



The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL IV, No. 2

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

JANUARY 20, 2005

Mayor appointed to affordable housing commission

Richard D. L. Fulton
News Editor

Emmitsburg Mayor James E. Hoover has been confirmed January 13 as the newest member of the Frederick County affordable housing commission.

Hoover is filling a seat reserved for an elected official. The commission also includes homebuilders and other private sector representatives.

Hoover was already serving on the commission's temporary affordable housing subcommittee, which is charged with evaluating three requests for acceptance into the affordable housing program.

The purpose of the commission is to promote and monitor the development of affordable housing in the county, something Hoover would like to see occur in Emmitsburg.

Town could launch own plan or adopt county's

"My purpose for belonging to the commission is I'm interested in Emmitsburg having its own affordable housing commission, and to gain additional knowledge on how an affordable housing commission can be created," he told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

However, Hoover said that if Emmitsburg adopted the county ordinance, the county would oversee implementation and compliance in a manner similar to its current review of storm water management plans for the town.

Hoover said he is "leaning in the direction" of adopting the county plan, believing that it would provide Emmitsburg with needed management and enforcement resources.

The mayor noted that an affordable housing ordinance could help less well-to-do residents remain in the

-See **Housing** on page 6



-RAYMOND BUCHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

First significant snowfall of 2005

Five-year-old Zackery Rupp uses his Tonka truck to help plow out the deep snow in front of his Huntley Circle home in Emmitsburg's Brookfield development.

Rosensteel asks if mayor can chair town meetings

A town commissioner dropped an eleventh hour 'bomb' at the Jan. 19 town meeting when she asked town staff if they could find out what would need to be done to permit the mayor to chair town meetings.

Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel made her request in the closing moments of the meeting while the mayor, commissioners and town staff were discussing items for the Feb. 7 commissioners meeting.

"I would like to know how other meetings (in other towns) are run in the interest of having the mayor run the (Emmitsburg town) meeting," she stated.

Rosensteel did not reveal the reasons behind her request, but the issue is to be discussed at the February meeting.

Mayor James E. Hoover said he was not aware in advance that Rosensteel intended to request that he chair the meetings.

The board president, elected by the board of commissioners, currently chairs the meetings. William B. O'Neil, Jr. is currently commission president.

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Ethics violations could bring about fines and jail time Ethics commission assigned a new attorney

Richard D. L. Fulton
News Editor

The Emmitsburg Ethics Commission may lack written protocol to conduct its investigations, but it isn't lacking in "teeth" when it comes to consequences for wrongdoing

Ethics Commission Chairman Theodore "Ted" Brennan recently told the board of commissioners that the ethics committee "has no power. All we can do is compile a report." However, in 1982, a section

was added to the 1977 town code that provided the ethics commission with enforcement capabilities, including the ability to assess financial penalties or even seek imprisonment.

The ethics commission is presently investigating two complaints regarding commissioners William B. O'Neil and Arthur "Art" Elder. O'Neil also serves as the president of the board of commissioners. The allegations generally allude to abuse of authority.

Ethics code violations could trigger severe consequences

According to the code, individuals determined by the ethics commission to have engaged in wrongful acts may be fined as much as \$500 and/or

imprisoned for up to 90 days, and might be subject to disciplinary or other appropriate personnel action, including suspension of salary.

Elected commissioners receive an annual salary of \$4,000 from the town.

However, upon a finding of

-See **Ethics** on page 5

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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.

Homework: Helpful or Harmful?

Teachers who assign volumes of homework to students may be placing pupils into failure or quitting modes of behavior. They become turned off by **too much school**, losing interest in reading and/or the pursuit of academic excellence. The kitchen table becomes a battle ground as tired kids and parents trudge through the extra school work load given by teachers to enhance and complement achievement. (Questionable) As exhaustion and stress are exhibited, complacency emerges. A new strategy of "hurry up and get finished" replaces the desired choice of careful fulfillment of the assignments.

Parents and other helpers become the "doers" (for

expediency) and the student returns the completed task to the classroom.

Having been asked to assist a 6th grader with many assignments (often challenging for me) begs the question of how such curricula are serving their desired objectives. Piling on more and more work does not necessarily make a qualitative outcome production. A tired, stressed child does not engage well. Reading "Hamlet" or "Water Ship Down" with difficult follow-up analysis seems advanced for a ten or twelve-year-old person. (Lit. 101) Children need rudimentary accumulations of information before being challenged by teaching strategies from the high end of Bloom's Taxonomy.

Kids experience a very demanding 8-10 hour school day (depending on travel). They are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activity, perform home responsibilities, enjoy social interaction with friends and family, eat a healthy family dinner, practice good personal hygiene, take time for personal reflection and get a good night's rest for an early rise start the next day. Oh! I forgot the 2+ hours of homework per academic discipline to the long list of daily expectations.

Arduous! Do the math for time required to perform all duties well.

- Richard R. Little
Thurmont

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.

January Blizzard Snow Storm and High Wind Blocked Nearly all Roads Leading to This Place Spent Night In Train Drifting Snow Stopped Traffic On the Emmitsburg Railroad Wednesday Night Trains Run on Schedule Time Yesterday Afternoon

Jan. 27, 1905 - Snow began falling here Tuesday night and on Wednesday morning the ground was well covered. It continued snowing all day Wednesday and the greater part of that night. An unusually high wind prevailed the entire day and night, drifting the snow in blinding sheets being a genuine reminder of the great blizzard of February 1899, which, it will be remembered, stopped traffic of every kind for several days.

During the storm of Wednesday the mercury in the thermometer stood at about 18 degrees above zero the greater part of the day. Toward evening the mercury began to creep downward and yesterday (Thursday) morning it stood at the zero mark.

Keeping Open Railroad Cuts

It was only through the most persistent efforts that the cuts on the Emmitsburg Railroad were kept open during the day, and trains made the regular runs on schedule time until evening.

Train Snow Bound

The 4:50 train left here Wednesday afternoon at the regular time, but on the return trip from Rocky Ridge it was unable to make the run to this place. A short distance south of Dry Bridge the train ran into a huge snowdrift in the cut at that place, and stuck fast. This was between 9 and 10 o'clock, p.m.

The train remained in the

snow at this point all night and until between 12 and one o'clock yesterday afternoon, at which time the road was opened from this place to where the train was snowbound. Engine No. 1 was sent out and brought in Engine No. 2 after which Engine No. 1 went out again and brought in the baggage car, containing Wednesday evening's mail, express, etc.

Snow Plow Opened Road

A snow plow from the Western Maryland Railroad opened the road from Rocky Ridge to Dry Bridge on the Emmitsburg road. The trains on this road began to run again on schedule time at 2:55 yesterday afternoon.

A large number of men shoveled open the cuts from this place to Dry Bridge.

Spent Night In Train

The train Wednesday night, which became snow bound near Dry Bridge contained six passengers, four of whom spent the night in the train in the snow drift, the other two passengers braved the blinding snow storm and walked to town. The railroad crew also spent the night in the train. Mr. Vincent Sebold, treasurer of the railroad company, sent meals to the passengers and crew, and made every one as comfortable as possible under the circumstances, and all were highly pleased with the treatment received from the company.


Public Roads Impassable

Nearly every public road leading to this place is drifted to such an extent as to make traveling almost impossible. It is reported that the turnpike road from this place to Thurmont is being opened as rapidly as possible.

All the roads throughout the county were more or less closed by the drifting snow.

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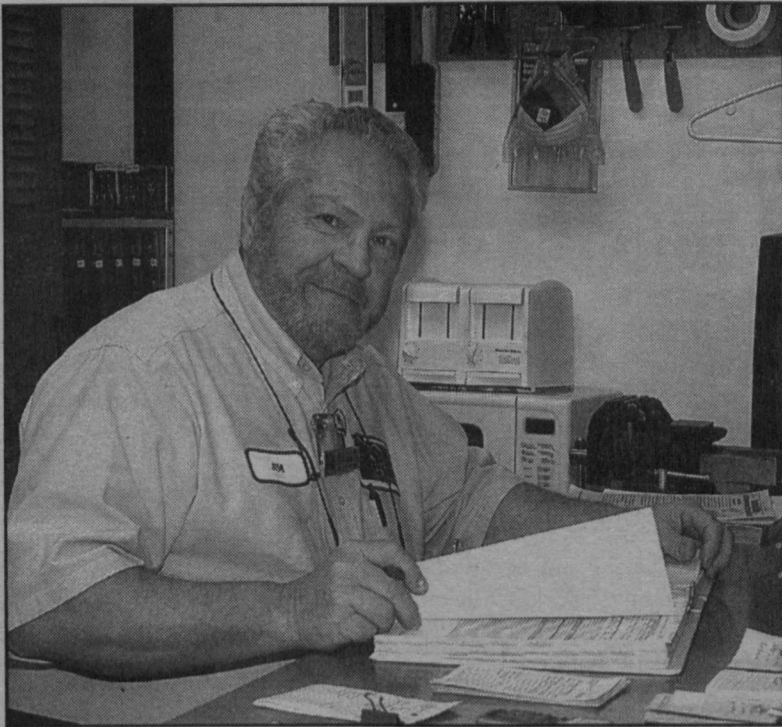
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-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

James Eyer in his maintenance shop. The Emmitsburg Sleep Inn supervisor helped save a co-worker's life last year.

Sleep Inn employee recognized for 'heroic' rescue

Emmitsburg Sleep Inn maintenance supervisor James Eyer was recognized Dec. 21, 2004, by Hess Hotels for helping save the life of a fellow employee last September.

Allen Dorn, director of

sales, said Eyer went to the aid of another maintenance worker, Robert Slowey, after a desk clerk noticed that Slowey "didn't appear to be feeling well and had slouched down in a chair" in the hotel lobby.

Eyer, and a firefighter living at the hotel for about six weeks while the construction of his Southgate home was being finished, performed CPR to keep Slowey alive until emergency services arrived. The firefighter, Carmen Alessi, has since moved into his Emmitsburg home.

Slowey, an Emmitsburg resident, was transported to Gettysburg Hospital where it was determined that he had suffered a heart attack. He was treated and subsequently released, and is presently undergoing therapy, according to Dorn.

Pamela Hess, president of the Hess Hotels Group, praised the heroics of Eyer and Alessi, and at the company Christmas party presented Eyer with a new winter jacket embroidered with his name and the word "Hero."

Eyer said that the day he helped save Slowey's life was "the only Monday I've worked since I was hired." He characterized the situation as "God's timing," telling the *Dispatch*, "I guess for some reason I was meant to be here."

Eyer, from Rocky Ridge, has worked at Sleep Inn for three years.

FFA Alumni Banquet

The Catoctin Mountain FFA Alumni held their annual banquet on Jan. 13 at Mountaingate Family Restaurant, with 94 people attending.

After dinner, outgoing President Dave Savage introduced new officers for 2005-06. They are Laura Keilholtz, President;

Helen Troxell, Vice President; Cathy Little, Secretary; Sue Keilholtz, Treasurer.

Several certificates of appreciation and Appreciation Awards were presented.

Robert Kaas received a certificate of appreciation from the Thurmont-Emmitsburg Community Show President, Rodman Myers. Kaas chaired the community show horseshoe pitching for 24 years.

Paulette Mathias received an Appreciation Award. Mathias was treasurer of the alumni group for several years and a longtime alumni supporter.

Jubilee Foods, Emmitsburg, received both a certificate of appreciation and an Appreciation Award. The president and vice-president of the Thurmont-Emmitsburg Community Show, and the FFA president unanimously agreed that Jubilee gives "unreal support to the



Emmitsburg resident Robert Kaas (R) receives a certificate of appreciation from Rodman Myers (L), President of the Thurmont-Emmitsburg Community Show, at the Catoctin FFA Alumni Banquet, Jan. 13. Kaas was chair of the community show horseshoe pitching for 24 years. His sons, Donald and Dale, will assume his duties in 2005.



Paulette Mathias (L) receives an appreciation award from Dave Savage (R), FFA President, at the annual Catoctin FFA Alumni Banquet, Jan. 13. Mathias was the organization's treasurer for several years and a longtime alumni supporter.

community show and to the community itself."

During the year, Jubilee supplies discounted food items for FFA fundraisers and also purchases a good deal of local livestock as well. The locally owned store sets up a large display in the lobby each year to promote the community show and the livestock sale. Jubilee supports the FFA by purchasing livestock sold at the community show.

The mission of the FFA Alumni is "to secure the promise of FFA and agricultural education by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success."

The Catoctin FFA Alumni group meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Catoctin High School.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Left to right: Dave Savage, Catoctin FFA President; Lorne Peters, SNL Food Group; Tim Ridenour, Assistant Manager, Jubilee Foods; Rick Boyd, Manager, Jubilee Foods; Rodman Myers, Thurmont-Emmitsburg Community Show President. Jubilee Foods receives an award from the Thurmont-Emmitsburg Community Show and the FFA for its ongoing support of the show and FFA activities.

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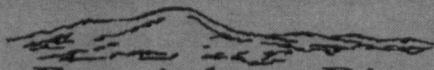
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Corrections:

In the Dec. 15, 2004 edition of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, in "Fallen Firefighters Chapel to be Renovated," we incorrectly spelled the name of Saint Catherine Labouré (not Lamoure) in a photo caption on page 11. In addition, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton did not design the chapel, but simply had expressed her desires about its location and hoped that it would be built in the Tuscan style she had seen in her travels.

In the Jan. 6, 2005 edition of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, in "Top Local Sports Successes of 2004," we incorrectly identified the young woman who broke the state record for most softball homeruns in a season as Jennifer Weaver. Her name is Samantha Weaver, and she also had the most RBIs - 42.

EDITORIAL

A community needs good reports about bad events

In "Word from the Mayor" in this issue Mayor Hoover touches a sore point all of us feel. We are sick at heart over the terrible things happening everywhere. We're fed up with hearing again and again the same disgusting details of the ugliest crimes.

By their extravagant repetition and shallow brevity, TV news reports are far more responsible for our bad feelings than newspapers, but some people blame newspapers equally.

Negative news. "It's a bad rap," as they say. A newspaper like *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* must report all important events, including "negative" ones. We are obliged to report all the news that we discover, to help readers know what they need in order to be good citizens and to protect themselves.

We don't cause negative events; we write about them. It is a mistake to confuse news articles with the events reported and it leads to mistaken judgments. To speak, as the Mayor does, of "negative articles printed in the local newspapers" is like describing articles about persons afflicted

with malaria as "diseased." The victims are diseased, not the reports. The events are negative, not the reports.

For improvement. A newspaper is obliged to report crimes and misdemeanors of importance to the community in order to inform and warn readers. These negative events usually require a response - some kind of correction or repair or healing - which citizens cannot achieve unless they know what has happened.

Citizens need negative news to improve the community and avoid damage to it.

Invariably the public suffers when negative actions, especially by public officials, go unreported. Lacking such reports, towns like Emmitsburg have been ruled and misshapen by those who seek their own interests ahead of the community's.

If newspapers do not expose corruption, mismanagement, incompetence in government, then thieves steal the public monies, erect bridges that collapse, serve food that poisons.

Painful facts. We know some readers suffer real pain reading news about negative events. But we believe they are adults who want to learn about these things so they can do something to make their lives better.

So the events we report may be negative, but our reports are positive steps to repair them.

We won't offer advice for those who suffer from exposure to bad news. But we urge them and everyone to avoid blaming the press for the bad things in society. Newspapers only mirror them. Change society and news reports will be more pleasant to read.

Citizens' representatives. As imperfect as news media are, they represent the people as a whole, not just individual parties and classes. No other agency in the country does so.

It is not only the immature who want to hide from or destroy news reports they don't like. The repression of news media is one of the first ploys of dictatorial regimes and personalities.

Without the news, bad as well as good, there can be no democracy.

Ethics Committee secrecy first necessary, then forbidden

Editor's note: Before anyone concludes our Town Commissioners behaved unethically, or that the Ethics Committee acted improperly, we think our readers should read the facts as reported in this newspaper and consider ethical principles. Our former editor, Bill Steo, has taught ethics, and we asked him about the principles involved.

Citizens want to ensure that their elected officials behave morally. The laws of our country already declare that murder, stealing, and a host of other actions are crimes. But what about using the power of office to stuff a ballot box, or obtain special favors for friends, or harass a business competitor?

In each municipality citizens see countless ways in which government officials act contrary to common moral principles. So, they write codes of ethics: rules of behavior that public officials cannot disobey without penalty.

Ethics based on morals. Countries come into existence and replace warring gangs because citizens agree on a common set of moral principles. Codes of ethics created by communities and organizations are very limited versions of these principles. They always deal with matters of basic justice rather than personal immorality or acts already criminalized by laws.

Emmitsburg has a code (Chapter 2, Section 2.32 of Town charter) and an Ethics Committee to evaluate charges of unethical acts by public officials.

This newspaper has reported in recent issues that two complaints were sent to the Emmitsburg Ethics Committee, alleging that two town commissioners "abused the powers of their elected positions."

Procedures. The committee then began a series of distinct procedures that require very different behaviors by the committee itself.

First, the committee was

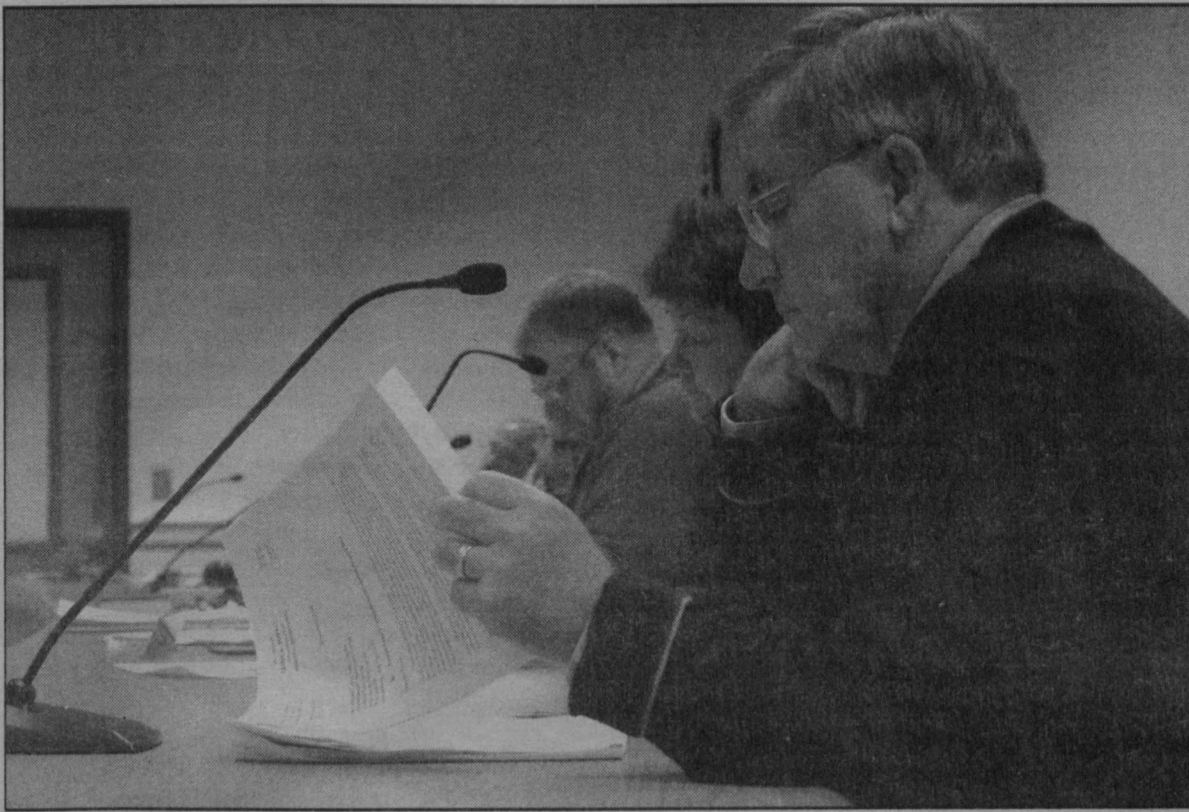
obliged to decide whether it should *even begin* evaluating each complaint. The *complainant*: Is he credible? Is he evidently mentally ill? Is he a known liar? The *charge*: Is it realistic, something covered by the ethics code? Is it credible? The *commissioners*: Was it *possible* for them to have done what is alleged? Did the complainant provide *any evidence* that the events happened?

The committee should answer all these and other questions *before* investigating whether the events *actually did* happen, and this first stage may take a considerable amount of time.

Secrecy. No law prevents a complainant from telling everyone - *narrating* - that he submitted a complaint to the Ethics Committee. If he *makes the charge publicly*, however, he could be subject to civil action.

But the Ethics Committee has stricter obligations than the

-See Op. Ed. on page 5



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Commissioner Arthur Elder reviews documents during a town meeting. Elder, the primary target of an ongoing ethics committee investigation, says he attempted to avoid questionable issues.

Elder says he attempted to avoid car wash/print shop problems

Staff Report

Commissioner Arthur "Art" Elder, who has been the primary target of two complaints that triggered a town ethics investigation, apparently tried to maintain a hands-off position regarding the issues.

In fact, at an Aug. 24, 2004 meeting of Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE), to which Elder belongs, he voted against COPE pursuing a noise complaint lodged against the Silo Hill Car Wash.

According to COPE President Sabrina Paxton-Daily, "Barbara

Mullinix (the noise complainant) presented the MDE findings on the car wash. She asked if we would request an agenda item on behalf of her family to have the town take action. Lisa Elder (Art's cousin) pleaded on behalf of herself and Art that we not take action."

"She predicted, and rightly so, that taking action in this would be interpreted as Art having a personal interest in causing the car wash grief," Daily told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*. Art Elder owns the only other car wash in Emmitsburg.

Referring to Kirby Delauter and Carl Athey, co-owners of the Silo Hill Car Wash, Art Elder told *The Dispatch*, "I have nothing against the owner of the Silo Hill Car Wash. As town commissioner, I voted to give his construction company a contract worth over \$1 million dollars for town water and sewer jobs."

Delauter and Athey are president and vice-president of W.F. Delauter & Son, the company awarded contracts last year for town infrastructure work.

Elder said he also maintained a distance from the print shop issues between Chronicle Press (CP, formerly CPI) and Custom Image Printing (CIP).

Donna Runkle owns CIP. She re-established a print shop business after her husband, David Runkle, had declared bankruptcy, stemming from the failure of a printing business he had purchased from Art Elder.

Lisa Elder acquired the printing equipment from her cousin after the liquidation of assets stemming from the bankruptcy, and began operating CP again.

David Runkle has acknowledged he is one of the two complainants in the ethics investigation.

"From day one, I was advised by Town Planner Mike Lucas to stay out of the car wash issue and Runkle's complaints. This I did from the day I was elected," Elder stated.

"Runkle is bitter because I had to foreclose on him for non-payment. He declared bankruptcy and defaulted on agreements he had made to purchase my printing equipment and business assets," he said.

Commission lacks written protocol

Brennan says process needs guidelines

Although the town ethics commission has the authority to impose fines or imprisonment according to the town code, it has no written protocol on how to conduct an investigation.

Mayor Hoover says he feels the complaint determines the protocol.

"If someone files a complaint, that is their (the commission's) guidance. They take the complaint and investigate it, in a fair and ethical way, but there are no written guidelines (in the code)," Hoover told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

Ethics Commission Chairman Theodore "Ted" Brennan and Commissioner William B. O'Neil, one of the subjects of the ethics investigation, both acknowledge the need for a definitive, written protocol to direct ethics inquiries.

Brennan described what most believe is the first ethics investigation in town history as "a learning experience."

O'Neil would also like to see future inquiries held in an "open forum," something Brennan adamantly opposes.

The commission president previously stated, "People have a right to due process, a right to face an accuser. You (Brennan) state they are not public hearings. I say they must be public hearings."

Regarding the closed session inquiries, Brennan said, "I'm trying to protect the innocent. What is being said (about any accused individual) could be a lot of garbage."

According to Linda B. Thall, attorney with the Frederick County Attorney's Office, county ethics

Ethics

-Continued from page 1

wrongdoing, the ethics commission could just simply issue a cease and desist order regarding a specific action, backed up by the Frederick County Circuit Court.

The code lists a number of potential ethics violations regarding town staff and elected officials, including the "use the prestige of their office or position for their own benefit or that of another" and the "use confidential information acquired in their official town position for their own benefit or that of another."

The code charges the ethics commission with processing complaints and determining their validity. Any individual may file a complaint alleging an ethics violation. The code requires the commission to investigate all allegations.

Conflict concerns compel change of attorney

Brennan told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that Harry DeMoll, Frederick, has been named ethics commission attorney, replacing town attorney John R. Clapp.

He said the change was made "in case there was a conflict of interest" if Clapp had to represent town staff or the board of commissioners during the ethics investigation.

In fact, a policy change was already in the works.

"I recommended that the town have another attorney assigned to the ethics commission and the board of appeals because of the recent board of appeals case regarding Appletree Homes," Mayor James E. Hoover said.

Hoover agreed with Brennan that conflict of interest concerns prompted the change. Prior to the change, Clapp could have found himself advising one board on how to challenge a decision he had advised another board to make.

"It had nothing to do explicitly with the ethics commission. The decision was based on the difficulties we went through with the board of appeals," Hoover told *The Dispatch*.

commission investigations are closed to the public. If the county finds wrongdoing, the supportive materials (evidence) are then made public. Even if there is no finding of wrongdoing, the commission might issue a written statement.

Thall said the county has written procedures for conducting ethics inquiries (which could be adopted into the town code). "It would be nice if something were there (to provide guidance in the Emmitsburg code)," she said.

-Continued from page 4

complainant in this first stage.

1. It is unjust for it *even to acknowledge* the mere fact that it has *received* a complaint against *named* commissioners because the public almost always infers, correctly or not, that there is ground for a charge that the officials acted unethically. This damages their reputation.

2. The committee commits a graver violation if it makes known the *contents* of the allegation, again because it damages their reputation *before* the charge has even been investigated, much less proven.

The commissioners have a right to their reputation *now* even if the charge is eventually proved true.

The Ethics Committee is bound to *absolute secrecy* in this first stage, until it learns whether it has a real complaint. If the complaint is worthless, the committee should stop its activity and forever remain silent about it.

Disclosure. But if the committee determines that the complainant is competent, and

the charge possibly true, it has an *obligation to citizens* to make know that it has received the charge and that it is beginning an investigation about its validity. And it should simultaneously, or even earlier, *inform the commissioners* of the same facts.

Readers of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* may find enough information in its reports to form an opinion about whether the Ethics Committee acted appropriately. They should wait till it issues the final report of its investigation before accepting that the charges were valid, and wait until the government renders a decision before judging whether the commissioners are guilty as charged.

Not significant. Two final points: 1. The apparent motives of complainant and the commissioners cannot determine the validity of his charge. 2. Read the complaints, folks. No one committed mass murder. Let us all lighten up.

-- Bill Steo
Emmitsburg

Town News Briefs ...

More spills plague collection system

Heavy rains over-whelmed the town wastewater collection system twice in December 2004, causing diluted wastewater to discharge into the environment.

According to a report filed by Town Manager David Haller, 35,000 gallons spilled during Dec. 9 and 10, and 6,000 gallons spilled on Christmas Eve.

Haller reported that the area received about 3.9 inches of rain during December, noting that 57 percent of the water treated at the sewage treatment plant was "wild water." Wild water is rainwater or melted snow that makes its way into the collection system.

Because of wild water, the plant exceeded its permitted capacity nine times during December. Exceeding capacity relates to permit limitations, and does not always lead to a spill.

One of the two incidents impacted Little Run as a result of a sewer line backup on Welty Avenue, according to Patricia Feeser, town spokesperson. She said the stream was posted at four locations as per Frederick County protocol.

Feeser said the town notified Maryland Department of the Environment about the spills as required, removed the sewage debris, and applied lime to the affected areas.

Provincial House leak causes loss of drinking water

Emmitsburg water consumption numbers rose in December because of a line break at the Provincial House which caused a loss of 60,000 gallons of water.

Patricia Feeser, Emmitsburg Public Information Officer, said the break happened when a truck backed over a line already weakened by the ground freezing and thawing.

Feeser said, "This is a private line and was repaired by the owner. No cost was

incurred by the town."

In related news, the town continues to buy water from Mount St. Mary's, in part to compensate for the lack of storage capacity caused by curing problems with the refurbished old storage tank.

In December, the town purchased 21 percent of its water supply from the Mount, while 52 percent came from wells and another 27 percent from Rainbow Lake, according to a report filed by Town Manager David Haller.

Town takes aim at commissioners missing meetings

Emmitsburg may soon implement measures to address absenteeism of members serving on the town board of commissioners.

At the request of Mayor James E. Hoover, and discussed at the Jan. 19 town meeting, the town code may soon be revised to stipulate that, should the mayor or any commissioner miss more than five meetings a year, a \$50 penalty would be imposed for each meeting missed.

The code presently states, "Any commissioner missing attendance at any one meeting shall, unless excused by special resolution of the board, (and) approved by the mayor, (will) forfeit \$50.00 of his annual salary for each meeting missed." Town commissioners are paid \$4,000 annually for

their services and the mayor receives \$8,000.

The required resolution approving an absence is also to be deleted.

However, the commissioners did not discuss a section of the code that mandates filing a recommendation to request the resignation of a member who misses more than two meetings a year.

The code specifies, "It shall be the duty of each member to attend all meetings. Should any member be absent from two or more meetings held during the year, the committee shall recommend to the mayor and the board of commissioners that the member's resignation be requested, unless the member can show due cause for their absence."

TOWN NEWS

Housing

-Continued from page 1

community, rather than having to look elsewhere for reasonably priced homes.

Welcome to exurbia

Without affordable housing, many small towns in the Mid-Atlantic find themselves reduced to little more than what cultural geographers and town planners commonly refer to as "bedroom communities."

The term "exurban" was introduced a few decades ago as a label for these communities. It refers to an area impacted by regional urban growth that has ultimately spilled over even from that area's suburbs.

In the classic example, long-time local residents, and ultimately their children, find it difficult to stay within the community in order to afford a new home, or in many cases, even an older one.

Emmitsburg remains the poorest community in Frederick County, with about 13 percent of the residents at or below the poverty level. At the same time new development is priced to attract residents from Washington, D.C., and other large metropolitan areas who view the price tags as an affordable tradeoff to escape big city area congestion.

The average new home in Emmitsburg now costs \$300,000

to \$400,000. Older homes can go from over \$100,000 to \$200,000. Even rentals can be high-priced.

Backing out of a 'bedroom community' future

Hoover sees initiating mandatory affordable housing development as, perhaps, the only way to avoid becoming a bedroom community for commuters, while watching long-time resident families drift away.

Those who may find themselves hard-pressed to remain in the community typically include young couples, the elderly and single parents.

But those groups are not the only concern. The lack of affordable housing can also drive away young professionals whose salaries won't permit them to buy or build in Emmitsburg. Hoover said teachers, police and firefighters are among those "whose starting salaries are not enough and they are forced to look at other areas."

"It is important before there are any more developments or annexations to put this (provision) in place so future development would be required to supply affordable housing," Hoover stated.

Developers would be compelled to provide affordable homes

Although the county has allegedly not yet succeeded in

compelling a developer to provide affordable housing, Hoover believes the system will work.

He explains that the county has been unsuccessful to date because potential affordable housing developments to which the rules might have applied were underway before the rules were adopted, and were thus exempt.

Generally, the county's affordable housing ordinance requires that a percentage of new homes being built must meet affordable housing requirements.

Homes so designated would remain in the affordable housing program for ten years. During those ten years, if an approved buyer purchased one of these homes, and chose to sell it before the end of the ten-year period, the home would have to be resold as part of the program. Any excess profit would be returned to the county and be used to further the program.

Not only are there affordable housing guidelines for developers, there are also buyer guidelines based on household incomes.

Hoover said the town, like the county, would have to use income figures from the Washington region to determine the actual price of an affordable home.

"If the average income of Emmitsburg was used (to determine a sale price), it would generate a figure that would put the allowable sale price of the home below what it would cost to build it."

A Word from the Mayor Negativity impacts staff morale and workload

Many of you are aware there have been several negative articles printed in the local newspapers about several of Emmitsburg's Town staff and elected officials. Most of this information is focused around the ethics commission's "investigation." Therefore, I do not feel it would be appropriate for me at this time to get into any specific information. I have made a very assertive effort not to get myself or my position as mayor involved in the ethics commission's "investigation." By town ordinance, it is the ethics commission's responsibility to review every complaint/ allegation filed. It is the Town's responsibility to cooperate with them.

This article is not to repeat information you have already read in the newspapers or to

get you to support one issue over another. Each month I write an article about current town matters. This month I am going to tell you how the negative information has affected the town and its staff. It does not matter if the information is correct or not, it still creates a very negative impact.

For the past several months I have had several staff members come to me and express their concerns that they feel it has become very difficult for them to be able to comfortably accomplish their day-to-day responsibilities. With the long list of allegations made about staff and elected officials, it is widely felt that their positions have been placed under a microscope. As government officials (staff or elected), Emmitsburg officials have always accepted the fact that we are held to a higher standard, within reason.

And that is the question, are the requests and demands that are being placed on the town reasonable?

Working as a team, the town of Emmitsburg has made several improvements over the past several years. The negative pressure placed on the town is diminishing the momentum needed to accomplish future goals. I am not suggesting that we all just get along and agree on everything. I am saying we must find the common ground that it takes to allow us to work together professionally and respect each other.

The negative comments are dividing the residents of the town. The dividing of a town is what makes a small town lose its small town atmosphere. While the size of a town can change a town's characteristic atmosphere, dividing a small town can destroy it.

- Jim Hoover
Mayor of Emmitsburg



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Emmitsburg's water storage tanks sit down an embankment off Crystal Fountain Rd. The Emmitsburg Dispatch received information that the newer tank (R) was hit by a town-owned vehicle. No guardrails are in place along the road where the tanks are located.

Town remains silent on water tank accident

According to a report received by *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, the town's new water storage tank was recently struck by a town-owned vehicle, possibly sometime in December.

The Dispatch has been trying to obtain information from the town since Dec. 23 with little or no response.

Commissioner Arthur "Art" Elder and Town Manager David Haller made reference to the incident at the Dec. 20 town meeting.

Elder noted that guardrails should be installed at the accident site. Haller confirmed that the installation of the guardrails was "already in progress."

Haller said, "All these years the town has just been lucky. We've made a couple of calls (regarding the guardrail installation)." He said the town would prepare a request for a proposal to proceed. However, neither Elder nor Haller provided any additional details.

According to a newspaper source, a town employee driving a town-owned vehicle slid over an embankment and ultimately collided with the new water storage tank.

The resident said there were concerns that the impact could have cracked the interior glass lining, which could allow chlorine to reach the subsurface metal and corrode it.

Patricia Feeser, town staff

spokesperson, wrote in a Dec. 21 e-mail, "(I) would like to know where you got this information. Most is absolutely incorrect. (We) cannot answer a situation until it materializes and again, where did you get this information?"

In spite of additional requests for the facts, the town has offered no further information beyond promises to provide it.

However, Elder confirmed in a follow-up interview with *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that an accident had in fact occurred involving a town truck, and that the water storage tank was damaged. He said the tank's only visible damage was that it was "scratched in front."

overhauling local government agenda. Hopefully, having the in an effort to make it more user-friendly and, even more importantly, decipherable and less contradictory. It seems that they should add the overhaul of the ethics code to their commissioners work on it will not be viewed as a conflict of interest!

-Richard D.L. Fulton
News Editor

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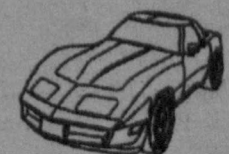
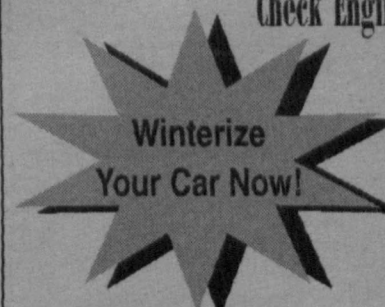
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From the news editor's notebook...

Ethic code addresses "unethical" practices But wording often seems ambiguous

The town code stipulates the circumstances under which a potential conflict of interest may exist regarding town staff and elected officials.

However, the code itself may be in need of an overhaul, since many of its statements could be viewed as ambiguous at best.

For example, the code states that it may be considered a conflict of interest if a member of the town staff or an elected official were to "use the prestige of their office or position for their own benefit or that of another."

There seems to be no distinction between using the "prestige of their position for ... benefit ... of another" and simply attending to a request for action made by a member of their constituency.

The writer himself once had a problem with DMV that seemed irresolvable. After contacting a state representative, someone from the representative's office contacted DMV. The issue the writer had been unable to resolve in two or three weeks was resolved in a day.

Did the representative use the "prestige of their position for ... benefit ... of another" or simply attend to a request for action made by a member of his voting constituency? Is there really a difference?

Further, the code forbids town staff or elected officials from using "confidential information acquired in their official town positions for their own benefit or that of another."

Again, the writer has witnessed

incidences in which confidential well water tests were used as the basis for alerting adjacent property owners of a groundwater problem. While the identity of the actual property involved was kept under wraps, the test results were released in the form of an alert.

In other words, confidential information obtained in an official capacity had been released, at least in part, for the benefit of others.

Would such action on a local level have violated the ethics code?

It appears that the code is simply not explicit enough with regard to what truly constitutes a potential violation. There are far too many commonplace actions that fit the description.

The current town administration seems big on

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Emmitsburg Area Churches

National Shrine Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Built in 1965 and formally dedicated as the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Chapel in 1976, the chapel was designated a Minor Basilica by Pope John Paul II in 1991.

333 South Seton Avenue
Services: Masses Sept. - June: Wednesday - Friday, 1:30 p.m., Saturday - 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Sunday - 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Mass schedule changes occasionally.
301-447-3121

Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Mount St. Mary's University

Romanesque chapel designed by an alumnus and opened in 1910. Open to students, faculty, seminarians and the public.

Father Raymond Harris
301-447-5223

Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church

In 1797 the Lutheran and Reformed congregations built a sanctuary in Emmitsburg after they outgrew their shared church at Tom's Creek. The Reformed congregation constructed a new church in 1869 on West Main Street while the Lutherans remained in the stone church where they continue to worship today.

100 West North Avenue
Services: Sundays, worship with Holy Communion - 10:30 a.m., Sunday school - 9 a.m.
Pastor Jon Greenstone
301-447-6239

Emmitsburg Presbyterian

Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church has been a part of the Emmitsburg community since before the American Revolution. The original meetinghouse stood about a mile north of Emmitsburg along the Gettysburg road (U.S. 15). The grave of Samuel Emmit, founder of Emmitsburg, is located in the old cemetery.

415 West Main Street
Services: Sunday - 11 a.m.
Rev. R. Benjamin Jones
301-447-2413

Eyler's Valley Chapel

Eyler's Valley Chapel was built in 1857. Lit only by candles, with an old pump organ providing accompaniment for the hymns, the stone chapel remains much as it was in the 1850s. The chapel is non-denominational, located four and one-half miles southwest of Emmitsburg at the corner of Eyler's Valley and Hampton Valley Roads.

Services: Sunday - 7 p.m.
Pastor Jeff Walter
301-271-4885

Incarnation United Church of Christ

Founded in 1768 as a German Reformed Congregation. In 1868 the church moved into town. The current brick building was rebuilt after a fire in 1950.

The current organization is now UCC.

124 West Main Street
Services: Sunday - 10 a.m.
Rev. Reginald Rice
301-447-2270

National Shrine Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes

One of the oldest American replicas of the French shrine, dating to about 20 years after the apparitions at Lourdes (1874). The Grotto was proclaimed a Public Oratory Dec. 8, 1965 by His Eminence Lawrence Cardinal Sheehan, Archbishop of Baltimore.

Mt. St. Mary's University
For services, call 301-447-5318
Rev. John J. Lombardi,
Chaplain

St. Anthony Shrine

St. Anthony's roots intertwine with the old St. Mary's on the Hill and date back to the 1700s. The present church was dedicated Oct. 26, 1897.

16150 St. Anthony's Road
Services: Saturday Mass - 4 p.m., Sunday Mass - 7 and 9:30 a.m.
Rev. James W. Hannon
301-447-2367

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic

St. Joseph's Parish dates its beginning to 1786. Rev. Matthew Ryan was the first resident pastor. The Vincentian Community has administered the parish since 1852. The present church was completed in 1842.

100 North Seton Avenue
Services: Monday - 7:30 p.m. with the Miraculous Medal Novena; Tuesday through Saturday - 8:30 a.m., Saturday - 4:30 p.m., Sunday - 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 12 noon.
Rev. Vincent O'Malley
301-447-2326

Tom's Creek United Methodist

In 1797 the Methodist congregation purchased the log church built at Tom's Creek in 1757 by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations. The old log church at Tom's Creek had been used for 146 years. In 1903 the present church's cornerstone was laid and the church was dedicated in 1904.

10926 Simmons Road
Services: Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school - 9:30 a.m.
Pastor Bill Warehime
301-447-2693

Trinity United Methodist

Trinity United Methodist was founded in 1833. The present sanctuary was built in 1897. In 1968, the church became known as Trinity United Methodist.

313 West Main Street
Services: Sunday - 9 a.m., Sunday school - 10:15 a.m. Informal contemporary worship service every Saturday evening - 6 p.m.
Rev. Wade A. Martin
301-447-3740

RELIGION

A Word from the pulpit

New Years Resolution: Tend to Spiritual Life

Rev. Wade A. Martin

Trinity United Methodist Church

With every January comes the inherent excitement of beginning a new year, a time to start over, and a time to begin again. We make resolutions: perhaps to lose weight, get a better job, quit some bad habit, turn over a new leaf, be a better person, and so on. Many folks make resolutions every year. Some are the same ones they make every year, but by the time February or March rolls around they are hard-pressed to remember what some of the resolutions they made were, let alone follow-through with them because they get distracted by what is going on around them, or because they fail to put real energy behind the resolutions.

Even though we begin the new year with the idea of a fresh start it does not take long until we are reminded of the terrorism, war, persecution, injustice and the like taking place in the world. These issues are very real and are made even more prominent in our lives by the constant attention given to these events by the media, and what seems to be our insatiable desire to

hear and see more of the same. As a result we become so overwhelmed by the world that our spiritual life receives little attention. And as our secular culture continues to take center stage in our lives, religious traditions and Jesus himself are being lost in commercialism and entertainment.

For many, faith is no longer the focus of their lives; faith has become a consumer good; something they pursue only when they feel a need, and something they dismiss when they once again feel good about what they are doing. For many, practicing their faith in a real and tangible way is now a product they purchase, not a way of life that they practice.

Today we live in a culture where far too many people have decided to place their hope in the world rather than in Christ, believing the world can offer them the hope they crave. Or they determine there is just not enough time to add anything else to an already busy schedule like following Jesus. But a Christian's hope is not a false hope. A Christian's hope is not based on looks, material wealth, or success, as defined by the world. A

Christian's hope is not found in a bottle, a pillbox, syringe, computer game, magazines or Internet. A Christian's hope is found in Jesus Christ and must be a priority in our life.

The Gospel is about belonging to God and God's people. God's intent is that all who become Christian disciples will be bound together in a covenant relationship with God and with one another, in this life and in the life to come. So this year make it your resolution to tend to your spiritual life. Put some heart-felt energy behind developing your faith. Become active in one of the community churches. Attend worship regularly, read and study the Bible, serve others in the name of Christ, and above all else develop your relationship with Jesus Christ. If followed through with, this is one resolution that will keep on giving the gift of joy, contentment, and peace for years to come.

Trinity United Methodist Church is located at 313 West Main Street, Emmitsburg. Services are Sundays, 9 a.m., with Sunday school at 10:15, and an informal worship service every Saturday evening at 6 p.m. Information: 301-447-3740.

New Plenary Indulgence Marks Year of the Eucharist

Pope John Paul II has approved a special plenary indulgence to mark the Year of the Eucharist, October 2004 to October 2005.

The objective of the papal disposition is to "exhort the faithful in the course of this year, to a more profound knowledge and more intense love of the ineffable 'mystery of faith,' so that they will reap ever more abundant spiritual fruits."

The decree reminds Catholics that to obtain a plenary indulgence it is necessary to observe the "usual conditions" - "sacramental

confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer ... with the soul completely removed from attachment to any form of sin."

During the Year of the Eucharist, the plenary indulgence may be obtained in two ways.

It is granted, according to the decree, "each time the faithful participate attentively and piously in a sacred function or a devotional exercise undertaken in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, solemnly exposed or conserved in the tabernacle."

It is also granted "to the

clergy, to members of institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life, and to other faithful who are by law obliged to recite the Liturgy of the Hours, as well as to those who customarily recite the Divine Office out of pure devotion, each and every time they recite - at the end of the day, in company or private - vespers and night prayers before the Lord present in the tabernacle."


The papal decree also provides the granting of the plenary indulgence to people who, because of illness or other "just cause," cannot attend church and participate in the Eucharist. These individuals must at least intend to observe the three usual conditions as soon as possible.

An indulgence is a remission before God of worldly punishment because of sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. A plenary indulgence offers "remission of the entire temporal punishment due to sin so that no further expiation is required in Purgatory," according to "The New Catholic Encyclopedia."


The decree will be in force during the Eucharistic Year, starting Jan. 15.

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-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Mount St. Mary's founding date was recently added to the university's signs on U.S. 15. Duffy Ross, Director of Communications and Marketing, said the date would help build awareness of the Mount's bicentennial anniversary in 2008. The first bicentennial event will be a special Mass and celebration this year on April 2 at the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes. William Henry Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, will attend and officially recognize the importance of the Grotto as a National Shrine. The Grotto is one of the oldest American replicas of the French shrine, dating to about 20 years after the apparitions at Lourdes (1874). His Eminence Lawrence Cardinal Sheehan, Archbishop of Baltimore, proclaimed it a Public Oratory on Dec. 8, 1965.

Mount faith in action

In a recent greeting to alumni and friends President Thomas H. Powell wrote, "Mount St. Mary's is not shy about its Catholic heritage. We indeed showcase, celebrate and live it."

Dr. Powell announced Jan. 10 that he is creating a bishops' garden on the campus, "to honor the 47 men of the Mount who have been ordained bishops." Powell hopes the garden will "not only pay tribute to these men, but also recognize the Mount's significant contribution to the Catholic Church in America." The garden's design will be conducive for student, faculty and staff gatherings.

Dr. Powell has appointed Fr. Bill Parent as the Executive Director of Catholic Identity and Mission for Jan. 1 through June 30. Powell said the new director would "study the feasibility of creating a permanent position to enhance the Catholic identity of the Mount and work with Executive Officers, faculty, staff and students on our Catholic mission," along with fundraising and other projects.

The Seminary Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed applications for the position of Rector and Vice President to replace Fr. Kevin C. Rhoades, appointed bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Harrisburg, Pa. in October. A candidate visited the campus Jan. 13 to meet faculty, other vice presidents and to have a formal interview with the Board of Trustees. The Board will then send its recommendation to Cardinal Keeler, who will decide on the appointment.

OBITUARIES

Mr. Daniel Andrew

Mr. Daniel Elmer Andrew, 89, Riffle Road, Emmitsburg, died Jan. 5, 2005 at Frederick Memorial Hospital, Frederick.

Born March 6, 1915 in Emmitsburg, he was a son of the late George W. and Rosa Edith Harbaugh Andrew.

Surviving is his wife of 65 years, Ruth Eleanor Nusbaum Andrew; five sons, Robert Andrew, John Andrew, Joseph Andrew, Kenneth Andrew, and Dennis Andrew; four daughters, Louise Shaffer, Janet Wallace, Thelma Fair, and Pam Kaas; 23 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

He was a member of Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg, and a life member of Indian Lookout Conservation Club, Emmitsburg.

Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

Mrs. Anne Broussard

Anne McCarty Broussard, 77, Sabillasville, died Jan. 8, 2005 at Gettysburg Hospital, Gettysburg, Pa.

Born June 4, 1927 in Dedham, Mass., she was a daughter of the late John T. and Margaret O'Brien McCarty.

Surviving are three sons, Joseph Broussard, Paul Broussard and David Broussard; two daughters, Marie Broussard and Clare Broussard; six grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and two sisters, Sheila Hart and Clare Chapin.

A mass of Christian burial was offered Jan. 11 from St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church,

Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. with the Rev. Sigrido Troche as celebrant.

Interment will be in St. Anthony's Shrine Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

Mrs. Ruby Sheeley

Mrs. Ruby N. Glass Sheeley, 80, DePaul Street, Emmitsburg, died Jan. 11, 2005 at Gettysburg Hospital, Gettysburg, Pa.

Born April 28, 1924, in Danville, Va., she was a daughter of the late Milburn M. and Mary Glass.

Surviving are one daughter, Marie Champlain; one son, Ronald E. Sheeley; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Funeral services were held Jan. 14 from Grace Bible Church on Tract Road, Fairfield, Pa., with the Rev. Carleton Burrows officiating.

Interment was in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

Sister Mary Ellen Sheldon, D.C.

Sister Mary Ellen Sheldon, DC, 84, died Dec. 31, 2004 at Villa St. Michael, Emmitsburg.

Born in Brookline, Mass. to William K. and Anna Louise Garrity Sheldon, she entered the Daughters of Charity in 1939.

Sister was a former provincial secretary of the Emmitsburg Province and secretary to Superiors General in Rome.

Surviving are one brother, Rev. William W. Sheldon, CM, one nephew and two nieces.

A Mass of Christian burial was offered January 3, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg.

Mrs. Mary Starner

Mrs. Mary Frances "Mamie"

Starner, 88, North Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, died Jan. 10 at St. Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg.

Born Nov. 2, 1916, in Emmitsburg, she was a daughter of the late Charles Edward and Estella Agnes Aumer Myers.

She was the wife of George Arthur Starner, her husband of 56 years, who died in 2002. Surviving are many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial was offered Jan. 14 from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with her pastor, the Rev. Vincent J. O'Malley, as

celebrant.

Interment was in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.


Mr. James Swiney

James Robert Swiney, 79, Emmitsburg, died Jan. 8 at home.

He was born Jan. 11, 1925, a son of James Batson Swiney and Charleie Ray Marsh.

Surviving are two daughters, Meredith Miller and Celeste Boswell; one son, Malcolm S. Swiney; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Interment will be held at the convenience of the family.



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EDUCATION

Magnet School Nomination Packets available soon

Beginning Feb. 10 parents interested in having their children considered for the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) countywide magnet programs in 2005-06 can pick up nomination packets at all public and private county schools, serving kindergarten through fifth grade, or online at www.fcps.org/content/gnt.cfm.

The FCPS elementary magnet program provides an enriched curriculum for academically gifted students who are performing one or

more years above grade level in reading and mathematics. Using an accelerated pace of instruction, the program extends and enriches the school's regular curriculum through complex topics, integrating several disciplines and providing a variety of learning activities.

Students will be screened on a countywide basis. Children who are offered placement in the program will be assigned to a magnet school near their home. Magnet classes are held at New Market, North Frederick and Urbana elementary schools.

All nominations must be received by March 10. Parents of students chosen to enroll in the program will be able to visit the magnet schools in May.

School staff will offer an overview of the magnet program for parents only on Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the staff development center, 7630 Hayward Road, Frederick.

For more information, contact Donna Chesno, Coordinator of the Gifted and Talented Program, 301-696-6891.

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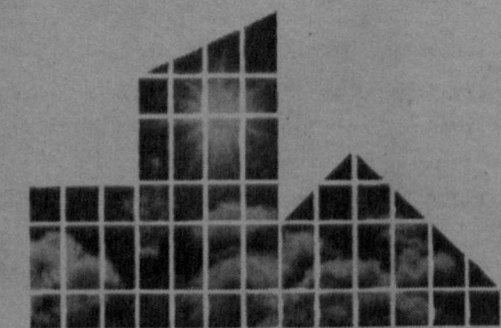
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Catholic Schools Week
January 30- February 5, 2005



Mother Seton School Observes Catholic Schools Week

Susan Allen
Staff Writer

Catholic Schools Week (CSW), a nationwide salute to Catholic education, will be celebrated at Mother Seton School and nearly 8,000 other American Catholic schools from Jan. 30-Feb. 5. Started in 1974, the week's purpose is to build support for the schools and to recognize their accomplishments and contributions to the wider society.

The 2005 theme is "Faith in Every Student: Catholic Schools." It reflects the religious foundation of the Catholic school curricula and the faith that Catholic educators have in each student's ability to achieve.

Mother Seton School (MSS) is actually beginning its CSW activities early. The Seton Service Club requested that students in grades 4-8 be allowed to design a T-shirt for the school's annual walk-a-thon fundraiser, which is held annually in May. School officials have incorporated the design contest into their CSW celebration. Students must submit their black-and-white designs by Jan. 28. Voting will begin Feb. 1, and the winning design will be announced Feb. 4.

Catholic schools in Frederick County are kicking off the week with an "info-fair" at Francis Scott Key Mall on Jan. 29. The MSS band will perform at 11 a.m. Representatives from MSS and

other Frederick County Catholic schools will have information available about their programs for prospective families.

CSW officially begins in each local parish on Jan. 30, the last Sunday in the month. Fourteen parishes are represented in the MSS student body. Students have been invited to participate in the liturgies in their parishes as lectors and gift bearers.

Mother Seton School will welcome visitors each morning from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The schedule will incorporate student-led tours, a daily theme and a special activity. Jan. 31 is Staff Appreciation Day; parents and grandparents

will be honored Feb. 2. Student Appreciation Day is Feb. 3, and Prayer Partner Appreciation Day will round out the week. Activities will include a Monday pep rally, a morning program and prayer service on Parents/Grandparents Day (Wed.), with special programs and a pizza party for students later in the week.

Celebration of Catholic Schools Week has special significance at Mother Seton School. Named for Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the school traces its heritage back to the first school established in Emmitsburg by Mother Seton herself in 1810.

Scholarships for high school graduates

The Community Foundation of Frederick County has over 100 scholarships available for high school graduates entering college in a wide variety of academic disciplines.

Applications for the 2005-2006 academic year are being accepted. Scholarship guidelines and an application are available online at www.cffredco.org/scholarship.htm.

In general all scholarships are for full-time students who are Frederick County residents.

Scholarships are awarded based on academic promise, community service, extra-curricular activities, financial need and character. All applicants will be notified of the Board of Trustees' decisions by June 15.

To receive a scholarship packet in the mail, send a self-addressed, 8½ by 11 inch envelope with 85 cents postage to: The Community Foundation, 312 E. Church St., Frederick, MD 21701.

All applications must be received by March 15 at 5 p.m.

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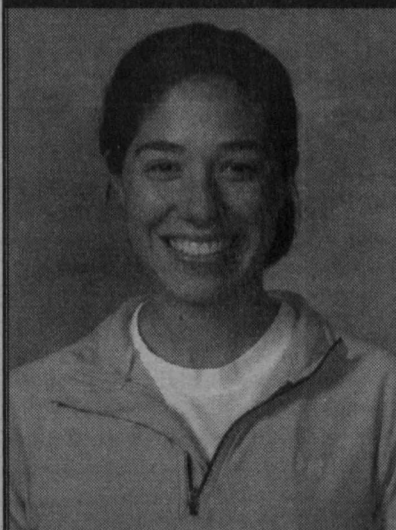
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MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



Martinez Connor ADVANCES TO THE FINAL TRYOUT OF IFLWA WORLD CUP

Courtney Martinez Connor, head coach of the Mount St. Mary's women's lacrosse team, is one of 34 players to advance to the final round of American tryouts for the 2005 International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Association World Cup.

Sue Stahl, coach of the United States Women's Lacrosse team, will select 24 of the 34 finalists to represent the United States at the World Cup Championships. The squad will be named following tryouts on Jan. 22-23 in Orlando, Fla.

The 2005 IFWLA World Cup, featuring a record 10 countries, will be hosted by U.S. Lacrosse from June 23 to July 2 at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. The U.S. has won four straight World Cup championships and five of the six championships played all-time.

A 2001 graduate from the University of Maryland, Martinez Connor put together an honor-laden career as a defender for the Maryland Terrapin women's lacrosse team. The NCAA Tournament Most Valuable Player in 2001, Martinez Connor earned the 360 Lacrosse's National Defender of the Year award as well as First Team All-America, First Team All-Atlantic Coast Conference and was named to the All-ACC Tournament team. As a five-year letter-winner for the Terrapins, she played on five national championship squads.

Martinez Connor, in her fourth season at the Mount, led the Mountaineers to their first-ever Northeast Conference regular season and tournament championship, and their first trip to the NCAA Tournament in 2004. After finishing with a program-best 15-5 mark, she was named NEC Coach of the Year last year.

The Mount St. Mary's women's lacrosse team opens its season at Georgetown University on March 2. Game time is 3:30 p.m.

MOUNT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mount Hockey vs. Catholic University of America
Saturday, January 22, 9:10 p.m.
Frederick Ice Rink

Right to Life March/Mass
Monday, January 24, 10 a.m.
MCI Center

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul Mass
Tuesday, January 25, 4:30 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Chapel

"The Sounds of the Civil Rights Movement"
Tuesday, January 25, 7:30 p.m.
Knott Auditorium
A multimedia look at the ways in which jazz musicians provided the soundtrack for the Civil Rights movement, by heeding the call of Dr. King through musical performances and political action.

Lecture and Art Opening: Tim Vermeulen & Elizabeth Holtry
Thursday, January 27, 6 p.m.,
Upper Flynn Hall

Rock the ARCC
Friday, January 28, 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Knott ARCC

Mount Hockey vs. Sabre
Monday, January 31, 9:30 pm
Frederick Ice Rink

Mount Hockey vs. Gettysburg
Saturday, February 5, 9:30 p.m.
Frederick Ice Rink

The Fabulous Hubcaps Dance
March 18, 8 p.m.-11:30 p.m.
Knott Arena
The cost of admission for the concert is \$20 per person and the doors will open at 7 p.m. For information contact the Mount ticket office at 301-447-5700. All proceeds go to the Mount St. Mary's baseball team.

Men's Basketball Home Games
Visit www.mountathletics.com for scores, highlights and interviews with the players.
vs. St. Francis (N.Y.) [Homecoming]
Saturday, January 29, 7 p.m.

vs. Wagner
Thursday, January 10, 7 p.m.
vs. Central Connecticut St.
Monday, February 14, 7 p.m.

vs. St. Francis (Pa.)
Monday, January 21, 7 p.m.
vs. Long Island
Saturday, January 26, 7 p.m.

Women's Basketball Home Games
vs. St. Francis (N.Y.)
Saturday, January 29, 3 p.m.

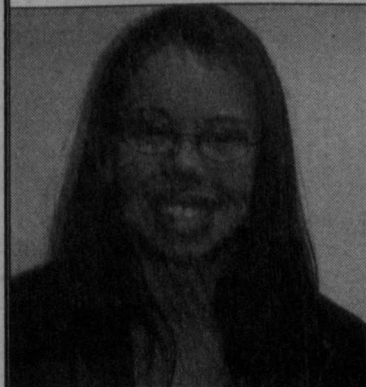
vs. Robert Morris
Wednesday, February 16, 7 p.m.

vs. Wagner
Saturday, February 19, 3 p.m.
vs. St. Francis (Pa.)
Thursday, February 24, 7 p.m.

vs. Long Island
Saturday, February 26, 3 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Questions? Call the office of communications at 301-447-5366.

MOUNT PROFILE



Kathleen Coleman ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: GRADUATE & NON-TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION

Favorite Career Memories at the Mount
I'm a chemistry major, so everything that I do with science has been a great memory, and my forensic chemistry class has been the most interesting to me.

Place of childhood and Education Backgrounds
Grew up in Annapolis, Maryland.

Favorite Movie
Sweet Home Alabama

Favorite Book
The Bone Woman

Most Influential Persons in you life
My dad. He has always been there for me through everything and has given me that extra push without being overbearing.

Advice for seeking Personal vocation
I have learned many things about myself and I am still learning. It has had its ups and downs but over all it has been a great ride—I wouldn't change it for anything.

Thoughts on Mount St. Mary's
The Mount is a great place with great people! I am glad I decided to come here for my undergraduate degree!

Favorite Quote
You will never be happy if you continue to search for what happiness consists of. You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life.—Albert Camus

National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes

Two-Hundred Years on this Holy Mountain...
In 1805 Fr. John DuBois planted a Cross at the Grotto where Corpus Cristi Chapel now stands. He founded Mount St. Mary's University in 1808. Mother Seton arrived in 1809. Two hundred years later, pilgrims still flock to this Grotto and Holy Mountain.

Join us in celebrating...

JANUARY 23

5 p.m., Mass

"200 Years of Holiness: Faith, Hope & Love"
Fr. Kelly, Franciscan

JANUARY 24 AND 25

6:30 p.m., Holy Hour

7:30 p.m., Mass

"200 Years of Holiness: Faith, Hope & Love"
Fr. Kelly, Franciscan

FEBRUARY 11

Feast of Our Lady Lourdes

Noon, Mass

7:30 p.m., Mass

Blessings and Healing Prayers following each Mass



faith | discovery | leadership | community
The MOUNT
National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes
Emmitsburg, Maryland

Group Pilgrimages please contact:
The Grotto Office
Mount St. Mary's University
Noon mass every Sunday
301.447.5318 | fax: 301.447.5917
email: grotto@msmary.edu
www.msmary.edu

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' address and phone number to be used for verification and invoicing.

Wivell Annual Christmas Party

The descendants of Roy and Helen Wivell held their Christmas party at the Blue Ridge Sportsman's Club Dec. 26 from noon till 5 p.m. Attendance was 266; the family now totals 456. (We outgrew the Rocky Ridge Fire Hall). Helen Reaver led the blessing.

Paul Wivell, narrator, gave a 2004 update on the family - 11 births and 5 weddings. Recognition was given to the 5-10-15, etc. year anniversaries, with a special wish to Charles and Mary Wivell, who celebrated their 50th in May 2004. There was no update on the Wivell history this year.

Door Prizes winners were \$10 - Kathy Shields, Sean Englert, Jay Putnam, Laura Dillman and Amanda Barker. Poinsettia - Mary (Paul) Wivell.

The following were inducted into the Roses and Thorn Club (age 62) - Ronald Little, Mary (Eugene) Wivell, Therese and Phil Topper. Ronnie/Jenny Little and family provided the entertainment. The scene took place at the Blue Ridge High School. Ronald Little, new principal, assisted by Jenny; Trisha Parson - school nurse, Andy Parson - science teacher, and Brent

Little - librarian. The gist of the skit was the new principal interviewing his students, the Wivell brothers and sisters. Would you believe all of them got detention on their first day of school? We didn't think we were that ornery. It was very funny and lots of laughs ... a job well done.

The Nativity scene was portrayed by the Wivell's great-grandchildren: Jesus - Laci Wivell; Mary - Hayley Crum; Joseph - Chad (C.J.) Topper III; angels - Samantha Topper, Gabrielle and Hannah Greco, Cassie Wagman, Melynn Oliver, Carrie Reaver, Victoria Weaver, Chelsea Dawson, Jenna, Amanda, and Kelsey Wivell; kings - Noah and Alex Wivell; shepherds - Jacob and Levi Wivell and Jessica Reaver.

Santa did not appear this year so Therese Topper presented the gifts to young and old. A delicious buffet was enjoyed by all.

The Wivell family wishes everyone a holy, happy, and healthy New Year, and please pray for peace in the world.

-Helen Reaver
Emmitsburg

97-year-old Alabama resident has fond memories of Emmitsburg



Louise Flax - 1942

I am writing at the request of my grandmother, Louise Flax. She receives *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* and faithfully reads the news from "home." She commented recently that she no longer knows many of the people she reads about and, I think, misses her many friends back in Emmitsburg. You see, my grandmother has been a long-time resident of Emmitsburg until four years ago when health reasons forced her to come live with me in Mobile, Alabama. But, her heart has never left "her home up North." I might also mention that my grandmother is a grand 97 years young, so she is very much a living part of Emmitsburg history.

Rather than wait until she is no longer with us and have you read about her life after she is gone, I thought I would honor her now and share with other Emmitsburg residents, old and new, the blessing her life has been, not only to her family, but to her many friends as well.

Catherine Louise Sweeney was born on a farm near Dayton, Ohio, on Oct. 10, 1907. She first came to Emmitsburg in 1932 as a young bride and mother. She

had married John Norman Flax while living in Ohio, and moved with him and her young daughter, Norma Louise Nusbaum (Ft. Meade, Fla.), into the family home at 201 West Main Street. Her two younger children were born in that home, Donald Eugene Flax (deceased) and Doris Jean Leaman (Camp Hill, Pa.).

I am Norma's daughter, Marcella, and grew up "just down the street" at 12 Federal Avenue. Of course, as a teenager, I didn't like being stuck in a small town. But, now, I can be thankful that my grandmother was just a short skip up the ally. I have wonderful memories sitting on the front stoop with my grandparents on warm summer nights. They remembered when the fountain was on the square ... is it back yet?

My grandparents were faithful members of Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, where grandma patted thousands of oysters over the years for their famous church suppers. I remember grandma working at the Freeman Shoe factory, which later became the Antique Mall. My pappy (J. Norman) was for many years a town commissioner. I remember riding along with him when he made his rounds to check the water treatment plant and the mountain reservoir. Back then, the mountain water was the cleanest and freshest around and we would fill our gallon jugs from the community pipe along the mountain road.

Many memories are long forgotten by both my grandmother and me. But the memories that don't fade are those of the townspeople. Friends still write and grandma still talks about the life she had in that small town in Maryland. And now and then there is a bit of news about one of those old friends and my grandmother is back home

again, wishing she could see your faces and walk down the streets just one more time and visit the familiar places that have changed so much, and maybe not so much, over the years.

For those of you who know my grandmother, you will be blessed to know she is doing well. She still gets around with the use of a walker, likes to go shopping and out to eat and still has her sharp wit and wonderful sense of humor.

Her family has grown and includes seven grandchildren; Darlene Nusbaum Ott (Thurmont, Md.), Marcella Nusbaum Rizzo



Louise Flax - 2002

(Grand Bay, Ala.), Randy Nusbaum (Reading, Pa.), Don and Jon Flax (Gettysburg, Pa.), Kim Leaman Snyder (New Cumberland, Pa.) and Jean Leaman Monaghan (Woolwich, N.J.); and 15 great-grandchildren.

If you would like to write to her, the address is 8250 Grand Bay Wilmer Road, Grand Bay, AL, 36541.

*To Our Grandma
God made a wonderful Grandma
a Grandma who never grows old.
He made her smile of the
sunshine
and He molded her
heart of pure gold.
In her eyes He placed bright
shining stars,
in her cheeks fair roses you see
...
God made a wonderful grandma
and he gave that
Dear Grandma to me.
Love,
Darlene, Marcella, Randy, Don,
Jon, Kim and Jean
and the great-grandchildren*

-Marcella Rizzo
Green Bay, Alabama

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The Vigilant Hose Company-Auxiliary President, Dorothy Davis, presented the Vigilant Hose Company with a \$35,000 donation from the ladies of the auxiliary on Jan. 8.



Vigilant Hose Company dedicates its Fire Museum to long-time volunteer firefighter Guy "Mac" McLaughlin. For many years Mac helped with the sale of items from the museum, always sitting in the same corner. Firefighters from all over the world visit the museum, and many stopped to talk with Mac. VHC has affectionately renamed the museum, "Mac's Corner." Guy "Mac" McLaughlin, August 20, 1920 - October 16, 2004.

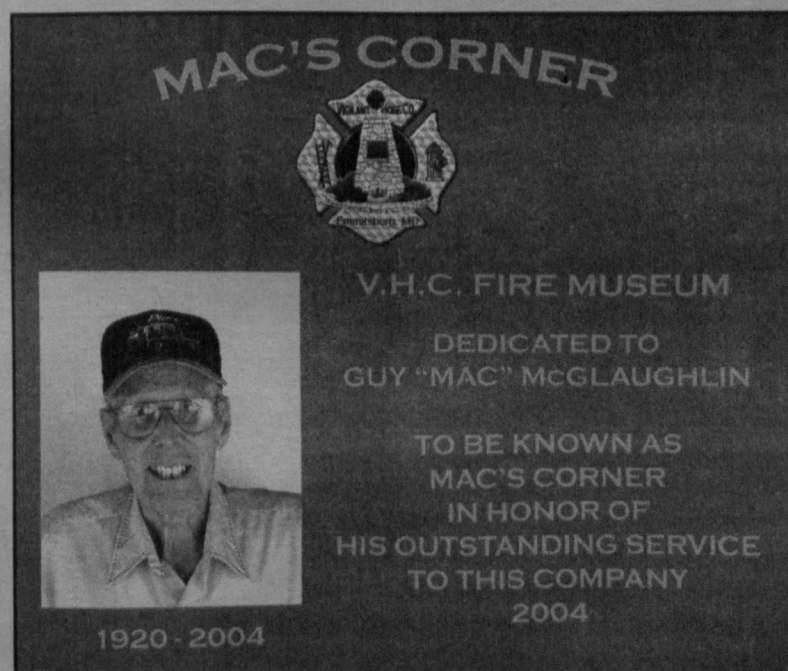
Vigilant Hose Company Honors Volunteers

At its 121st anniversary banquet, held at Mother Seton School on Jan. 8, Emmitsburg's Vigilant Hose Company recognized its volunteers. Awards presented during the evening included

Chief's Award, selected by Chief Robert Rosensteel, Jr. Ann Messner and Karyn Myers

Member of the year award Vance Click

President's award, selected by President Frank Rauschenberg Steven M. Hollinger



Inducted into the Hall of Fame Steven M. Hollinger, Edward Hoke Rowe (deceased)

Members who died in 2004: Guy R. McLaughlin, August 27, 1920 - October 16, 2004

D. Fred Wolfe, January 27, 1911- October 26,2004

If you want one year of prosperity, plant corn.
If you want ten years of prosperity, plant trees.
If you want one hundred years of prosperity, educate people.

-Chinese proverb

Quilters Quilt to Solve Problems



Mary Ellen Cummings

Dispatch
Writer

Already half of January has slipped by. Usually this is the month for new plans and organization in my world of quilts. However, this year all I can do, successfully, is sit and stare into space while quilt patterns, fabric and new methods race clock hands round and round in my brain. November 2004 I had four quilt projects in progress - a top to border for my quilt group, three quilts to repair, a "use the fabric scraps" quilt for myself and a quilt in frame to finish for a customer. (I still have them.)

Then I had to clean the decks for Christmas and New Year's! During this non-quilt time, I paid more attention to events happening around the world and I was reminded of something my mother-in-law told me. She raised seven children and since money was scarce, she would buy jellybean candy and divide it equally among the children. They complained about not getting an equal number of one color. So she bought all black jellybeans and gave each one the same number. Happy? No! They then complained that all the

beans were not the same size and some were crooked. Individuals, groups and countries have really been busy comparing and complaining. It's not jellybeans, but it's the same.

As a "very senior" senior citizen with excellent memory of Christmases past, the recent holiday season will remain etched in my brain for a very long time. I can't remember such a broad picture of dissension and bitterness about religions. Maybe it's time for some quiet therapy for a lot of people.

At a Ladies Aid Society in West Virginia, the ladies all agreed that making religious quilts was ok as long as the theme was directly related to the Holy Bible, quilts with names like "Jacob's Ladder," or "Crown of Thorns." But it was never proper to include Santa or toys, because a Christmas quilt must always be biblical.

In the 1970s, I saw a story about a minister's wife who had made a quilt using different crosses as the motif. Also, my last National Quilt Society listing of available books featured "The Quilted Cross" by Michelle Watts. The book covers patterns for 32 different crosses. Maybe a good group project would be a quilt of crosses and a study group on the origin of each cross. It probably would not solve the religious holiday dilemma, but it would make a nice quilt.



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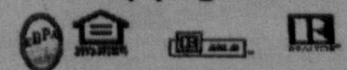
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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Auditions for Blue Ridge's "Wild Spring" Production



Elvis Returns to Frederick

Coming once again to the Holiday Inn Holidome and Conference Center, Frederick on Jan. 29, is a tribute to Elvis, "One Night with you in Frederick." The concert stars tribute artists Michael Falcone, Frederick, and Joe Trites, Florida. This will be a full evening of gospel music and songs from the early years through the concert years. Appropriate for all ages, tickets are \$20 per person.

To reserve tickets and for more information, call 1-800-318-8326.

Co-directors Beth and Spence Watson will hold auditions Jan. 30 and 31 for the Blue Ridge Theatre Guild's Spring 2005 production of "The Secret Affairs Of Mildred Wild," a zany comedy by Pulitzer-Prize winner Paul Zindel. The directors will be casting 4-5 adult male roles and 5-6 adult female roles, many of which require some singing and/or dancing in addition to acting.

Open auditions in Fairfield, Pa. will be held at the Carroll Valley Resort Hotel Ballroom on Sanders Road, Jan. 30 at 2 p.m. and again Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.

Open auditions in Thurmont will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church Social Hall, 15 North Church Street, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m.

Open auditions will consist of script readings, singing and/or dancing to prepared music. All adults 21 and older, regardless of sex, age, or race will be considered for all parts, but there are no roles suitable for children or teens.

The directors will hold two pre-audition meetings for Blue Ridge Theatre Guild newcomers and anyone interested in learning more about the play or the role requirements.

One meeting will be held Jan. 24 in Fairfield at the Carroll Valley Resort Hotel Ballroom from 7-8 p.m. Another pre-audition meeting will be held Jan. 25 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church Social Hall, Thurmont.

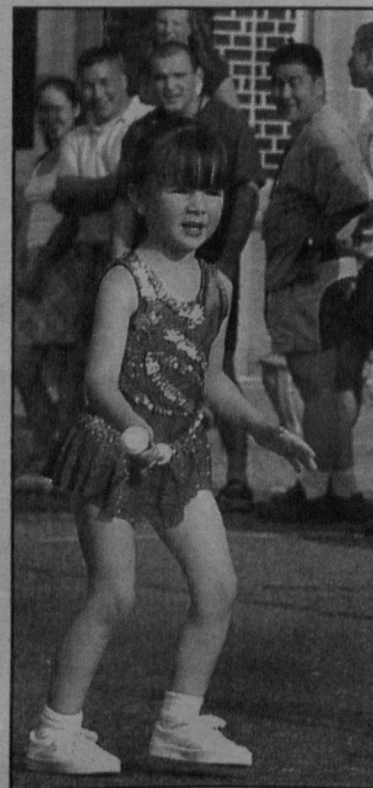
Attendance at either of the pre-audition meetings is not a prerequisite for auditioning, but is strongly encouraged. Sample audition scenes and character descriptions will be provided to all pre-audition attendees.

The play centers on a woman barely surviving, living in the back of a candy store in New York City's Greenwich Village. Mildred has been married for 27 years to a diabetic husband who can't stop eating candy.

The store building is about to be demolished and they face losing their only source of income besides hand-outs from relatives. The fearless heroine, Mildred Wild, is convinced that one of the movie stars in the over 3000 films she's seen will somehow come to her rescue and take her away to Hollywood forever.

For more information, call Beth or Spence Watson at 301-416-0864 evenings and weekends.

Free Baton Twirling Classes begin Jan. 26



The Catocin-Aires Majorette and Color Guard Corps is accepting registrations for its upcoming free beginner baton twirling classes for ages 5 and older.

The four-week course covers marching and basic fundamentals of baton twirling. Classes will meet at the Emmitsburg Elementary School, from 7 to 7:45 p.m. for four consecutive Wednesday evenings starting Jan. 26.

Classes are taught by qualified, experienced instructors and aides. There is no charge for the course and batons are available to borrow for class time.

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, please contact Donna Landsperger, 301-271-4326 or 717-334-5567.

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the job for you! \$99 kit specials to start your own business in January only. 40% commission. Call Mary Lou & Pam, 301-447-2073, and let us tell you how wonderful this job will be for you.

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Emmitsburg Volunteer Needs

Parks & Recreation Committee member. The committee makes recommendations to the town commissioners regarding installing new park equipment, replacing old equipment, and regarding text amendments to be added to town ordinances.

Contact Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel: 301-447-2435 or e-mail jrosensteel@emmitsburgmd.gov.

Streets & Transportation Committee member. The committee makes recommendations to town commissioners about resurfacing streets, repairing and/or installing sidewalks, and regarding text amendments to be added to town ordinances.

Contact Commissioner Bill O'Neil: 301-447-2266 or e-mail boneil@emmitsburgmd.gov.

A word about pre-arrangements and pre-financing



The funeral serves a wide range of purposes, with religious, psychological, and physical significance. There are many aspects and details to the meaningful funeral that are arranged with the assistance of the professional funeral director, usually at the time of need. However, some people prefer counseling prior to need.

We offer complete information on pre-arrangements and pre-financing, available without cost or obligation of any kind.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Jan. 21 - The Psychology of Abuse and Healing: A Workshop on Domestic Violence and Abuse. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, 100 West North Avenue, Emmitsburg. For anyone interested in understanding and seeking solutions to domestic violence and abusive behavior in families. Cost: \$5 per person, payable at the door. Reservations: 301-447-6239, or e-mail eliasluth@peoplepc.com.

Jan. 22 and Feb. 12 - Blacksmith Shop Demonstrations. 1-3 p.m. Catocin Mountain Blacksmith Shop, Camp Round Meadow. Warm up near the forge. The smithies will demonstrate while they explain how blacksmithing evolved and the role of blacksmiths in the community.

Jan. 25 - Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE) Meeting. 7 p.m. Community Room, Emmitsburg Branch Library. Commissioner Dianne Walbrecker will discuss the revision of Emmitsburg's Comprehensive Plan.

Jan. 26 - Board of Appeals Public Hearing. 7:30 p.m. Town Office.

Jan. 28 - Emmitsburg Burns Night Supper. 6 p.m. Carriage House Inn. Fundraiser to benefit Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center. Traditional Scottish food and music; guests read Burns poetry. Admission - \$50 minimum per person. Information: call 301-447-2690 (evenings), 301-447-5291 (days), e-mail otoole@msmary.edu, or visit www.burnsnite.com.

Jan. 29 - "One Night with You in Frederick." 8 p.m. to midnight. Holiday Inn Holiday and Conference Center, 5400 Holiday Drive, Frederick. Starring tribute artists Michael Falcone and Joe Trites. All ages welcome. Tickets: \$20. Reservations and information: 1-800-318-8326.

Jan. 30 - Pot Pie Dinner. Noon to 4 p.m. Union Bridge Fire Company. Adults \$6, children 6-12 \$3, under 6 free. Sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary. Information: 410-775-0001.

Jan. 31 - Planning and Zoning Commission Workshop. 6 p.m. Followed by Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 7:30 p.m. Town Office.

Feb. 5 - Sweetheart Basket Bingo 7 p.m. Banner School, 1730 North Market Street, Frederick. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door for 25 games; \$6 for extra packs; \$1 each for special games. Tickets available at the school. Call 301-695-9320.

Feb. 6 - CHS Safe and Sane Class of 2005 Pampered Chef & Basket Bingo. Doors open at noon, games begin at 2 p.m. Thurmont Carnival Grounds activities building. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Information: 301-271-2464.

Feb. 9 - CHS Safe and Sane Class of 2005 meeting. 7 p.m. Knott Arena, Mount St. Mary's University.

Feb. 11 - Country Butchering. Catocin High School Agriculture Center. Sponsored by Catocin FFA Chapter, in cooperation with the Catocin FFA Alumni Association. Meat for sale includes sausage, pork chops, pudding, ham, ribs and roasts. Place orders by Feb. 8. Pick up orders between 3 and 8 p.m. Feb. 11. No Saturday pick-up. Extra meat will be sold on a first-come basis Feb. 11. Information or to place an order: Mr. Beavan, 240-236-8117.

Feb. 13 - Retired Basket Bingo Benefit. Emmitsburg Ambulance Building 300 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. Doors open at noon, games begin at 1:30. 24 regular games, two specials, two raffles. All proceeds will help cover open heart surgery expenses for Betty Meredith's grandson William. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Information: 301-447-2575 or 301-447-6626.

Feb. 15 - Spaghetti Nicety at Rocky's. 5-9 p.m. Thurmont. Cost: adults, \$8, children 12 and under, \$5. Contact Safe and Sane parents for tickets.

March 18 - The Fabulous Hubcaps Dance. 8-11:30 p.m. Knott Arena, Mount St. Mary's University. Tickets: \$20. Doors open at 7. Cash bar. All proceeds benefit the Mount St. Mary's baseball team. Information: 301-447-5700.

April 2005 - CHS Safe and Sane Golf Tournament. Maple Run Golf Course, Thurmont. Cost: \$65 per person. Information: 301-271-1816 or 301-271-5620.

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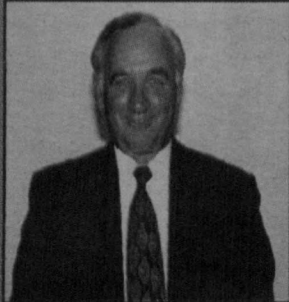
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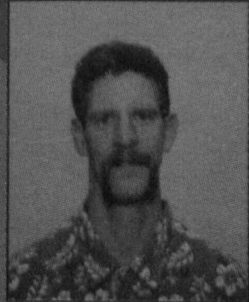
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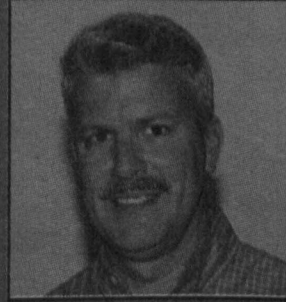
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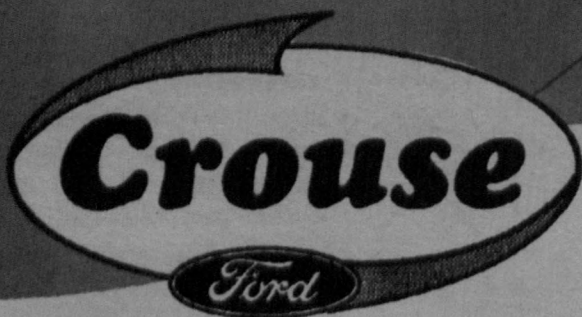
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