16 of whom are drivers and 26 EMTs. Neither the county nor the state differentiates between members and "active members." When pressed by the *Dispatch* to give an account about each individual's ability to run calls, Pelkey conceded that only about 14 of those on the list are "active" members.

To explain why the "correct" information wasn't presented to Frederick County Board of Commissioners at its crucial Sept. 2 meeting, Pelkey said, "We didn't have representation there. The timing of the agenda item had changed and we weren't informed. It was never passed on (to the company officers) by the ex-chief."

He added that only McGuire had attended the first town meeting that addressed the issue, and said other staff had no opportunity to present their case at the subsequent town hearing on the fire tax.

### Vigilant Hose: ambulance support or power struggle?

After the Sept. 2 county meeting, the town asked VHC and the ambulance company

to work together to develop a plan for providing the community with emergency medical service.

Fire Chief Robert Rosensteel, Jr. and VHC President Frank M. Rauschenberg put together an advisory team of VHC members with the skills to work through the issues with the ambulance company and develop solutions.

An informed source within VHC told *The Dispatch* the team has tried to meet with the ambulance company three times, with no success.

The ambulance company has said that working with the VHC is simply an attempt on the fire company's part to take them over.

In fact, in an Oct. 21 letter sent by VHC President Frank Rauschenberg to Emmitsburg town officials, the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company, Frederick County Board of Commissioners and several others, Rauschenberg states, "... it is also very important that we state here our willingness to entertain a merger or consolidation of both organizations into one under the Charter and By-laws of the Vigilant Hose Company."

VHC wants the potential new tax to be referred to as an "EMS tax" because of concerns that the term "fire tax" may mislead residents. What is at issue, according to VHC, is providing emergency medical services. Firefighters fear that talking about a fire tax may lead people to think the fire company isn't doing its job.

The VHC letter goes on to suggest that Emmitsburg Ambulance Company is, "perhaps lacking the skills necessary to properly lead an organization."

VHC is already housing the county ambulance crew dispatched to Emmitsburg and the ambulance company currently has only minimal overnight accommodations.

The ambulance company responded that it is not in its new building and concerns exist that their plans are being squashed.

Pelkey wrote that the company is taking the "opportunity to review current management practices and response capabilities. We are committed to take advantage of this time to rebuild the company and meet community demands."

He further acknowledges, "Admittedly, we have struggled to continue to meet the response criteria of 10% failure rate set by forth by Frederick County." But the ambulance company doors are not closed. The company has units standing by to respond to second and third due and standby calls.

### Ambulance response times

The Frederick County ambulance crew in place at the Vigilant Hose Company has handled 133 calls with a 0% fail rate from September 9 through October 27 according to the county's response review report.

The Emmitsburg Ambulance Company has handled 23 calls in this same period with a 9% fail rate.

The ambulance company supports 12/5 coverage at a 6.5 percent fire tax rate. Pelkey wrote, "We, as the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company feel that with having 22 EMTs, proper officers in positions, as well as new members coming in, we would be able to keep your taxes at 6.5 per cent and also have the safety and well-being of the community in mind."

According to Pelkey, "The ambulance will go along with 12/5 or 24/7 from the county. We just don't want to be put out of business."

### November 9 public fire tax hearing

Frederick County Commissioners are holding a meeting for public input on setting up a fire tax district for this area and will determine the tax level depending on emergency services provided.

People outside Emmitsburg would be advised to look at the maps on pages 8-9 of this issue to see if they will be affected by the fire tax.

## Sprinkler Ordinance

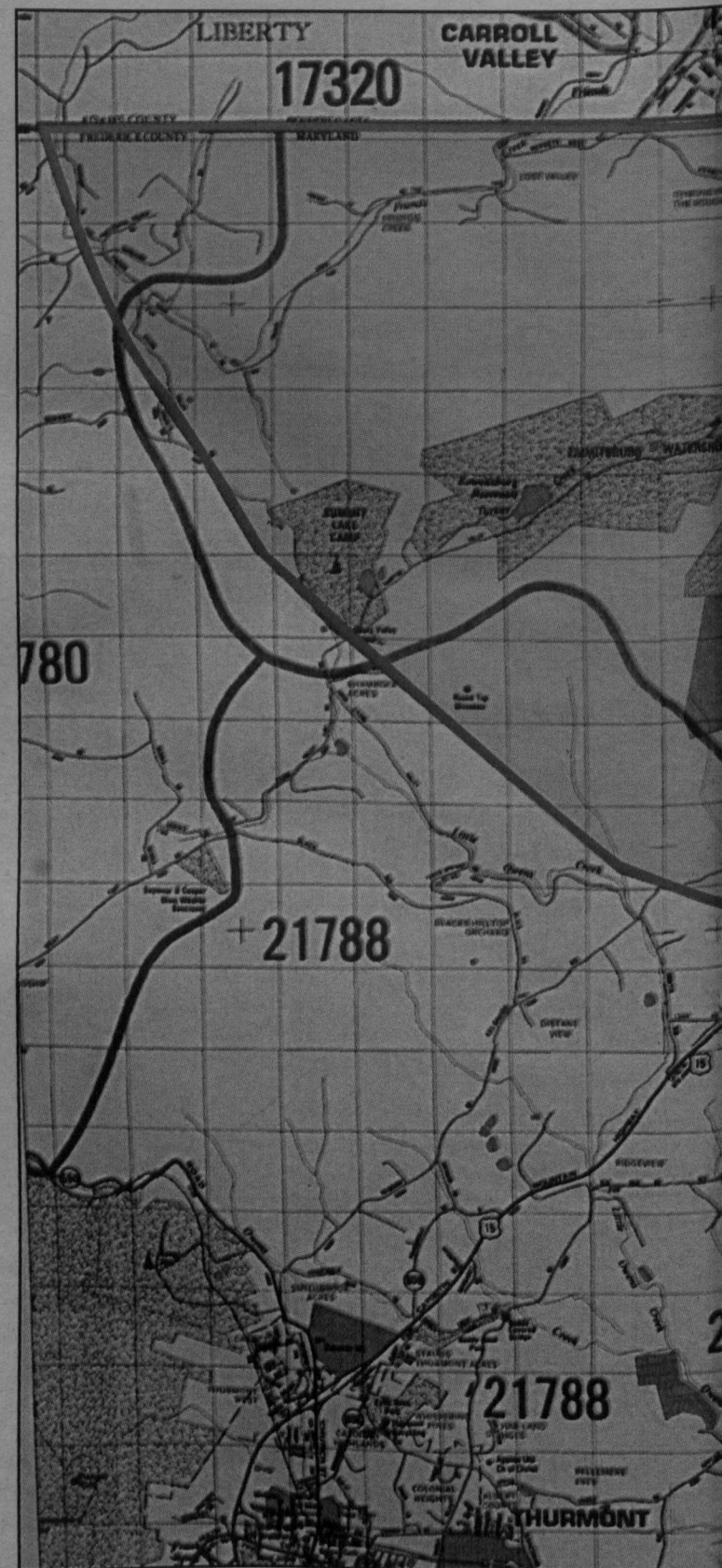
—Continued from page 1

David Haller Oct. 18.

The ordinance would mandate that all new homes built within the town be equipped with sprinkler systems to aid in fire suppression.

### Sprinklers would help buy time

In his draft, O'Neil noted that the town's increasing population growth would further



This map shows the boundaries of the proposed fire tax district for the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company with emergency medical services.

stress an "already-stressed volunteer service."

"The average response from the time the alarm is received until arrival of the fire fighting forces ... is now well over five minutes," O'Neil claims.

Vigilant Hose Company Chief Robert "Bob" A. Rosensteel, Jr., takes exception to O'Neil's response time figures, but supports the sprinkler ordinance.

Rosensteel said, "Sprinkler systems buy time for the (home) occupants and the fire company. It's all about the residents. It's about saving lives first and saving property second."

"The primary job of sprin-

klers is to contain the fire to the area of origin. A lot of times they will actually extinguish the flames," he stated.

### Cost and impact to current development

Rosensteel told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that sprinkler systems could add an estimated \$2,000 to the cost of a \$200,000 house, but house sizes would affect the final cost.

"You would recoup the money quickly," he noted. "The insurance rates should be adjusted accordingly (for homes protected by a sprinkler system.)"

It is up to the board of commissioners to decide whether





re tax district for Emmitsburg. Frederick County Commissioners will determine what level of tax, if any, is needed to provide career (paid) employees to assist the medical service. There will be a meeting at 7 p.m., November 9, at the Mother Seton School to listen to public input on the matter.

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or not the ordinance would apply to houses yet to be built in developments already approved, such as Southgate and Brookfield.

"We are still at a very early stage in the development of this ordinance," O'Neil told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*. "Typically, once such ordinances are enacted, some homes will have them, while others do not."

"In some instances, when builders see that such an ordinance has been passed, though not yet effective, they may offer it to prospective homeowners as an option," he said.

"Personally, I would think a date-specific requirement

would be desirable, but I am open to suggestions," O'Neil added.

#### Could be on town agenda in weeks

Once town staff has had at least two weeks to consult the town attorney and draft the ordinance in concert with Maryland law and regulations, as well as applicable town law, the matter can be brought to the commissioners for a vote.

O'Neil said the "best case scenario" would be an early December consideration and possible adoption, and the "worst case, aside from non-passage, would be mid to late January."

#### Brennan drafted earlier ordinance

An ordinance requiring sprinkler systems in newly constructed homes is not a new idea, nor is this the first time it has come before the town for consideration.

According to Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker, Wayne Powell, a member of the Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) and an employee of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pushed for such an ordinance "years ago."

Powell told *The Dispatch* that perhaps 10 years ago Dave Martin had begun talking to town officials about

mandating sprinklers for new houses in Emmitsburg.

Ted Brennan, a former commissioner and now president of the town ethics committee, had provided the town with a 10-year study on residential sprinklers and introduced a draft sprinkler ordinance in 2003 which was reviewed by the town's attorney. The board of commissioners in office at that time took no action on its adoption. According to Powell, both former VHC President Tim Clarke and Chief Frank Davis were committed to the residential sprinkler effort as are current fire company members, VHC President Frank Rauschenberg and

VHC Chief Bob Rosensteel. The company includes information about residential sprinklers on its website: [www.vigilanthose.org/fire\\_prevention/residential\\_fire\\_sprinklers.htm](http://www.vigilanthose.org/fire_prevention/residential_fire_sprinklers.htm).

Clarence "Chip" Jewell, spokesman for Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that work also continues on a countywide version of a mandatory sprinkler law.

Carroll Valley passed a residential sprinkler ordinance for all new homes in the borough Sept. 14. Mount Airy, Rockville and Gaithersburg already had sprinkler ordinances.



## RELIGION

## Rev. Reginald Rice Called to Incarnation Church of Christ

Susan Allen  
Staff Writer

Rev. Reginald "Reg" Rice of Hagerstown, Md. has been selected by Incarnation United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation as their pastor. Rice officially began his new position on Sunday, Oct. 3.

A graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary (1992), Rice has served churches in Westminster, Md. and Evansville, Ind. More recently he has specialized as a clinical chaplain, beginning at St. Paul Homes, a UCC-related home in Greenville, Pa. Since 1999 he has been full-time chaplain at Homewood Retirement Center of Williamsport, Md. There he

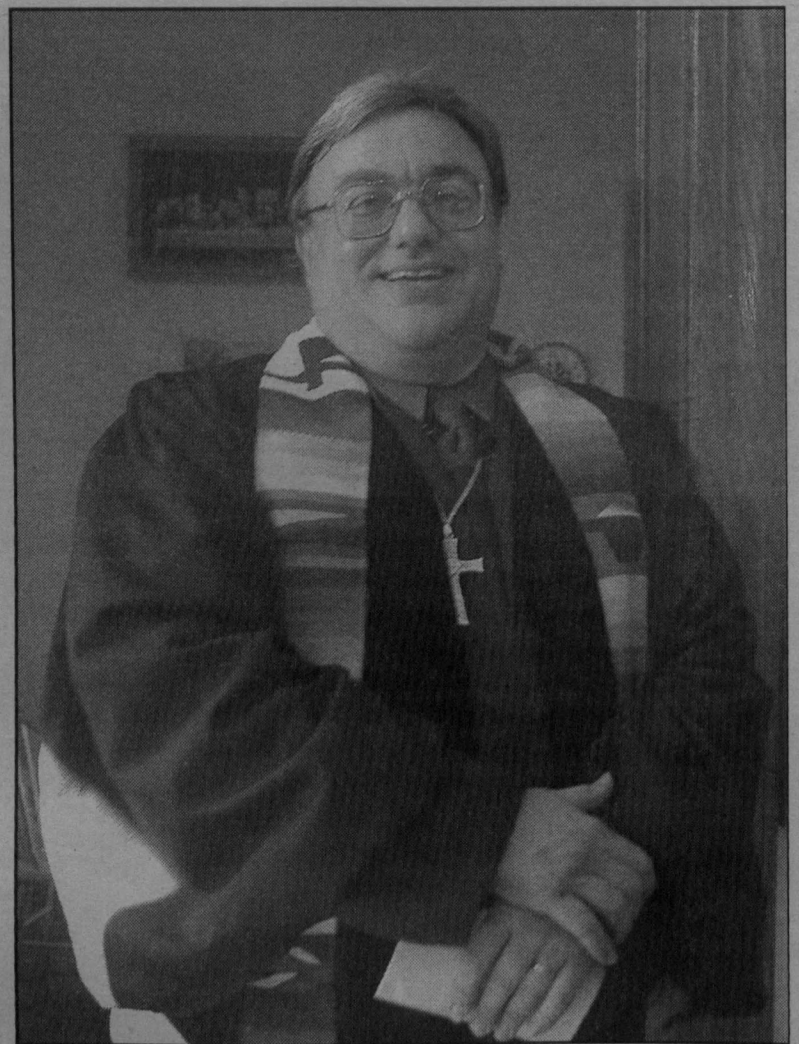
leads worship services, counsels residents and staff members, and creates programs to help people develop their spiritual resources to face the challenges of the aging process. He will continue in that position while serving Incarnation UCC.

Rice was first introduced to Incarnation Church as a supply pastor, filling in during the tenure of former pastor, Rev. Margaret Dodds, and following her retirement. He says that he enjoyed meeting and working with church members, especially the children. Over time he felt a "spiritual impulse" to submit his name to the pastoral search committee as a candidate. Although he is committed to his

work as chaplain and counselor to the aging, he also "felt God was calling me to get back into a regular church ministry." Because the Incarnation pastorate is part-time, he believed he could serve God in both roles.

Another factor may also have influenced Rice's call. Before his ordination, Rice's initial career was in music education. He is a graduate of Shenandoah Conservatory of Music and the University of Maryland. He majored in clarinet performance, and is also a vocalist. For nine years he taught as an adjunct professor of music at Pennsylvania State University and served as choir director for several Washington County, Md. churches. The choir members at Incarnation UCC certainly appreciated his singing talent whenever he came to the church as supply pastor. Now he sings regularly with the choir at Sunday services.

Rice is a native of Washington County, and now lives in north Hagerstown with his wife, Sue, daughter Annie, and "a small menagerie." He and Sue "love the drive over the



-RICHARD BLOOM / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

**New pastor of Incarnation United Church of Christ (UCC) Rev. Reginald "Reg" Rice of Hagerstown, Md.**

mountains to Emmitsburg," and the beauty of the town itself. He looks forward to a long-term

relationship with Incarnation UCC and the Emmitsburg community.

## Emmitsburg to host Maryland Power Over Pain workshop

Suffering with chronic pain?

Emmitsburg will host the first Power over Pain Public Listening in Frederick County Nov. 13 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church on Main Street.

A Public Listening is similar to a town meeting, but its purpose is to provide a safe environment for people who live with pain, their families and caregivers, to share their experiences.

Caring Hands of Emmitsburg, Inc., partnered with the American Pain Foundation and Maryland Pain Initiative, who launched the campaign, to host the meeting. The Maryland Power Over Pain Campaign hopes to hold at least one listening in each county in the state over the next two years.

Campaign literature states, "More than 75 million Americans suffer with chronic

pain... Pain is the #1 reason people seek medical care, costing the U.S. economy an estimated 100 billion dollars per year. The undertreatment of pain has equally serious consequences, diminishing the quality of life of affected persons, adversely impacting family and social relationships, and having a negative impact on the community."

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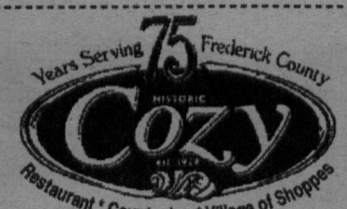
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## OBITUARIES

### John Robert O'Connor

John Robert O'Connor, 78, died Oct. 8 in Lansing, Mi. surrounded by family.

Born Aug. 31, 1926, John graduated from Loyola University and worked for over 40 years for the Michigan Civil Service. He and his wife Betty were among the first Curcillistas at St. Casimir Church in Lansing where he was a lector and commentator for many years. He served on the Board of Directors of the Michigan State Employees Credit Union for 30 years and as president for three terms.

Surviving are his wife; three daughters and two sons; three brothers and one sister; and 9 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at St. Michaels Church, Grand Ledge, on Oct. 12 with Rev. Fr. Jim Eisley as Celebrant.

### Mrs. Mary McGraw

Mrs. Mary Regina McGraw, 80, Emmitsburg, died Oct. 26 at Gettysburg Hospital, Gettysburg, Pa.

Born on April 11, 1924, in Emmitsburg, she was a daughter of the late Albert Joseph and Mary Elizabeth Ridenour Shorb.

She was a member of Saint Anthony's Shrine Parish, Emmitsburg and a member of Miraculous Medal Association.

Surviving are her two daughters, Mary Reckley and Barbara McGraw; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Oct. 29 with a Mass of Christian Burial from Saint Anthony's Shrine Parish, Emmitsburg, with her pastor the Rev. James Hannon as the celebrant. Interment was in Saint Anthony's Shrine Cemetery.

### Mr. Daniel Wolfe

Mr. Daniel Fred Wolfe, 93, Emmitsburg, died Oct. 26, at Saint Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg.

Born January 27, 1911, in Union Bridge, he was a son of the late D. Oscar and Irene Stell Wolfe.

He was a member of Incarnation United Church of Christ, Emmitsburg. He retired from St. Joseph's Provincial House Metal Works Department after 18 years of service. He was a volunteer at Saint Catherine's Nursing Center in Emmitsburg, a member of Catocin Iron

Workers Association in Thurmont, and an honorary member of Vigilant Hose Company.

Surviving are one nephew and one niece.

A graveside funeral service was held Oct. 29 from New Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Dale Williams officiating.

## MELISSA WETZEL CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

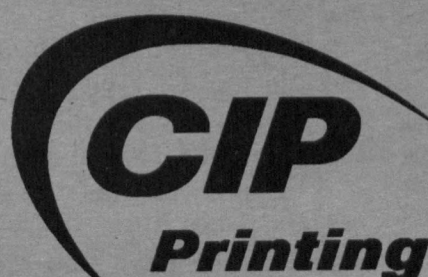
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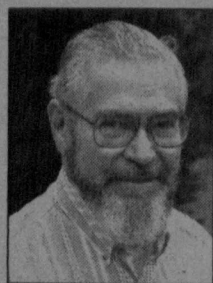
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## The (retired) Ecologist Ignoring the Signs



Bill  
Meredith  
Dispatch  
Writer

"By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes." ...the Second Witch, Macbeth, IV-1.

We were watching the evening news a month or so ago when the town's new warning system went off ... WHOOP... WHOOP... WHOOP... and the message arrived from at least three loudspeakers at various distances from our house, "TorTorNaNaNaNa dodo do WarWarWarningningning... TakeTakeTake CovCovCovererer NowNowNow!" It was raining and there was occasional

thunder off in the distance, so we turned on the Weather Channel. There we were informed that radar had spotted a storm with potential funnel clouds heading north from Frederick, and we should tune to our local TV channel for details. When we did so, we were faced with an almost painfully sincere young woman who was holding a kitten and telling us where to take lost pets, in case we should happen to find some. As it turned out, the storm divided; part of it crossed the mountain and cruised north, while the other half wandered off eastward, so here at home we did not encounter either lost pets or tornadoes. There was storm damage ... tornadoes by some reports, high winds by others ... in the areas of Thurmont and Blue Ridge Summit, but Emmitsburg was blissfully unaffected. It missed us that time, so, like Aesop's villagers when the boy cried, "Wolf," we decided to go on with our business and not worry.

It has been like that all summer. Nature has been peculiarly turbulent in much of the country this year. Florida had one of its worst hurricane seasons, and some of the associated storms produced floods in New England. In the southwest, the drought that began several years ago continued; in the northwest, Mount St. Helens came back to life. Yet locally it has been benign. A mild spring slipped gently into a quiet summer, with just a bit more rainfall than

usual, and lawns were green. Even the hurricane that flooded adjoining states produced less than four inches of rain in my yard; a few local roads were flooded, but they were all clear by the next day. Temperatures also were unremarkable; there were only a few scattered weeks in which they exceeded 90 degrees. As fall approached the temperatures dropped so gradually we hardly noticed when the equinox passed, and as I write this there are still some frost-tender plants surviving in sheltered spots around the yard and garden.

I suppose we ought to be thankful for all this averageness, but, like Macbeth's witch, I feel strangely uneasy about it. Weather is the most basic contact most people have with the environment, and the niceness of it this year has had the effect of taking people's minds off ecological matters. An election year is a bad time for that to happen.

In the campaign of 2000, Mr. Bush proclaimed himself an environmentalist, and seldom gave a speech without mentioning his concern about carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Immediately after taking office, he announced that CO<sub>2</sub> was not a pollutant and pulled the U. S. out of the Kyoto negotiations; and since that time he has worked steadily to weaken EPA regulations on air and water pollution. In view of his record, environmental issues should have been a major topic in the 2004 campaign; but beyond lip-service mention in the platform speeches of both parties, they scarcely were mentioned. When asked a question about

environmental policy in the last debate, Pres. Bush didn't even answer it, rambling off instead to his education program; and Sen. Kerry was almost as bad, offering a few boiler-plate platitudes before straying to another topic. Aware that the TV audience wasn't really interested, the moderator allowed both of them to duck the question.

Ecologists know that environmental problems are steadily, inexorably getting worse. There is overwhelming agreement among scientists that global warming is real, that at least part of it is the result of rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, and that it will have a major effect on our weather and on food production. We also have been warning of the perils of uncontrolled population growth for the past 50 years at least, and the worsening famine in sub-Saharan Africa is a classic Malthusian case of a population growing faster than its food supply. Yet in spite of mounting evidence, the administration has pandered to fundamentalist doctrine and blocked efforts to encourage the use of birth control in that continent, presenting it in the news as a geopolitical problem. The AIDS pandemic is likewise seen as a matter of public health and sociological concern; its roots in overpopulation are ignored. The shortage of flu vaccine gives politicians of both parties a field day to cast blame for incompetent planning, diverting attention from the increasing frequency with which avian influenza is crossing the species barrier from birds and appearing among overcrowded humans and domestic animals. The governor of Maryland appears ready to turn land which had been set aside for environmental preservation over to developers, while the

national administration works steadily and with little effective opposition to weaken emissions controls and endangered species legislation. So it goes.

These issues are reported regularly in major newspapers, but they are rarely on the front page and are seldom read with any degree of care or concern. The unhappy fact is that they aren't news any more; as political spinmeisters put it, they "don't have legs" as a political issue. At some point the youthful enthusiasm and naïve optimism that fueled the environmental movement in the 1970s was replaced by the apathy of affluence when its followers realized that ecology is complicated, has no simple answers, and has to be dealt with through long-term policies and sacrifice. When this became apparent, the renowned short attention span of Americans took over and the long, slow death of the environmental movement became inevitable. The nation's attitude toward ecologists has become pretty much the same as my wife's toward the tornado warnings.

It could be that the irritating sensation in my thumbs is just a touch of rheumatism. And it could be that the Democrats were right not to make an issue of the environment in this campaign; perhaps it would have lost them more votes than it would have gained ... after all, Al Gore talked about the environment, and he lost. We will soon find out; by the time this column is available to readers, the election will be over and we will know the bottom line about our future. The signs are there; if we have another four years of neglect and reversals, it will be too late to manage many of our environmental problems, and life in the latter half of this century will be vastly different if it survives at all.

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# MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

## MOUNT STUDENTS TO PERFORM

### "Crazy For You."

By Anya Savage, C'05

The Department of Visual & Performing Arts is presenting the popular musical "Crazy For You." The show begins November 4 and runs November 6, 11, 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. The Sunday matinee is November 7 at 12 p.m. All performances will take place in Upper Flynn Hall on the Mount Campus.

"Crazy For You" tells the story of Bobby Child, a well-to-do 1930s playboy, whose dream in life is to dance, despite his mother and fiancée's misgivings. This romantic comedy includes mistaken identity, fabulous dance numbers and toe-tapping tunes. The show features some of George and Ira Gershwin's most well-known songs like "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Embraceable You," and "They Can't Take That Away From Me."

Spend an evening at the Mount, enchanted by this classic "boy meets girl, boy loses girl, rags to riches" story. Mount sophomore Andy Shaw will play Bobby Child opposite sophomore Danielle Green as Polly Baker, his sassy love interest.



Tickets cost \$7.00 per person and the event is open to the public. For directions or further information, please call the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at 301-447-5308 or visit [www.msmary.edu](http://www.msmary.edu).

## MOUNT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### "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

### VISION OF VOCATION EVENTS

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

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.

### "A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America"

Wednesday, November 17  
7:00 p.m., Knott Auditorium  
Dr. Peter Steinfelds, nationally prominent Catholic writer, educator and speaker.

### Musician Sarah Hart

November 5-Knott Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.

### Mount Hockey

vs. Johns Hopkins  
November 5, 9:10 p.m., Frederick Ice Rink  
vs. Gettysburg  
November 12, 9:10 p.m., Frederick Ice Rink

### Fall Open House - Admissions

November 7, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Knott Auditorium

### Day in the Life - Admissions

November 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., O'Hara Room

### Feast of St. John Basilica Mass

November 9, 4:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Chapel

### Movie - "The Manchurian Candidate"

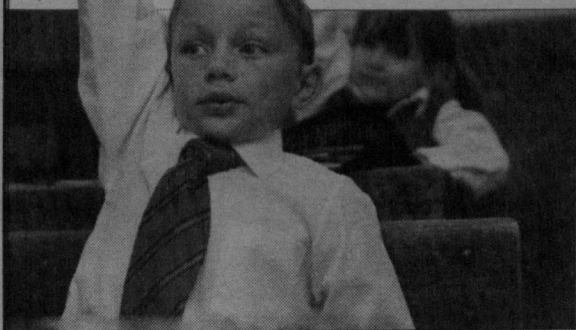
November 11, 9 p.m., Knott Auditorium  
November 12, 10 p.m., Knott Auditorium

### Artwork of Meg Rahaim

On display in the Memorial Gallery until November 23, 2004.  
Rahaim is a Mount graduate currently finishing her M.F.A. in printmaking at the University of Delaware.  
For more information and gallery hours, please contact the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at (301) 447-5308.



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# A CHURCH ADrift?

## THE CHALLENGE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

A presentation by the author of *A People Adrift*,  
Dr. Peter Steinfelds

Wednesday, November 17  
7 p.m. Knott Auditorium  
Mount St. Mary's University

Dr. Steinfelds argues that the Roman Catholic Church in the United States must transform itself or suffer irreversible decline. What role can today's college students—can all of us—play in questions of worship, leadership, the priesthood and the roles for laity and women?

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The public is invited to this free lecture, cosponsored by the Theology Department and A Vision of Vocation, a Mount St. Mary's University program of theological exploration funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. For additional information, please call 301-447-5308 or visit [www.msmary.edu](http://www.msmary.edu).

Mount St. Mary's University is a proud sponsor of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* and the local community!



## ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

### Library Events

#### Storytimes

**Babies with Books**  
(birth-24 months with an adult)  
Fourth Tuesdays: Nov. 23 at 10:30 a.m.

**Two Terrific!**  
(age 2 with an adult)  
Tuesdays, Nov. 2, 9, 16, and 30 at 10:30 a.m.

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

#### For Teens

**Mystery Game Night**  
(grades 6-12)  
Collect clues and solve the mystery. Sign up early to get your character choice. Come in costume if you wish.  
Friday, Nov. 12, 7-9 p.m.

**Teen Book Club**  
(grades 6-12)  
Read great books, and discuss them with other teens. Stop by the desk for this month's selection.  
Third Tuesdays: Nov. 16, 7 p.m.

**Special programs for family**  
**Computer 101** (Part of the "Did you know?" series for ages 6-11)  
How to surf, search, and succeed online with Lesa Zuke. Learn how to e-mail, research, and work with Power Point and the FCPL databases. Hands-on computer time will be available. Class size limited to 15.  
Saturday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m.

**Third Thursdays at ThorpeWood**  
(ages 3-5)  
Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries' monthly preschool story program at ThorpeWood Nature Retreat. See [www.thorpewood.org](http://www.thorpewood.org) for directions.  
Nov. 18, 1 p.m. - Pre-registration required.

**Knitting Club**  
(adults and teens)  
For everyone, beginners to experts. Even if you don't know how to cast on, someone in the circle will help. Learn to make scarves, shawls, or holiday gifts. Bring your needles and yarn or give us a call.  
Third Thursdays: Nov. 18, 4 p.m.

**Evergreen Centerpiece**  
(adults)  
Join Mariellen Krivos and learn to make a living centerpiece using assorted evergreens, dried flowers, pinecones, glass ornaments, and other natural materials. Call or stop by to pick up a supply list; some materials provided.  
Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

**Silly Story Starters**  
(all ages)  
A special storytime celebrating Children's Book Week. Listen to "silly" stories and poems for some giggles and grins. Help create stories to tickle your funny bone!  
Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m.

**Book Discussion Groups/Adult Reading Club**  
**Evening Club:** "Another Place at the Table" by Kathy Harrison.  
Second Tuesdays: Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Programs are held at the renovated Emmitsburg Library in the Community Center on Seton Avenue. Registration or information: 240-629-6329.

### Senior Events

Emmitsburg Senior Center special activities will focus on the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. A cooperative Thanksgiving dinner will be held Nov. 17 at noon. Participants **must** sign up by Nov. 5. Each person should bring a vegetable dish or dessert, plus a canned food donation for the Emmitsburg Food Bank.

**Holiday craft classes** will be held every Monday in

November at 10:00 a.m.  
The Emmitsburg Senior Center will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans' Day, and Nov. 25-26 for Thanksgiving. A shopping trip on Nov. 26 will be scheduled if at least eight people sign up in advance.

**Bowling:** Every Monday at Taneytown Bowling Center. Carpool; meet at the center at 12:30 p.m.

**Strength Training:** Tuesday and Thursday, 1-2 p.m. Dress comfortably, athletic shoes.

Led by Kathy Araiza, participants will use small

weights.

**Bingo:** Nov. 10 and 24. "Harvest Bingo" on Nov. 24. Bring fruits and vegetables (may be canned) for prizes.

**Cards - 500, Bridge:** Wednesdays, alternating with bingo.

**Canasta:** Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

**Meeting Day and Blood Pressure Checks:** Nov. 16.  
Programs are held in the Community Center on Seton Avenue. To register for special events or for information, call program coordinator Linda Umbel, 240-629-6350.



This 1962 photograph of Ray Charles was taken during a concert in Mount St. Mary's memorial gym. Now playing in local theatres, the recently released film, "Ray," starring Jamie Foxx as Ray Charles, depicts the soul singer's rise to fame in the 1950s and 60s, his family life, and the stories behind his musical hits. The film was produced before Charles' death in June, directed by Taylor Hackford, and is rated PG-13. Photograph courtesy of Dolores Henke, Emmitsburg.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Nov. 4, 5, 6 - "Crazy for You."** 8 p.m., Upper Flynn Hall, Mount Saint Mary's University. Romantic comedy featuring well-known songs by George and Ira Gershwin. Classic boy meets girl, rags to riches story. Tickets: \$7. Information: 301-447-5308.

**Nov. 5 - "Run for your Wife."** 7:15 p.m., dessert theatre. Thurmont American Legion Auditorium. 8 Park Place, Thurmont. Performed by the Blue Ridge Theatre Guild. Free parking. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: 301-271-7613.

**Nov. 6 - "Run for your Wife."** 6:30 p.m., dinner theatre. Thurmont American Legion Auditorium. Tickets: \$25 (includes dinner). Reservations: 301-271-7613.

**Nov. 6 - Movie, "The Inn."** 7 p.m., Weinberg Center for the Arts, Frederick. Premier showing of the Hitchcock-inspired thriller, produced by local filmmaker Pepi Singh Khara. Filmed in various Frederick County locations, including the Inn at Buckeystown. Tickets: \$10. Call 301-228-2828, 301-228-2838 TTY or visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org).

**Nov. 6 - Tom's Creek United Methodist Church Turkey & Oyster Supper.** Begins at noon. Bake table. Off Route 140 between Taneytown and Emmitsburg. Adults \$11,

children (5-10) \$5, carryout \$12. Information: 301-447-6384.

**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. Door Prizes! Lunch is included. Information: 301-271-7613.

**Nov. 6 & 7 - Book Signing.** Fr. Vincent O'Malley, pastor at St. Joseph's Church, Emmitsburg, will sign his latest book, "Saints of North America," at the parish hall across from the church. After the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass, after the 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m., and noon Masses on Sunday. All proceeds go to St. Joseph's Church Repair and Renovation Fund. Information: 301-447-2326.

**Nov. 7 - "Run for your Wife."** 2 p.m., snack matinee. Thurmont American Legion Auditorium. Tickets: \$8. Reservations: 301-271-7613.

**Nov. 7 - "Crazy for You."** 2 p.m., Upper Flynn Hall, Mount Saint Mary's University. Admission \$7. Information: 301-447-5308.

**Nov. 11-13 - "Crazy for You."** 8 p.m., Upper Flynn Hall, Mount Saint Mary's University. Admission \$7. Information: 301-447-5308.

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## Looking Ahead

-Continued from page 14

**Nov. 13 - Movie, "The Longest Day" (1962).** 8 p.m., Weinberg Center for the Arts. A Veteran's Day tribute. The film is an all-star re-creation of the D-Day invasion. Adult tickets, \$5, students \$3.

**Nov. 14 - All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast.** 7:30 a.m. - noon. St. Joseph's Church, Parish Hall. Pancakes, sausage, eggs, hash browns, sausage gravy, fruit, toast, juice and coffee. \$5 adults, \$3 children, under 5 free. Information: 301-447-2326.

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

**Nov. 15 - Emmitsburg Historical Society Meeting.** 7 p.m., Emmitsburg Community Center. Topics include organizing efforts to replace the Emmitsburg fountain, and review and approval of proposed outline of new history of the greater Emmitsburg area. E-mail questions: [history@emmitsburg.net](mailto:history@emmitsburg.net).

**Nov. 18 - Third Thursday at ThorpeWood.** 1-2 p.m.

Stories, crafts and snacks. Limit of 30 children per month. Reservations: 301-271-2823.

**Nov. 19-20 - Country Christmas Craft Fair.** Nov. 19, noon to 8 p.m.; Nov. 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Emmitsburg. Sponsored by St. Joseph's Sodality. Local crafters, food and baked goods.

**Nov. 20 - Movie, "The General" (1927).** 8 p.m., Weinberg Center for the Arts. Classic silent film starring Buster Keaton. Ray Brubacher accompanies the film on the center's Wurlitzer organ. Adult tickets, \$5, students \$3.

**Nov. 20-21 - 28th Annual Feasts and Revels.** Nov. 20, 6 p.m.; Nov. 21, 4 p.m. All Saints' Episcopal Church Great Hall, Frederick. Dinner theatre set as a celebration feast in the 1600s in the New World. Viking warriors crash the party and clash with the English gentry. Governor's Concert followed by wassail and dinner featuring savory beef or vegetarian stew, crusty baked bread, assorted cheeses, garden salad, English trifle, hot & cold cider, coffee, tea. Wine is available.

**Nov. 23 - Salvation Army Community Thanksgiving Dinner.** Noon to 6 p.m. 223 West Fifth Street, Frederick. Free, all are invited. Information: 301-662-2311.

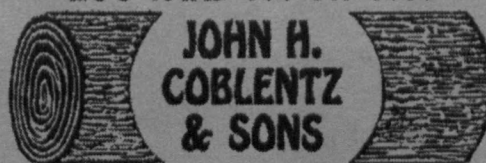
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**Nov. 26 - Movie, "Holiday Inn" (1942).** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Weinberg Center for the Arts. Classic holiday movie starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. Adult tickets, \$5, students \$3.

**Dec. 2-5 - "It's a Wonderful Life."** Dec. 2, 3,

4 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. Weinberg Center for the Arts. The Fredericktowne Players present the stage version of the holiday story of George Bailey, the Everyman whose dreams of escape and adventure have been

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## Organic & Natural is Better

Eberly Poultry is free-range raised on small Amish and Mennonite family farms in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. The family tradition of raising poultry nature's way makes a world of difference in the flavor of our chicken.

The "poultry" is usually grown and processed with commercial production methods- Meaning, sometimes production is geared towards volume at the expense of the finished products overall taste. Also, in order to attain high volume, machinery is used to process chickens. Eberly's poultry is hand processed with a low volume environment this enhances the quality taste of our birds. In our world of poultry raising, it is a balanced blend of family farm tradition and advanced development of both poultry breeds and organically grown feed grains. Our poultry breeds are selected because they grown better naturally.

Eberly Poultry Organic Free-Range Chickens and Turkeys are U.S.D.A. inspected and certified organically grown by the Northeast Organic Farmers Association and Pennsylvania Certified Organic.

Then we give them what they need most to grow into plump, young, naturally flavorful birds:

1. A true free-range environment, where they get plenty of sunshine, fresh air and room to exercise. Studies show that foraging; free-range poultry produces healthier meatier birds with more muscle and less fat.
2. Improved organically grown grains that are naturally high in protein and nutrients. Our feed grains are resistant to disease and grown with organic farming methods, like crop rotation, that prevent disease. Since we are organic, we use modified grain in our feed. The soils are enriched only with organic fertilizers and humus.
3. Pure, mineral-rich water clean enough for our farm families to drink themselves. Chlorine and fluoride aren't needed.
4. Time to mature. Eberly poultry is allowed to grow to full potential for the highest quality flavor and meat firmness. That's nature's timing!

Eberly Poultry never uses growth stimulants, antibiotics or animal by products in our organic feed. Our poultry is fed only wholesome organic feeds and given fresh water. So feel confident when buying an Eberly chicken you are buying "Poultry as Nature Intended."

To reassure our customers of Eberly Poultry's overall commitment to organic, The Northeast Organic Farmers Association and Pennsylvania Certified Organic have Certified us as an organic poultry producer. These two organizations review our overall growing and production procedures, extensively.

As a poultry grower, N.O.F.A. and P.C.O. visit each of our farms to assure our chickens are being organically fed and humanely treated. Each chicken house is thoroughly inspected to guarantee each bird is getting 1 1/2 square feet of space to deter overcrowding and risk of spreading disease.

The organic feed we give our chickens is also strictly tested to assure it is 100% organic. The feed is also tested for growth stimulants, antibiotics, and animal by products and pesticides, which we do not use.

P.C.O. and N.O.F.A. also inspect the Eberly Poultry plant. The plant is inspected for cleanliness and safety procedures during the processing. P.C.O., N.O.F.A. and the USDA insure a safe and clean processing environment through each step of processing.