



The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL III, No. 17

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

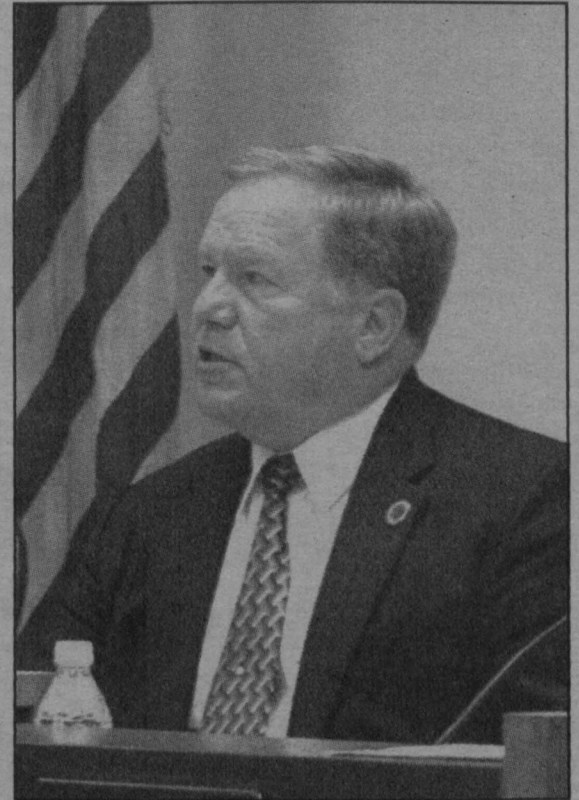
NOVEMBER 17, 2004



Tim Clarke
Vigilant Hose Company

County commissioner puts Vigilant Hose past president on the spot – challenges him and the fire company to resolve EMS problems in two weeks with a solution amicable to all

Acknowledging Tim Clarke's professionalism, leadership ability, and experience as past president of Vigilant Hose Co., Commissioner Cady personally challenged him during Tuesday's County Commissioners' meeting. Vigilant Hose proposed three plans to resolve Emmitsburg's EMS problems. Not satisfied, Cady challenged Clarke to, "develop a fourth plan." Cady said he wants to see a plan "within the next two weeks" that will benefit both Vigilant Hose and the Ambulance Co. After Commissioners Gardner and Thompson spoke, Cady returned to the microphone. He admitted that he had deliberately put Clarke on the spot, believing that Vigilant Hose is the stronger of the two organizations. Cady said they needed to "stretch out a hand" to ambulance company 26 and knew he could count on Clarke and VHC to develop an EMS solution that would be an amicable one for everyone involved.



Michael Cady
County Commissioner

Richard D.L. Fulton
News Editor

by Fire Chief Robert Rosensteel, Jr. and VHC President Frank M. Rauschenberg developed a number of recommendations and presented them to the VHC board for review.

County Commissioner Michael L. Cady challenged Emmitsburg's fire and ambulance companies to find a solution to the emergency medical services (EMS) issues that divide the two agencies.

County commissioners held a fact-finding session Nov. 16 as a follow-up to the Nov. 9 Emmitsburg fire tax hearing.

The advisory team of Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) members put together

During Tuesday's meeting, the VHC suggested three possible options for dealing with the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company's (EAC) continuing failed response rate.

One alternative was for the ambulance company to merge with the fire company into one organization under the Charter and By-laws of VHC. With this approach the county would provide one paid EMS crew for 24-hour coverage, seven days a week (24-7), and Vigilant would provide a second response staff using emergency medical technicians (EMT) from the

current coverage with the 24-7 county ambulance crew housed at VHC, and EAC continuing to cover second and third due calls.

The third possibility VHC suggested was to have the fire company house a county-provided crew for 12 hours of coverage five days a week (12-5).

combined companies. VHC's second option would be to maintain

VHC presented advantages and disadvantages of each option, but prefers the first. None of the proposals were agreeable to both VHC and EAC.

Addressing VHC past president Tim Clarke, Cady offered a challenge, "I hope before Nov. 30 you will build a bridge and come up with a different set of alternatives. This is one of the most difficult things as a county commissioner

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Emmitsburg businesses possibly misled by marketing approach

Staff Report

A marketing representative from CMC Communications, Inc. (CMC) has recently been soliciting advertisements from local businesses for the 2005 edition of the company's "Community Information Guide" to Emmitsburg.

CMC has produced several Emmitsburg information guides in past years. Earlier versions

of the color brochure measures approximately 19" x 25" and contains basic municipal information, a brief town history, and a calendar on one side with a map of Emmitsburg surrounded by advertising on the other.

According to CMC, a total of 3700 Emmitsburg guides will be printed. The town will receive 700 and each business will receive 100 copies for

every 'single' advertising space purchased. All advertising fees are paid directly to CMC. The town of Emmitsburg receives no direct revenue from the guides.

-Continued on page 5

Court to rule on Liberty Valley

-see article on page 9.

New ambulance company headquarters put on hold

-see details on page 11.

Cold weather is coming-do-it-yourself winterization

-see guide on page 16.

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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.

Thank you from Emmitsburg Farmers' Market Manager

I want to thank the residents of Emmitsburg for helping to get the Emmitsburg Farmers' Market up and running. The first annual Emmitsburg Farmers' Market began Friday June 25 at 3p.m. Although there were a few bumps along the way, the organizing committee feels that it has been a real success. Many Emmitsburg residents, myself included, feel that the market served to bring our community closer together.

We had a total of 13 vendors including the South Mountain Creamery, Stone Hearth Bakery, Nancy Grimes' Eggs, Kile Farm, Windy Hollow Growers, Creekside Critters' Farmer, Windborne Farm, Barbara Allen's Garden, Harvest Meadow Farm, Old Emu Orchard, Frugal Bee, Cat's Paw Farm and Carriage House Inn. If you were able to make it to the market, you know that there were lots of

great products, including milk, yogurt, eggs, cheese, fresh baked breads, baked goods, plants, homemade soaps, fresh-cut flowers, meats, honey and fresh fruits and vegetables.

From June 25 until our closing market Oct. 22, I bought lots of products myself and saw many repeat customers. I have already received feedback from many of the vendors that they were very pleased with the first season of our market and they are planning to return for a second season. I hope everyone enjoyed the market this summer and is looking forward to the first Friday in June when the farmers' market will return. Thanks for your support.

- Jen Staiger
Emmitsburg

Residents question cost of proposed group home

Your readers may have received correspondence from Hope Alive, Inc. a non-profit organization about their plan to build a group home in Sabillasville, Md. While their main focus is on a desperate appeal for donation, I believe your readers deserve to know some facts that are omitted from their letters.

I grew up in a middle income, Christian family with four siblings. Our modest house was a home for homeless, less privileged, orphans and foster children alike. I learned from my parents, that to be a good Christian, you do not have to have a lot. I learned that the true message of the Christ was passion for one another

without superficial luxury and expectation for financial rewards.

When I learned that Hope Alive is planning to spend two and half million dollars of donors' money to accommodate only 25 women and children, I was shocked. That is about one hundred thousand dollars for each person. There are families in our community who would shelter 250 children for that much money and possibly give them more than Hope Alive.

We (the Northern Frederick Civic Association) believe that Hope Alive's attempt to solicit the generosity of true believers is a dishonest pretense. In a meeting with Sabillasville neighbors on March 7, Mrs.

Sue Oehmig, Hope Alive Founder and Board President, admitted that her annual salary would be about fifty thousand dollars. That is a lot of money for someone who claims to be a full-time volunteer.

The message I wish to communicate to your readers is this. Before you send your hard earned money for an apparent good cause, please be certain about the legitimacy of an ambitions plan that only supports the luxurious life style of a few, instead of the well being of the homeless.

- Barbara Noah
Sabillasville, Md.

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.

By order of the Postoffice
Notice is hereby given that there is a vacancy on Rural Route No.12 from the Emmitsburg Postoffice. All persons who may want to take an examination for Rural Carrier can do so by calling at the named office for information and application blanks. All applications must be filed with the Postoffice Department within ten days from date of this notice. E.R. Zimmerman, P.M., Nov. 18, 1904. Emmitsburg, Md.

Heavy Snow Storm
November 18, 1904 - The first snow of the season fell here Sunday. It began to rain early in the day and then turned into snow. For so early in the season it was the heaviest snow storm in many years. The snow melted nearly as fast as it fell, except in the mountain where the ground was covered to a depth of more than six inches, doing considerable damage to telegraph and telephone wires. In Baltimore city 85 percent of the electric lights were put out by the storm and the breaking of wires Sunday night.

Fairfield Items
November 25, 1904 - The houses in Fairfield are all taken up for next year. There should be some new houses built.

There is said to be a few cases of small pox in Chambersburg.

Mr. Harry Waddles seems to be the busiest man in Fairfield. He is never idle. He gathers eggs, butter and poultry every day.

There is some corn to husk in this neighborhood. Fine weather to do work.

There is a \$2,000 horse in Fairfield, at the hotel.

Thanksgiving Services
November 18, 1904 - Union Thanksgiving services will be held in the Presbyterian Church on next Thursday morning at 10:30 o'clock. The sermon will be preached by Rev. A. M. Gluck, pastor of the Reformed Church

Mr. Harry Peters, of Fairfield, who is engaged in hauling logs and timber for Mr. Norman Musselman, and who has bought a timber lot near Newchester, was out with his team whilst the hands were sawing down a tree. The tree fell on one of Mr. Peters' horses, killing it instantly. A limb struck the horse on the head.

Five Cent Wedding Fee
November 18, 1904 - A Hagerstown minister recently married a couple and after the ceremony received from the groom a business appearing envelope. At a convenient time the minister examined the contents and found neatly and securely wrapped in a piece of note paper one five-cent piece. This breaks all records for wedding fees.

Game is getting scarce in this county. Too many hunters out. A rabbit or partridge has no chance for its life.

Mr. Harry Waddles, of Fairfield, shipped 50 turkeys to Reading to Irwin Miller, a dealer, for Thanksgiving. Turkeys seem to be scarce in this country.

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-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Frederick County Commissioners held a fire tax hearing at Mother Seton School on Nov. 9. More than 250 people attended. The commissioners listened to all those who signed up to speak. (L to R) County Manager, Douglas Browning, County Commissioners Jan Gardner, Michael Cady, John L. Thompson Jr., John Lowell, Jr., and Bruce Reeder.

I have ever been asked to ponder."

Cady wants a solution that maintains the viability of Company 26 (EAC). In his opinion, "If we put a county crew at Company 6 (VHC), we have just signed the death

sentence of Emmitsburg ambulance."

Commissioner Jan H. Gardner agreed on the need for a quick resolution. "It would be helpful if both sides could come to some consensus," Gardner stated. "Our common ground

is that we want someone to respond (to emergency calls) and I hope we can stay focused on that as our collective objective."

Board president John L. Thompson, Jr. added that the commissioners would like a solution signed by both companies within two weeks. "If that does not happen," he acknowledged, "we're probably going to have to make a decision that will alienate everybody."

The commissioners plan to decide on the proposed fire tax rate for Emmitsburg Nov. 30.

See related articles on pages 10 and 11 of this issue.

FluMist clinic

The Frederick County Health Department will offer a FluMist clinic Nov. 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Health Department offices in Frederick.

The only persons eligible for the FluMist vaccine are those ages 5-49 in good health with no chronic illness.

The Health Department will offer no other public flu shot clinics.

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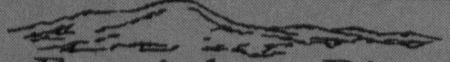


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The Emmitsburg Dispatch

NEWS AND OPINION IN THE SERVICE OF TRUTH

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Corrections

Byline error:

The byline on the Oct. 20 *Emmitsburg Dispatch* front-page article, "Emmitsburg may once again have a town fountain," was incomplete. The article was written by Joyce Demmitt with Ray Van Horn, Jr. contributing.

Clarification:

The headline in the Nov. 3 edition in the religion section called "Rev. Reginald Rice Call to Incarnation Church of Christ." Incarnation is a member of the United Church of Christ and is not the denomination Church of Christ.

EDITORIAL

Town information guide brings no revenue here, but should

On the front page of this newspaper is a report on CMC Communications, Inc.'s (CMC) recent marketing approach in Emmitsburg. We do not know what CMC intended in sending a letter to potential advertisers in town. But several business owners who received it thought the company was working for the town's benefit, and didn't realize how small that benefit actually is.

It may not have been CMC's intention to mislead local business owners. Craig's title at CMC may well be "Municipal Marketing Consultant." But when calling on potential advertisers, Craig, the company's representative, did not volunteer the information that he was not working as a town government employee, despite the fact that his name and title on town letterhead made it appear so.

Based on the number of advertising spaces on CMC's 2001 Emmitsburg map, the 2005 project may well gross approximately \$13,000, using the company's current advertising rates. Business owners in Emmitsburg and others approached by CMC should know that no fraction of the money they pay for advertising in its brochures will go to the Emmitsburg government.

In fact, probably not one cent of CMC's profit from this Emmitsburg brochure will be spent in Emmitsburg. CMC is located in Birdsboro, Pa., a two-hour drive from town. I doubt that CMC employees will eat at local restaurants, buy food at the local grocery store, or put local gas in their cars.

The town began to deal with CMC when it may have been cost-effective to do so.

But that's not true anymore. The Chronicle Press, CIP Printing, Errands Plus, and *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, are four local companies able to work with the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association and town government to produce a high-quality guide for current and new residents.

Indeed, town officials should be seeking ways to support local businesses with all their purchases. How many can be made from local firms? Certainly the printing of a brochure about Emmitsburg is one.

In my opinion, Emmitsburg would be better served with a local community guide that is produced by local businesses and returns revenue to the community.

— Raymond Buchheister
Editor & Publisher

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Information Guide-

-Continued from page 1

CMC employee Chip Craig contacted Emmitsburg businesses by telephone and letter to solicit ads. In the letter, sent on town letterhead, Craig's title was listed as "Municipal Marketing Consultant."

Mayor James E. Hoover told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* he had spoken with CMC company representatives two or three times, just giving them information to complete the project.

The mayor had written and signed a letter for CMC to use with potential Emmitsburg advertisers. However, the letter

local businesses received was not the mayor's letter, but an edited version. The letter was sent on town letterhead. Instead of the Mayor's signature, it was unsigned and ended, "Sincerely, Chip Craig, Municipal Marketing Representative."

Hoover was asked by *The Dispatch* to identify the letter to verify that it had been written by or authorized by the town. After reading the letter containing Craig's name, the mayor confirmed that he had never seen the letter before. Asked if CMC had the authority to use the town's letterhead, he said, "No!"

When the *Dispatch* asked

the mayor if he believed CMC had taken advantage of the town, Hoover replied, "In this case they (CMC Communications, Inc.) didn't cause major harm but they acted unprofessionally." He added, "I think they (CMC Communications, Inc.)

exaggerated the authority the town gave them."

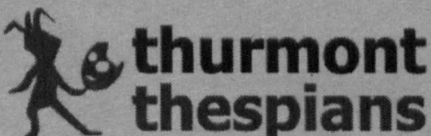
Hoover felt Craig's was the biggest offense: not telling businesses that his title was not an Emmitsburg government title, but rather appearing to be "a true representative of the town, titled by the town."

Hoover said the letter made it appear that Craig was working for the town as a municipal marketing consultant.

The mayor is forwarding Craig's letter to the town attorney for a recommendation on what action, if any, should be taken.

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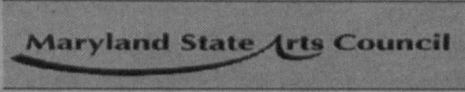
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TOWN NEWS

Failed sprinkler effort gets new lease on life

Richard D. L. Fulton
News Editor

A residential sprinkler ordinance that spent years seemingly going nowhere appears to be regaining interest after a recent, new draft submittal by a town commissioner.

Board of commissioners president William B. O'Neil submitted the new, proposed ordinance in October for town staff and the commissioners' review.

The ordinance would require installation of sprinkler systems in new homes constructed in town, a proposal dating back nearly a decade in Emmitsburg, but never adopted.

Town looked at sprinkler mandates "years ago"

Wayne Powell, public information officer for Vigilant Hose Company, told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that initial talks about adopting a mandatory sprinkler ordinance for new homes began a decade ago.

According to Powell, "It

was ... ten years ago (that) Dave Martin had begun to engage town officials about the benefits of sprinklers." Martin is an Emmitsburg resident active in many of the town's meetings.

He said Martin believed that a sprinkler system ordinance for new homes "was right for a growing community."

Martin and Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker credited Powell for his work in this preliminary effort. Martin noted that Powell had even made a presentation on sprinklers to the commissioners "back in 1992 or 1993."

"Powell gave a presentation also to the planning and zoning board in 2003, and later at a meeting at the fire hall held as a follow-up," Martin added.

First version produced in 2003

The town sprinkler ordinance issue for new homes seemed to advance in early 2003, receiving attention from both the board of commissioners and the planning and zoning board.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

A barrier to prevent traffic from "sling-shooting" across Silo Hill Parkway into the Exxon station was erected by town workers the week of Nov. 8. The cones were installed because of serious safety concerns regarding motorists who do not turn right at the intersection, but make a left across the parkway into the gas station.

According to Powell, it was then-commissioner Ted Brennan "who deserves great credit for really bringing the issue again to the forefront with added advocacy and commitment."

"He (Brennan) even had an ordinance drafted, which was reviewed by the town's attorney (John Clapp), Powell said.

Brennan confirmed that he had submitted a draft to Clapp, but that his (Brennan's) work on the proposed ordinance was never formally presented after he lost his bid for re-election in 2003.

"It was never really accomplished because I didn't have the time (in office) to accomplish it," Brennan told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

He said he wrote his draft ordinance in April 2003 by using existing wording in the Maryland code and adding a section requiring that new homes be equipped with sprinklers. "The state code did not require sprinklers for new single-family dwellings," Brennan noted.

Brennan also introduced the topic of adopting a sprinkler ordinance both at the town planning and zoning (P&Z) meeting while serving as a commissioner and member of the P&Z board, and at the board of commissioners meetings.

"We (town board members) also talked about it at length at the private level," Brennan confirmed.

Apparently neither town

Town unknowingly risked acceptance of Pembroke Woods' roads

Richard D. L. Fulton
News Editor

According to a letter from the town attorney, Emmitsburg may have come precariously close to accepting some of the roads at Pembroke Woods regardless of their existing condition.

In his letter dated Oct. 28, Town Attorney John R. Clapp suggested that the town may nearly have crossed the line when it snow plowed Pembroke roads and enforced development parking restrictions.

Accepting the roads by default could make Emmitsburg taxpayers responsible for paying for all improvements to the roads in question, and absolve the developer of any further financial responsibility.

Enforcing parking could trigger acceptance

In response to questions posed by Town Planner Michael Lucas, Clapp wrote, "It is my opinion that the town may issue such (parking) citations ... however, in doing so, the town may be accepting the offer of dedication of those streets."

There has been an on-going dispute over whether or not the town previously issued numerous parking citations at the development. Pembroke Woods has stipulated on its approved plans that on-street parking is not permitted.

Regardless of the actual number, the town has confirmed issuing one citation, and zoning enforcement officer Eva Miller said she has issued verbal warnings to Pembroke residents regarding "illegally" parked cars.

Board President William B. O'Neil previously questioned the town's right to enforce parking regulations on streets it does not yet own.

Clapp suggested that actual ownership is secondary to the ramifications of enforcing the parking restrictions.

"In my opinion ... the analysis involves issues pertaining to dedication of the property to public use," Clapp wrote.

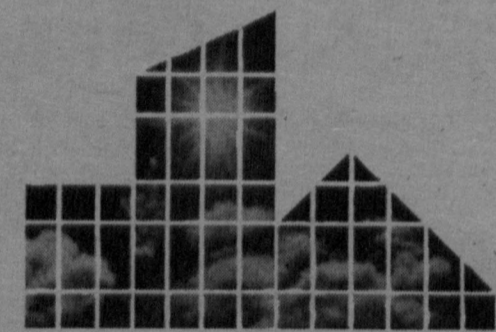
Snowplowing and maintenance also risky

Plowing and road maintenance by town crews could also lead to road acceptance by default, according to Clapp.

The town acknowledges having plowed snow on the roads within the development on prior occasions. Further, Town Manager David Haller said that he would continue to plow the roads "in an emergency" if needed.

Clapp wrote, "The town may also accept a dedication of land ... by acting in a manner consistent with an acceptance

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-Continued on page 7

-Continued on page 8

Sprinkler-

-Continued from page 6

P&Z nor the commissioners further developed the proposed regulations after Brennan's election defeat.

"Jeff Fitzgerald (former town inspector) initially opposed it because he was concerned there wasn't enough water pressure (to supply the water reserve needed by a host of sprinkler systems)," Brennan said.

He added that there was also some concern over who would be responsible for conducting inspections of the sprinkler systems after they were installed.

Walbrecker credited with furthering the effort

Brennan and Powell credit Walbrecker with keeping the issue of the sprinkler ordinance alive between the time Brennan stepped down as commissioner and the introduction of O'Neil's draft.

Walbrecker was a member of P&Z when Brennan was commissioner. She brought up the idea of producing a draft ordinance, and according to Brennan, "She was with me the whole way."

"If this thing becomes an ordinance," Brennan said, "it's because of Dianne."

Walbrecker took things further, trying to find a means to retrofit historic and older homes with sprinkler systems. She even held a meeting in August on retrofitting issues. As a result, a scope study will be undertaken to determine costs and risk factors involved in selecting systems.

Powell told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, "It was Dianne Walbrecker who, for more than a year, has been the fire company's greatest supporter and ally to even actively seek the possibility of grant funding to help those living in existing housing units which are also a risk from fire."

"But even prior to her recent efforts, she was a champion when serving with her colleagues of the town's planning and zoning committee," he stated.

Brennan pointed out that Walbrecker also attended the Carroll Valley meetings held prior to the borough's Sept. 14 adoption of a mandatory sprinkler ordinance.

Town News Update ...

Emmitsburg Osteopathic gets parking approvals

The town board of commissioners voted unanimously Oct. 18 to approve an Emmitsburg clinic's amended site plan including sidewalks on adjacent property and additional parking on public land, pending easement approval by the town Planning and Zoning Commission.

The commissioners granted conditional approval to the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Care Clinic based on a signed easement agreement with the adjacent property owner and the town's approval to locate

five additional parking spaces on the town tract. The clinic would then have a total of 14 spaces, each 9 x 20 feet.

The anticipated approval will allow Emmitsburg Osteopathic to complete refurbishing its West Main Street property, and proceed with the planned relocation from Thurmont.

The facility will be located in a divided house, portions of which date back to 1790. Clinic owner Dr. Bonita J. Krempel-Portier said she would like to open the Emmitsburg facility in fall 2005.

O'Neil's draft to change talk to reality

Commissioner O'Neil told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that he produced a sprinkler ordinance draft after reviewing other concepts and town ordinances, and consulting Ed Kaplin (at the fire academy).

He also acknowledged, "For the past 12 years, I have heard that people in Emmitsburg have been talking about creating a sprinkler ordinance of some sort. This includes past commissioners and others who continually call for such an ordinance."

O'Neil's goal is "to take that 'talk' and bring it one step closer to a reality."

Asked if he used Brennan's draft as a model, he replied, "I am informed that Mr. Brennan never submitted a formal plan, or any ordinance, in writing."

O'Neil stressed that moving forward on the proposed ordinance would be a malleable and potentially slow process. He envisions the effort spanning a number of meetings before a final draft is produced, and requiring input from commissioners, the mayor and other interested parties.

Town News Briefs ...

Town Donates to "Safe N Sane"

Town commissioners unanimously voted Nov. 1 to donate \$500 to Catoctin High School's "Safe N Sane" program for graduating seniors.

Starting around 10:30 graduation night, the program's games and activities are designed to entice Catoctin graduates to celebrate on school grounds. Incentives continually increase in hopes of keeping

graduates at the school throughout the evening to avoid potential disasters.

The program, instituted in 1990, has been an overwhelming success. There have been no fatalities among Catoctin graduating classes in the past 10-12 years, according to Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr. who adds, "I think it's a fantastic program."

Commissioners pledge money to Habitat for Humanity

The town board of commissioners voted unanimously November 15 to pledge \$1,000 to Habitat for Humanity in lieu of granting a waiver for tap and other fees.

Dee Ganmeyer of Habitat for Humanity had requested a \$12,200 surcharge reduction from the town, explaining the need to keep the program's homebuilding costs within a feasible range.

On Nov. 1 town commissioners had unanimously denied the fee reduction request which pertained to two lots in the Flat Run subdivision.

Town Planner Michael Lucas pointed out that the fees are set by town ordinance and that any fee reduction opens the potential for litigation from other

builders. Lucas suggested that a donation to Habitat for Humanity might be more appropriate.

Mayor James E. Hoover moved that the commission approve a donation, amount to be determined. The motion carried, and the commissioners agreed to set the amount after reviewing the town budget.

Habitat for Humanity is a fellowship program where participants assist one another in building their homes. Approximately \$50-60,000 worth of materials is donated, but homeowners absorb any remaining costs. Ganmeyer was concerned about affordability issues resulting from incurred town fees.

Board works its way to final election rules

The board of commissioners continued their review Nov. 15 of proposed election rules, the first ever to be considered by the town.

Board President William B. O'Neil drafted the election laws, although past board President Patrick Boyle and Ted Brennan had previously expressed a similar need, particularly after the last, sometimes-contentious, town election.

In revising the draft, the commissioners and mayor eliminated registration criteria specific

to Emmitsburg, choosing to follow county protocol instead.

Much of the discussion centered on handling a recall and how to replace an ousted official. One suggestion was to hold a special election. Another approach was to have the mayor appoint a replacement until the next regular election.

Mayor James E. Hoover said that provisions are also needed for resolving a tie vote.

Work on the draft will continue at the board's Dec. 6 meeting.



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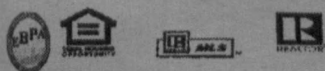
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POLICE ACTIVITY

Deputy Eyler transferred to Frederick

Deputy Kevin Eyler will no longer be serving Emmitsburg, because he has been transferred to duty in Frederick.

According to Sheriff's Office Deputy Jennifer Bailey, Eyler has been reassigned to duties at the Civil Process Unit at the Frederick County Court House.

Replacing Eyler as the town's new community deputy is Roger Venzin, who has been transferred from a post in the community of Linganore.

"I am sure Deputy Eyler will be missed by the (Emmitsburg) community," Bailey commented. "He had great rapport with the residents."

The transfers were effective Oct. 16 and are intended to provide the officers with career development opportunities, according to Bailey.

Eyler was initially assigned to Emmitsburg Feb. 5, 2003.

Pembrook roads-

-Continued from page 6

(referring to public workers performing maintenance)."

"If the town does not wish to accept the dedication, then it should refrain from enforcing any parking restrictions, since the town may then become responsible for all other matters pertaining to public streets, such as maintenance and repair," Clapp advised.

Risks of acceptance by default

In brief, Clapp's letter establishes his belief that any routine expenditure of taxpayers' money to enforce parking restrictions or maintain

development roads could be viewed as acceptance of dedication, with all the accompanying responsibility.

It is possible that a court of law might need to make the final determination, if the developer chooses to take that course of action in order to free-up escrow money presently being retained in conjunction with road improvements.

Clapp advises alternate course of action

While steering the town away from issuing citations and performing maintenance, Clapp advised that there might be a better way to handle the parking situation without

risking acceptance of the roads.

"The remedy in that case (referring to the plat restriction prohibiting on-street parking) may not be a standard parking citation, but rather ... a zoning violation citation ... In that case, enforcement would be less likely to reflect an acceptance of an offer of dedication of a street," he said.

The real question, then, becomes whether or not the town, by issuing at least one parking ticket, enforcing parking regulations by issuing verbal warnings, and occasionally plowing roads, has sufficiently crossed the line and accepted the Pembrook roads by default.

Police urge 911 calls to report vandalism

Two days of alleged tire-slashing incidences in late October along North Avenue in Emmitsburg have prompted police to encourage residents to call 911 to report vandalism.

Community deputies were unable to respond immediately to the tire-slashing reports because area residents reported them well after the alleged incidences happened.

"Nobody called when it happened," Deputy James Moxley recently told the town board of commissioners. He urged residents to "call

911 to get a more timely approach."

Deputy Jennifer Bailey, Frederick County Sheriff's Office spokesperson, told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that police did increase patrols on North Avenue in response to the reports.

The tire slashing allegedly occurred during two nights over a four-day period.

Bailey said the investigation is continuing. Individuals with any additional information should contact the Frederick County Sheriff's Office.

Town to examine Pembrook road woes

Ray Van Horn, Jr.
Staff Writer

On Nov. 1, town commissioners opted to contract with an outside engineer to review roads of concern in the Pembrook Woods subdivision.

Issues of durability and smoothness of Pembrook roads, particularly North Stonehurst Court, have prompted the town council to re-evaluate the roads.

With Section III paving recently completed, and with only minor repairs and the realignment of a handful of manhole and water service

covers in Sections II and III remaining, formal road acceptance by the town is now an issue.

Buckeye Development has requested reductions in its letters of credit. While Sections II and III have "generally" met town standards, Section I remains a trouble spot with extensive patching and re-overlapping, especially North Stonehurst Court. The town cited improper drainage as the primary culprit for the road's current disrepair.

Through separate public works agreements for each section in Pembrook Woods, the town currently holds monies in escrow earmarked for paving. Noting various road scrapes in Section I, the town has insisted that the developer make repairs before it will consider reducing the letters of credit and ultimately accepting the roads.

Town Planner Michael Lucas recommended against formally accepting the roads, citing Emmitsburg Code Section 16.12.070, which states that a formal acceptance (thus conveying maintenance responsibilities to the town) may be offered "upon completion, satisfactory to the mayor and commission of the public improvements."

Fran Denmark, Buckeye Development, explained that her company had responded in good faith to town requests for continued road maintenance, appealing to the town council, "The repairs were done at the town's request, the holes

filled at the town's request, the change in elevation of manhole covers, all done by us willingly. At what point in time can the town say it's done?"

Town attorney John R. Clapp advised the town in a letter dated Oct. 28 that it had inadvertently come close to accepting the roads when it recently enforced parking regulations and when it assisted Buckeye Development last year with snow removal. If the town accepts the roads, taxpayers, not Buckeye Development, would foot the bill for projected road repairs. (*See related story, Town unknowingly risked accepting Pembrook Woods roads* on p. 6 in this issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.)

Coupled with public concerns voiced at the Nov. 1 town meeting, the commissioners directed Town Manager David Haller to procure a bid for an engineer who has not dealt with either Buckeye or the town to examine the entire Pembrook Woods development and render an opinion on the roads using town specifications.

Haller believes the review and any necessary repairs could be done in approximately 30 days.

With winter rapidly approaching, Denmark said Buckeye plans to continue plowing the roads in Pembrook until the town takes possession. Approving a motion by Commissioner William B. O'Neil, Jr., the town council agreed to offer assistance strictly in emergency situations.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Court to rule on Liberty Valley testimony Judge also to consider Harner's bias

Richard D. L. Fulton
News Editor

An Adams County, Pa. judge will decide whether or not testimony on the Liberty Valley development can be reopened, and may possibly rule on a Liberty township supervisor's alleged bias.

County Judge Michael A. George will issue a written decision in response to Liberty Development Company's (LDC) request stemming from a hearing Nov. 15.

During the hearing, Attorney James M. Strong urged

the judge to open the testimony that led to the Liberty Township Board of Supervisors' decision to reject the development.

Interpretation of 1983 ordinance questioned

The developer is questioning interpretations of the 1983 township zoning ordinance and an amendment that removed references to planned residential developments (PRDs). The amendment apparently evolved during the review of Liberty Valley's application.

In fact, Strong maintained, interpretation of the intent of

the 1983 ordinance permitting PRDs continued to change even after the review process had ended.

"It was not until after the record was closed that the interpretation changed (to the degree that it became a point for denial)," he told the judge.

To this end, the developer is asking that the testimony be reopened to address issues relating to those interpretations.

Attorney Susan J. Smith, representing Liberty Township interests, asked Judge George to deny the developer's requests. She stated that Strong's issues had been addressed in one form or another during the previous review process.

Court asked to consider supervisor bias

Strong also asked the court

to consider if Supervisor Paul Harner's alleged bias affected his decision on the proposed development.

Harner had been associated with Save Our Liberty (SOL), a group working to block the Liberty Valley development. Strong said that Harner had allegedly made resistance to the development part of his (Harner's) election campaign.

"A fair and impartial tribunal is critical in a fair review of this plan," Strong affirmed. "Invalidation of the decision is within the court's power if (the decision of the board) was based on prejudgment."

The board of supervisors nixed LDC's proposed 1,181-unit development by a 2-1 vote Mar. 16. Strong maintained that

Harner should have recused himself from the vote because he had previously tried to block the development.

Invalidating Harner's vote would make the supervisors' decision a 1-1 tie, which would still be a denial. However, Strong pointed out that one of the supervisors who had voted against the proposal has since been replaced.

Smith argued that the developer "had an opportunity to explore (the bias allegation) on the record (during the review process) and failed to do so. Liberty Valley had an opportunity to develop a factual issue of bias."

Judge George is under no legal timeframe for rendering a decision.

Hope Alive to serve homeless women and children

Joyce M. Demmitt
Staff Writer

Hope Alive, Inc. held a dedication service at their property in Sabillasville Nov. 6. Despite opposition from a local citizens' group, Sue Oehmig, founder and president of the board, says that the group home plans to open later in 2005.

Founded in August 2002, Hope Alive is a non-profit, non-denominational 501 (c)(3) Christian ministry whose purpose is to serve homeless women and children in Frederick County. Hope Alive is committed to helping women and children of all faiths, or those with no faith at all, in their journey to live self-sustaining lives.

The 13 acres at 17635 Harbaugh Valley Road includes an existing 9300-square-foot home and 4000 square-foot barn which, when renovated, will provide housing and comprehensive support services for approximately 25 homeless women and children.

Oehmig and the 40-plus volunteers working with her are trying to raise \$2.5 million to cover property acquisition, renovation and two years of operating expenses.

So far the volunteers have raised \$500,000 in gifts and pledges, including about \$22,000 from an auction on Nov. 6, grant funding through The Community Foundation of Frederick County, and about \$2500 from the Million Penny

Challenge.

Oehmig said about 15-20 groups participated in the pennies campaign. It "was a great way for kids to participate," she said.

The home's property borders on two roads and has five immediate neighbors, three across the road and two adjacent. Although Hope Alive meets all local ordinances and regulations, Oehmig acknowledged that there is opposition to the project.

She told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, "There's always opposition to anyone who wants to operate a group home." She said that Hope Alive "will work hard to be a good neighbor," and plans to involve local residents in the program development phase of the project and in long-term efforts.

No zoning changes were needed for the property. The site plan required approval which the Frederick County

Planning Commission granted Sept. 8.

The Northwest Frederick County Civic Association wants the planning commission to rescind its approval.


A county zoning appeals board meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18.


Oehmig says that six out of every ten homeless individuals in Frederick County are women and children. In 2003, 1,369 homeless people were helped in the county, and 2,469 were turned away, a 70% increase from 1,453 turned away the previous year.


On Nov. 20 Hope Alive will sponsor the second annual Day of Hope in downtown Frederick. Approximately 25 merchants will donate a percentage of Saturday's revenue to the project, and will distribute information about Hope Alive. The event is part of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Nov. 14-20.

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Commissioners delay vote on fire tax

Staff Report

County commissioners did not vote on the Emmitsburg fire tax at the Nov. 9 public hearing after it became clear that the question of who would actually provide EMS coverage was unresolved.

A Vigilant Hose representative said the company will not support a part-time effort to provide EMS coverage. The new chief of the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company said the company could do the job with part-time county coverage, keeping the fire tax at the lower of two proposed rates.

With the issue of who will provide EMS coverage for Emmitsburg up in the air, the board chose to continue its review Nov. 16, and render a final decision Nov. 30.

The fire tax was proposed to generate funds to provide the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company with career employees to help ensure that the company's response to emergency calls falls within acceptable time limits.

The board of commissioners must determine if a fire tax is needed and set the rate. Providing career employees to the ambulance company for 12-hour coverage, five days a week (12/5) would require a 6.5 percent tax per \$100 of assessed property value. Full-time coverage, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7) would require a 13.5 percent tax.

More than 250 attendees sat through the three-hour public hearing at the Mother Seton School.

Fire company opposes part-time aid

Wayne Powell, public relations manager for Vigilant Hose Company, told the commissioners his company would not accept a role in providing emergency medical services (EMS) unless the company became the full-time provider.

"Over the past ten years we've taken on all levels of supporting the ambulance," Powell stated, and in doing so the fire company has also assumed the liabilities.

He suggested that the county continue to provide a career

crew stationed at Vigilant, and that the fire company provide a second crew, taking on the responsibility of providing EMS "through some form of merger."

"Either the fire company is responsible for EMS," he said, "or the ambulance company is responsible for EMS."

Powell said the fire company opposes anything less than full-time, career (paid) staff providing EMS, and would not support the ambulance company's request for part-time staff 12 hours a day, five days a week.

Public comment suggests majority support 24/7

Residents from the proposed first-response fire tax district testified and the majority said they preferred 24/7 paid professional coverage for manning the ambulances.

The first-response fire tax district is the area in and around Emmitsburg. Within this area the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company is expected to be the first company contacted for an emergency response.

Larry Little's words reflected the general opinions. Little told the commissioners, "Twenty-four/seven is a must. If we don't support the tax, it could lead to deaths."

A couple of area residents expressed concerns about the impact of a fire tax on those with fixed or low incomes, such as senior citizens, or those with large families.

Fire company says "no excuse" for fail rates

One of the citizens' primary concerns at the hearing is the ambulance company's continued failed response rate.

Despite the fact that the county has reduced the local company's status to second response, Company 26 still has a high failure-to-respond rate.

From Sept. 9 through Oct. 27, the county-provided ambulance and crew housed at the Vigilant Hose Company responded to 133 calls, with a zero percent fail rate.

During the same time period, the local ambulance company received 23 calls, with a nine percent fail rate.

Fail rates are calculated based on the time it takes an

Former ambulance company chief claims support of 24/7 coverage and merger led to suspension

Former chief Jeanette M. McGuire resigned from the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company in September, after having been suspended in August.

Jamie Eyler, vice-president of the ambulance company said nine of eleven board members were present the night she was suspended and their vote was unanimous. According to Eyler, "The board of directors did what it had to do. She was a good chief and did a great job but doesn't know how to talk to people."

Eyler told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that McGuire was able to get things done and referred to her ability to manage paperwork, but said she was suspended because she wouldn't communicate with individuals to resolve personality conflicts.

"When you can't talk to your membership you have a problem," Eyler said.

McGuire wrote a four-page letter to Frederick County Commissioners Sept. 5 outlining her thoughts about the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company and its reasons for her suspension. She said the meeting at which she was suspended was more like a "lynching."

In her letter McGuire explains that she believes her suspension came about as a result of her stance favoring paid, career emergency medical employees, stating that, in fact, she supported

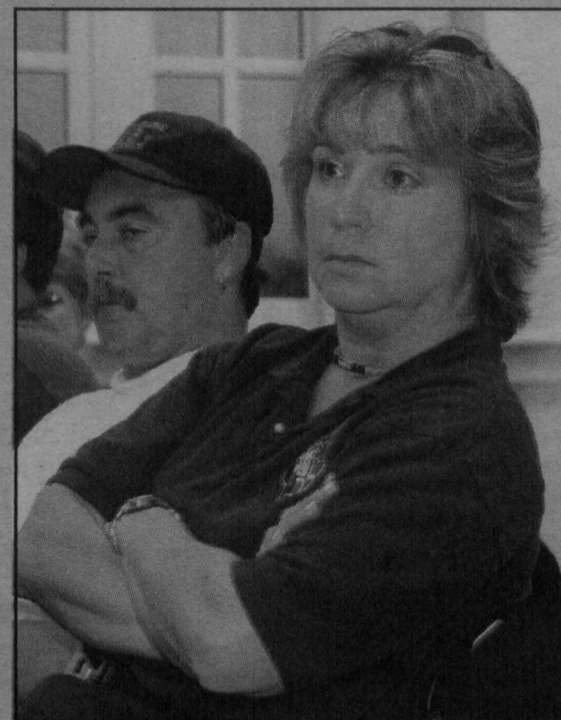
24/7 coverage (24-hours-a-day, seven days-a-week).

Ambulance company members asked the county for 12/5 coverage (12-hours-a-day, five-days-a-week) and reaffirmed that recommendation as recently as the county commissioners' meeting Nov. 9.

McGuire acknowledged that she also personally supports a merger between the ambulance company and the fire company.

"Somehow it got back to the company that I represented the company when I voiced those personal opinions, and the company was led to believe that I was more interested in working with Company 6 (fire) than with Company 26 (ambulance), and that I was possibly trying to ruin Company 26 with a merger."

McGuire advised the county commissioners to "clean house" and replace the ambulance company with a new board that is willing to work with the Vigilant Hose



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH / FILE PHOTO

Jeanette McGuire, former chief of the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company, listens as other fire and rescue personnel and residents make public comments during a special meeting held by Emmitsburg's board of commissioners this past August. To her right is ambulance company vice-president Jamie Eyler.

Company. She also warned the board that the company had been placing a lot of calls to previous members in an effort to try to get them back to build up the company.

She said, "The Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company will need to be watched closely to see if they can pull their act together."

At the recommendation of its investigating committee, McGuire was accepted as a member of the Vigilant Hose Company this past Tuesday evening at the company's monthly meeting. She will be subject to a six month probation period.

ambulance or fire engine to get out of the bay after receiving a call from the 911 dispatcher. Anything longer than eight minutes is considered a failed response, even if the unit eventually arrives at the scene. After five minutes, the 911 dispatcher confirms that a company is trying to respond. Ten minutes after the initial call, if the first responder is not on the road, a second responder is dispatched.

It was the ambulance company's increasing failed response rates that compelled former company chief Jeanette McGuire to ask the county to

provide paid career employees to help improve the company's performance.

Ambulance chief Sharer told the commissioners, "Fail rates are inevitable," and provided them with fail rate data for other county ambulance companies.

Frederick County allows a company to have a 10% fail rate per year.

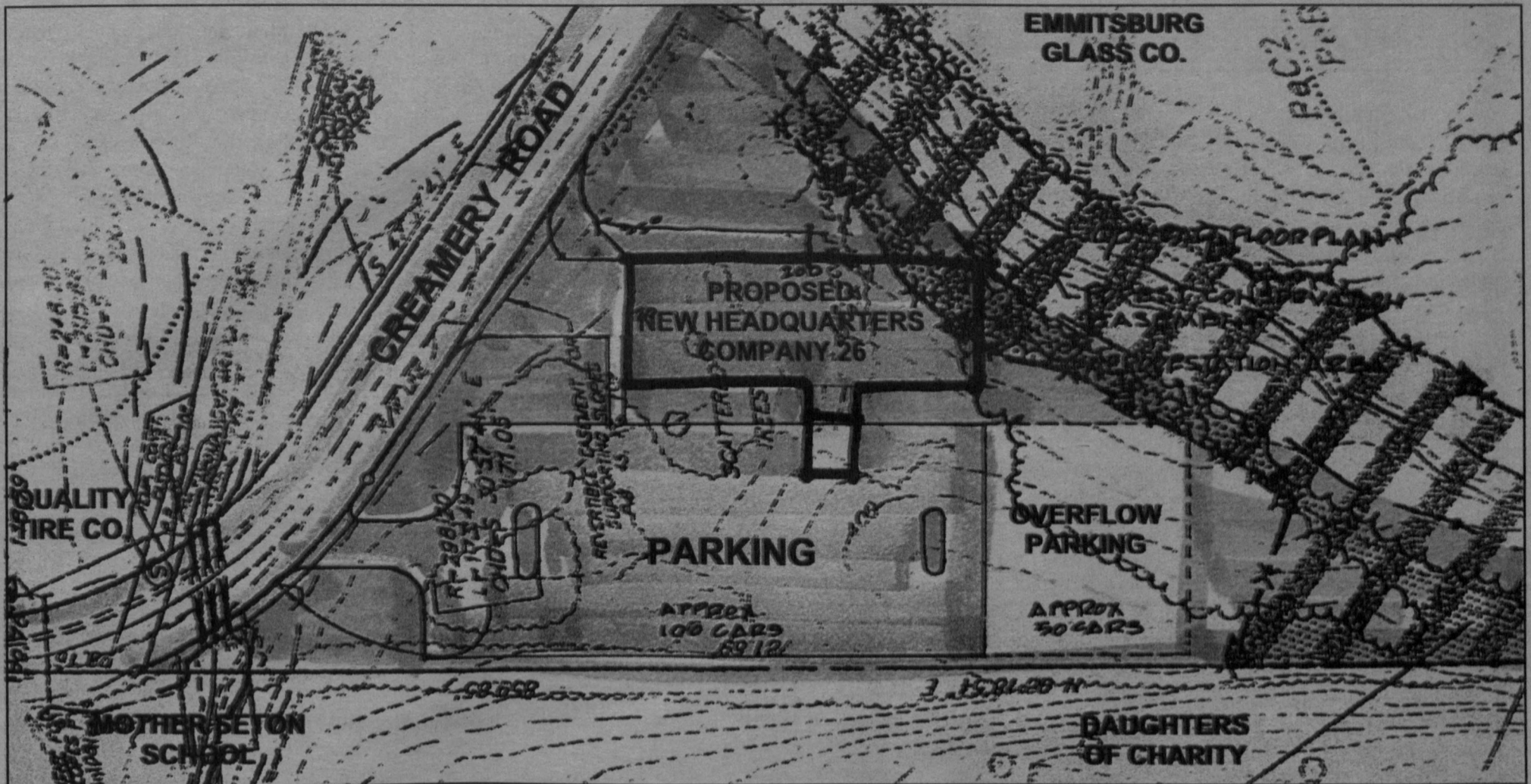
Powell stressed that there is a philosophical difference between the two companies. He said, "Anything less than a 100 percent response is unacceptable. Our concern is that they (individuals within

the first response area) get the emergency medical services."

He told the commissioners, "We (Vigilant) don't believe that a one percent fail rate is acceptable. We are unwilling to accept a single failure."

With VHC, it's an all or nothing proposition. Powell said, "with responsibility comes accountability ... If we're (Vigilant) not delivering 100 percent quality service 100 percent of the time, we need to be called to account."

Editor's Note: Richard D. L. Fulton, Raymond Buchheister and Joyce Demmitt contributed to this report.



Above: Earlier this year, the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company purchased this 4.01-acre tract, part of the lands of Emmitsburg East Industrial Park, LLC., on Creamry Rd., in an effort to construct new headquarters. Below: Architectural renderings of the 14,000 sq. ft. building (200' x 700') that would accommodate support and assembly areas on the first floor, and duty crew support areas on the second. The company had anticipated breaking ground this year, with a scheduled move-in date of August 2005.

New ambulance company headquarters put on hold

The Emmitsburg Ambulance Company had bought land and planned to build a new headquarters, but controversy surrounding the company's future has stalled groundbreaking and construction.

Ambulance company president Joe Pelkey told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that the new building has been "put on hold until we sort things out."

The ambulance company ultimately plans to relocate to a 4.01-acre tract purchased earlier this year for \$130,000 from Sheridan "Dan" and Greg Reaver of Emmitsburg Glass Co.

The property is on Creamery Road, around the bend from Mother Seton

School, on the same side as the Emmitsburg East Industrial Park. Similar property in this area has recently sold for more than twice what the ambulance company paid.

Ambulance co. officials said the Reaver's have been very generous. As part of the sale, the industrial park, also owned by the Reavers, would be making a donation to the new ambulance company building.

Original plans thwarted by the town

The ambulance company had worked unsuccessfully with the town for a number of years to be able to build on the .76-acre tract of land next to their present headquarters. The plan was to tear down the current building, add parking and a larger facility that

would house more vehicles, provide accommodations for staff, equipment storage and a fundraising hall.

Jamie Eyler, ambulance company vice-president, said, "We've definitely outgrown the current building. We need a site that will allow for future expansion, and a bigger building for fund-raisers."

When they had no success with the town, the ambulance

company decided to look elsewhere. Bob Dinterman, ambulance company board member, approached Dan Reaver about possible land.

The town of Emmitsburg purchased the small parcel of land, 302 South Seton Avenue, from the ambulance company for \$98,500.

County owns land

In 1988 the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company built its present 5000 square foot

facility on a tract of county-owned land, about 100 by 100 feet, on South Seton Avenue adjacent to the Emmitsburg Community Center.

The company pays the county \$1 per-month rent to use the land. When the ambulance company relocates, their lease stipulates that the building will become county property. More than likely the county will tear it down, in part because many residents refer to it as an "eyesore" in front of the community center.



OBITUARIES

Judith Carbajal

Ms. Judith Ann Wastler Carbajal, 61, formerly of Emmitsburg, died Oct. 23 in Tucson, Ariz.

Born June 23, 1943, in Emmitsburg, she was a daughter of the late Lester G. (Bud) and Anna Florence Stonesifer Wastler.

She was a 1962 graduate of Clarksville High School, Clarksville, Tenn. Ms. Carbajal was a public health nurse in Tucson, Ariz.

Surviving are four children, Mitchell Ray Wilson, Danny Ray Wilson, Torrea Ann Wilson and Shannon Troy Wilson; five grandchildren; one sister, Lena Wastler Stull and two brothers, Michael Wastler and Jim Wastler.

Funeral services were held Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. from Skiles Funeral Home, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Jon Greenstone officiating. Interment was in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

Mary Carroll

Mary C. Carroll, nee Mullican, died Nov. 2.

She was the beloved wife of the late C. Robert Carroll.

Surviving are one daughter, Suzanne C. Snyder; two grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1108 Providence Road. Interment was in Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens.

Richard B. Florence, Sr.

Richard Benedict "Dick" Florence, Sr., 79, Clermont, died Oct. 21.

Born in Emmitsburg Aug. 6, 1925, he was a World War II veteran and worked in the insurance industry for over 50 years.

He was a member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Clermont.

Surviving are his wife Bette; three sons, Richard Jr.,

Edward and Stephen; four daughters, Amy Branom, Mary, Bernadette Przyiecki and Karen Ennis; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

The funeral was held at Blessed Sacrament Oct. 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Mrs. Paula Kaas

Mrs. Paula Elizabeth "Betty" Topper Kaas, 74, Old Emmitsburg Road, Emmitsburg, died Nov. 4 at Beverly Healthcare, Gettysburg, Pa.

Born April 22, 1930 in Emmitsburg, she was a daughter of the late Jacob Topper and Helen Myers Topper.

Mrs. Kaas was a homemaker and had worked in the cafeteria of Mother Seton School. She was a communicant of St. Anthony's Shrine Parish Catholic Church and a member and past president of the Sodality of The Blessed Virgin Mary.

Surviving, in addition to Robert, her husband of 54 years, are seven sons, James Robert Kaas, Donald Joseph Kaas, Sr., Charles Edward Kaas, Sr., George Francis Kaas, Dale Martin Kaas, Russell Vincent Kaas, Leon Thomas Kaas; one daughter, Helen Jane Merriman; 23 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; two brothers, Charles and John Topper; and four sisters, Rebecca Topper, Anna Little, Geraldine Sites, and Lucille Jackson.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. from St. Anthony's

Shrine Parish Catholic Church, Emmitsburg.

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

Thomas J. Norris, Jr.

Dr. Thomas J. Norris, 78, died Oct. 22 at Elizabeth Ann Seton Medical Center, Austin, Texas.

Born June 1, 1926, Tom was the youngest of seven children born to Thomas J. and Margaret Norris of Emmitsburg.

He graduated from Emmitsburg High School, attended Mount Saint Mary's College and graduated in 1950 from Lincoln College of Chiropractic, Indianapolis.

Surviving are his wife Harriet; one daughter, Margaret "Midge" Norris; three sons, Frances "Kerry" Schultz, Tom Norris, and Frank Norris; three sisters, Rita Priest, Mae Rose Carroll, and Eileen Mclean; seven grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

A memorial service was held Nov. 19 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Newton, N.J. A family memorial service followed Nov. 20 at St. Anthony's Shrine, Emmitsburg, with interment at St. Anthony's Cemetery.

Francis K. Rosensteel

Mrs. Frances K. Rosensteel, 93, Frederick, died Oct. 30 at North Hampton Manor Nursing Home, Frederick.

Born April 29, 1911 in Loys Station, Md., she was a daughter of the late Harvey Benjamin and Grace Ellen Keilholtz Ogle.

She was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg and the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She arranged many bus trips as the activities director for Emmitsburg Senior Citizens, and worked as a nurse

at Waynesboro Hospital, South Mountain Restoration Center and Villa St. Michael.

Surviving are two stepsons, George E. Rosensteel and Robert A. Rosensteel, Sr.; seven step-grandchildren; 17 step great-grandchildren; six step great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Margaret May Boyer; and a number of nieces and nephews

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 2 at 11:00 a.m. from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg with her Pastor Rev. Vincent J. O'Malley, C.M. as the celebrant.

Interment was in new St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

Lelia Sturgill

Lelia Virginia Sturgill, 84, Mount Airy, died Nov. 5 at her daughter's home, following an extended illness.

Born April 25, 1920 in Virginia, she was the daughter of the late Charles W. and May (Spicer) Pulliam.

Mrs. Sturgill was retired from Giant Food Store.

Surviving are two daughters, Emma Jean Meely and Ella Mae Gore; one son, Donald Lee Shirkey; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service and interment were held Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. in George Washington Cemetery, Riggs Road, Mount Lebanon, with the Reverend John C. Morrill, Carroll Hospice chaplain, officiating.

Ms. Joni Weimer

Ms. Joni Oakley Weimer, 47, Mount Airy, died at home Nov. 3.

Born Dec. 25, 1956, in Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, she was the daughter of Carol Presson and Joan Moritz Oakley of Harrington, Del.

Ms. Weimer was a floral designer with Plants Etc., Potomac and a department manager for Bed, Bath & Beyond, Rockville.

Surviving in addition to her parents are five children, Willow A. Weimer, Merriah Williams, Von Brian Weimer, McKenzie Weimer and Zackariah Weimer; one granddaughter; four sisters: Jackie McIntyre, Del. Joy A. Spicer, Jill Smith, and Joyce Collison.

All services and interment were private.

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A word about pre-arrangements and pre-financing



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MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

MOUNT SENIOR BRINGS *Children's Theatre* TO THE EMMITSBURG COMMUNITY

By Erin Bradin, Class of 2005

Marc Parisi, a senior at Mount St. Mary's University, is the director of the Emmitsburg Youth Players, a children's theatre group started by the Creative Kids Academy (CKA). Founded in June of 2004, the CKA offers arts-based after school programs to children in the Emmitsburg area.

Parisi is currently directing the Emmitsburg Youth Players in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." The play tells the story of a woman asked by her church council to take over the Christmas pageant after the usual director ends up hospitalized. A family of misfits gets involved, leading to many funny misadventures.

Extremely humble, Parisi may seem like the quiet type. That is, until you get to know him. Then his charismatic and infectious personality comes bursting forth. And that is what the kids see in him. His vivacious energy is just what the CKA kids needed. "They adore him," said Debbi Linton, program director and founder of CKA, and mother of two.

Auditions for the Emmitsburg play were held in early September and every child who tried out received a part. Much to Parisi's surprise, there was a large turnout. "It speaks well of the kids," he said. "They were so excited that all their lines were memorized within the first couple of weeks."

Rehearsals are held twice a week, typically on Sundays and Wednesdays, for two hours a day. Parisi does not get paid for his time, and says it was never about making money. "If I can do it, then why not? I enjoy working with kids. It's a good break from campus, papers and tests; it's hard work, but I enjoy it," said Parisi.

This is not his first volunteer project. He began volunteering at Emmitsburg Elementary School during his freshman year and directed middle schoolers in "A Christmas Carol" in 2003.

Mount sophomores Courtney Quinn, Missy Phillips and Julie Arnold have also helped him run play practices.

Parents in the Emmitsburg community are extremely grateful to Parisi for touching the lives of their children. "He is an absolute pioneer and visionary," said Linton.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will be performed at Knott Auditorium on the Mount St. Mary's University campus on December 16 at 7 p.m. The play is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Debbi Linton at 301-447-5955.



MOUNT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Discovery Day - Admissions
November 19, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., O'Hara Room

Comedian Sharrod Small
November 19, 8 p.m., Mount Cafe

Mount Chorale Advent Concert
Sunday, December 5
4:00 p.m., Immaculate Conception Chapel

Discovery Day - Admissions
December 6, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., O'Hara Room

Student Instrumental & Vocal Concert
December 9, 3:30 p.m., TBA

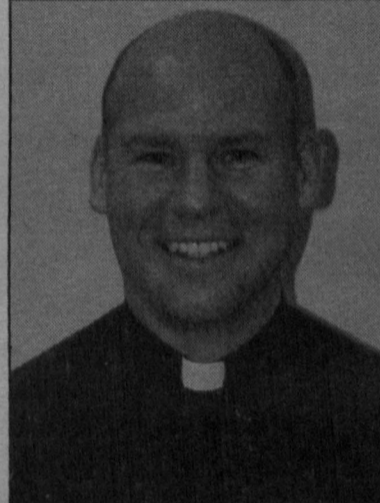
Wind Ensemble Concert
December 12, 3:00 p.m., Knott Auditorium

Mount Hockey
vs. George Washington
December 3, 9:10 p.m., Frederick Ice Rink
vs. TBA
December 4, 9:10 p.m., Frederick Ice Rink

Men's Basketball Home Games
vs. Sacred Heart
Saturday, December 4, 12:00 p.m., COMCAST
vs. Naval Academy
Tuesday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.
vs. La Salle
Friday, December 31, 4:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball Home Games
vs. Sacred Heart
Saturday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
vs. George Mason
Saturday, December 11, 3:00 p.m.

MOUNT PROFILE



Father Jim Donohue,
THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Favorite Career Memories at the Mount:
Watching students walk across the stage to receive their diploma, being part of the little victories of my students, and when my alumni approach me about officiating their weddings!

Place of childhood and Education Backgrounds:

Born in Toronto, Canada, and attended Catholic schools my whole life. Attended St. Jerome's University then St. Peter's Seminary, after which I attended graduate school at Catholic and Catholic Theological Union.

Most Influential Person in you Life:

My parents and several priests in my religious community, especially Fr. Norman Choate, C.R. He was the chaplain of my undergraduate school and was influential in ALL areas of my life.

Advice for Seeking Personal Vocation:

I have found that we are always discerning anew what God is calling us to and how God is calling us to live our particular callings in the midst of new circumstances and challenges.

Thoughts on Mount St. Mary's:

I love the Mount! I love being able to assist students in their learning and discerning, I love my colleagues, I love being able to interact with students, it is all truly a gift, privilege and joy.

Favorite Quote:

What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.

*Top: The cast of the "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
Bottom: Marc Parsi, a senior at Mount St. Mary's University, is the director of the Emmitsburg Youth Players, with Carrie Ruppert and Alaya Robinson*

EDUCATION

Local Fifth-graders work on Outdoor Classroom, will be featured in Documentary

Susan Allen
Staff Writer

Not one of the 32 students in Adam Satterlee's fifth-grade class was absent Nov. 10. No one even arrived late to school. Satterlee joked that maybe he should tell them they were going to be on TV every day. Certainly they were going to be on camera that day. A production team from Maryland Public Television (MPT) was coming to film the students as they worked on the outdoor classroom in front of Emmitsburg Elementary School.

Fourteen fifth-grade students and their families had volunteered to cut sod and prepare the planting sites Oct. 30.

Garrett Rohrbaugh (fifth grade) and his younger brother Parker arrived at school early Nov. 10 to help Satterlee blend seeds, peat moss, and water in wheelbarrows.

The fifth grade raked the

seedbeds before planting that morning, and then planted the first garden. In addition to the seeds, they planted several aster shrubs, which will be "plug" plants in the spring before the seeds germinate.

Finishing his tasks, James Woodby commented, "It's been fun — a little cold, but fun. But I've never worked harder in school in my life!"

After lunch, Garrett and classmates Chad Clausen, Kaitlin Robinson, and John Dabbs mixed more of the seed blend. At 1 p.m. children and teachers from the lower grades began filing out, with fifth graders as their guides. Each child was given cups filled with the moist mixture to spread on the ground. Then they stomped over the soil to "set" the seeds.

Fifth graders measured and cut coconut-husk matting and stacked it over the scattered seed. The matting will hold the seeds in place through the winter, and protect them from hungry birds.



-JENNIFER BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Emmitsburg Elementary fifth-graders Kaitlin Robinson (L) and Elizabeth Davis (R) plant an aster shrub while a Maryland Public Television camera person films a segment for the documentary "Outdoors Maryland." Standing in the background are Community Commons Betsy Johnson (L) and Mrs. Julia Wilson (R) one of the schools teachers.

The outdoor classroom is designed to encourage nature exploration and "hands-on" science study by students, and will also enhance the natural beauty of the community through its proximity to the Emmitsburg Community Center.

The students' work actually began last spring in the fourth grade. They used library and Internet sources to learn about plants native to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. They read about the connection between Willow Rill, the stream running through school grounds, and the larger streams that reach the Bay. Satterlee, teacher Julia Wilson, other school faculty, staff from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Community Commons worked with them.

Students worked together to write a request for grant funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT.) They wanted enough money to buy seeds and other supplies for seven garden plots, one for each grade in the school. CBT awarded them \$837.

They studied seed catalogs, choosing varieties native to the region that would also thrive in clay-type soil. Wilson said the wildflowers include Black-eyed Susan (the Maryland state flower), goldenrod, blazing star, penstemon (also called beardstongue digitalis), New England asters, and a milkweed

type of butterfly weed. The class also included two kinds of grasses, little bluestem and Indian grass in the seed mix.

The school also received two grants of \$750 each from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). The funds are targeted toward wetlands preservation and the establishment of warm season grasses in the Willow Rill area. WHIP is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and works through local soil conservation districts.

The outdoor classroom has also benefited from work done through the partnership

of Community Commons, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Frederick County Public Schools in the local Schoolyard Habitat pilot program. (See "Catocin Area Schools to participate in Schoolyard Habitat Program, April 1, 2004 issue of The Emmitsburg Dispatch.")

Betsy Donnelly Johnson (Community Commons), Karen Kelly Muller and Britt Slattery (both with USFWS) have been advising the Emmitsburg Elementary teachers and students since April. Principal

-Continued on page 15



-JENNIFER BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife representative helps Emmitsburg Elementary fifth-grader, Katie Davis (L), spread seed mixture.

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Interim Superintendent Holds Open Forum for Catoctin Area Schools

Susan Allen
Staff Writer

Dr. Linda Burgee, Interim Superintendent of Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS), met in open forum with area school principals and parents at Catoctin High School, Nov. 9.

Only a small number of parents attended the 7 p.m. meeting, perhaps because the Thurmont town meeting and the Emmitsburg fire-tax hearing were scheduled the same night.

Dr. Burgee answered questions regarding Frederick developer Marvin Ausherman's offer to build and furnish an addition to Tuscarora High School (Frederick) in exchange for approval of his plan to develop the Linton farm. The Frederick County Planning Commission has approved the offer.

Frederick County's Board of Education is currently in closed negotiations with Ausherman. If approved, the Ausherman deal will be the first of its kind in Frederick County, although neighboring states often negotiate school construction with real estate developers.

Burgee stated that if approved, the Tuscarora school addition will not be included in the overall FCPS capital improvement plan, and it "should" have no impact on funds contributed for school construction by the State of Maryland.

The Frederick County Board of Commissioners "has indicated that the funds for school budgets 'down the road' will not be reduced," said Burgee, but she emphasized that there were "no guarantees."

An important downside

to Ausherman's plan is that it only offers a solution to potential overcrowding at Tuscarora High. It does not address student populations at Tuscarora Elementary and Crestwood Middle schools, schools already near capacity. His offer also does not cover collateral costs — staffing, textbooks and supplies, and technology — which would have to be borne by FCPS and county taxpayers.

Parents were also concerned about the earlier class start times initiated last school year. Catoctin High principal Ann Bonitatibus and Thurmont Middle School principal Claire Kondig agreed that adjusting to the 7:30 a.m. classes was rocky at first. There were many additional referrals for tardiness, especially for high school students who drive to school. Next year the high school may link student parking permits to on-time attendance.

Dr. Burgee admitted that the earlier school opening, which also involved bus route changes, has not saved as much money as the Board of Education (BOE) anticipated.

Both Catoctin High and Thurmont Middle Schools have been enlarged and renovated in the past four years. A new

Thurmont Primary School opened. Burgee was asked about the renovation schedule for the other feeder schools. She said the schedule has not changed from earlier projections: Emmitsburg Elementary is slated for building addition design in 2006 and construction in 2007.

The other major item discussed was the search process for the new superintendent of schools. Dr. Burgee, then associate superintendent for elementary schools, was appointed interim superintendent by the BOE in June 2004.

There will be a nationally advertised search, and Burgee will apply for the position. She offered that it would be the "fulfillment" of her career to become head of Frederick County Schools.

Burgee is a native of the county, and a graduate of Linganore High School. Her teaching and school administration assignments included four years as principal of Emmitsburg Elementary. She welcomed students to the first pre-kindergarten class there and in June 2005 will present them with their diplomas as they graduate from Catoctin High School.

Silo Hill Exxon supports reading

Ken Kacmarski, owner of Silo Hill Exxon in Emmitsburg, recently presented a \$500 check from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance to Emmitsburg Elementary School. The money will be used to support early childhood reading programs at the school.

Since it began in 2000, the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program has provided \$9.5 million for K-12 schools across the country. The \$500 grants allow local retailers to support neighborhood schools. This year \$2 million was awarded in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

videographer Marlene Rodman spent most of the morning filming and interviewing the students and Satterlee.

According to Muller and Slattery, "Outdoors Maryland" has also filmed a "living shoreline" project on the South River, and planned to shoot the rain garden project at the Frederick MARC station the afternoon of Nov. 10.

Catoctin High School senior Erin True also covered the morning events. She is

working on a community newsletter as her special project before graduation and will be following environmental science projects at the other Catoctin feeder schools as well.

Future plans for the outdoor classroom also include building a rock garden and a desert garden to support geology and habitat study units.

Principal Severance expects to build a bridge over Willow Rill in the spring, and



—RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Sitting: Carolyn McNair Tarantino. **Front right:** Ruth Umbel Clarke. **First Row standing:** Wilhem May (L), Mary Catherine Shields, Jeanne Troxell Reyes (C), Thelma Bollinger Miller (stripes), Evelyn Mentzer Parrish (R). **Top Row:** George Springer (L), Ronald Kelly.

50th Reunion for Emmitsburg High Class of 1954

The Emmitsburg High School Class of 1954 celebrated its 50th reunion Oct. 8-10.

Graduates, past classmates and friends gathered Friday evening at the Eisenhower Inn to renew friendships, exchange memories and catch up. Saturday morning the group toured the Emmitsburg Community Center and enjoyed lunch in the Senior Center.

The annual banquet for all EHS alumni was held Saturday evening in Patriot Hall at the Mount. The Class of 1954 presented a generous donation to the Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund in memory of deceased classmates Doris Ellen Bollinger Rock and Lewis Edward Hahn. Sunday morning the Main Street Deli was the scene for a breakfast buffet and farewells.

Attending the reunion

additional picnic tables have been ordered. She has also drawn the Emmitsburg Girl Scouts into the plan. Cadet Troop 1790, led by Greta Nettleton and Leslie Potts, will be designing and building a sign

were Ronald and Sue Kelly, Charles and Margy McNair, Jeanne Troxell Reyes, Carolyn McNair Tarantino, Evelyn Mentzer Parrish and husband Oliver, Ruth Umbel Clarke and husband Pat, George and Mary Springer, Thelma Bollinger Miller and husband Waldon, Mary Catherine Shields, Francis and Linda Cool, Weldon and Nancy Shank, George and Nancy Tyler, Frederick Bentz, Doris Gochenour Cowley, Donald Gochenour, James McKeon, Kenneth Swomley, John Springer, Joseph and Beverly Scott, and Wilhelm and Uta May from Schwalmstadt, Germany. The Mays visited with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Swomley, who, along with sons Richard, Kenneth and David, had been Wilhelm's host family when he was an exchange student in Emmitsburg during the 1953/1954 school year.

for the classroom. Most of the girls in the troop, now in sixth and seventh grade, attended Emmitsburg Elementary School. They will be working toward their "Silver Award" with this project.

Outdoor Classroom

—Continued from page 14

Wanda Severance and the School Improvement Team began planning the outdoor classroom in Feb. 2000. (See "Area schools start projects in environmental & earth science" in the March 2003 issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.)

Muller and Slattery alerted MPT about the project. Susanne Stahley, producer of "Outdoors Maryland," and staff

Winter is coming – Turn up the heat and bring out the caulk

Joyce M. Demmitt
Staff Writer

Winter is nearly here, and it's time to look around the house and see what can be done to save on heating costs during the long cold months.

Lots of do-it-yourself guides are available to help homeowners – or renters – look in the right places for energy savings. Books, magazines and online questionnaires offer differing approaches.

The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy claims that by far the largest share of a home's energy use goes for heating and cooling – 44%. In comparison, lighting, cooking and other appliances use 33%, water heaters use 14%, and refrigerators, 9%.

Winterization can mean nothing more than flannel sheets, electric blankets and turning up the heat. But a simple home walkthrough with a checklist in hand may yield more cost-saving results. Historic houses, newly built homes, and apartments can all benefit from a careful look.

Air leaks

Start by looking for air leaks. Reducing drafts can yield an energy savings of anywhere from 5% to 30%, and will generally make any home more comfortable.

Check both inside and out. Check along baseboards and where walls and ceiling join. Check fireplaces for leaks. See if air is flowing through electrical outlets and switch plates. Put a hand next to window and door

frames. Replace caulking and weatherstripping as needed.

Inspect all exterior corners, and areas where the foundation and the brick or siding meet. Be sure not to seal the house too tightly because it might cause back-drafts. These affect furnace operation, use up oxygen, depressurize the home's interior, create a moisture retention problem and potentially create dangerous gas buildups.

Insulation

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls can be extensive. Check insulation in floors, exterior and basement walls, crawl space and attic. Make sure insulation levels meet at least the minimum recommended amount established by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

The DOE Zip-Code Insulation Program determines the most economic level of insulation for new and existing homes. By answering a number of questions, consumers can get advice on appropriate levels of insulation, and anticipated rate of return on the investment. See <http://hes.lbl.gov/hes/makingithappen/tips.html>.

Heating and Cooling Equipment

Inspect home heating and cooling equipment every year.

Clean or replace furnace, air-conditioner, and heat-pump filters as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

Water Heating

Cut water heating bills and heat the water, not the room. Consider insulating an existing water heater, or buy a new, more efficient unit.

Windows

Windows can account for 10% to 25% of a home's heating bill. Double pane windows with high-performance glass are available, and gas-filled windows with low emissivity (low-e) coatings on the glass reduce heat loss. Installing storm windows and doors provides additional heat savings.

Landscaping

Careful landscaping can also help with heating bills. Trees appropriately placed can cut a typical household energy bill by 25%. The U.S. Department of Energy believes that just three well-placed trees can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in heating and cooling costs each year.

Allegheny Power's "Home Energy Saver"

For individuals who want a comprehensive, computer-based approach to winterization, Allegheny Power provides an online assessment tool called the "Home Energy Saver," www.alleghenypower.com/

[ForYourHome/Energysaver.asp](http://www.alleghenypower.com/ForYourHome/Energysaver.asp). By selecting zip code and home features, consumers learn how much energy their homes use and get ideas for saving money and preventing pollution through energy-efficient home improvements.

After filling in the age of the house and answering several general questions, specific questions must be answered about heating and cooling, water heating, major and small appliances, lighting, windows, house exposure, appliances, and insulation level. The energy saver then provides suggestions for improving energy efficiency, along with projected cost savings.

The site includes retrofit recommendations for each category as well. The Home Energy Saver project is sponsored by DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of the national ENERGY STAR Program for improving energy efficiency in homes.

For families

The Alliance to Save Energy has created a lesson plan designed to turn middle schoolers into "instant building inspectors." Armed with interior and exterior energy audit sheets and a homemade draft detector, children can help determine their home's energy efficiency. See http://www.ase.org/uploaded_files/educatorlessonplans/audit.pdf

It's time to become a house detective. Spend time now making sure that winter stays outside this year and that everything inside is energy-efficient and well insulated.

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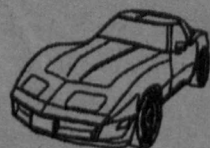


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SPORTS



-A.J. RUSSO / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

All-American Tony Russo of Ohio State University's lacrosse team is ready to make a save. Tony graduated from Calvert Hall H.S. in Baltimore and was the 14th overall draft pick of six-team professional Major League Lacrosse in 2004.

Outside the Game New State Team Sport

A.J. Russo
Sports Editor

In early October, the State Assembly convened and passed over 300 laws, both sweeping and small, including those governing the sale of alcohol at a Carroll County microbrewery, a Harford County winery, and another one which repealed the licensing requirements for "palm readers, fortune-tellers, soothsayers and other similar persons" in Cecil County.

But the law with the most controversy was one that imposes no fines or jail time and has the innocuous subject, "State Government - Designations." The law placed lacrosse, perhaps the best-known sport identified with the Free State, on something close to par with the state's actual official sport: jousting.

The medieval sport of jousting was popular in Maryland's very early history and has survived in tournaments

across the state. Participants don't compete against each other anymore, but try to spear a small ring with a lance while on horseback.

Jousting has been the state sport since 1962, and its devotees have been trying to repel attacks from lacrosse fans for almost as long, said Bruce Hoffman, past president of the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association.

Finally, this year, legislators reached a compromise: lacrosse is now the official state team sport.

Still, Hoffman said, jousting fans were not happy with the change. "They already had a sport designated as a state sport. So why do you have two?"

Let's look at the facts. Four of the nation's top ten boys' high school teams (Loyola, St. Paul's, Gilman, Landon) and four of the top ten ranked NCAA Division 1 men's college teams (Johns

Hopkins, Navy, Maryland and Towson) in 2004 are located in Maryland. Two of the top ten Division 1 women's teams in 2004 (Maryland and Loyola) and three of the nation's top ten girls' high school teams (Mt. Hebron, St. Paul's and Severn School) in 2004 are located in Maryland.

Lacrosse is steeped in tradition, and though today's participants use sticks of plastic and titanium rather than wood, the lacrosse stick symbolizes the historical significance of the game.

The game, like the stick,

was developed by American Indians in the 15th century. Indians played not only for recreation, but also to settle tribal disputes and to toughen warriors for fighting.

Games were played by as few as 100 and as many as 1,000 men and lasted two or three days, with play beginning at sunup and ending at sundown each day. Goals, consisting of rocks or trees, were generally 500 yards to a half-mile apart, but could be several miles from each other. There were no sidelines, and players raced far and wide over the countryside.

White men - Jesuit missionaries from France - first encountered the game in the 17th century. They wrote home about a game played by the Huron Indians with sticks reminiscent of the crosier (la Crosse) carried by bishops as a symbol of their office.

In the early 1800s white settlers in Montreal took up the game. When the Dominion of Canada was created a decade later, lacrosse was designated - and still remains - the national sport. Canadians introduced the game to the United States, England, Ireland, and Scotland. Today, lacrosse is played at home and in international competition by England and Australia, as well as the United

States, Canada and even Japan.

Flip to Channel 2 or Comcast Sports in Baltimore in the spring and you're as likely to see a college lacrosse game as an Orioles' contest. There are few (if any) high schools in the state without a boys and girls lacrosse team and on any given Saturday you will see more youth, school, college and professional lacrosse games on athletic fields in our state than baseball games. Last time I saw someone jousting was ... well, I've never seen anyone jousting.

A.J. Russo, Ph.D., is a professor at Mount St. Mary's University and the author of nine 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 related short stories, "Dah-Link," and novel "Spliced," are all available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. His new novel, "Indiscernible Enemy," will be available in December. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of Mount St. Mary's University or Hood College.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Four Singers with Attitude- (L to R) Lori Stromberg, Jeanine Collins, Jill Fulton and Eileen Winston are featured in The Thurmont Thespians' upcoming production, "I'm About to Develop an Attitude" at the Frederick County Cultural Arts Center, Frederick, Dec. 2-5. Photograph courtesy of Thurmont Thespians.

Thurmont Thespians present "Attitude"

The first weekend in December, the Thurmont Thespians will present "I'm About To Develop An Attitude," a holiday bouquet of fun, song and play, at the Cultural Arts Center of Frederick County, 15 West Patrick Street, in downtown Frederick.

"Attitude" is a collection of Broadway musical hits interwoven with five short plays – all written and meant to be performed with "attitude," assembled by Spence Watson.

Performances are scheduled Dec. 2-4 at 8 p.m., with a matinee Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. All tickets are \$10. Reserve seats by calling 301-271-7613.

Included in the production are seven songs by Broadway composers Richard Maltby, Jr. and David Shire along with five one-acts, "Relative Strangers," "Foul Territory" and "Bake Off," all comedies directed by Spence Watson; "The Unknown Part of the Ocean," a drama directed by Beth Royer Watson

Quilters

Quilt Evolution - Part 1

Mary Ellen Cummings
Dispatch Writer

My quilt knowledge and experience start today and "progress" backwards. Modern quilts and quilt making are like a first cousin, twice reported, to those at the time I began making quilt tops. When I first started piecing quilt tops, I was told to take one-eighth inch for seams. Seam allowances were not added to the pattern or the cut fabric pieces. I guess that we assumed there was enough fabric for one-eighth inch seams. This was in the 20s and 30s when quilt

and an original new comedy, "Double Date" directed by Steve Ross.

The Thurmont Thespians holiday cast includes Angel Collins, Jeanine Collins, William Collins, Brenda Crooks, Joan Crooks, Melissa D'Amore, Jill Fulton, T.J. Grable, Christine Ann Miller, Geronimo Miranda, Steven P. Ross, Lori Stromberg, Eileen Winston and John Winston. During the evening, there will be a special "cameo" appearance by the famous "Pillsbury Doughboy," playing himself.

Before and after each short sketch will be a musical selection by one of the soloists, Jeanine Collins of Frederick, Jill Fulton of Greencastle, Pa., Lori Stromberg of Fairfield, Pa., or Eileen Winston of Thurmont.

The production is partially funded through a 2005 Arts In Communities Grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and a Community Arts Development grant from the Frederick Arts Council.

making was widespread but indigenous to small family or community groups. Most patterns I saw were made from brown wrapping paper or cut from thin cardboard boxes.

The quilt group that I work with now has quilted many local, old quilt-tops – attic or trunk quilts.

Most of them were pieced in the thirties and forties and one-eighth inch seams had been used. As you might expect, many seams had pulled out and extreme care had to be used when quilting these tops. Otherwise, seams would rip or pull out.

Today most printed patterns and designs in quilting magazines include a one-quarter inch seam allowance. Die cut templates also usually include the seam allowance – none under one-quarter inch. Patterns that do not include the seam allowance have instructions for them using hand or machine piecing. Approximately eight years ago, I found one quilt pattern that suggested using one-half inch seams – then trimming to one-quarter inch when sewed! These instructions are buried somewhere in my quilt library and I would really like to know who suggested that.

Early in my quilt life, I was given quilt-making tips for

methods the "authorities" said were must-dos. Today many books have been published with detailed instructions, and we can follow an authority of our choice in the field of quilt making. I still wonder who made the rules in the thirties and who took them to my friends in a small town on the Ohio River.

Other old rules applied to colors. For example, you must never use blue and green fabrics together; never use black unless it is for a mourning quilt; and, using yellow in large amounts will ruin your quilt. Another color rule involved baby or toddler quilts: always use pastel blue for boys and pastel pink for girls. There were other rules about color that still dictated how quilts were made – rules that are broken every day now. Now each quilter uses her idea of what color to put with another, but as late as the 1980s certain designs had to be done in specific colors or the quilt was all wrong.

I think Gwen Marston (quilter, teacher, author) said it best, "Both design and technique have changed dramatically in the past 100 years."

NOTE: Will the Thurmont Mason-Dixon Guild member who has a quilt collection please contact me through this paper?

Taneytown Bookseller Sponsors Youth Poetry Contest

Ray Van Horn
Staff Writer

Shirley's Books and Gifts is sponsoring a Christmas-themed poetry contest for participants between the ages of 14 and 18.

Poems, which must be submitted with an entry form, must have a Christmas or holiday theme and are limited to 500 words.

A panel of five judges will review entries the week of Nov. 29 and select ten finalists, who

will be asked to appear at the Irish Moon Coffee House, 1 Frederick Street in Taneytown on Dec. 9, as part of its Open Mic Poetry Reading. First, second and third-place prizes will be awarded. Proof of age may be required.

According to Shirley Smith, owner of Shirley's Books and Gifts in the Crossroad Emporium, the poetry contest is designed to "capitalize on local talent." Having sponsored a successful talent show during Taneytown's 250th celebration, Smith thought a poetry contest "would appeal to high school kids." She added, "We love to do things in the community for young people."

Entries must be submitted to Shirley's Books and Gifts, 2 Frederick St., Taneytown, Md. 21787, postmarked no later than Nov. 22. Call the Emporium for entry forms: 410-756-9235.

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Nov. 19-Feb. 6, 2005 - Whistler & Cassatt: Americans Abroad. Groh Gallery, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown. Views of Venice, London, and Paris by American artists James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) and Mary Cassatt (1844-1926). Exhibit organized and circulated by The Baltimore Museum of Art. Information: 301-739-5727 or TDD 301-739-5764.

Nov. 19-21 - "See How They Run." Carroll Arts Center, Westminster. The Little Community Theatre of Union Bridge offers this British farce by Phillip King. Proceeds from the production donated to The Shepherd's Staff, a non-profit outreach and support center in Carroll County. Information: 410-751-9577.

Nov. 20 - Second Annual Day of Hope. Downtown Frederick. Sponsored by Hope Alive. Approximately 25 merchants will donate a percentage of Saturday's revenue to the non-profit. The event is part of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Nov. 14-20.

Nov. 20 - Vericomposting Workshop. 9 a.m. to noon, ThorpeWood. Learn how to compost using worms and food scraps from home. \$15 cost includes all materials to make the composting bin, plus instructions. Registration: 301-271-2823.

Nov. 20-21 - 28th Annual Feaste 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 - The Salvation Army Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Noon to 6 p.m. 223 West Fifth Street, Frederick. Free, all are invited. Information: 301-662-2311.

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.

Nov. 26-28, Dec. 3-5, Dec. 10-12 - 34th annual Olde Tyme Christmas. Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Fresh greens and holiday candles fill the lower town in celebration of the season. Free music and entertainment.

Nov. 30 - Movie, "Bluegrass Journey." 7:30 p.m. Cultural Arts Center, Frederick. Presented by CinemArts, a nonprofit arts organization, www.cinemarts.org.

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 quashed by family obligations and civic duty. One Christmas Eve, his guardian angel steps into Bailey's life to save him from despair.

Dec. 4 - Holiday Magic. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Children's Museum of Rose Hill Manor Park, 1611 North Market Street, Frederick. Magic shows at 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, and 1:30. Hands-on crafts and a visit with Santa in the carriage museum. Children, \$5; adults, \$3. Information: 301-694-1650.

Dec. 4 - Christmas Basket Bingo. 7 p.m., doors open at 5:30. Banner School, 1730 North Market Street, Frederick. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Information: 301-695-9320.

Dec. 4 - Beef, Turkey & Ham Supper with apple fritters. Elias Lutheran Church,

Emmitsburg. Includes filling, gravy, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, sweet potatoes, corn, applesauce, and cake. Adults \$8, children 6-12 \$3, carryout \$9. Annual Christmas Bazaar starts at 1 p.m. Crafts, home baked products, white elephant table.

Dec. 5 - Holiday Candles. 1-4 p. m., The Children's Museum of Rose Hill Manor Park. An early American lighting program with visitors hand-dipping candles by the open hearth. Also, tin punch, rolled candle making, and silhouettes. \$4 each. Information: 301-694-1650.

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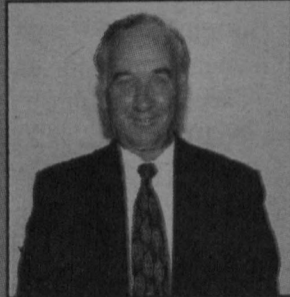
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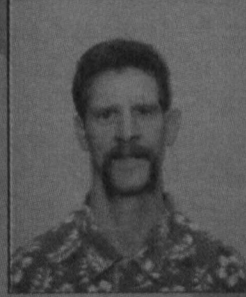
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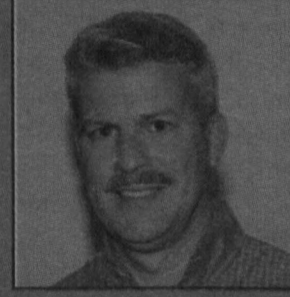
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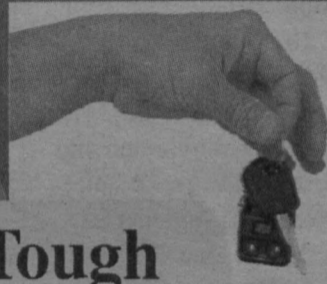
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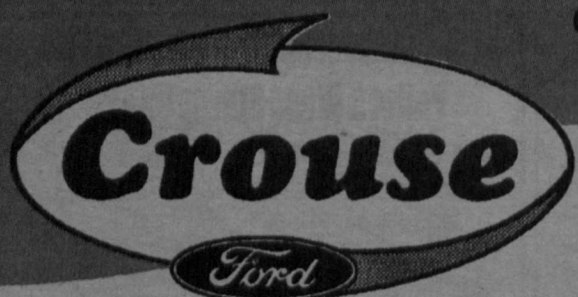


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