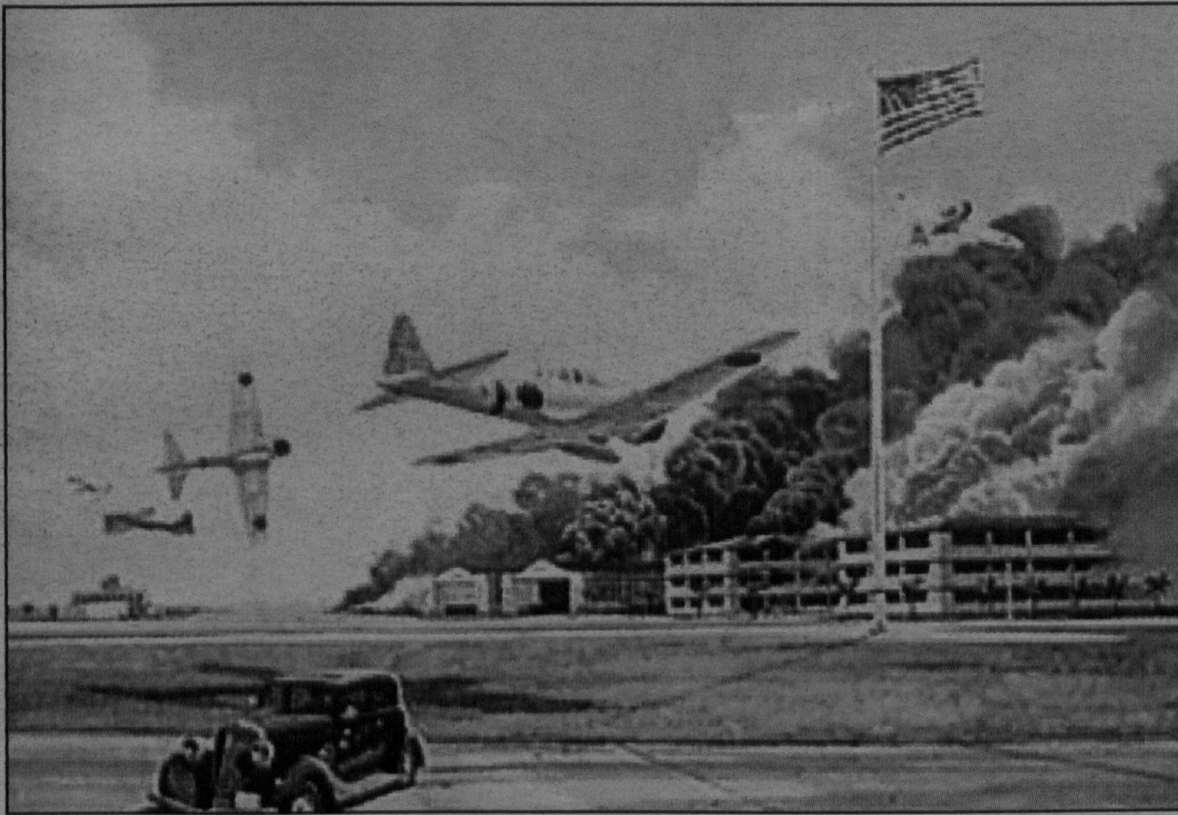


# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL III, No. 18

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

DECEMBER 1, 2004



During the Dec. 7, 1941 attack of Pearl Harbor, Japanese fighters (Zeros) attack the main barracks at Hickam Field. The Japanese attack on Hickam killed 139 men, and wounded an additional 303. As a result of the surprise assault, few American planes were able to get into the air. Photo of artist Tom Freeman's painting courtesy of the Navy Art Collection, Washington, D.C., Navy Yard.

## County adopts first ever Emmitsburg fire tax

13.5% rate will go into effect January 1

*Staff Report*

The Frederick County Board of Commissioners adopted a 13.5% Emmitsburg fire tax on Nov. 30, establishing an Emmitsburg Fire Tax District.

The vote paves the way for full-time, paid, career emergency medical staff that will service both the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company (EAC) and the Vigilant Hose Company (VHC).

After less than an hour of review and deliberation, only commission President John L. Thompson, Jr. voted against adopting the fire tax.

Thompson said that endorsement could be viewed as "micromanaging" local emergency services. He favored an 8.5 percent tax to support 12 hours of coverage five days a week (12-5).

Concerned that neither proposed tax rate, 6.5 percent or 13.5 percent, would cover actual expenses of providing career staff for Emmitsburg, Thompson refused to support either rate if a generated shortfall were passed on to other county taxpayers.

The fire tax, representing 13.5 percent of each \$100 of assessed real estate value,

**-Continued on page 3**

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## 'Silver Fancy' sewage plant up for county approval

Richard D. L. Fulton  
*News Editor*

Buckeye Development will seek approval from the Frederick County Planning Commission Dec. 15 for an on-site wastewater treatment plant that would serve a proposed development on 65 acres of the old Silver Fancy Farm tract.

The planning commission meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in Winchester Hall, Frederick.

According to property owner Patrick Boyle, approval of the wastewater treatment facility is critical to the sale to Buckeye, since the proposed development cannot connect to the Emmitsburg wastewater system.

### Town rejected annexation, lost opportunity for input

Emmitsburg lost the opportunity to have a say in any development of the site when the town rejected annexing the property in 2003.

Through a referendum on the annexation, included in the April 29, 2003 election, 339 residents voted to overturn a

previous board of supervisors' resolution permitting town annexation of the Boyle property.

Of those who voted, 199 voted to allow the annexation to proceed, with one abstention.

One of the key players in defeating the annexation was Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE). COPE had

**-Continued on page 7**

## Surviving Emmitsburg resident remembers attack on Pearl Harbor

Richard D. L. Fulton  
*News Editor*

James "Jim" Adelsberger has lived in Emmitsburg all of his 83 years. He graduated from Emmitsburg High School and, around age 20, decided to join the military.

He and three Emmitsburg companions, Joseph Boyle, Jack Stoner and Bud Shearer enlisted together in the U.S.

Air Force. They requested assignment to Hawaii, the South Pacific islands the military called "paradise."

Adelsberger and his buddies were assigned to guard duty at Hickam Field, adjacent to Pearl Harbor, and were responsible for protecting various assets at the base, especially the airplanes.

**-Continued on page 10**



-PHOTO COURTESY CATHE CURTIS-ADELSBERGER

Jim Adelsberger shares his experience of the Pearl Harbor attack

**Work crews lay new fiber optic cable in town**  
-see article on page 6.

**New resident deputy begins his patrol in Emmitsburg**  
-see article on page 8.

**Vigilant Hose purchases defibrillators for public use**  
-see article on page 9.

**2005 league change for 9-12 year-old boy's baseball**  
-see report 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.

## Red Sox must merge

Last night (Nov. 11) I attended a special Little League meeting where a vote was cast to determine whether Emmitsburg Little League should join a Pony League with Littlestown and Taneytown, or remain the way it has been for years.

This new league would require that Emmitsburg create teams of 9- and 10-year-olds and teams of 11- and 12-year-olds. Traditionally, little league has been for players ages 9 through 12...

When I asked about the all-star selection for the new league, I was told that a team would be created from players from (the three) teams.

When I asked how many teams Taneytown and Littlestown had for each age

group, I was told about six ... Emmitsburg would barely have enough to make two teams for each age group.

When I attempted to point out that the odds were against Emmitsburg children making the all-star team, another parent shared ... that a "pro" for joining this league was that our Emmitsburg children would have the opportunity to play for the Pony League World Series.

I wanted clarification as to whether or not our children would realistically have that option. ... The president told me that we could still make our own, all-Emmitsburg team and play other towns as we have in the past. This type of all-star team would not be playing for the World Series, however.

Other parents questioned the number of games to be played in Emmitsburg, and how many we would have to travel to play ... the response was comments to the effect that basically we have to do this, everyone travels to play ...

Despite the parental support from the Red Sox team, the vote to change won 21-18 ...

My son has been deeply affected by the decision. His situation of being a third-generation Red Sox player may be unique, but I feel that the impact this has on him, and other children in Emmitsburg, is significant. And I hope that anyone who takes offense can honestly take a look at their motive behind the way that they voted. I voted for my son.

— Stacy Wantz  
Emmitsburg

## Ten-year old Emmitsburg Little Leaguer was a third-generation Red Sox

My name is David Wantz and I was a Red Sox player for Emmitsburg Little League. Last night coaches and parents voted to change the way baseball has been played in the town I've lived in all my life, the way baseball's been played in Emmitsburg for the past 49 years.

Now Emmitsburg must play baseball in a league with Taneytown and Littlestown, and our teams have to be split up into different teams, a 9 +

10-year-old team and an 11 + 12-year-old team. These Emmitsburg teams will play in a new league with other towns and Emmitsburg kids will have to compete with the baseball players from these towns to make one all-star team. I don't even know the name of the league, except that it won't be called the Emmitsburg All-Stars. We won't have our own play-offs. We won't even have enough teams to play against each other.

My parents told me that they got to vote about this decision, and that more people wanted it to be this way. Now my dad has to choose to coach me as a 10-year-old, or my teammates who will be on the older team. I want to play for the Red Sox. So do all of my teammates. But none of us know who will wear the Red Sox uniform next spring. Maybe that doesn't matter to the people who voted last night, but it mattered to me.

It matters to me that I be a Red Sox player in Emmitsburg Little League just like my dad, who was a Red Sox player when his dad coached him, and my pappy when he was a Red Sox player at my age too. It matters to my teammates who have been on the Red Sox for the past three years and now don't know their new team name or who their coach will be. I wonder if the adults that made this decision really understand the impact this has on us kids, or if it mattered to them how it affects us. Isn't it supposed to be about us anyway?

— David Wantz  
Emmitsburg

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.

through the columns of The Chronicle. It will not only help you to dispose of your goods but many people will go direct to your store if they know you have just what they want.

Include a year's subscription to THE CHRONICLE when you make out your list of Christmas gifts for distant friends.

Entertainment  
December 27

**December 2, 1904** — The fair held at St. Euphemia's Hall for the benefit of the organ fund of St. Joseph's Catholic Church closed last Saturday. The fair was quite successful.

**December 2, 1904** — Messrs. J. T. Hays & Sons have installed one of their Sunlight Gas Machines with a capacity of 30 lights at Union Mills, Carroll County, to light the large department store and dwelling of Mr. George W. Yeiser.

**December 2, 1904** — "Pet," the fine young mare belonging to Messrs. Patterson Bros, and which was driven in the milk wagon, died with lockjaw yesterday morning, the result of having run a nail in one of her feet about two weeks ago. The animal was given every attention, especially by Mrs. Mead Patterson, and Dr. J. W. Reigle, veterinarian, made every effort to save the horse, but without avail.

## A Pleasant Pill

**December 2, 1904** — No Pill is as pleasant and positive as DeWitt's Little Early Risers. DeWitt's Little Early Risers are so mild and effective that children, delicate ladies and weak people enjoy their cleansing effect, while strong people say they are the best liver pills sold. Sold by T.E. Zimmerman.

**December 9, 1904** — There was a heavy fall of snow here Monday.

**December 9, 1904** — Christmas advertising is now in order. Tell the people of the many nice things you have for Christmas presents

**December 16, 1904** — Hipple, the celebrated Magician, under the management of Chas. L. Buck, will give a refined and high-class performance in the Opera House in this place, on Tuesday evening, Dec. 27 at 8 o'clock for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church. Hipple's "Mystic Flower Garden" is worth the price alone. All are invited to attend. Admission, 15 and 25 cents.

**December 16, 1904** — The large bell for Eyer's Valley Chapel Church, which was purchased through Messrs. J.T. Hays & Son, has arrived in this place. Next week the bell will be taken to Eyer's Valley and placed in position on the chapel.

**December 16, 1904** — On last Saturday ten inches of snow fell here, making very good sleighing. The weather has been bitter cold this week, the mercury in the thermometer registering as low as 2 degrees above zero on Wednesday morning.

## Mount St. Mary's

**December 16, 1904** — One great improvement in the looks of things out on the Mountain is owing to Mr. James Rosensteel's enlargement of his residence. It looks very nice from the pike. Miss Turber has reshingled her house, and Mr. Hopp and Mr. Hoke have put up some additions. Everyone that improves his property is a benefactor to the community and should be not only praised but rewarded. If the stones on the pike were broken so as to pass through a two-inch ring it would be grand.

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**Fire Tax**

-Continued from page 1

will become effective Jan. 1. The tax district will include Emmitsburg and the northern portions of Rocky Ridge, those areas served as part of EAC's first response zone.

**Commissioners laud efforts**  
County Commissioner Michael L. Cady had challenged Emmitsburg's fire and ambulance companies at a Nov. 16 county meeting to find a solution to the emergency services issues that have divided the two local agencies.

At the Nov. 30 meeting, the county commissioners, in general, commended the volunteer companies' effort in reaching a mutually acceptable

agreement. "We asked the companies to put their differences aside, which had run deep and over many, many years, and think of the community," Cady said.

Commissioner Bruce L. Reeder thanked those involved and said the solution was the result of the efforts of the officers and volunteers of the VHC, the EAC, Mayor James Hoover, and Clarence "Chip" Jewell, Director of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services.

**Commissioners approve EMS "battle plan"**

In addition to passing the Emmitsburg fire tax, the commissioners also endorsed a plan developed by the ambulance and fire companies to meet the response area's

needs. Thompson voted against this action as well.

Jewell presented the jointly developed nine-point plan for providing services.

The agreement, reached at a special meeting between the two services, establishes that "both companies support 24-7 career staffing; and that the paid staff would serve both companies."

The paid crew will remain at the Vigilant firehouse until the new ambulance building is constructed (estimated to take about a year), and the EAC has proven able to manage career employees.

Jewell will continue to meet with the EAC and provide administrative support for six months. Both services' administrators and officers will meet together monthly.

The VHC and EAC will provide each other with "at least one member" to serve as a non-voting member on each other's board of directors.

The EAC will resume first response status when they have the necessary crew on standby at their headquarters. At all other times, the paid crew

housed at Vigilant will serve as first responders.

Finally, the two services agreed to establish a "council or board" of individuals, including representatives of local government, to help oversee operations.

Commissioner Jan Gardner, as part of endorsing the joint plan, asked that a representative of the Frederick County Department of Fire and Rescue Services attend any "council or board" meetings.

**Eleventh-hour negotiations produce compromise**

EAC Chief Richard Sharer

told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that a Nov. 21 meeting at the town office included Mayor James Hoover, Jewell, EAC President Joe Pelkey, Vigilant Chief Robert Rosensteel, Jr., Vigilant President Frank Rauschenberg, Sharer, and other representatives of the EAC and Vigilant staff.

Sharer said that prior to the Nov. 21 meeting EAC officers had already concluded, "24 hours of paid staffing seven days a week (24-7), was the only option that would benefit the town."

EAC formally voted Nov. 23 to support the 24-7 option.

**Vigilant Hose Company and Emmitsburg Ambulance Company Points of Agreement**

1. Both support 24/7 career staffing.
2. Both agreed to the career staffing remaining at Station 6, Vigilant Hose Co., until at least 12/31/05 or until the new EAC building is completed and the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company is capable of managing career staff, both facility and administratively.
3. Both agreed to utilize the career staffing for the benefit of BOTH companies and the best interest of the community.
4. Both agreed to a "council" or "board" of individuals, including representatives from the town government, to help oversee operations and provide input on emergency services related issues in the community. A representative from Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services will attend these meetings as well, as per Commissioner Jan Gardner's request.
5. Director of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services "Chip" Jewell will attend meetings of Co. 26 and offer administrative support for a period of 6 months.
6. Each company will provide at least one member to serve as a non-voting member on the board of directors of the other company.
7. Monthly meetings of the leadership of both companies will continue and be scheduled to improve communications.
8. Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company will remain a viable company and will respond first due when they have volunteer manning in the station.
9. Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Co. will continue to implement administrative and operational changes to enhance service and improve performance. Bill Martin and Richard Shaff have agreed to continue to assist the company with planning and management issues.

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**15th Annual**  
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**Monday December 6**  
**6:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Schedule of Events:**

6:00 pm ~ Emmitsburg Tree Lighting Ceremony  
in front of the Community Center  
Join the United Church of Christ Choir in caroling  
and Mayor Hoover in the lighting of the  
town Christmas tree which will be decorated by  
our local elementary school children.

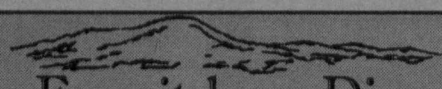
6:00 - 9:00 pm - Horse Drawn Surret  
Bring the family and join in on a winter ride in this  
beautifully decorated twelve passenger surret.

6:30 pm ~ Santa Arrives  
Santa invites all to the Carriage House Inn  
for complimentary hot dogs, cookies,  
live Nativity, entertainment, & hayrides.

7:00 - 9:00 pm ~ Entertainment at Carriage House  
Local Choirs and vocalists will be featured.

Canned goods and donations accepted for the  
Emmitsburg Lions Club Christmas Food Drive.

**Come and Celebrate the  
true meaning of Christmas Spirit**



# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

NEWS AND OPINION IN THE SERVICE OF TRUTH

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## "Maryland Life" to focus on what's special about Maryland

A new bi-monthly magazine celebrating Maryland will be available in mid-December. "Maryland Life," will explore destinations, history, dining, homestyles and people in the state often called "America in Miniature."

Published by Great State Publishing, LLC, "Maryland Life" is the first statewide Maryland magazine in nearly 10 years. It will cover all 23 counties and Baltimore City, providing in-depth articles and high-gloss photography to capture the state's diverse identities.

Longtime publisher of the *Frederick News-Post*, cable television proponent, and community benefactor, George B. Delaplaine, Jr. heads the magazine's team of investors.

Available from newsstands in mid-December and by subscription, see [www.maryland-life.com](http://www.maryland-life.com) for more information.

## EDITORIAL



-ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL, SR. / THE ROSENSTEEL STUDIO / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH - FILE PHOTO

The Francis X. Elder American Legion, Post #121, located at the corner of North Seton Ave. and West North Ave. is suspected to be the location of the Beam & Guthrie stable in 1863 where the great Emmitsburg fire started. The local honor guard pays its respects to veterans this past Nov. 11.

## Dispatch corrects inaccurate information reported about the origins of The Great Emmitsburg Fire

In the article entitled "The Great Emmitsburg Fire," in the Nov 3, 2004 issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, we included a map on page 3 that we knew was created later than 1863, but which showed the location of the Beam & Guthrie stable at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Chesapeake.

In the map caption we said that the fire began at this spot, in what is now the Antique Mall parking lot, because a 1979 Emmitsburg Historical Society publication, "Historic Emmitsburg, A Walking Tour," states that the Beam & Guthrie stable "stood on what is now the parking lot of the shoe factory," which became the Antique Mall.

After the fire George Beam had left town. He returned in the 1870s and opened a new stable which is the one on the map. A member of the

Emmitsburg Area Historical Society identified the map as being from an 1873 D.J. Lake Atlas.

Based on the work of J. Thomas Scharf in "History of Western Maryland," it seems more likely that the original Beam & Guthrie stable, where the fire started, stood on what is currently the Francis X. Elder American Legion at 121 North Seton Avenue.

James Helman's "History of Emmitsburg" (1906) pinpoints the Beam & Guthrie stable as standing "where the Elder's stable stands."

In the 1873 D.J. Lake Atlas map, the American Legion would be lot #130, one block north of the square. Scharf writes of the fire moving east about 10 doors toward the square, after destroying the Adelsberger's home and store and the home of Dr. Eichelberger. According to an 1863 Emmitsburg cavalry operations account, the fire involved the northeast, northwest and southeast blocks around the old water hole.

Scharf says the fire jumped across the street and burned back to the square, destroying the City Hotel last. If the southwest corner of the square did not burn, it seems that it would be easy to verify if the houses on that corner of the square are the oldest in existence.

Looking closely at the photo on page 7 of the Nov. 3 *Dispatch*, showing the fire's aftermath, it is clear that the houses in front of St. Joseph's Church have burned down. From the camera angle of this photo, that is the east side of the square. St. Joseph's sits one block back on DePaul Street, directly behind the part of town that would have sustained damage on both sides of the street.

On page 3 of the Nov. 3 issue, *The Dispatch* printed a list of buildings destroyed by the fire, but deed research needs to be done to verify those buildings' locations. Further research is already being undertaken by the Emmitsburg Area Historical Society to verify the location of the Beam & Guthrie Stable and to authenticate details about the fire.

There are many unanswered questions. Scharf and Helman provide partial answers and clues to the truth. This research work is certainly of interest to, and within the purview of the Emmitsburg Area Historical Society. *The Dispatch* will, with the society's help, make concrete information available to its readers.

-Raymond Buchheister  
Editor & Publisher

## Vigilant Hose information officer Honored

On Nov. 15, at the National Fire Marshals Association Educational Conference and International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA) Annual Meeting, Wayne Powell, Chief of the Citizen and Community Preparedness Branch of the U.S. Fire Academy's National Fire Programs Division, received the IFMA Meritorious Service Award.

Powell, a Vigilant Hose Company volunteer and its public information officer, was recognized for his years of dedication service promoting fire prevention at local, state and federal levels.

Involved in fire service for more than 44 years, Powell started as a volunteer in Silver Spring, Md. In Jan. 1977 he began working at the National Fire Academy (USFA) where he is currently responsible for National Fire Program activities and "all things prevention." Among other accomplishments noted, Powell was instrumental in obtaining funding for PARADE (Prevention Advocacy Resource Data Exchange), which brings together all state and metro fire marshals plus 10 IFMA representatives for an annual meeting to discuss fire prevention issues.

The Meritorious Service Award, introduced in 2000, recognizes an association member for notable and

significant service in public fire safety fields, including fire prevention, fire inspection, fire safety education, fire investigation, code enforcement and fire code development.

The International Fire Marshals Association, incorporated in 1906, aids in the

preservation of life and property by advocating, promoting and providing leadership in the prevention or mitigation of fire, explosions and other related hazardous conditions. IFMA became a membership section of the National Fire Prevention Association in 1927.

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# Season's Greetings

During the year, in the rush of events, we tend to overlook the important friendships that are the true basis of business relationships. One of the great pleasures of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to exchange cordial greetings with those whose friendships and goodwill we value so highly.

In this spirit it is our pleasure to say "Thank You" and extend our sincere appreciation for the very pleasant association we enjoy with you.

May a bright and prosperous New Year bring happiness to you and to yours.

Bob and Barb Mort  
Quality Fire Service

## TOWN NEWS

### AT&T begins work to lay fiber optic "highway" in town

Richard D. L. Fulton  
News Editor

Advance crews working with American Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (AT&T) to lay a fiber optic network through town began digging test holes the week of Nov. 15.

The cable will run along portions of Lincoln Avenue, Creamery Road and Frailey Road, ultimately linking to a national network serving regional emergency communications systems.

AT&T needed town permits to construct the line, and paid the town over \$100,000 for "improvements" to the Lincoln Avenue right-of-way.

Representatives of AT&T and Emmitsburg signed a cable permit agreement Sept. 2.

#### Test hole dug to find bedrock

Employees from Baker Engineering, Pittsburgh, and Gabes Construction, Wisconsin, began digging the first of what might become a series of small test pits along Lincoln Avenue

to determine how deep solid bedrock is beneath the soil layer.

An engineer with Baker, who asked not to be identified, told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that test results from the first digging Nov. 16 would determine if other holes need to be dug.

#### Proposed installation impact area Beefing up the "information highway"

According to the AT&T/Emmitsburg cable permit agreement, the cable installation project will begin at a point along Creamery Road and continue down the road for approximately 187 feet.

The line will then travel 3,360 feet along Lincoln Avenue and proceed up Frailey Road for 825 feet to the Emmitsburg town line.

The agreement stipulates that AT&T must complete all work within one year from the signing date, Sept. 4, 2004.

AT&T public relations

spokesman Andrew Backover told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that the fiber optic line would increase the capacity of that portion of the network.

"This (line) could carry anything including phone, e-mails, data, local voice and wireless traffic," he said.

"For competitive reasons," Backover said he could not divulge where the Lincoln Avenue line would lead or how it is connected to the bigger picture. He did say it was "part of our long haul, nation-wide fiber optic backbone."

AT&T is building redundancy to its national network to provide a means to re-route communications in the event of a catastrophic failure of a section of the line.

Because laying the line is dependent on cooperative weather, Backover was hesitant to give a timeframe for completing the work.

"Winter will have a bearing on the schedule," Backover stated, adding that heavy rains from recent hurricanes and tropical depression systems have slowed various other projects.

He pointed out additional factors that could also come



-PHOTO COURTESY CATHE CURTIS

A work crew began digging test holes along Lincoln Ave. the week of Nov. 15 in preparation to lay a fiber optic network through town.

into play and impact any proposed schedule including the contractors' other projects and the geology of the area involved.

#### AT&T provided funds for relocations

As a result of the cable permit agreement, AT&T agreed to pay the town

\$103,641, the estimated costs for relocating existing Verizon utility poles located along the Lincoln Avenue right-of-way and to cover other expenses.

Mayor James E. Hoover said the AT&T money could actually be used to pay for a variety of improvements. "In

-Continued on page 7

### A word from a Commissioner Emmitsburg Comprehensive Plan Update

I guess Saturday meetings were not as popular as we had hoped! Due to the **underwhelming** turnout at our special Planning and Zoning (P & Z) Commission Saturday meetings, we are changing our strategy. **We're coming to you.** That's right! P & Z representatives will attend your regularly scheduled meeting and give an overview of the Comprehensive Plan. Don't worry; the overview will take no more than five minutes. However, by attending your meetings, we will get a true sense of some of the concerns and issues your group is facing and what it may want to see in Emmitsburg.

If your members want to provide input during the meeting, we'll be happy to answer questions and take input. We encourage your members to call us at any time after the meeting to add their thoughts.

#### Recycling

I have been talking with Phil Harris, Recycling Coordinator for Frederick County, to see if there are any creative solutions for getting a recycling center back in Emmitsburg. While curbside recycling is done in the older parts of town, Harris pointed out that the county is no longer offering new curbside pickup and will not be opening any new recycling centers. As we work to see if there are solutions, maybe citizens can work together to answer part of the problem. Several Emmitsburg residents drive to the Thurmont recycling center at least once a week. If you are interested in sharing driving duties with other residents, please write me at [talkemmitsburg@aol.com](mailto:talkemmitsburg@aol.com). I'll compile a list of those who contact me and you can figure out how to divvy up the responsibilities.

#### Election Rules

The town council is currently considering new election rules. Features include a perimeter away from the voting booth beyond which candidates must remain, a requirement for local candidates to file campaign donation documents, provisions for a recall of elected officials, and a proposal for poll watchers. Please let me or any of the other commissioners know what you think about these rules.

Remember, your town government meets on the first and third Mondays of each month. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, second floor of the Community Center. Check Cable TV 99 or [www.emmitsburgmd.gov](http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov) for other information. Make your voice heard!

- Dianne L. Walbrecker  
Emmitsburg Commissioner



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**Fiber Optic**

-Continued from page 6

1997, the streets committee recommended widening East Lincoln Avenue to two lanes," Hoover told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*. The project appeared economically unfeasible, until AT&T came to town.

The mayor credited Town Manager David Haller and Town Planner Michael Lucas for alerting him once they recognized the potential to generate funds for East Lincoln by striking a deal with the communications company.

"Emmitsburg was a road block" to AT&T's plans, Hoover said.

(See related story, "Mayor reviews Lincoln Avenue possibilities," in the August 11, 2004, issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.)

**Silver Fancy**

-Continued from page 1

gathered sufficient signatures to bring the annexation to a referendum.

Regarding the election results, William B. O'Neil, Jr., now president of the town board of commissioners declared, "This is a clear mandate to preserve the quality of life that Emmitsburg residents have come to cherish for more than 200 years."

The downside of the victory, however, is that the tract may well be developed under county auspices, which will deprive the town of any fees or other municipal revenues that the development might generate.

**100 single-family homes proposed**

The old Silver Fancy farm property straddles the Mason-Dixon line, with portions in both Maryland and Pennsylvania, according to Boyle.

Edward Smariga, managing member of Buckeye Development, told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, that Buckeye is only considering the Maryland portion of the farm bordering Emmitsburg for development.

The site must have its own wastewater treatment plant, since it cannot connect to the Emmitsburg system. "The development has to have its own facility because the town declined to annex the property," Smariga stated.

"This (Dec. 15 review) would be the first step."

**Town News Update ...**

**Southgate plan revision approved**

The town planning commission approved changes Nov. 29 in Southgate's plans that would permit basements built in violation of previously approved final plans.

The town approved the development's site plan in 2003, including a no-basement restriction, based on the presumption that the homes would be built on slabs.

However, during the review process, the Frederick Soil Conservation District manager approved sediment

and erosion controls for Southgate that would permit basements.

Thomas Carolyn, owner of Apple Tree Homes, the developers of Mountainview at Southgate, previously stated that not amending the pending 2003 site plan to obtain the county's approval of basements was "an oversight."

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

Smariga said. Depending on the outcome, Buckeye could then develop a preliminary plan for county review.

Current county zoning for the site is R-3, meaning that three lots per acre would be permitted. If the entire tract proved developable, a total of more than 190 units could be built.

However, Smariga said Buckeye would seek county approval for a total of 100 single-family homes. Since it is "too early to have a preliminary site plan," according to Smariga, he did not know the layout for the tract.

Regarding a timeframe for the various approvals and initial lot sales, Smariga said, "There is no timeframe for development. We have to work through the process and the process takes a while."

He said it was probably unrealistic to expect to see lot sales anytime in 2005.

**'Silver Fancy' is home of Lost Dinosaur Quarry**

Part of the Silver Fancy tract along Flat Run contains a historic quarry that produced the only known Maryland fossil tracks of dinosaurs dating from the dawn of their evolution, over 200 million years ago.

Peter Korans, director of the Washington D.C.-based Dinosaur Fund, has advocated developing the small area containing the quarry into a park.

Kranz met on-site in May with Boyle, Fran Denmark (of Buckeye Development) and

Vincent L. Santucci, chief ranger of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, to discuss the prehistoric site's historical and natural attributes and possible plans for the quarry.

The quarry's fate is basically in the hands of the owner, or in this case, the proposed owner. The site could possibly be donated to the county or state, with access considerations.

Smariga told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that Buckeye Development would be "happy to work with the state if they want to do this function, which is do parks. We'd be happy to try and cooperate." He also indicated that the development firm "could quite possibly consider donating the land."

(See "Triassic Park - Emmitsburg could be home to Maryland's only dinosaur park" in the May 19, 2004 issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.)

**Emmitsburg Municipal Meetings: December**

To verify a meeting date or time, or to obtain information concerning a meeting, contact the Town Office at 240-629-6300.

**Board of Commissioners**  
Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.

**Board of Commissioners**  
Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.

**Planning and Zoning Commission**  
Dec. 28 (rescheduled from Dec. 27), 7:30 p.m.

**Town News Briefs ...**

**P&Z recommends change in sign rules**

The Emmitsburg Planning and Zoning committee unanimously approved a recommendation Nov. 29 that town commissioners resolve conflicting home-based business signage regulations.

The town zoning ordinance stipulates that signs advertising a home-based business can be no larger than two feet square. The sign code indicates that

such signs cannot be larger than one square foot in size.

Town Planner Michael Lucas stated that the mayor and board of commissioners favor the smaller size.

The planning committee voted to advise the town commissioners to enact a text amendment altering the zoning ordinance for home-based business signs, making their maximum size one square foot, as written in the sign code regulation.

**Home businesses will need planning approval**

The town planning and zoning committee voted Nov. 29 to require that proposed home businesses undergo review and approval by the committee.

The committee recommended that town commissioners adopt a text amendment requiring that any proposed home business located in any of the town's residential zones undergo formal review.

Town Planner Michael Lucas said the change would take the responsibility for ruling on home businesses "out of the (town) staff's

hands," and make it a planning and zoning issue.

Asked if home-based businesses operating via the Internet would come under the change, Lucas replied, "Technically, anyone with an office would be required (to get approval) under the code."

However, he said, "We're not actively looking for those people (with Internet businesses)," indicating the primary concerns were those businesses which generate parking issues or "disruption of the neighborhood."



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## New resident deputy looks forward to working with community

Richard D. L. Fulton  
News Editor

For ten years, Emmitsburg's newest community deputy, 43-year old Roger Venzin, patrolled the sometimes crime-ridden streets of Washington, D.C.

That was until a longing for a simpler life brought him to Frederick County in 2001 and, in 2004, to Emmitsburg, via Frederick and Lake Linganore.

"I was looking for a better quality of life ... You feel like a prisoner in that Beltway. I like the rural (atmosphere) more," Venzin said.

Raised in Pittsburgh, Venzin told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* he "always wanted to be a police officer ever since I was little," and that becoming one in 1991 "fulfilled my dreams."

Venzin graduated from the police academy in Washington, D.C., and joined the Washington Metropolitan Police; ultimately patrolling the streets of D.C. by car, foot, and bicycle — everything but a horse.

When Venzin relocated to Frederick in 2001, he became certified as a Frederick County Sheriff's Office deputy within a few months.

In fall 2001 he had an opportunity to serve as the community deputy for Lake Linganore, which he described

as a sprawling bedroom community of developments.

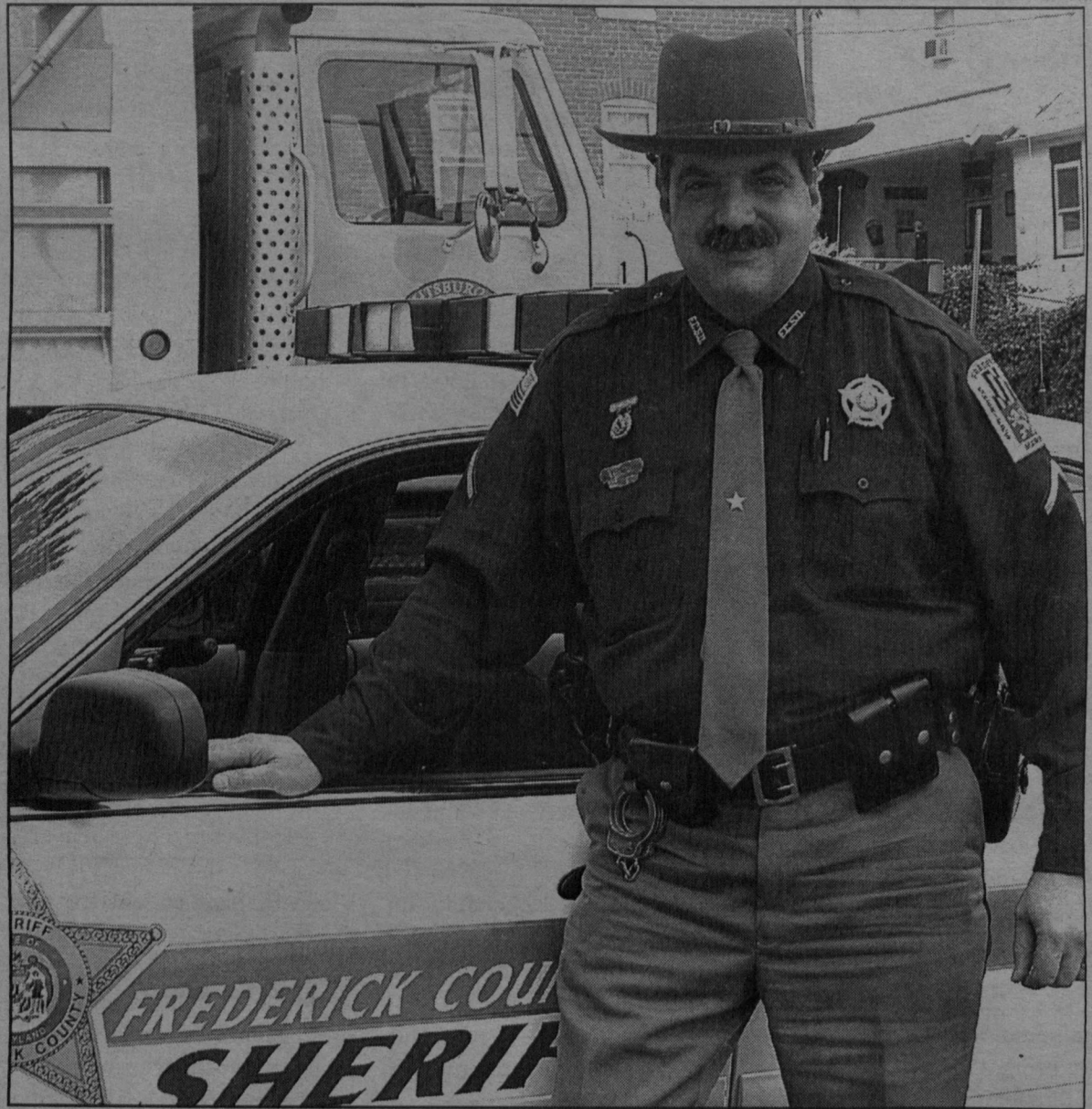
"There were some 50 miles of roadway in Lake Linganore which required patrolling," he said. It did offer some novel approaches. Part of his beat required using a boat. Still no horse though. "I think I'd like to have a horse (on patrol)," he commented.

Venzin's assignment to Emmitsburg came about as a result of a number of career opportunities available within the sheriff's office. Former Emmitsburg community Deputy Kevin Eyler accepted a position at the Frederick County Court House, and Venzin was granted Eyler's former patrol. The moves were effective Oct. 16.

"Linganore is a great community," he said, "but I wanted to give it a change and get to know another part of the county. It was a chance to let a new deputy (Venzin's replacement in Linganore) get his feet wet."

Venzin, who lives in the Frederick area with his wife and son, believes communication with residents is critical not only to building rapport with the community, but to building the community's confidence with their resident deputies as well.

"My biggest thing is to be visible and out in the



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Frederick County Sheriff's Office Deputy Roger Venzin recently began patrolling the streets of Emmitsburg. He replaces Deputy Kevin Eyler who accepted a position at the Frederick County Court House.

neighborhood," he told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*. "They can talk to me and not feel intimidated by me. I like to talk to people. They are my eyes and ears."

"Emmitsburg is a great town and I'm getting to know the area," Venzin added. "There are a lot of good people here. I want the community to know they can trust me."

## Catoctin Mountain Park Seasonal Road Closings

Winter's anticipated-freezing weather brings about road closings in Catoctin Mountain Park.

Manahan Road is now closed through Mar. 25, 2005. The gravel section north of the intersection with Park Central Road has an average elevation of 1500 feet. This section of the road receives a great deal of freezing rain each winter. Closing the road reduces the need to replace gravel in the spring, preserves adjacent native

plants, and makes it safer for visitors to sled and cross-country ski in the area.

A two and one-half mile section of Park Central Road on the east side of the park near the Visitor Center will close at noon, Dec. 21, providing additional winter recreation opportunities. Snowplowing and de-icing chemicals take a toll on the road and salt runoff damages vegetation. The Park Central Road will reopen around March 18, 2005.



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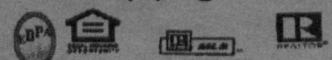
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## REGIONAL NEWS

### VHC purchases defibrillators for public use

Staff Report

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for community use are available in several Emmitsburg locations thanks to grant funding received by the Vigilant Hose Company (VHC).

An AED is an electronic device that recognizes an abnormal heart rhythm and then gives rescuers simple step-by-step instructions, using voice prompts and a display screen, for administering a needed shock by just pressing a button.

Fire Chief Robert Rosensteel, Jr. described AEDs as "small, portable and easy to use." He explained, "They enable anyone with minimal training to give a potentially lifesaving shock to a heart in sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) - before the arrival of emergency services."

Known as "Public Access AEDs," several machines are located in and around

Emmitsburg: Jubilee Foods, Mount St. Mary's University (two units), Mountain Manor Rehabilitation Center, Emmitsburg Town Office, one with each resident deputy and several at the fire station itself.

#### Fourth grant to VHC

VHC just received a fourth grant from The Maryland Institute for Emergency Services Systems (MIEMSS) to purchase more machines and provide additional public training. Ann Messner, Karyn Myers and immediate past VHC chief Frank Davis led the grant funding effort. VHC's total support from MIEMSS is now approximately \$30,000, according to Rosensteel.

VHC President Frank Rauschenberg praised the committee's work and added, "given that for the past 10 years the VHC has been increasingly involved in emergency medical services delivery, this was a logical next step."

Approximately 75 local

residents have already been trained to use the AED. The instructions are so simple to use that "even inexperienced grade-school children have demonstrated the skills to use them quickly and correctly," according to VHC publicity.

#### AEDs save lives

The American Heart Association states that SCA victims who receive immediate CPR and an AED shock within 3 to 5 minutes have survival rates as high as 48 to 74 percent.

With as many as 250,000 Americans each year experiencing SCA, an estimated 50,000 lives could potentially be saved through CPR and AED training and widespread AED distribution.

AEDs are becoming more commonplace in settings as diverse as airplanes, office buildings, industrial plants, casinos, golf courses, cruise ships, sports arenas and health clubs.

### Hope Alive plans not stalled by local opposition group

Hope Alive's site plan approval for a group home for homeless women and children on Harbaugh Valley Road, Sabillasville, remains intact despite the efforts of the Northwest Frederick County Civic Association, Inc. to have it rescinded.

The county zoning appeals board dismissed the group's appeal in a 3-2 vote Nov. 18 on

the grounds that the association did not meet the county zoning code nor the state case law definition of an aggrieved party, according to Rick Brace, a county development review planner.

An appeal of the county planning board's site plan approval was filed Oct. 4. However, supportive documents attached to the appeal application

were on Northwest Frederick County Civic Association, Inc. letterhead.

Brace noted that attorneys involved in the hearing stated that the laws suggest that associations must own land adjacent to property in question to qualify as an aggrieved party in an appeal.

### Frederick County Medical Reserve Corps. created to close gaps in times of emergency

Building on a nationally recognized need for more organized response systems across the U.S. in times of national emergency, the Office of the Surgeon General along with the White House Freedom Corps initiative created a second line of defense during disaster situations, the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).

Jack Lynch, Emergency Volunteer Coordinator at Volunteer Frederick, manages a federal grant to form and coordinate a local MRC, called the Frederick County Citizens

Corps.

Volunteers, when called up by local or state emergency management, may work in the field, support professionals at a local hospital, or help with mass inoculations or other public health initiatives.

The MRC will not duplicate existing services, but will focus on closing gaps when first responders are overwhelmed by an event or by simply lending a hand in case of a natural disaster, a major transportation accident, or a wildfire in the county.

Medically trained personnel and individuals with four-wheel drive vehicles are needed. For more information, contact Jack Lynch at [jacklynch@volunteerfrederick.org](mailto:jacklynch@volunteerfrederick.org), or 301-883-5214. The Frederick County Citizens Corps website, [www.frederickcitizenscorps.org](http://www.frederickcitizenscorps.org), is still under construction.

Volunteer Frederick, Inc., [www.VolunteerFrederick.org](http://www.VolunteerFrederick.org), connects people in Frederick County with opportunities to serve, builds service partnerships, and trains volunteer program managers.

### County Grants Development Specialist Reassigned, Website to cover needed information

County agencies and community organizations which had come to rely on the services and expertise of the county's grants development specialist will have to rely on a redesigned website instead for general technical assistance and resources.

Because of Homeland Security and public safety concerns, Frederick County reassigned the grants specialist from the county's Finance Division to the Division of Fire and Rescue to focus exclusively on public safety assistance.

The newly redesigned grants website, "Grants Information and Resources for the Frederick County, Md. Community," is accessible from the "community information link" on the Frederick County Government website, [www.co.frederick.md.us](http://www.co.frederick.md.us) or at [www.co.frederick.md.us/grants](http://www.co.frederick.md.us/grants).

For further information, contact Grants Specialist Ann Brown at 301-694-1918 or e-mail her at [abrown@fredco-md.net](mailto:abrown@fredco-md.net).

### Vehicle Donation benefits decrease

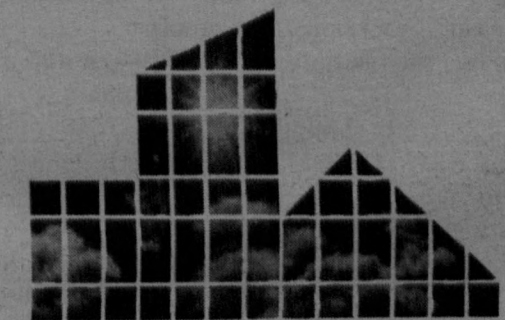
Beginning Jan. 1, 2005, donating a vehicle to charity will bring a smaller tax deduction. For any vehicle valued over \$500, the donor will only be able to take a tax deduction in the amount the charity receives when selling the car.

Prior to the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, donors could use an "established used car-pricing guide to determine the fair market value of their donated vehicle," said Karen Campese, CEO

of cars4charities, a national vehicle donation center. Campese pointed out that most charities donate vehicles to car dealers, so the sale price would rarely approach a vehicle's real value. She recommends making a vehicle donation by Dec. 31, "to get the best tax benefit."

For more information on car donation, call cars4charities at 1-866-448-3487 or log onto their website, [www.cars4charities.org](http://www.cars4charities.org).

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Jim Adelsberger, 83, holds a small handful of burned but cherished relics from his firsthand experience of the Pearl Harbor attack. Photo courtesy of Cathe Curtis-Adelsberger.

## Pearl Harbor

-Continued from page 1

### The attack is launched

For Adelsberger and his mess-hall mates and compatriots, the morning hours before 8 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1941 were the beginning of just another day in "paradise."

After eating breakfast at the main barracks, the soldiers made their way to the day's assignment, guarding an incoming squadron of B-17 Flying Fortresses.

"We had just left the mess hall and were walking toward the landing strip," Adelsberger recalled, when the surprise attack began.

"The B-17s were coming in from the (U.S.) West Coast, were going to stop at Hickam to be refueled and inspected, and were scheduled to take off the next day," he said. A dozen

of the Flying Fortresses were due in on their way to the Philippines.

About 7:55 a.m., Japanese Commander Mitsua Fuchida gave the go ahead for the assault with the infamous declaration, "Tora, tora, tora!" Little did Adelsberger know then, but Hickam Field was a primary target, since the Japanese battle plan required keeping American fighter planes out of the air.

"We heard the planes coming in and thought they were ours (the anticipated B-17s)," Adelsberger remembers.

In fact, the B-17s were there, amid the first wave of Japanese Zeros (fighter planes). The B-17s had been disarmed to lighten their loads, and were trying to dodge the enemy's planes and land on the tarmac.

"Some of them were being hit. Some of them were being shot down. We didn't know what was going on. Some of them were shot up pretty bad," Adelsberger said.

The first B-17 shot burst into flames and landed without its tail section. Amazingly, it sustained only one casualty. But the death toll was just beginning.

### "Shock and awe"— Japanese style

Attempting to shake off the effects of the shock, Adelsberger and the men stood there with nothing more than side arms. "They finally gave us guns later." They were not

issued rifles for guard duty. As the attack intensified, the men quickly went to a supply store and were issued helmets and flak jackets.

"They (the Japanese Zeros and bombers) just kept coming and coming and we couldn't figure out where they were all coming from," he stated.

Adelsberger and his fellow soldiers steered clear of all the barracks because they were under intense aerial assault. "We went toward the officers' homes because there wasn't as much bombing going on (in that area)," Adelsberger said.

"There was so much stuff to see, so much noise, explosions, fire and smoke," he recounted. Some of the Japanese planes were finally being shot down. Only a few American planes got off the ground at Hickam and, along with a machine gun near the main barracks, were making the Japanese pay for their brazen assault.

Adelsberger said none of the men could figure out why they were being attacked by a foreign power. "We didn't know what it was for."

### In the wake of the "storm"

In less than two hours, the American fleet at Pearl Harbor was crippled. Twenty-one ships had been sunk or damaged. Of the airplanes based at Pearl Harbor and the associated fields, 188 were destroyed, and 159 damaged.

The Japanese assault left 2,388 military personnel dead, along with 1,178 wounded. Among the dead were 68 civilians.

"I could see all of the attack," Adelsberger said, referring to his location on Hickam Field. "I could see ships half-sunk and buildings burned down after the attack."

When Adelsberger surveyed

the damage at Hickam, he saw that the main barracks where he had just eaten breakfast had been heavily damaged, his own barracks was on fire, and 18 American fighters based at Hickam that never got off the ground were destroyed.

"None of my group was wounded," he said thankfully. "Some that I didn't know were killed in our barracks. We were very lucky we got through it."

"Many were killed while they were sleeping. We lost a lot of men at Hickam Field," he recalled. "There were a lot of fellows lying around (on the ground). They were lying everywhere. The field hospital was doing a real business that day."

In fact, 139 men were killed

The U.S.S. Arizona sank rapidly during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack, carrying 1,177 sailors to their watery grave. The dead on the Arizona were nearly half the total number of Americans slaughtered by Japanese fighters and bombers that day. The ship eventually became the nucleus of the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, established officially in 1958 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and dedicated in 1962.

While thousands have visited this hallowed site, which memorializes all American casualties from Dec. 7, one person won't be visiting the memorial.

Adelsberger left Pearl Harbor a few weeks after the attack, having been transferred



Sailors watch as the U.S.S. Shaw explodes during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In less than two hours, twenty-one ships of the American fleet had been sunk or damaged. Photo courtesy of the Navy Historical Center, Washington, D.C., Navy Yard.

in Adelsberger's immediate vicinity, and 303 had been wounded, according to military statistics. His own barracks burned to the ground. When the last bullet had sliced through the morning air, Adelsberger realized, "All I had was what I was wearing. I lost everything else in the barracks."

### Never returned to Pearl Harbor

On December 8, 1941, every member of the U.S. Senate voted to adopt the resolution declaring war on Japan. The House of Representatives agreed, 388:1. Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana, the first woman elected to congress, was the lone dissenting vote.

For nearly four years, the American armed forces remained locked in deadly combat with Japan. On Aug. 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb employed in combat was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later, Nagasaki was struck by the second.

"I don't recall how I felt," Adelsberger responded when asked about the bomb attacks. "I felt good when we knew the war was over," he added.

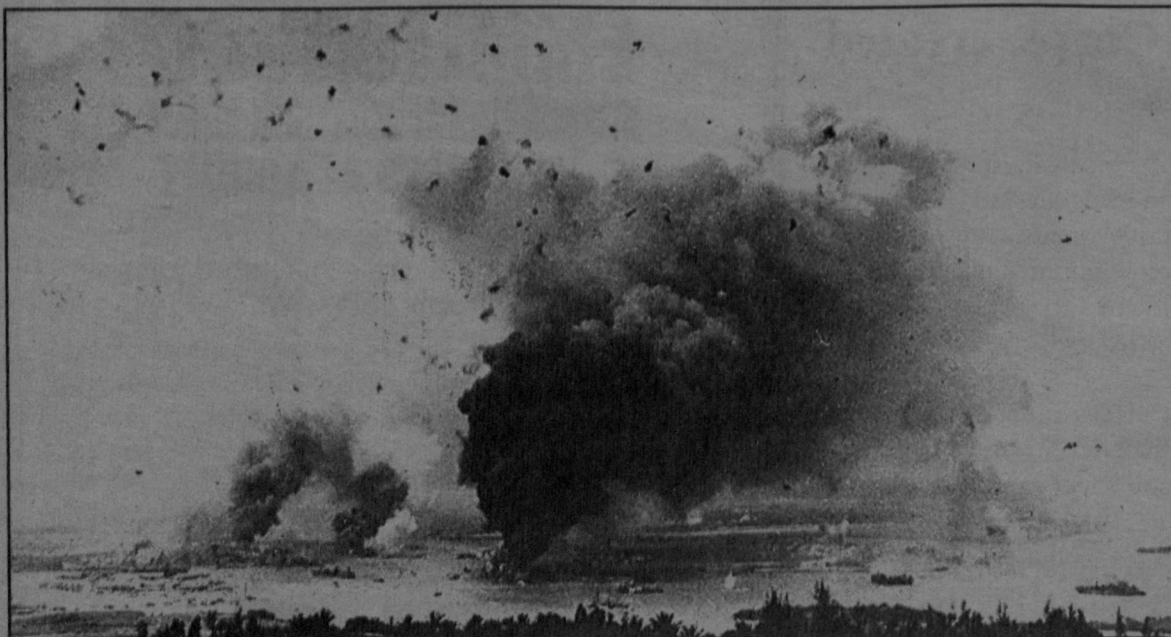
back to the states for further training and to apply as a pilot. Ironically, he was later assigned to duty in Arizona ... the state for which the ship sustaining the most casualties at Pearl Harbor had been named.

"I never went back. I never wanted to go back to Hawaii," Adelsberger told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*. "It would just bring back bad memories. At least no one from Emmitsburg was killed that day."

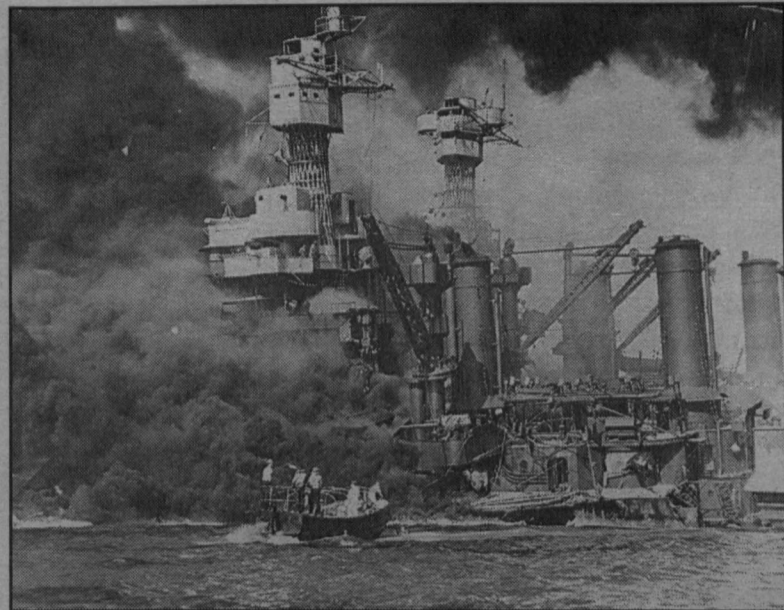
"I'm the only living survivor" of the four Emmitsburg comrades who went off to war together, Adelsberger said.

On his wall, a glass case displays a handful of mementos of the Pearl Harbor attack, including some shrapnel, two spent Japanese Zero 20mm machine gun bullet casings, his burned watch, and his dog tags, which Adelsberger rescued from the ruins of his barracks soon after the gunfire ceased.

In the shadow of Mt. Saint Mary's lies this small handful of burned but cherished relics, a reminder of the day Japanese delusions of imperial grandeur awakened a "sleeping giant" called America.



Emmitsburg Pearl Harbor survivor Jim Adelsberger could see the general attack on the navy base from Hickam Field, but he and his fellow guardsmen had a difficult time during the initial chaos determining who was attacking them. Photo courtesy of the Navy Historical Center, Washington, D.C., Navy Yard.



Naval crews rush to the rescue of a survivor near the burning and half-sunken U.S.S. West Virginia. While Japanese pilots reveled in their "shock and awe" attack, they were, in fact, awakening "a sleeping giant." Photo courtesy of the Navy Historical Center, Washington, D.C., Navy Yard.

## Emmitsburg Historical Society Compiling Local Book of Days "366 Days of Emmitsburg History"

Ray Van Horn, Jr.  
Staff Writer

Published in 1869, Robert Chambers' "The Book of Days" served as a compendium of daily anecdotes depicting Scottish and English life. Now, more than 130 years later, the Emmitsburg Area Historical Society is replicating Chambers' format to produce a localized anthology of the town's history.

Presented in a day-by-day format, "The Book of Days" offers readers engaging facts for every day of the calendar year, a format suited to the 400 regional stories, autobiographies and historic accounts accumulated by the Emmitsburg Historical Society.

While on vacation in Nova Scotia in 1991, Emmitsburg Historical Society President Michael Hillman chanced upon "The Book of Days" in an old bookstore. "I was immediately taken by the book," Hillman explains, "and over the next year, closed my day sitting in bed reading the entries for that day. In that one year, I learned more about my heritage than I had in 17 years of schooling."

Always interested in history, Hillman was inspired to learn more about Emmitsburg, his hometown since 1988. Hillman whimsically noted his surprise that although home of America's first canonized saint, Elizabeth Ann

Seton, and home to a large contingency of Catholics, Emmitsburg was founded by Scottish Methodists and Presbyterians.

Since "The Book of Days" is predominantly dedicated to Scottish legacy, it seemed only natural to Hillman to reproduce Chambers' work on a website linked to that of the historical society. Presented to the Scottish Genealogy Society, the online version has attracted visitors from across the Atlantic, who contribute to the site's 13,000 hits each month.

The Emmitsburg Historical Society, founded in 1996, shares a nonprofit community website, [www.emmitsburg.net](http://www.emmitsburg.net), with other local nonprofits, businesses and town government. People across the country with ties to Emmitsburg have shared their town information with the historical society.

By utilizing the Book of Days format, the historical society can present facts unlikely found in mainstream history books in a coherent fashion, with subtle nuances about everyday life that are the trademark of Chambers' compilation.

"This allows us to bring so many stories and tidbits that normally wouldn't make it into regular history books," Hillman said. Those stories include the autobiography of Charles Walter, the man responsible for building St. Anthony's, tales of the town lamplighters of yesteryear,

## OBITUARIES

**Sr. Ambrose Byrne, DC**  
Sister Ambrose Byrne, DC, 95, died Nov. 22 at Villa St. Michael, Emmitsburg.

The former Helen Byrne was born in Richmond, Va. to Ambrose and Nellie Whitlock Byrne. She graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in Richmond in 1927, and entered the Daughters of Charity in 1932.

Sister Ambrose worked as a psychiatric nurse and had served as assistant directress and directress of St. Joseph's Seminary, Emmitsburg.

Surviving are two sisters, Catherine B. Ragland and Margaret B. Nolte; one brother, Joseph H. Byrne; sixteen nieces and nephews, and many other relatives and friends.

A Mass of Christian burial was offered Nov. 27 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg.

**Sr. Constantia Clark, DC**  
Sister Constantia Clark, DC, 90, died Nov. 18 at Villa St. Michael, Emmitsburg.

The former Sigrig Katherine Clark was born in Norfolk, Va. to Edward Alexander and Louie Lawhorn Springfield Clark.

She graduated from St. Mary's High School in Norfolk in 1931 and entered the Daughters of Charity in 1933. She worked as a nurse and a nursing administrator until her retirement in 1997.

Surviving are one sister-in-law; four nieces and two nephews; and numerous grandnieces and grandnephews.

A Mass of Christian burial

was offered Nov. 27, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg.

**Sr. Genevieve Dunnigan, DC**  
Sister Genevieve Dunnigan, DC, 88, died Nov. 23 at Villa St. Michael, Emmitsburg.

Genevieve Dunnigan was born in Baltimore, Md. to James and Clara McCusker Dunnigan.

She graduated from Seton High School in 1934 and entered the Daughters of Charity in December of that year. She worked as a science teacher and later a medical laboratory technician until her retirement in 1993.

Surviving are a twin sister, Sister Clara Dunnigan, DC; three nieces; two nephews; and numerous grandnieces and grandnephews.

A Mass of Christian burial was offered Nov. 27 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg.

**Mrs. Catherine Lowe**  
Mrs. Catherine Anne Lingg Lowe, 85, DePaul Street, Emmitsburg, died Nov. 14 at St. Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg.

Born April 14, 1919 in Emmitsburg, she was a daughter of the late John and Jane Baker Lingg.

Mrs. Lowe was a graduate of Emmitsburg High School, a communicant of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, and was a member of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Surviving are two daughters,

reflections from past mayors, and Emmitsburg as seen from the perspective of a Union soldier during the Civil War.

The projected book will be approximately 700 pages long, and will be printed by CIP Printing in Emmitsburg, according to Hillman. He also anticipates making the information available in CD format, to make it even easier to search.

A committee will be organized to meet with local churches and schools to gather birth and death dates and to expand on existing information.

Hillman notes, "We have

a lot of names with good family history in Emmitsburg. We'd like to talk to them." He encourages anyone with stories, artifacts, newspaper clippings, or firsthand information about Emmitsburg history to contact the historical society by e-mail, [history@emmitsburg.net](mailto:history@emmitsburg.net) or by phone, 301-447-2220. Society representatives have also offered to interview individuals in their homes.

Visit the Emmitsburg Area Historical Society's website, <http://emmitsburg.net/history/index.htm>. For more information on Chambers' "The Book of Days," visit [www.thebookofdays.com](http://www.thebookofdays.com).

Brenda E. Humerick and Jill Hooper; two granddaughters; four great-grandchildren; three sisters, Rita Stahley, Dorin Morgret, and Ruth Heiser; and one brother, Raymond Lingg.

A private graveside service will be held at the convenience of the family in New St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**Sr. Monica Schanberger, DC**  
Sister Monica Schanberger, DC, 92, died Nov. 12 at Villa St. Michael, Emmitsburg.

Mary Eleanor Schanberger was born in Baltimore, Md. to Charles Louis and Loretta Wehage Schanberger.

A 1929 graduate of Seton High School, Eleanor graduated from St. Joseph College in 1933. She entered the Daughters of Charity in December 1932. She served as a teacher school principal, librarian, docent, directress of St. Joseph's Seminary and former dean of students at St. Joseph College in Emmitsburg before her retirement in 1989.

Surviving are one sister, Mary Louise Flaggs; one brother, Robert J. Schanberger; numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

A Mass of Christian burial was offered Nov. 15 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg.

**Mr. Earl Vaughn**  
Mr. Earl Richard Vaughn, 76, Thurmont, died Nov. 23 in Taneytown.

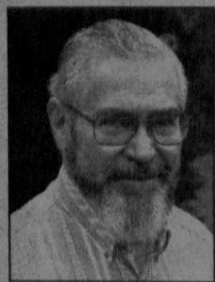
Born March 26, 1928, in Taneytown, he was a son of the late William and Carrie Wantz Vaughn.

He was a retired truck driver for Ryder P.I.E., Hagerstown, and a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Harney.

Surviving is his wife of 55 years, Mildred Wetzel Vaughn; one daughter, Candace Lookingbill; four sons, Thomas, Terry, John, and James Vaughn; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one brother, Kenneth; three sisters, Virginia Ridinger, Dorothy Wantz, and Ester Horning.

Funeral services were held Nov. 27 from Skiles Funeral Home, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Stephen Trzeciecki, C.M. officiating.

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

*The (retired) Ecologist***Loose screws in the Ecosystem**

Bill  
Meredith  
*Dispatch*  
Writer

"Never look to see for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."  
John Donne, *Meditation XVII*

There seems to be no limit to the variety of questions people ask you when the word gets out that you are a biologist. My latest example came from a friend who reported that he was sitting in a lawn chair, peacefully reading a book when a beetle flew down and landed on the page before him. It was small, even as beetles go, and quite beautiful, with a metallic green body and white wings with narrow brown stripes.

It seemed to find the book interesting; it crawled back and forth across the page, as if reading line by line. My friend had never seen a specimen like it; he found it more interesting than the book, so he watched it for several minutes. Eventually it flew away, but it left an important question for him to ponder.

The question began trivially, with, "What if I had closed the book and squashed the beetle? Except for making a messy splotch on the page, would it have mattered?" To this, I answered, "Probably not; although you have never seen one like it, no doubt there are many more of its kind, and no doubt many of them die in various ways every day. I'm glad you didn't squish it, but in the biological sense it wouldn't have mattered." But the follow-up was more profound: "What if I somehow wiped out its

entire species? Would that matter?" The answer to this was not so easy, for it raises the central problem of biodiversity in ecosystems.

Biodiversity is the word used for the variety of different species of plants and animals that live in a particular ecosystem. When you begin counting things, you always find a lot of beetles; biologists estimate that there may be as many as a million different species of them in the world ... more than any other kind of animal. Someone once asked J. B. S. Haldane, one of the most brilliant and controversial biologists of the 20th century, what he thought God was like, and he replied, "Well, He must have an inordinate fondness for beetles." But biodiversity involves more than just the number of species; it involves a pattern. In any well-balanced ecosystem there are only a few native species that are very abundant, and many species with fewer individuals. All of them, numerous or rare, are involved in complex relationships with each other. Some eat plants, some eat other animals; some are parasites or cause diseases; some recycle dead materials to enrich the soil; some pollinate plants; some modify the habitat so other kinds can find a place to live; and so on. These relationships become so complex and entangled that ecologists have not been able to work out all of them for even simple ecosystems.

Although the entire picture is not yet understood, we have known at least since the 1950s that when an ecosystem is disturbed by removing rare

species and thus diminishing biodiversity, that ecosystem becomes unstable. For example, a species whose predators are removed may undergo a population explosion and destroy its food supply; other species that shared that food supply in happier times may become extinct. A domino effect follows; other plants and animals that were held in check by the extinguished species then go out of control. Removing a common species is even worse; recall how the destruction of bay grasses in Chesapeake Bay by overdevelopment and runoff from nitrates and other pollutants has affected crab and oyster populations. And introducing new species which do not fit into the web of relationships of an ecosystem can be equally devastating; think of the effect of gypsy moths on Maryland's forests.

All of this went whizzing through my head when my friend asked if exterminating his beetle mattered. I knew I could not give a clear-cut answer to his question without explaining every function that beetle plays in the ecosystem, and I do not have that information ... nor does anyone else. Somewhere there probably is a specialist who knows the Latin name of that little green, white and brown beetle, and knows what it eats, and what eats it, and a lot of other facts about it; but even such an expert doesn't know all of its relationships with all the other components of the ecosystem. And I also knew my friend didn't have several hours to spend listening to a lecture on biodiversity and niche differentiation. So the best I could do was to offer an analogy.

If you were driving down the road and a screw fell out of your car, would it matter?

Clearly, it would depend on the function of the screw. If it held down the floor mat in the back seat, the answer would be, "No." But if the screw connected two vital parts of the brake or steering mechanism, its loss could be fatal to the driver, to passengers, and to anyone the car might hit when it careened out of control. All screws are not equally important; and likewise, any ecologist would admit that all species of animals are not equally important. The trouble is that it's a lot easier to tell with screws. A good mechanic would be able to tell you the precise function of any screw in a car, be it a Model T Ford or the latest Mercedes. By comparison, an ecosystem is vastly more complex than any automobile, or, for that matter, any other man-made structure. So since we don't know what that little beetle does, prudence suggests that we shouldn't do anything to hasten its demise.

When the Endangered Species Act became law in 1973, rare species got some recognition by the public as well as some protection, but increasingly they are threatened by the loss of habitat. This is a critical issue in Maryland right now; the state government appears to be looking for ways to turn land that had been set aside as wildlife preserves over to developers. In order to make this palatable to voters, the governor has called these areas "Surplus Land," implying that they are expendable. The rationale for this action is that it will raise revenue to offset budget imbalances; but this is a false pretext. As revenue, the sale of this land would be a small, one-time drop in the state's deficit bucket; but it would be a permanent blow to biodiversity, and a guarantee of disruption to an ecosystem that is already under stress. Once started, the process of selling off protected land will snowball, and the effect on biodiversity will be clearly predictable. It will be like randomly removing screws from the car as you speed down the highway; sooner or later, a vital species will be lost and the ecosystem will crash.

John Donne had it right 400 years ago: "If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less." Once extinct, species do not come back. The bell that tolls for them also tolls for us.

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# MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

## HOW DO YOU GET TO *Carnegie Hall*?

*By Anya Savage, Class of 2005*

Practice of course! And for eighteen members of the Mount St. Mary's Chorale it was a dream come true to get to Carnegie Hall. They recently traveled to the New York City's landmark to perform Mozart's "Coronation Mass."

They joined approximately 100 singers representing eight choirs from around the country. The New England Symphonic Ensemble accompanied the chorus, conducted by Dr. Earl Rivers of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, who invited participation by choirs that are directed by several of his former choral conducting students.

The concert took place on November 21, the culmination of a four-day residency in New York, during which the singers participated in hours of intensive rehearsal.

The hard work didn't just begin in New York, however; from the beginning of the semester, the Mount Chorale put in hours of practice to learn the music. "What most excited me about this opportunity is that I viewed it as a sort of reward for all the hours of work the singers dedicate to the ensemble. The members of the Chorale are among the most dedicated, talented and hard working students in the university, and I am proud that we had a chance to showcase the best of the Mount at such a notable venue as Carnegie Hall," says Dr. Rosenfeld.

Mozart was 23 and living in Salzburg when he composed his Mass in C Major, K.317 in 1779. It is nicknamed "Coronation" because it was supposedly composed for the ceremonial crowning of an image of the Blessed Virgin. The work is considered among the finest of all of Mozart's liturgical compositions.

Since the founding of the Mount Glee Club by Father David Shaum more than 50 years ago, choral music has been a vital part of the school's cultural life. Touring is a standard part of the Chorale's routine. In 2003 they undertook a very successful tour of southern Spain, with concerts in Madrid, Seville and Granada. Stateside, the Chorale has also performed before audiences in many locales, including Williamsburg, Atlanta, Charleston, Charlotte, and Baltimore. At home, they perform at least one major concert per semester, as well as for a number of college liturgies, special convocations and other events throughout the year.

Amberly Battersby, class of 2007, and a member of the Chorale is "overjoyed that the Mount has the talent and opportunity to participate in a concert at the legendary Carnegie Hall!"

## MOUNT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

**Stress or Serenity: Preparing for Christmas with Saints and Church, December Grotto Retreat**  
Saturday, December 11, 2004, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### ADVENT AT THE MOUNT

⊛ **Christmas Tree Lighting followed by the Mount Chorale Advent Concert**  
Sunday, December 5, 4:00 p.m.  
Immaculate Conception Chapel

⊛ **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass**  
December 8, 4:30 p.m.  
Immaculate Conception Mass

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

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

⊛ **"Best Christmas Pageant Ever"**  
December 16, 7:00 p.m.  
Knott Auditorium

### MOUNT SPORTS

**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.

*If you have any questions about events being held at the Mount, please call the office of communications at 301-447-5366.*

*Mount Chorale in New York City where they performed Mozart's Coronation Mass in Carnegie Hall with eight other choirs from around the country.*



## MOUNT PROFILE



**Laura Gagnon**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID

**Favorite Career Memory at the Mount:**

Being able to see for the first time a freshmen class through all four years at the Mount.

**Place of childhood and Education Backgrounds:**

Grew up in Westminster, Maryland. Received undergraduate degree from Western Maryland College. Received MBA from the Mount.

**Best trip you've taken:**

Service Trip to Peru, 2001.

**Advice for Seeking Personal Vocation:**

You always end up where you are supposed to be. I think I have grown a lot, through my personal and professional life, here at the Mount.

**Thoughts on Mount St. Mary's:**

Being here for almost four years, I have seen a lot of changes in the Mount. It is exciting to see what new changes are in store.

**Favorite Quote:**

"No one knows what you can do until you try" \*from a Bazooka wrapper when I was 13.



## National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes

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DECEMBER RETREAT  
*Stress or Serenity: Preparing for Christmas with Saints and Church*  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2004, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.**

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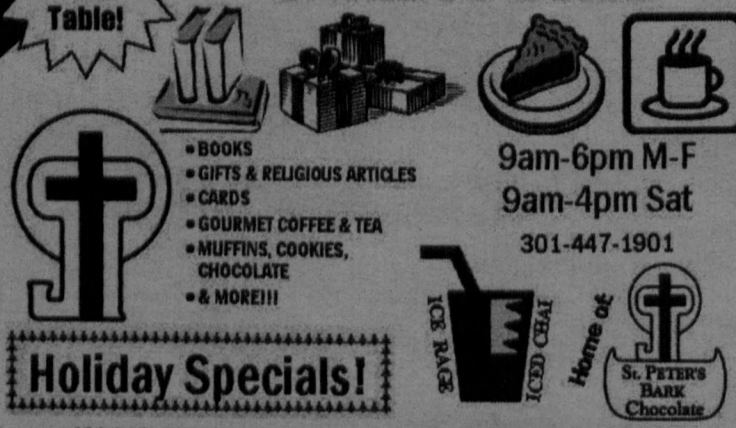


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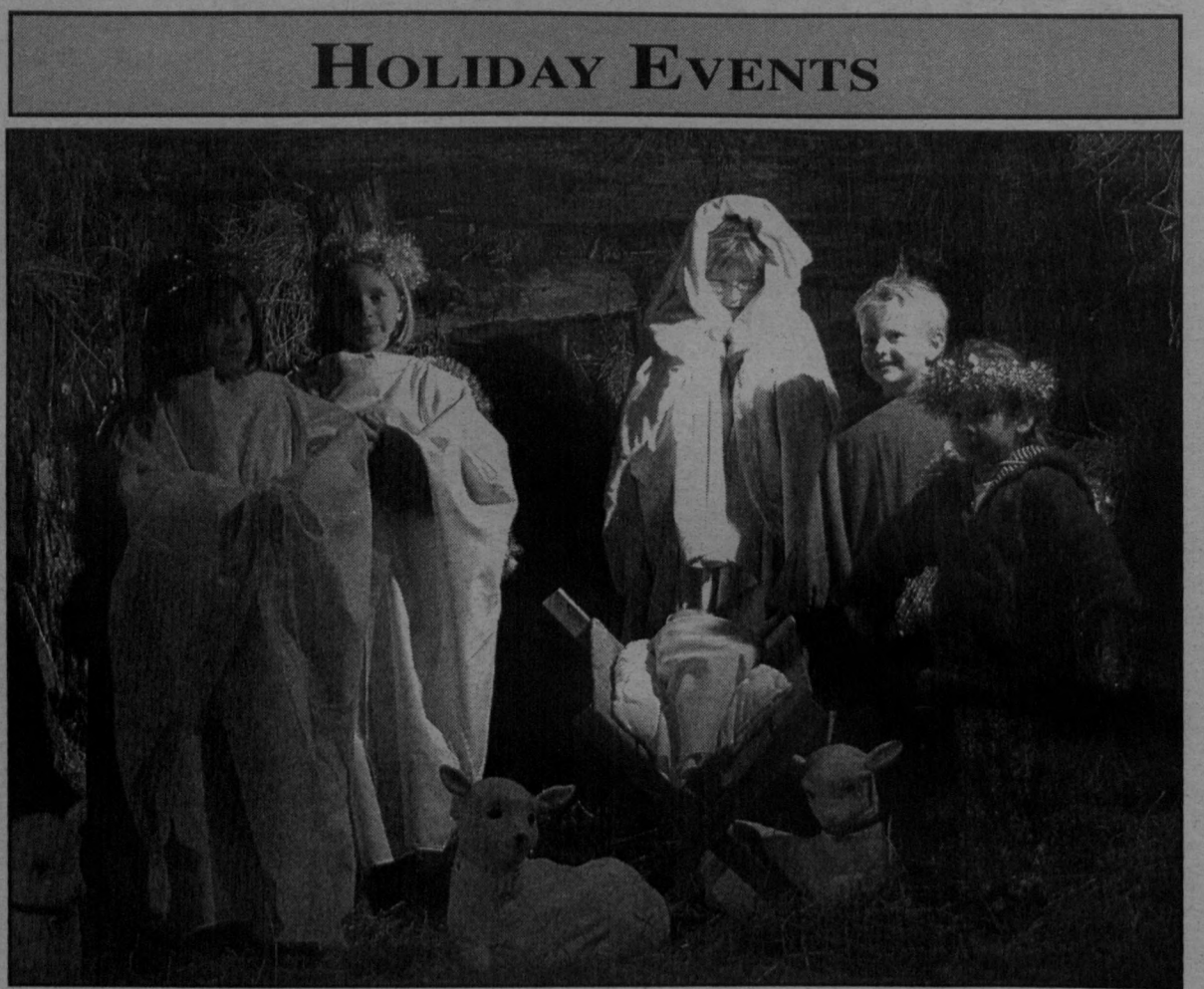
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-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH - FILE PHOTO  
An Evening of Christmas Spirit - 2003. Live nativity at the Carriage House Inn.

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## An Evening of Christmas Spirit

For the past 15 years the Hance family and the Carriage House Inn staff have hosted an "Evening of Christmas Spirit" the first Monday in December from 6 to 9 p.m. The festivities this Dec. 6 include lighting of the town tree, now in front of the Emmitsburg Community Center, with local choirs and vocalists performing holiday music. Children will participate in a live nativity outside the Carriage House and everyone is invited to share in the complimentary cookies, hot dogs and beverages. Santa makes time in his busy schedule to listen to the children's Christmas requests and horse- and tractor-drawn hayrides parade through town. Those who attend are asked to bring canned foods or make a monetary donation to the Emmitsburg Lions Club Holiday Food Drive.

## Emmitsburg Community Chorus Christmas Concert

On Dec. 5 at 3 p.m., the Emmitsburg Community Chorus will present its 41<sup>st</sup> annual Christmas Concert, "O Holy Night," at the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

The chorus is directed by Loren Roth and accompanied by Betty Cuddahee. Roth is a Fairfield, Pa. native who received his music education at Mercersburg Academy and the Peabody Institute in Baltimore. He is active in music ministry for several area churches.

Cuddahee graduated from Walkersville High School and is a student of Iva Moffatt at Hood College. She is a local church accompanist and played for choruses and musicals at Walkersville High School.

Diehl Ackerman founded the chorus, which was initially made up of men and women who sang in Protestant church choirs. Membership grew to include anyone who enjoyed music, and the name was changed to the Emmitsburg Community Chorus.

Under the direction of Sr. Jane Marie Perrott, the chorus had the privilege of singing at the Canonization of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Rome. The group also sings at the sunrise service at the Grotto of Lourdes, at area nursing homes and many civic functions. The Christmas concert is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, which is funded by the state of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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### Lions Club Christmas Food Baskets

The Emmitsburg Lions Club is collecting food and donations from businesses and citizens for its annual Christmas Food Baskets.

Non-perishable food can be dropped off at Jubilee Foods, the Emmitsburg Fire Station or the Emmitsburg Library by Dec. 18. Suggestions include cranberry sauce, canned yams, canned fruits and vegetables, canned milk, potatoes, onions,

stuffing mix and five-pound bags of flour and sugar.

For those who prefer to donate money, checks made payable to the Emmitsburg Lions Club can be mailed to the club, PO Box 1182, Emmitsburg, Md. 21727. Cash can be donated at the Jubilee Foods service center.

Last year the Lions delivered boxes to more than 40 families.



-PHOTO COURTESY OF BO AND JEAN CADLE

### Seton Center Seeks Christmas Sponsors for Needy Families

The Seton Center, Inc., a non-profit agency providing services for people in need, primarily in northern Frederick County, is looking for sponsors for families this Christmas.

Depending on the number of sponsors and available resources, the center will provide three levels of support: food baskets, toys, and clothing.

Sister Carol Durkin, DC, administrator of Seton Center, said that individual volunteers might be matched with a single parent and child, while volunteers from larger groups may sponsor a family with a number of children.

In 2003 the center served 121 families at Christmas, including 216 adults and 284 children. The center verifies that families are not also receiving aid from other agencies.

To sponsor a family, make a cash donation, or volunteer to help at Seton Center, call Sister Patricia Nee, 301-447-6102 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or e-mail [setoncenter@earthlink.net](mailto:setoncenter@earthlink.net). All donations must be delivered to the Seton Center, 16840 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, by 4 p.m. Dec. 17.

The Seton Center, which has been serving northern Frederick County for approximately 25

**Pilgrims and Indians feasted together at the ninth annual Thanksgiving Day celebration at the Emmitsburg Early Learning Center Nov. 18. Students, parents and friends of the center gathered for the dinner.**

years, is a sponsored work of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. The center's goal is to provide human services that support individuals and promote family life, while developing independent living skills.

**Live Nativity**  
Tom's Creek United Methodist Church will host a live nativity on Saturday, Dec. 11 in their open field on Route 140, east of Emmitsburg.

### Holiday Open House

ThorpeWood will be hosting a holiday open house Dec. 9-10 from 4-7 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments, a warm fire, seasonal music, and an 18' spruce tree, decorated with over 3,000 lights and many homemade decorations. For more information and directions, please call 301-271-2823 or visit [www.thorpewood.org](http://www.thorpewood.org).

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## SPORTS

## 2005 league change for Emmitsburg 9-12 year-old boys' baseball

Megan Zimmerman  
Staff Writer

The Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball organization held a special meeting Nov. 11 to vote on whether the boys' 9-12 year-old baseball players would become part of the Mason-Dixon Pony League. Supporters of the switch won the vote, 21-18.

Jimmy Brown, President of Taneytown Baseball and Softball approached Emmitsburg's president Mary Topper about possibly joining them. Neighboring towns, Taneytown, Littlestown, Hampstead, and Charles Carroll, belong to the Pony League.

Topper proposed the idea at Emmitsburg's October meeting. Although not many people attended, discussion about the possible change continued in more detail at the November meeting.

She scheduled a special meeting to vote on joining the Pony League. Parents of 9-12 year-old players, coaches, and managers were all given the opportunity to be heard on the issue.

At the meeting, each ballot was to include the voter's handwritten name. Nine of the 18 opposing votes should have been discarded because the ballots had no valid name. Most of the votes had been marked

"coach" or "manager," without the person's identity.

Without knowing who these individuals were, it was impossible to determine if the vote had been rigged. In reality, the vote was 21-9. All the votes for the change were properly marked with verifiable names. As a result, the Emmitsburg boys' 9-12 year-old baseball teams have joined the Mason-Dixon Pony League.

## Benefits of the change

Topper decided to propose the switch to Pony League for several reasons. One has already proven to benefit the youth.

Last year, the Emmitsburg girls' 9-year-old and under and 14-year-old and under softball teams joined the Woodsboro/New Midway Rec. League, which is similar in structure to that of the Pony League. The girls are now playing in closer age groups, and according to Topper, "are very satisfied with the switch." Topper explained that in the girls' previous league, which is similar to the boys' current baseball league, 9 year-old girls played against 12 year-olds. The younger girls were intimidated and didn't want to participate.

Topper believes the boys will also benefit from this change. In the Pony League, players will play against kids

their own age. Under the Pony League-sanctioned rules, 9-12 year-old boys will be split into two age groups: 9-10 year-olds, and 11-12 year-olds.

Those against the switch say that playing against the "big kids" gives the younger players something to look forward to, but Topper sees this split as an advantage, because some are intimidated by playing with older boys.

Topper says the switch is also being made because the players enjoy the Pony rules more than the Little League regulations. Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball's annual Fall Ball games are played by Pony League rules. Topper commented that during these games she heard players complaining that they wanted to steal bases in their regular games like they could in Fall Ball, but could not because Little League rules prohibit it. Pitchers also develop skills in learning pick-off moves.

Topper describes another advantage of the change to Pony League, the addition of postseason play for a world series. The current independent league follows Little League sanctioned rules, with no postseason play. The Pony League would allow players to advance after the regular season to the Pony League World Series.

In the Pony League all players on team rosters will bat in every game and there will be a gradual increase in base and pitch length as the boys move to the 13 and 14 age group, instead of the abrupt increase with Little League.

## The decision is made, but concerns remain

One of the biggest worries associated with the switch is the increase in traveling. Instead of having 80% of the games in Emmitsburg, only 60% will be played here. The remaining games will be played in other towns.

Topper acknowledges that, "we will have a few more away games," but noted that traveling would be limited to Littlestown, Pa. and Taneytown, Md. which is comparable to the current travel to Fairfield, Pa. and Cashtown, Pa. Supporters of the switch believe that the exposure to other teams will be a positive experience for the players.

A common misconception among the opposition is that not every child will make a team. Some think that if a child does not make a Pony League team, the child will not be able to play at all. Topper says this is inaccurate, and that Emmitsburg will create enough teams so that everyone will have the opportunity to play.

Another concern expressed is that sponsors were not notified of the switch. When the Emmitsburg girls' softball changed to the Woodsboro/New Midway Rec. League last year, Topper began to notify sponsors of changes. Some sponsors said they didn't need to know about the changes, because "sponsors are there for the kids." In addition, sponsors had expressed satisfaction with the girls' switch, and the new traveling, because their businesses got exposure in other towns.

With so many concerns about the change to the Pony League, Topper has made efforts to neutralize the worries. For example, some think that family members will be split up because of separating the age groups. This is a real fact.

Families who have players in each age group will not have players on the same team. But Topper has made an agreement with the Mason-Dixon Pony League to enable family members to stay together if playing on separate teams can't be managed. A provision has been made to allow 10 year-old boys to play up with the 11-12 year old teams, but Topper feels that playing up isn't in the children's best interest. League officials want children to be able to play, but also to understand that some concessions will need to be made with the change to the new league.

For the 2005 season, Topper hopes to form two 9-10 year-old and two 11-12 year-old baseball teams. Her plan is that the 9-10 year-old teams would be the Cardinals and Giants, with the same players those teams had last year. Any new players would go into a draft.

The two 11-12 year-old teams would be the Red Sox and the Dodgers, also with the same players they had last year. The 11-12 year-old boys who played for the Cardinals and Giants teams last year, and any new players, would go into a draft.

Topper is hoping for cooperation so that the changes are successful and ultimately beneficial for the kids.

The next meeting of Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball will be Dec. 7. An update on the Pony League for 9-12 year-old boys will be part of the agenda. There will also be discussion about changing the girls' softball teams from Woodsboro/New Midway Rec. League to the Mason-Dixon Pony League, a change that would mean closer away games.

*Editor's Note: Raymond Buchheister contributed to this report.*

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## Beginner twirlers graduate New class forming

The Catocin-Aires free beginner classes as a Majorette and Color Guard Corps recently graduated its first group of beginner twirlers for the 2004-2005 season.

Graduates are Kimberlee Ahlers, Mitchell Drabczyk, Severa Drabczyk, Suzy Henderson, Joanne Jackson, Meagan Mongold, Caleigh Mumpower, McKenzie Schridder, Ariel Weagley, and Chrissie Wolfe.

The Catocin-Aires offers

public service and to increase awareness of the sport of baton twirling. Valerie Mort and Abby Pinson taught this session, under the direction of Donna Landsperger.

The marching corps will host a new session for beginners starting Jan. 19, 2005. To register or for more information, call 301-271-4326 or 717-334-5567.

## Rebecca Pearl Art Exhibit

The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown will host an exhibition of paintings by local artist Rebecca Pearl from Dec. 10 through Jan. 23, 2005. An opening reception will be held Sunday, Dec. 12 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. There is no charge and the public is invited.

The daughter of artists James Pearl and Elizabeth Prongas, Pearl attended the Schuler School of Fine Art and the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. She began her career as a portrait painter at the age of 25 and gradually accepted commissions for animal portraits, architectural subjects, florals and figures.

Working mostly in watercolor and pastel, her art is characterized by a soft interpretation of reality. Pearl's images flow from delicate washes of pastel and rich colors with subtle suggestions of texture and detail.

She is a member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society and has exhibited widely on the East Coast, receiving many awards for her paintings. Pearl lives in Rocky Ridge and maintains a studio in Emmitsburg.

For information on this or other Museum events, please call 301-739-5727 or the TDD, 301-739-5764, or visit the website, [www.wcmfa.ofg](http://www.wcmfa.ofg).

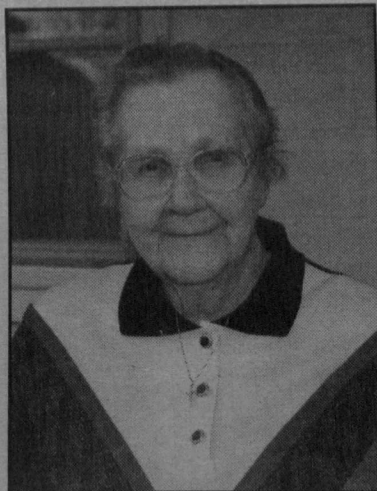
## Creative Kids children's programs

The Creative Kids Academy (CKA) is a new children's program at Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church. CKA offers four programs for youth of all ages: classes in ballet, arts and crafts, drama and the Children's Praise Choir, which meets at

Trinity UMC. To enroll children in the 2005 CKA program, pick up a brochure at the church or contact Debbie Linton, CKA Program Director, 301-447-5955.

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

People to People is a section in *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* for personal and family news, announcements, and messages. Unlike Letters to the Editor this is paid space and has the lowest rate in the newspaper. It's not for businesses. The submission must be signed and include the writers's address and phone number to be used for verification and invoicing.



### 90th Birthday

Donaldine "Mom" Gelwicks celebrated her 90th birthday at her home Nov. 17, 2004. She married Earle R. Gelwicks June 25, 1935 and made her home here in Emmitsburg. They had nine children, five sons and four daughters. Her family, brother Dick Hann and his wife Maureen, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren attended the small, intimate party.

### Births

Beth Burrier & Chad Knott, Emmitsburg, a son, Sept. 28.  
Kristen & Cory Bell, Emmitsburg, a son, Oct. 1.  
Coeli Brunty & Jonathon Berkowitz, Emmitsburg, a daughter, Oct. 5.  
Crystal & Jason McKenzie, Emmitsburg, a son, Oct. 24.  
Courtney & Warren Kelly, Emmitsburg, a son, Nov. 8.

### 61st Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert V. Eiker, Sr. of N. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, quietly celebrated their 61st anniversary on Nov. 6.

Kristin Young & Russell Hobbs, Emmitsburg, a daughter, Nov. 13.

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## ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

### Library Events

#### Storytimes

**Babies with Books** (birth-24 months with an adult)

Dec. 21, 10:30 a.m. - held in combination with Two Terrific Storytime. New in 2005 - enhanced schedule for Babies with Books on Wednesdays!

#### Two Terrific!

(age 2 with an adult)  
Tuesdays. Dec. 7, 14 and 21 at 10:30 a.m.

#### Family Storytime

(ages 3-5 with an adult)  
Wednesdays. Dec. 1, 8 and 15 at 7 p.m. (No programs Dec. 22 and 29.)

#### Preschool Storytime

(ages 3-5 with an adult)  
Thursdays. Dec. 2, 9 and 16 at 10:30 a.m. (No programs Dec. 23 and 30.)

#### For Teens

##### Teen Book Club

(grades 6-12) Get together with other teens to discuss great books.

Third Tuesdays. Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. Selection: *Sorcery and Cecelia or the Enchanted Chocolate Pot* by Caroline

Steverman and Patricia C. Wrede.

#### Special programs for the family

##### Children's Holiday Tea

(all ages)  
Lads and lasses can come dressed in holiday finery and travel back to an era when "tea time" was a highlight. Enjoy holiday stories and songs, sip tea and sample holiday goodies.

Saturday, Dec. 4 at 10:30 a.m.

##### Holiday Happenings!

(Part of the "Did you know?" series: ages 6-11)

Learn fun facts about winter holidays and how they are celebrated around the world. Get creative with paper, fabric, beads and more to make a special holiday keepsake. Craft materials will be supplied.

Saturday, Dec. 18 at 11 a.m.  
**Registration required.**

##### Third Thursdays at

**ThorpeWood** (ages 3-5)

Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries host a monthly preschool story program at beautiful ThorpeWood Nature Retreat. For directions call

the Thurmont Branch or visit [www.thorpewood.org](http://www.thorpewood.org).

Thursday, Dec. 16 at 1 p.m.  
**Registration required.**

##### Knitting Club

(adults and teens)  
Our knitting circle is open to all, from beginners to experts. Even if you don't know how to cast on, someone in the circle will be able to demonstrate. Learn to make scarves, shawls, or holiday gifts. Bring your needles and yarn or give us a call.

Third Thursdays. Dec. 16 at 4 p.m.

##### Book Discussion Groups/Adult Reading Club

##### Evening Club

Second Tuesdays. Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Selection: *Falling Angels* by Tracy Chevalier.

##### Non-fiction Book Club

Second Thursdays. Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. Selection: *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Islam* by Yahiya Emerick.

Programs are held at the Emmitsburg Library in the Community Center on Seton Avenue. For registration or information, call 240-629-6329.

### Senior Events

Susan Allen  
Staff Writer

'Tis the season for Christmas trees, cookie baking, and holiday parties for senior citizens. They will be baking cookies for shut-ins and those who receive home-delivered meals Dec. 2-3, and again Dec. 17. Christmas dinner, catered by Mountain Gate Restaurant, will be held Dec. 15 at noon. The cost is \$5 and each person should also bring a wrapped gift worth \$5. Men's gifts should be for a man, women's gifts for a woman. Lloyd Fiedler will entertain after the meal. Reservations must be made by Dec. 9.

The seniors will hold a "New Year's in Hawaii" party Dec. 31, from 6-10 p.m. Dinner will be served. Wear your leis,

Hawaiian shirts, muu-muus, and grass skirts if you dare! Reservation deadline is Dec. 11.

**No meeting day in Dec. The center will close for Christmas Dec. 24.**

**Bowling:** Every Monday at Taneytown Bowling Center. To carpool, meet at the senior center at 12:30 p.m.

**Strength training** with small weights: Tuesday and Thursday, 1-2 p.m. Dress comfortably and wear athletic shoes. Led by Kathy Araiza.

**Bingo:** Dec. 8 and 22. "Christmas Ornament Bingo" on Dec. 22. Bring a hanging ornament as a prize.

**Cards - 500, and bridge group:** Wednesdays, alternating with bingo.

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

Programs are held in the Emmitsburg Community Center

on South Seton Avenue. Call for lunch reservations 24 hours in advance. For special events registration or information, call program coordinator Linda Umbel, 240-629-6350.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**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-Lacrosse Coaches' Clinic.** 8 a.m.-noon. McDaniel College. Sponsored by U.S. Lacrosse, Western Maryland Chapter, a nonprofit organization serving Carroll, Frederick, Washington, Allegheny and Garrett Counties. For men's, women's, high school and rec. coaches. Cost - \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door for members. Non-members: \$15 plus membership in advance; \$20 plus membership at the door. Information: 410-239-9636.

**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. Tin-punch, rolled candle making, and silhouettes. \$4 each. Information: 301-694-1650.

**Dec. 5 - "O Holy Night" Christmas Concert.** 3 p.m., Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 333 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. Community Chorus' 41st annual concert. A free will offering will be collected.

**Dec. 5 - Youth for Christ service.** 7 p.m., Thurmont United Methodist Church, 13880 Long Road, Thurmont. Interdenominational youth service featuring the band, Jakob's Night: [www.jakobsnight.com](http://www.jakobsnight.com). Sponsored by Central Md. Youth for Christ. Offering that night will benefit Jakob's Night and Catocin Area Ministries. Information and directions: 301-271-0255.

-Continued on page 19

  
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**Dec. 6 - 15<sup>th</sup> annual Evening of Christmas Spirit.** 6-9 p.m., Carriage House Inn, Emmitsburg. Hosted by the Hance family and staff of the Inn. Complimentary activities and cookies, hot dogs and beverages. Canned foods or monetary donations are suggested for the Emmitsburg Lions Club Holiday Food Drive.

**Dec. 7 - "Creativity without Struggle: New Insights into the Creative Process."** 6:30-9 p.m. Café Beaux Arts, Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, Annapolis. Time-tested techniques to help anyone transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. Instructor: Rob Levit, artist-in-residence at Maryland Hall and author of a book on the creative process, [www.roblevit.com](http://www.roblevit.com). Fee: \$30. Registration required: 410-263-8100 or [LAS100@aol.com](mailto:LAS100@aol.com).

**Dec. 8 - Friends of Frederick County Kickoff.** 7 p.m. C. Burr Artz Library Community Room, Frederick. State delegates, Frederick County commissioners and others will speak on state and local issues. Friends of Frederick County is a non-profit, non-partisan network of individuals, communities and organizations committed to maintaining and improving the quality of life in Frederick County, Maryland. See <http://www.friendsoffrederickcounty.org>.

**Dec. 9 - Film, "UNCOVERED: The Whole**

**Truth about the Iraq War."** 2:30 p.m. Emmitsburg Public Library Community Room. 56-minute documentary by producer Robert Greenwald with an additional 34 minutes of interviews with CIA analysts and government intelligence experts. Sponsor: Cathy Bodin for the Third Thursday Non-Fiction Films.

**Dec. 9-10 - Holiday Open House.** 4-7 p.m., ThorpeWood. Enjoy light refreshments, a warm fire, seasonal music, and an 18' spruce tree, decorated with over 3,000 lights and many homemade decorations. For more information and directions, call 301-271-2823 or visit [www.thorpewood.org](http://www.thorpewood.org).

**Dec. 11 - Pictures with Santa.** 10 a.m. to noon. Santa will be at the Seton Center Thrift Shop, Emmitsburg. Pictures available for \$5, plus 1/2 price sale.

**Dec. 11 - Museums by Candlelight.** Noon to 5 p.m., Frederick. Sponsored by Frederick Historic Sites Consortium. Visit more than one dozen museums. Enjoy cookies and warm cider with "Mother Seton" and her students in the gift shop lobby, National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 333 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. Organist Cathy Elkiss and violinist Dale Elkiss entertain from 3-4 p.m. in the Basilica.

**Dec. 11 - Live Nativity.** 5:30 to 8 p.m. Tom's Creek United Methodist Church, Route 140, east of Emmitsburg.

**Dec. 12 - Public Breakfast.** 7 a.m. to noon. Union Bridge Fire Co., 8 West Locust Street, Union Bridge, Md. All you can eat pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, sausage gravy, hominy, puddin', potatoes, biscuits, muffins, fruit, orange juice, tea and coffee. Door prizes. Santa will join us from 9-11. Adults \$5, children 6-12, \$2; under 6 free.

**Dec. 12 - Contemporary Christmas Concert.** Noon-2 p.m., Irish Moon Coffeehouse, 1 Frederick Street, Taneytown. Liturgical music recording artist Mark A. Hammett will offer a free Advent and Christmas family concert. Information: 410-756-6556 or visit [www.geocities.com/hammettmusic](http://www.geocities.com/hammettmusic).

**Dec. 12 - Christmas Holiday Tour of Homes.** Noon to 5 p.m. Fairfield, Pa. Music, crafts, Christmas greens and bake sale. Tickets are \$15, two for \$25. Enjoy tea at Willow Pond

Farm, \$5. Sponsored by *Save Our Liberty*. Advance tickets available. Ticket information: 717-642-5815 or 717-642-5436.

**Dec. 15 - "Melton the warm-hearted Snowman."** 7 p.m., Knott Auditorium, Mount St. Mary's University. Emmitsburg Elementary School's holiday program. Open to all.

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