



# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL IV, No. 5

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

MARCH 10, 2005



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Sara Lee with her sons, L to R, Joseph, Curtis, Greg, and Gage. The family prepare for a ceremonial groundbreaking for their new home, the latest Habitat for Humanity project in Emmitsburg.

## Town approves charter review committee

Richard D. L. Fulton  
News Editor

A proposal introduced by Commission President William B. O'Neil, Jr. to establish a Charter Review and Ballot Question Committee was unanimously approved at the Feb. 21 board of commissioners meeting.

The committee would make recommendations to the mayor and commissioners regarding town charter revisions and would also review other non planning and zoning matters and prepare proposed written referendum questions to be placed on the Emmitsburg election ballot for resident vote.

One such issue involves the town founding date on which O'Neil told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* the town was essentially "stalemated." "The key, to me, was finding a mechanism by which we could accurately gauge everyone's opinion and, in effect, allow our citizens a means to take part in further developing and continuing Emmitsburg's legacy," he added.

The committee will consist of five local residents, recommended by the mayor and approved by the board of commissioners. Committee members will serve a two-year term with no compensation.

The board of commissioners could forward issues to the committee for consideration only by unanimous vote. The committee could hold public meetings and then would submit a findings report, including public testimony, supportive documents or information, and their opinion, to the mayor and commissioners.

With unanimous approval, the commissioners could add a recommended issue to an election ballot. The mayor would still retain veto rights. However, a three-commissioner vote would override a mayoral veto.

Mayor James E. Hoover has supported the concept since it was introduced in Dec. 2004.

After the commission adopted the ordinance, Hoover said, "I have no difficulties with it at this time. I want to review it again (before signing)." The mayor has ten days to approve or veto the ordinance, after the commission president signs it.

The complete text of the ordinance is on the town's Web site, [www.emmitsburgmd.gov](http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov).

## A Place to call Home

Joyce Demmitt  
Managing Editor

Sara Lee and her four teenage sons will have a new four-bedroom, one bath home on Silo Hill this summer, thanks to Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County.

A groundbreaking took place the afternoon of Feb. 19, followed by a fundraising dinner dance and silent auction at St. Joseph's Parish Hall.

This home is the 23<sup>rd</sup> for Frederick County Habitat and the first to be built in Emmitsburg. The project is a team effort of the United Methodist churches of Frederick County, students from Mount

St. Mary's University and Gettysburg College and Habitat for Humanity.

The father of Lee's first three boys died of cancer, and she later divorced the father of her youngest son. Circumstances declined and she was forced to move from their house into a two-bedroom apartment. Two of the boys went to live with Lee's mother.

Lee told *The Dispatch* she had applied to Habitat several years ago, acknowledging that the process takes a while because it requires that the potential homeowner have a "sound job and very

-See Home on page 5

## Vigilant Hose proposes firehouse renovation

Richard D. L. Fulton  
News Editor

The board of commissioners voted Feb. 21 to hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment that would waive parking requirements and allow Vigilant Hose to proceed with changes to its property.

Vigilant Hose plans to refurbish a neighboring residence to house emergency staff, provide administrative quarters and temporary housing for residents left homeless by fire.

The board directed town staff to prepare

a text amendment to the town code that would waive parking requirements for all "critical (emergency) services," and to advertise a public hearing on the amendment.

Architect Michael Proffitt told the commissioners that Vigilant's proposal would expand the present structure by 820 square feet, and would involve refurbishing much of the original structure, "from the ground up," including dealing with a bulging wall.

The building's historic façade would be maintained,

but new stairs, an elevator and needed sprinklers would be added to bring it into compliance with safety and facility requirements. Proffitt said the overhaul would bring the former apartment building "into the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Under present Village Zone regulations, refurbishing or enlarging existing properties could trigger the need for

-See Renovation on page 5

### Inside

- Letters to the Editor .....2
- 100 Years Ago .....2
- Editorial .....4
- Town News ..... 6-7
- Religion ..... 8
- Obituaries .....9
- Regional .....10
- Sports .....11
- Retired Ecologist .....12
- Education .....11-12
- Activities/Programs ...14
- Looking Ahead .... 14-15
- Classified Ads .....15

Summer of 1955:  
The first season of the  
Emmitsburg Little League

-see page 3

Town seeks funding to  
address sewage spills

-see page 6

Commissioner aims to  
bring back recycling

-see page 7

Local Scholarships for  
College-bound students

-see page 12

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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.

### Friendship vs. Truth

Once again, the truth is distorted. I am utterly amazed at the comments made by Sabrina Paxton-Daily in the last Dispatch.

She was correct in stating that I have a hard time distinguishing COPE actions from the actions of her "friends." Especially since they

are one and the same. She alluded to the fact that she and her friends came together to "stop an illegal activity." What she really did was join together with her "friends" to deprive a property owner of his personal rights.

The problem Ms. Daily, isn't

that you came to help a friend out. The problem is that you acted without the full knowledge of the facts.

When you participated in the blockade of my property in April 2004, did you know that Mr. Elder was given at least seven certified letters dating back to July 2003 urging him to remove his equipment from my property? Did you know that my attorney and I asked numerous times for the equipment to be removed? Did you know that he refused to remove his equipment for over one full year depriving my wife and I of rental income? I have the certified letters to prove it.

Maybe the truth doesn't matter when "friends" are involved.

I feel sorry for you, Ms. Daily. I realize that you were deceived, along with some of your other friends. I guess we can both be grateful that you and your mob of friends didn't have a noose the day of the blockade. If you or anyone else wants to know the truth, I'd be happy to enlighten you with documents, eyewitness testimony and common sense. It could save you from lynching an innocent person.

- Dave Runkle  
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.

#### Business Changes

**March 3, 1905** - Mr. James A. Slagle, who has successfully conducted the Acme Bakery in this place for a number of years, will quit the baking business and try his luck in conducting a hotel, having sold his bakery establishment to Mr. Harry Hopp, of near this place, who is an experienced baker and now engaged in this occupation. Mr. Slagle has rented the Central Hotel, in this place, from Mr. Wm. F. Spalding, and will take charge of the hotel about April 1st. Success to both gentlemen.

**March 3, 1905** - The question of establishing a canning factory at this place has about been dropped for the present time. It is understood that this action is the result of being unable to secure a desirable site and the limited time to erect the buildings and place equipment in working order.

#### Five O'clock Tea

**March 10, 1905** - On Tuesday evening Mrs. A. A. Hack hospitably entertained her friends with a delightful five o'clock tea, assisted by Misses Gertrude and Anna Annan, each guest receiving either red or pink carnations, jonquils or violets. The dining room contained four tables, each table decorated with the above flowers, ribbons and candle shades to match. The guests were seated at the corresponding tables. After doing justice to the refreshments served, all adjourned to the parlor, where an auction was held, the hostess being the auctioneer. The following souvenirs were bought, with small beans as payment: Mrs. I.S. Annan, book; Mrs. E.L. Annan, carved ivory paper cutter; Mrs. J.H. Stokes, work basket; Mrs. W.C.B. Shulenberg, Wedgwood jewel holder; Miss Shulenberg, fancy picture frame; Mrs. J.A. Helman, fancy hat pin; Miss M.L. Helman, silver manicure scissors; Mrs. A.E. Horner, Japanese bowl; Mrs. H.P. Beam, of Baltimore, bottle of smelling salts; Miss M. Belle Rowe, fancy silk tape measure; Mrs. R.J. Annan, china pin tray ... The hospitable hostess was tastefully gowned in white. Miss

Eleanor also wearing white, Miss Shulenberg furnished the music.

#### Death of Dr. William Seton

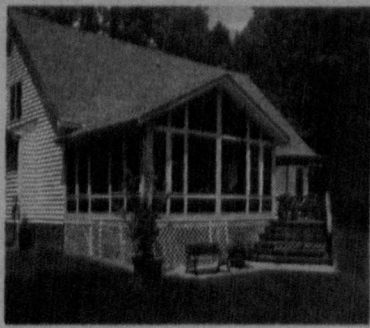
**March 17, 1905** - William Seton, L.L.D. Scientist, died at his home in New York City Wednesday aged 70 years. His remains will be brought to this place and interred in the cemetery at Mt. St. Mary's College, this Friday night. The deceased was a grandson of Mother Seton, founder of St. Joseph's Academy, and is survived by one brother, Archbishop Seton, living in Rome, who is the only living brother of this noted family. Capt. William Seton, U.S. Navy, father of the deceased, was among the first students of Mt. St. Mary's College, having entered the institution in 1809, when his mother (Mother Seton) came here to establish the Convent. All his sons were graduates of this venerable institution. The deceased had been delivering lectures at this College for a number of years, and was booked to lecture at the College next month.

#### The Local Paper

**March 17, 1905** - Governor Francis, of Missouri, who appreciates the value of a local paper, gives the following reasons why it should be patronized: "Every year the local papers give from \$100 to \$1,000 in free lines to the community in which it is located. No other agency can or will do this. The editor, in proportion to his means, does more for his county than any other ten men; he ought to be supported, not because you like him and his writing, or not supported because you don't like and disagree with his writings, but all should support a local paper because it is the best investment a community can make; it may not be brilliantly edited or crowded with thought, but financially it is of more benefit to the community than the teacher or preacher. And on the moral question most of the local papers are on the right side. Today the editors of the home paper do the most for the least money of any men on earth."

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# Summer of 1955: The first season of the Emmitsburg Little League



1955 - Emmitsburg Little League - Cardinals



1955 - Emmitsburg Little League - Giants



1955 - Emmitsburg Little League - Red Sox



1955 - Emmitsburg Little League - Yankees

**A.J. Russo**  
Sports Editor

On a sunny afternoon, late June 1955, the Boy Scouts raised the flag, spirited music by the Emmitsburg Municipal Band blared across Community Field, and Mayor Thornton W. Rogers tossed out the first ball to start the first game of the Emmitsburg Little League.

That afternoon, in front of a good fan turnout, Billy Topper pitched a four hitter to lead Manager Leonard Zimmerman's Cards over Jack Rosensteel's Yankees, 4-0. Yankees pitcher, Francis Walter gave up two hits and the team committed two errors to help the Cards score three times in the third.

The first summer, four teams - the Red Sox, Giants, Cards and Yankees, played each other every

Tuesday and Thursday evening on Community Field.

For the July 4 game that summer of '55, the season's biggest crowd came to the Field to watch Manager Jim McKeon's Red Sox jump to a two-run lead in the first over the Yanks, and then his team added another in the third, four in the fourth and one in the sixth to beat the Yanks 8-1. Yankee pitcher Don Sweeney struck out nine and only allowed three hits that day. In the second game, the Cards remained undefeated (3-0) by crushing Manager Dick Harner's Giants, 8-2. Bill Topper won his third game, striking out 10.

In mid-August, the first season came to an end as the Cards lambasted the Red Sox 15-4. Then a few days later the Red Sox squeaked out a win over the Yanks, 4-2. The playoffs were set, with the Cards paired against the Sox again

and the Yankees set to play Giants. The Cards won the playoffs, beating the Red Sox 12-9.

Check out the photos of the first teams. Recognize anyone?

**Can you help?**

**The Dispatch located old newspaper photos of the 1955 teams, but none of them was of good enough quality to be reproduced. We have included what we believe to be the 1955 team photos for the Cardinals, Red Sox, Giants, and Yankees, courtesy of Patricia (Lingg) Shank of Blue Ridge Summit, Pa.**

**Are all team members present? Can you identify the team members? Please contact us with any information you have. We will publish players' names in the next issue of The Dispatch.**

## Emmitsburg Little League 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

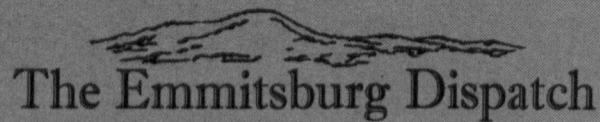
On April 16, opening day, the Emmitsburg Little League will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As part of the celebration, the Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball League would like to hear from coaches and players who played in the Little League between 1955 and 2005. The League is also looking for any memorabilia to display during the upcoming season - anything that details its history, including old uniforms, equipment scorebooks, rosters, sponsors, or photos.

If you played for

Emmitsburg Little League and would like to be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration; if you are in contact with someone else who played for the league; if you have memorabilia to lend; or if you or your business would like to sponsor the celebration, contact league President Mary Topper at [mltopper@juno.com](mailto:mltopper@juno.com) or 301-447-6615.

More than 3500 young people have played in Emmitsburg Little League over the last 50 years, with more than 150 boys and girls involved during the 2004 season.





# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

NEWS AND OPINION IN THE SERVICE OF TRUTH

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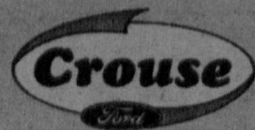
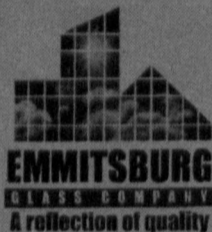
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### Clarification:

In the *Town News Brief*, p. 6, Feb. 17, 2005, we failed to mention that Eva Miller's resignation letter was dated Nov. 15, 2004, to be effective Dec. 31, 2004. Even with that seven weeks lead time, the town was unable to find a replacement for Miller until February.

### "Remembering Doc Cadle" reprints:

Many of you have requested copies of the complete article, "Remembering Doc Cadle," which appeared in a slightly abridged version on p.10 of the Feb. 7, 2005 *Dispatch*. The article is available directly from Ruth Richards, 301-447-6243, at a cost of \$1.25.

## EDITORIAL

# Wake up and smell the annexation!

Don't you just love it when certain people say they are against residential development but in favor of commercial development?

Hello? ALL development is commercial development unless it is a private home being built on a private lot.

The writer would suggest that a housing development from start to post-finish generates more jobs than a 7-11. Not only does a development bring investment into the area, along with governmental revenue for permits, taps, etc., it brings contract work in every conceivable form associated with building homes.

There is also the claim that a development never really pays for itself and ultimately relies to some degree or other on "subsidized" monies, meaning it costs the taxpayers something in the end to sustain it.

Do these assessments of financial impact take into consideration that a development continues to generate employment in the form of home repair services, lawn maintenance services, housekeeping services and additional revenue for local businesses?

Of course, one could say the same about any home that exists, whether 200 years old or 20 days old. Every resident requires the

expenditure of tax dollars in order to provide services for the benefit of any other given resident.

And with Emmitsburg being the poorest community in Frederick County, the writer can't imagine that every household here generates enough revenue to the town to compensate completely for all the services it receives or could receive. Break-even economies are a dream. Profit-making economies are a delusion.

Now for the infrastructure debate, even if a development site is annexed, the developer still cannot at this present time exceed the allowable annual sewer tap connections until the wastewater collection system is fixed. Treatment plant capacity is not an issue. When the system is repaired, there is plenty of remaining capacity at the plant to deal with any number of new developments.

Traffic? Yeah, more people mean more traffic. But stopping developments in the immediate vicinity of Emmitsburg doesn't stop developments in Pennsylvania. The town is going to get the traffic regardless, and the streets can only hold so much before saturation forces commuters to find other ways around.

There has been talk of a by-

pass here since the Paleo-Indians tried to find a way around migrating mastodon herds. No one, to date, has figured out a way to accomplish it, and, in fact, the town may need to employ annexation to accomplish it, and develop a plan whereby incoming developments contribute to it, either in strategic land or financially.

When the town refuses an annexation, it gives up autonomy to the county, reducing the direct influence it would otherwise have on the outcome and pace of the development.

Someone recently commented to the writer that if development were really wanted, the county would be quick to grant approvals, but has declined to do so because they do not want "package" treatment plants. Actually, they declined it because they did not even want a new regional plant.

It is only a matter of time before county resistance crumbles because zoning a property for development and then refusing to cooperate with its progress is nothing sort of bureaucratic anarchy - condemnation of private property without just compensation.

If COPE (Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg) or the county wishes to prevent people from the free and lawful use of their own land because that use is somehow going to muck-up the visions they wish to impose on us all, then they should buy the land at a fair market price and make a tree-hugging reservation out of it.

No one likes anarchy except the anarchist. Wake up and smell the annexation.


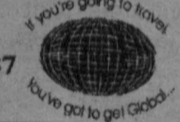
- Richard D. L. Fulton  
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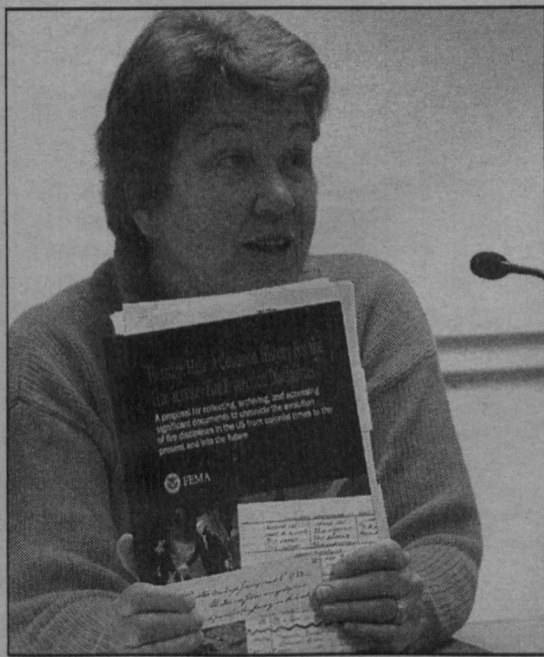
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-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Commissioner Dianne Walbrecker holds a copy of the Fire Emergency Management Association's (FEMA) proposal for a national fire history museum. Walbrecker proposed at the Feb. 21 town meeting that the historic Vigilant Hose Company building be considered for such a national landmark. She speculated that 20 years from now the fire service might outgrow its in-town facility and suggested that instead of investing in the existing building, Vigilant Hose Company consider relocating to Creamery Road in a larger combined facility with the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company. Walbrecker thinks a combined facility would be advantageous for both companies and the town. She said the location would provide easier access for emergency vehicles to U.S. Rt. 15 and would eliminate the growing problem of emergency vehicles tying up in-town traffic when responding to calls.

## Renovation

-Continued from page 1

additional parking.

The text amendment would allow parking waivers to be granted to emergency services contingent on planning commission approval, and if the waivers related directly to the ability to provide emergency services.

Structural enhancements or expansions for "fraternal or social purposes would (still) be required to meet parking requirements," Town Planner Michael Lucas had stated.

The planning commission would review any proposed site plan submitted along with a waiver request, and make the final determination on any exemption.

However, the planning commission could not deny a waiver if the emergency entity applying met the stipulated waiver criteria.

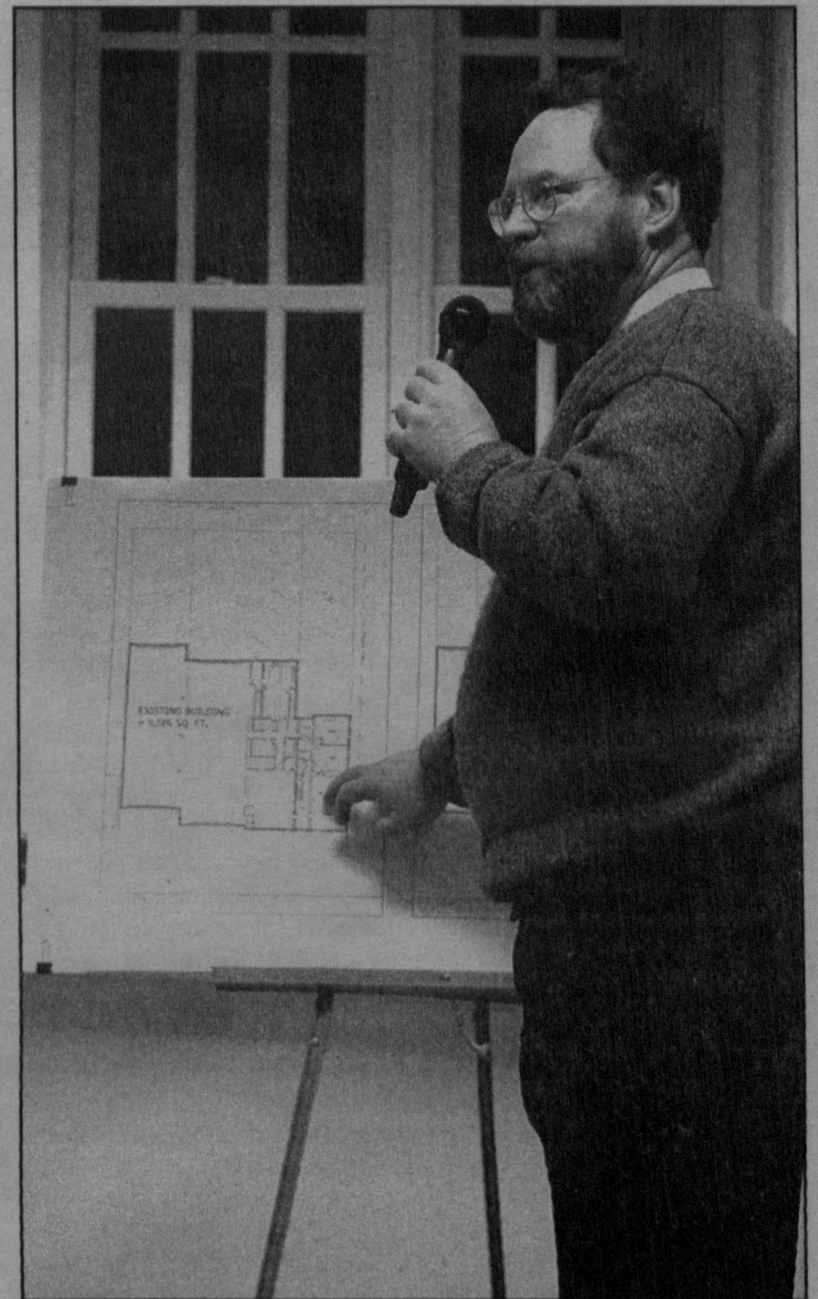
A proposal to recommend that the commissioners consider the amendment passed 4-1 in the Jan. 31 planning committee meeting, in spite of Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker's concerns.

"I feel like we are being drawn into a battle between the fire and ambulance companies," she said, pointing out that Vigilant's proposal to establish quarters for paid ambulance staff was happening at the same time the ambulance company was proceeding with similar plans for their own facility.

Walbrecker agreed with providing critical services the facilities they need to accomplish their respective missions, but said, "I don't like being a pawn in the struggle. I don't like being involved in this political game right now."

"We need ambulance service in this town, but the parking in town is limited. I think we are shooting blind," she said, pointing out that Vigilant faces a problem because they have "too big a building on too small a street with too little parking."

Walbrecker was clear at the meeting, "We need to stop band aiding emergency services. We need one location to serve the community where access is better."



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Architect Michael Proffitt of Proffitt & Pryor Architects, Frederick Md., refers to drawings to explain the proposed Vigilant Hose firehouse renovations to Emmitsburg commissioners at their Feb. 21 meeting. The renovations are the final stage of Vigilant Hose Company's 10-year growth plan.

## Home

-Continued from page 1

good credit." She said she and her family have to contribute 300 hours of "sweat equity" to Habitat. They can work on the house, collect donations, and promote Habitat through networking activities. Lee and her sons must contribute 60% of the total hours; family and friends can contribute the other 40%.

Moving into the new house will allow the boys and their mother to live together once again, and will bring Lee next door to her best friend. She said she could hardly believe it's all really happening.

Construction will begin this month and the house will be finished during the summer, in large part because the college students from Mount St. Mary's and Gettysburg will be available during the 2005 spring semester. The students will also sponsor various fund-raising activities in addition to working on the house.

Habitat for Humanity offers qualified applicants a 20-year, no-interest mortgage, providing ownership support before and after settlement. Two homes were dedicated in December, one on B&O Avenue, Frederick, and one on Biggs Ford Road, Walkersville. Numerous local businesses

contributed to the success of the dinner dance and silent auction held after the Feb. 19 groundbreaking: Ace Hardware, Thurmont; AM Nails; A Whimsical Place & Tea Room; Blockbuster; Carleo Italian Pizza; Coca-Cola; Cozy, Curves for Women, Thurmont; CVS Pharmacy, Thurmont; Emmitsburg Video; Emmitsburg Village Liquors; The Fairfield Inn; Family Dollar, Thurmont; Flowers by Roy; Here's Clyde's Beauty Salon; Carol Hilt; Jen's Cutting Edge & Tanning; Jubilee; Barbara Ketterman; Liberty Mountain Resort; Little Shop of Florals; M&T Shear Magic Beauty Salon; Mountain Gate Family Restaurant; Mountain Gate Plaza Gift Shop; Margaret Perry; Rocky's Italian

Restaurant; St. Peter's Gift and Book Café; 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Alpaca; Shamrock Restaurant; Starbucks Coffee Company, Route 40, Frederick; Subway, Thurmont and Emmitsburg; The Palms Restaurant and Kris Wolf.

Habitat appreciates the continued support of the individuals and businesses that make it possible for the organization to succeed in "giving a hand up, not a handout."

Habitat of Frederick plans to build its 24<sup>th</sup> house in Emmitsburg sometime during 2005.

To volunteer or to donate land, money or materials, call the Frederick Habitat office, 301-698-2449 or e-mail [info@frederickhabitat.org](mailto:info@frederickhabitat.org).

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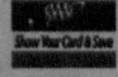
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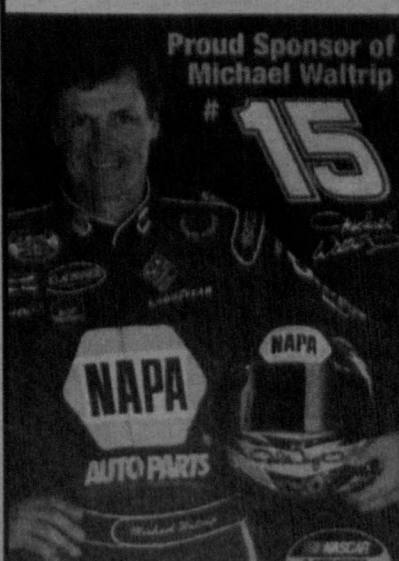
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## TOWN NEWS

# Town seeks funding to address sewage spills

Project will aid Emmitsburg Glass relocation

Richard D. L. Fulton  
News Editor

Emmitsburg moved a step closer to acquiring funding to help address a major concern with its degraded wastewater collection system at the Feb. 21 town meeting.

The commissioners unanimously approved a resolution supporting a state community development block grant (CDBG) that would provide money to upgrade a portion of the collection system located along Creamery Road, where a "vast majority" of sewage spills have occurred.

Town Manager David Haller told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* that if things go smoothly, the money, which would come from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, would be available within 60 days of filing the grant application. To date the application has not been filed.

Haller was not prepared to suggest the total amount of grant money that might be involved. He did say that if the grant is not

approved, the town would still make adjustments to the malfunctioning portion of the line, but those changes might not support the glass company's relocation plans.

Not coincidentally, the proposed project would also aid Emmitsburg Glass' planned relocation. The Creamery Road site where most of the wastewater spills have occurred is also the intended future site of the glass company.

According to Haller, Emmitsburg Glass indicated they could not afford to run the company's sewage collection lines from the not-yet-built new facility to the existing pumping station.

As part of the "Creamery Road Sanitary Sewer Force Main Replacement Project," the town proposes reconfiguring the collection main in a way that would allow the glass company to connect to an extended gravity-fed line closer to the plant.

Emmitsburg Glass recently conducted an employee survey, establishing that most are paid within state average salary criteria, which helps the town qualify for the grant. One of the objectives of

CDBG funding is to help keep viable jobs within a given community.

"If the Creamery Road site is not selected, Emmitsburg Glass, Inc. will almost certainly be forced to locate outside the town's corporate limits," the resolution stated.

Emmitsburg Glass has grown from humble beginnings in 1988 in a Castle Farms garage to a business with over 80 employees. Founded by five Reaver brothers, the company is now owned and operated by Sheridan "Dan" Reaver and his brother Gregory.

The glass company is generally

regarded by the town as a model of local entrepreneurship and a vital part of the business community. The company has generously supported numerous community efforts, and has made financial contributions to local organizations and to the Community Foundation of Frederick County.

The Reavers want to build a new facility on the Creamery Road site with glass windows configured in such a way that travelers along Route 15 will be able to see the reflected panorama of South Mountain.

## No Holiday Trash Pickup

Key Sanitation, Inc., the contractor for Emmitsburg's residential waste service, will not collect trash on the following holidays: Christmas, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day. Trash will be picked up on the next scheduled day.

To report a problem with service, call the 24-hour service line, 301-668-8282. When no one is available to take your call, leave a message and you will receive a response within 24 hours.

## A Word from the Mayor

# Why have an affordable housing ordinance?

There seems to be some confusion about the purpose of an affordable housing ordinance. I have heard through the grapevine that some residents are concerned about my desire to require all developers to provide affordable housing in Emmitsburg. My understanding is that several residents believe "affordable" housing is government-subsidized housing, Section 8 housing. That simply is not the case.

When Frederick County implemented its affordable housing ordinance, the intention was to provide quality housing for persons living on fixed incomes or entry-level workers earning an annual salary in the mid-\$30,000 to mid-\$50,000 range (teachers, nurses, firefighters, police officers, etc.). I heard the words many times, "so those working in the county can live in the county."

If Emmitsburg had an affordable housing ordinance, these affordable homes would sell in the \$180,000 to \$220,000 price range.

An affordable housing ordinance would require developers to provide a specified number of homes to be sold below market value to qualifying purchasers. The developer would have to cut his profit margin on these homes. I feel the ordinance should require that 12 to 15 percent of the homes in a development be built to meet affordable housing requirements.

These houses would have to be comparable to and look similar to the rest of the homes in the development. This could be done by providing the base model home without adding available options.

Potential home buyers would be required to apply to the Frederick County Affordable

Housing Commission to determine if they meet the household income level standards.

Frederick County uses the median income levels for the Washington Metropolitan Service Area and uses the same household income levels throughout the county. For example: a single person could earn an annual salary up to \$36,500; a two-person household up to \$41,800; a three-person household up to \$47,000; a four-person household up to \$52,200; and a household of five or more could earn up to \$56,400.

Once a home is purchased through the affordable housing program, the homebuyer must sign a ten-year agreement. If the home is resold within the first ten years, some or all of the sale profit would go to the affordable housing commission to be used in other affordable housing projects. This means, if the house were sold prior to the end of the ten-year agreement, the homeowner would not be entitled to the profit of the sale. Also, the new buyer would be required to meet the affordable housing requirements, fill out an application, and be approved to purchase the home.

However, there is one concern with putting this type of ordinance into place. We must prevent developers from building all these homes in one small area, for instance, at the end of one street or only in one section. We must make sure the homes are equally spread throughout the development as much as practical. This would best be done at the planning and zoning level each time a site plan is reviewed for approval. By not grouping the homes in one area, we would prevent the stigma of other homeowners referring to these homes as the low-income section or the ghetto.

As I said before, affordable housing ordinances are not enacted to create subsidized or Section 8 housing. In 2001 houses

were built in Emmitsburg that cost less than \$200,000; in 2003 these same homes were selling for \$300,000. In 2004 and 2005 they are being sold for as much as \$400,000 or more. Some of these homes sit side by side.

In 2001 these homes sold for less than \$200,000 not because of an affordable housing ordinance, but because a developer/builder created a sales incentive to encourage homebuyers to purchase one of his homes.

After the market was established, the developer phased-in price increases on the remaining homes. This is typical for all new developments — the first few homes sell for much less.

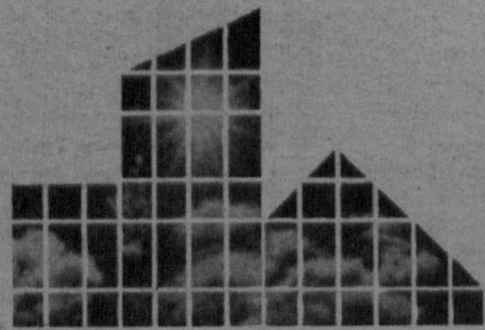
With an affordable housing ordinance, we can require developers to sell more homes at a price comparable to those homes sold in the early stages of a development.

At the same time, those of us who own our homes are grateful that they are worth much more than when we bought them. But, because of the rising costs, many Emmitsburg residents will be forced to move out of town if they want to purchase a new home. They will move elsewhere and get the same house for as much as \$100,000 to \$200,000 less than they can in Emmitsburg. Many of these residents will be the children of families who have lived in Emmitsburg for generations. Without an affordable housing ordinance, a new young family may not be able to afford to stay where they were born and raised.

The Frederick County Affordable Housing Ordinance is very large and complex. I have only summarized its intention. If anyone wishes to have more detailed information or if you want to read the ordinance, please contact me directly. I would be happy to discuss it with you.

— Jim Hoover  
Mayor of Emmitsburg

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# Commissioner to bring back recycling?

Staff Report

Commissioner Dianne L. Walbrecker is working hard to re-establish a recycling program in the community, beginning with trying to set up a joint paper recycling program with Mount St. Mary's University.

As recently as Feb. 10, Walbrecker met with representatives of the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) and the Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Committee (ESSC), a Mount St. Mary's group focused on exploring environmental issues, to discuss a joint recycling program.

The timing for this effort could not have been better. In a Jan. 27 letter, Emmitsburg was informed that county landfill disposal fees will rise from \$41 per ton to as much as \$62 per ton by July.

### County recycling probably not the answer

Walbrecker began talking about bringing back recycling even before she was elected to the board in 2004.

"This (impending cost increase) demonstrates the need

for a recycling option," she said, a point with which board President Bill O'Neil fully agreed.

"The Town of Emmitsburg lost their recycling center in 2000 due to problems they were having with people dumping trash," Walbrecker noted at the Feb. 10 meeting. Subsequently, the town commissioners were unable to agree on a suitable location for a new recycling center.

The county provides curbside pickup, which could include recyclables, but "New developments, Brookfield, Pembroke, Southgate, parts of Silo Hill, and businesses in town, such as the Ott House, Emmitsburg Glass, and Jubilee, do not receive curbside pickup," she said.

Further, according to Walbrecker, Phil Harris, Frederick County's recycling coordinator, has said that Frederick County would not be expanding curbside pickup or installing additional recycling centers. Harris also told her it would cost \$25,000 to reinstate Emmitsburg's residential recycling.

"We're at the initial stages of getting commitments from the town, the Mount and the NETC. I will be

presenting a recycling resolution at the next town meeting," Walbrecker told *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*.

The Daughters of Charity have also expressed an interest in what they termed a "vital recycling issue."

## County solid waste puts Emmitsburg on notice

### Drastic increase in disposal fees imminent

The Frederick County Utilities and Solid Waste Management Division told Emmitsburg in January that when the town's landfill disposal contract ends June 30 it would not be renewed at the current tipping rate of \$41 per ton.

The letter explained that because of limited existing capacity at Reich's Ford Sanitary Landfill, "the board of county commissioners has decided to construct a transfer station ... and begin transfer of solid waste out of our jurisdiction."

As a result, "it is possible that Frederick County may set its new ... tipping fee somewhere between \$56 and \$62 per ton," nearly a 49 per cent increase.

Town Manager David Haller told the commissioner at their Feb. 21 meeting that town staff is "investigating other destinations for our trash," adding that the answer might involve shipping Emmitsburg's trash to Pennsylvania disposal facilities.

"We need to make sure we aren't backed into a corner we shouldn't be in," he said.

# Commissioner defends meeting protocol

In apparent response to criticism about how town meetings are run, Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners President William B. O'Neil, Jr. defended the protocol he employs at the February 21 meeting.

O'Neil pointed out that the town charter requires meetings to be run according to *Robert's Rules of Order*, and said that anyone who feels a different set of rules should be used is free to make suggestions.

"If people have difficulty with the way meetings are held, there are other (rules) documents out there. Until then, I will do the best to abide by the town charter," O'Neil added.

Saying that he has been more lax than strict about imposing the rules, which forbid attendees from even walking around certain areas of the room while meetings are in session, and even provides the board chair the power to remove people from the meeting if he considers their actions a distraction.

"I've tried to be very fair



General Henry M. Robert, creator of the 1876 "Robert's Rules of Order." Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army.

about this," he said, noting that *Robert's* is "stiff and cold," but was compiled to provide for fair and smoothly conducted meetings.

*Editor's Note: "Robert's Rules of Order" was published in 1876 by General Henry M. Robert who began studying parliamentary law when he was asked to chair a church meeting and learned that no rules for doing so existed at the time.*

# Judges needed for April 26 election

Emmitsburg is looking for election judges to oversee the upcoming town election in which the mayor's seat and that of one commissioner are to be filled.

Mayor James E. Hoover's current term will expire, as will Joyce Rosensteel's term on the board of commissioners.

Three election judges and one alternate are required. The mayor recommends individuals for appointment. Those recommended would need to be confirmed by the board of commissioners at the March 21 town meeting.

Judges must be registered, qualified voters, not currently

employed by the town of Emmitsburg, and not a candidate for any town office. Judges are compensated for election day work and meals.

The April 26 election will be held at the old town hall, 22 East Main Street, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To apply for the election judge or alternate positions, or for more information, call 240-629-6300, or e-mail [mayorhoover@emmitsburgmd.gov](mailto:mayorhoover@emmitsburgmd.gov).

*Editor's Note: The election date was erroneously given as April 27 in the previous issue of The Dispatch.*

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**RELIGION**

**Rev. Reginald Rice installed as Incarnation UCC Pastor**



Presiding over Reverend Rice's installation as Incarnation UCC pastor were L to R: Rev. Gerald Fuss, chairman of the Church in Ministry Commission, Rev. Carol Hallman, president of the Catoctin Association, and Rev. Jerrold Foltz, Catoctin Association minister for the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC. Rev. Rice is on the far right. Photo courtesy of Audrey Glass.

**Susan Allen**  
Staff Writer

Rev. Reginald Rice was installed as pastor of Incarnation

United Church of Christ in a special service held Sunday, Feb. 13. Rice was called to the local church in October 2004. (See "Rev. Reginald Rice called to Incarnation Church

of Christ" in The Emmitsburg Dispatch, Nov. 3, 2004.) The installation service marked his formal covenant of ministry with the congregation and the Catoctin

**Sunday Evening Lenten Service Schedule**

Local area churches will host Lenten services Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. Pastors from various churches will offer the evening message.

**March 13 at Elias Lutheran**  
Presbyterian Church, "The Parable of the Sower"

**March 20 at St. Joseph's**  
Tom's Creek UMC, "The Tenants"

**Easter Sunrise Service, March 27 at 6 a.m., the Grotto**

**Feeding the human spirit**

R. Benjamin Jones, artist and pastor of Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church, is offering a free 6-week class entitled, "This journey we call life: how the arts can nourish the human spirit."

Adapted from a course Jones previously taught at Hagerstown Community College, the two-hour classes will be held Wednesday

evenings at 7 p.m. at Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church, 415 West Main Street, beginning March 9 and continuing for approximately 6 weeks. Each session will include a presentation followed by conversation. Participants need not attend every class.

For more information, contact Ben Jones at 301-790-2357.

Association of the United Church of Christ.

Clergymembers representing a number of area UCC congregations attended the service, as did the pastors of Elias Lutheran Church and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Emmitsburg.

In his message, Rev. Rice spoke of the minister's role in "Speaking the Truth in Love," using as his scriptural reference the Book of Revelations, Chapter 10. Ms. DeAnn Straley, Mrs. Rice's niece, provided special music for

the occasion, as did the Incarnation choir, accompanied by Rice on his clarinet. All those present were invited to an informal reception in the activities room following the service.

The Catoctin Association, one of five comprising the Central Atlantic Conference, includes the UCC churches in Washington, Frederick, and Carroll counties (Md.), northern Loudon County (Va.), Berkeley and Jefferson counties (W.Va.), and Jacobs UCC, Fairfield (Pa.).



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-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

**Mass of Thanksgiving**

A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated Feb. 19 at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Mount St. Mary's University, for newly ordained (center) Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, ninth Bishop of Harrisburg. During the celebration, President Thomas H. Powell (R) presented Bishop Rhoades with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, honoris causa. Board of Trustees Chairman, Thomas G. O'Hara (L), presented Rhoades' academic hood. Bishop Rhoades was the former Rector of Mount St. Mary's University and the 47<sup>th</sup> priest from the Mount to be ordained a bishop.



# OBITUARIES

## Mr. John Ambrose

Mr. John Paul Ambrose, 87, formerly of Cascade, died Feb. 17, 2005, at St. Catherine's Nursing Home, Emmitsburg.

Born March 14, 1917, in Lantz, he was the son of the late Clarence Roger and Grace Irene Brown Ambrose.

Surviving are one sister, Mary Grace Edwards; three brothers, Ira Ambrose, Earl Ambrose and Wesley Ambrose; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Feb. 21 at the Robert E. Dailey & Son Funeral Homes, Thurmont, with his pastor the Rev. Barry Taylor officiating.

Interment was in Weller Cemetery, Thurmont.

## Mrs. Helen Eyler

Mrs. Helen Ann Baker Eyler, 73, Gettysburg, Pa., died Feb. 17, 2005, at the Gettysburg Hospital.

Born Oct. 26, 1931, in Emmitsburg, she was a daughter of the late Roy McComas and Anna Koch Baker.

Surviving are three sons, Arthur Kenneth Eyler, Roy K. "Butch" Eyler, John F. Eyler; one daughter, Patti Poole; seven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and one brother, George Baker.

Funeral services were held Feb. 22 from the Skiles Funeral Home, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. David Dunn officiating.

Interment was in Wellers United Methodist Church Cemetery, Thurmont.

## Mr. Charles Fowler

Mr. Charles G. Fowler Jr., 70, Barnesville, died Feb. 21, 2005, at home.

Born March 18, 1934, in Omar, W.Va., he was the son of the late Charles G. and Jennie Anderson Fowler, Sr.

Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Dorothy J. Fowler; one daughter, Donna Cornett; one son, Chuck Fowler; five sisters, Dorothy E. Davidson, Virginia M. Gravely, Martha I. Reed, Ruth A. Stambaugh, Rosa E. Bollinger; nine brothers, William Fowler, Robert H. Fowler, Franklin F. Fowler, James E. Fowler, Howard Fowler, Harry Fowler, Carl Fowler, Wilmer Joe Fowler, Kenneth E. Shumaker; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Feb. 26 at the Barnesville Baptist Church, with the Rev. Joseph Ivey officiating.

Interment was in the Monocacy Cemetery, Beallsville.

## Mr. Charles Hubbard

Mr. Charles William Hubbard, 70, Frederick, died Feb. 17, 2005, at home.

Born June 16, 1934, in New

Windsor, he was the son of the late Henry Hubbard and Mary Fogle Kefauver.

Surviving in addition to his wife of 26 years, Beverly Mae Stine Hubbard, are one daughter, Mary Pratt; two sons, Kenneth Hubbard and Jeffrey Hubbard; one stepdaughter, Karen Morris; three stepsons, Robert Ecker, Ricky Ecker, and Jeffrey Ecker; two stepsisters, Kitty Mitten and Elsie Huffman; one stepbrother, John Smith; four grandchildren, 10 step-grandchildren, one great-grandson and 11 great-step-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Feb. 21 at Hartzler Funeral Home, Libertytown, with the Rev. Richard L. Michael, pastor of St. James Lutheran Church, Union Bridge, officiating.

Inurnment will take place at a later date in Winters Cemetery, near New Windsor.

## Mrs. Mary Woodward

Mrs. Mary Virginia Winegardner Woodward, 85, Emmitsburg, died Feb. 28, 2005, at home.

Born March 12, 1919, in Emmitsburg, she was the daughter of the late George F. and Edith M. Ruark Winegardner.

Surviving are two daughters, Carol Koontz and Teresa M. Zimmerer; three sons, Patrick J. Woodward, Charles R. Woodward, and Michael Woodward; ten grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated March 3 from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with her pastor, the Rev. Vincent J. O'Malley, C.M., as the celebrant.

Interment was in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

## Robert C. Gelwicks

Robert C. Gelwicks of Quakertown, Pa., died Feb. 15, 2005.

He was born on June 8, 1937 in Emmitsburg, Md., the son of Donaldine Hann Gelwicks and the late Earle R. Gelwicks. He was the oldest of the nine children.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine; two daughters, Jean Krauss and Barbara Proia; four brothers, John, Joseph, Mark and James Gelwicks; three sisters, Mary Anne Bollinger, Margaret Ridenour and Joan Elower; and five grandchildren. His sister, Donaldine Singley, predeceased him.

He graduated from St. Joseph's High School, attended Mount. St. Mary's College and worked at Sperry's Ford Garage in Emmitsburg. He was a Marine Corp veteran and retired from Beneficial Management Corporation. He enjoyed collecting and refinishing antique furniture in his wood shop at home. He loved to visit his mother, eat her great home-cooked meals and play cards with her.

A Mass was held on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2005, at 11 a.m. St. John the Baptist Church in Ottsville, Pa.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Haycock Fire Company, 850 Old Bethlehem Road, Quakertown, Pa. 18951.

*Editor's Note: Non-standard obituaries such as the one above are published at the request and expense of a surviving family member, friend, or associate of the deceased.*

Hire a young carpenter but consult an old physician.

-Chinese proverb



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 Thurs. Mar. 17: Corned Beef & Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots  
 Fri. Mar. 18: Salmon Cakes, Parsley Potatoes, Broccoli

Wed. Mar. 23: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans  
 Thurs. Mar. 24: Pork Tenderloin Sandwich, French Fries  
 Fri. Mar. 25: No Special: Closed until 4:00PM

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**REGIONAL**



**Honor Society Raises Funds for CASS**

The Catoctin High School National Honor Society held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser recently at Rocky's Pizza in Thurmont and raised over \$300 for Catoctin Area CASS (Community Agency School Services), which supports local families and children. Pictured are several of the students who participated in the fundraiser, along with their National Honor Society advisor and the local CASS Coordinator.

**R to L:** Karen Hunkele, Catoctin High School Teacher/Advisor; James Best, Debbie Wivell, CASS Coordinator; Sarah Hashemzaden, NHS President; Jessica Krietz; and Lizzie Fink, NHS Secretary.

**Liberty Township Meetings**

**Planning and Zoning Meetings**

The Liberty Township Board of Supervisors is held a public meeting March 8 at 7 p.m. in the Township Building, 39 Topper Road, to tell residents about the proposed new zoning ordinance that township volunteers and planning consultants worked on during 2004. The ordinance attempts to balance growth and development with environmental protection and land preservation. Copies are available for \$18 from Errands Plus at the Jubilee Market, Emmitsburg.

**Wormald Subdivision Review**

On March 12 at 9 a.m. the Planning Commission will hold a public meeting at the Township Building to review the Wormald Company's application for five subdivisions on the land earmarked for the PRD. This application is an alternative to the PRD, and to any agreement that might be reached in negotiations between the Township and the developer.

Residents are encouraged to attend to understand what is being proposed in this application.

**Fairfield School District Meetings**

March 7 a meeting was held to discuss the proposed \$3 million building expansion and its tax impact, an increase of 3 mils.

March 14 at 7:30 p.m. there will be a discussion of Act 72 and what it means to taxpayers.

This meetings will be held in the Fairfield High School Auditorium.

**Taneytown History Museum Tours**

Tyler Boone, curator of the Taneytown History Museum, gave the museum's first guided tour this February to Taneytown Cub Scout Troop 718 and several troop leaders, sharing with them the rich history of the town and its artifacts.

Co-located with the Taneytown Chamber of Commerce at 24 East Baltimore Street, the museum's hours are Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Tours are available by appointment.

**Silver Fancy Garden Club Plant Sale**

The Silver Fancy Garden Club will hold its first annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 4, 2005, in Emmitsburg and Taneytown.

The club has members in both towns, and money raised will be used for the annual plantings in each community.

Plants will come from members' gardens, and will include standard flowers and shrubs and some hard-to-find heirloom specimens.

For more information, contact Susie Heck, 410-756-1113.

**Emmitsburg Burns Night**

The second annual Emmitsburg Burns Night 2005 was held in JoAnn's Ballroom of the Carriage House Inn on Jan. 30. The evening event raised approximately \$1750 for the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center building fund.

Braddock Heights bagpiper David Throne piped the traditional "Scotland the Brave" as the haggis was paraded around the room. Scottish lassie Myra Derbyshire recited Burns' "Ode to Haggis" as Chef John Hovde made the first cut in the dish according to time-honored tradition.

After the meal, Thomas H. Powell, Mount St. Mary's University President, offered the "Toast to the Lassies," with the response given by guest of honor Dr. Bonnie Portier, of the Osteopathic Primary Care Center.

Several of the 51 attendees



**Bagpiper David Throne**

recited or sang their favorite Burns poems or songs. The group sang a number of Scottish favorites, accompanied by the bagpipe, and ended the evening with the traditional "Auld Lang Syne."

**Rocky Ridge Fire Company Honors Volunteers**

The annual Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company banquet was held Jan. 27 with the Ladies Auxiliary members joining the men for the first combined banquet for the company.

President Robert Mumma welcomed everyone, and Pastor James Russell followed with the blessing. Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary and helpers prepared the banquet, which was served by the Rocky Ridge 4-H club.

Auxiliary President Betty Ann Mumma reported the year's events and activities and presented an \$11,000 donation on behalf of the auxiliary to President Mumma.

**Awards Presentation**

Linda Northrup presented the awards on behalf of the awards committee.

The Charles Mumma Award went to Betty Ann Mumma.

Honorary Member went to Dennis Mathias.

The Robert Albaugh Award went to Larry "Luke" Humerick.

Presented by President Robert Mumma, the President's Award for volunteer service beyond the call of duty went to Dennis Ott, Donnie Kaas and Leon Stover, Jr.

**Top Ten Responders**

The company's top responders were #10 Leon Stover, Jr, #9 Jim Rice, #8 Doug Wivell, #7 Paulette Mathias, #6 Craig Hovermale, #5 Tom Myerly, #4 Donnie Kaas & Christina Hurley, #3 Dennis Ott, #2 Larry Eyler, and #1 Bonny Hurley.

**2005 Line Officers**

Chief Steve Whetzel, 1st Assistant Chief Alan Hurley, 2nd Assistant Chief Dennis Mathias, Lieutenants Larry "Luke" Humerick, Andy Mathias, Doug Wivell.

**2005 Officers & Directors**

Director, Andy Mathias, Chaplain, Pastor James Russell, Directors, Helen Burrier, Robert Kaas, Steve Wolfe, Dennis Ott, Doug Wivell, Tom Myerly, President Robert Mumma, Vice President Dale Kline, Secretary, Paulette Mathias, Assistant Secretary, Penny Whetzel, Treasurer, Bernard Wivell, Assistant Treasurer, Bonny Hurley.

Pastor James Russell held a memorial service for members Melvin Troxell and Betty Kaas, who died in 2004.

**Catoctin Mountain Park Roads**

After closing for winter recreation, Park Central and Manahan Roads in Catoctin Mountain Park will reopen in mid-March. Park Central Road reopens March 18; Manahan Road reopens March 25.




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**SPORTS**

*Outside the Game*  
**Sports of Fight**

**A.J. Russo**  
*Sports Editor*

The practice of cock fighting is a tradition going back several centuries, and thus difficult to stamp out.

In cockfights, handlers place two roosters in a pit. These roosters proceed to peck, punch, swat and maim one another. The pit allows roosters no opportunity to escape and although they have been bred to fight, the animals often become tired, incapable, and suffer severe injuries.

Spectators viewing the fights bet large sums of money. The handler of a winning rooster often makes a big profit. Handlers sometimes give roosters steroids or methamphetamines to make them fight harder and faster.

Although birds in a flock will often fight over pecking order, these battles rarely result in injury. Only birds that have been bred and provoked to fight will inflict the serious injuries seen in cock fighting.

Children often witness this cruel spectacle. Because adults bring children to fights as a form of cultural initiation, kids may come away from fights, with insensitivity to violence against animals. Studies have shown that violence against animals is a precursor to violence against humans.

While the United States has a long tradition of cock fighting, as do several Asian cultures, according to the World Animal Foundation, cock fighting should be stopped because of the cruel imposition of violence and possible death on the animals involved, and to protect the mental health of children who may attend such fights.

Now re-read the above paragraphs, but change the words *cock fighting* or *cockfights* to *boxing* or *boxing matches*; *birds* or *roosters* to *boxers*.

\*\*\*

Cockfights, like other illegal animal fights, take place surreptitiously because there are laws banning the events.

Cock fighting is illegal in 48 states and the District of Columbia, and all interstate transportation, or export of birds for fighting purposes, is prohibited by the Federal Animal Welfare Act.

Thirty states and the District of Columbia have made cock fighting a felony offense. Thirty states and the District of Columbia prohibit the possession of cocks for fighting. And 40 states and the District of Columbia prohibit being a spectator at cockfights.

On Saturday, February 19, Bernard Hopkins retained the world middleweight title for a record 20th time in a strategic battle against Howard Eastman. Hopkins was methodical throughout the night and landed over 40% of his punches. Eastman displayed a solid chin, but could never stop a relentless left hook by the 40-year-old champ.

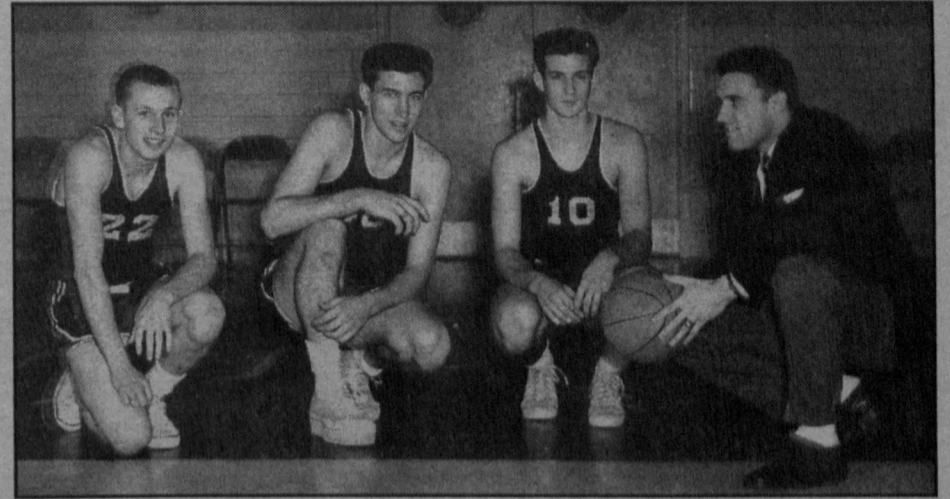
I wonder if any children watched the fight?

*A.J. Russo, Ph.D., is a professor at Mount Saint Mary's University and the author of nine novels and more than 30 scientific papers. He is the former head men's lacrosse coach at RIT and Mount Saint Mary's College and is the current head coach of Hood College's men's lacrosse team, scheduled to play its first season in 2005. Russo's novel, "The Healer," has been critically acclaimed. His newest novels, "Indiscernible Enemy" and "PT" were released in December. All are available at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.*

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

**Coach Weaver and players reunite**

A front page article appeared in the Feb. 17 issue of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* honoring Coach John Weaver's dedication to Emmitsburg High schools sports and his induction into Frederick County YMCA's Alvin G. Quinn Sports Hall of Fame.



Above is a photo of Coach Weaver with three of his varsity team basketball players. No one remembers the circumstances surrounding the photo or who took the picture. Left to Right: Morris Zentz #22, Norman Shriver #40, and Mike Humerick #10.

In tribute to that memory, the photo below of Coach Weaver and the same three players was taken at the February banquet.



-RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER / THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

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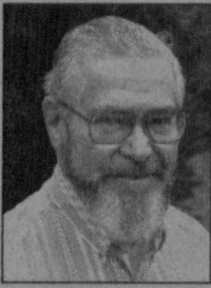
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## The (retired) Ecologist A Parliament of Owls



**Bill Meredith**  
Dispatch  
Writer

"...for every collection of beasts of the forest, and for every gathering of birds of the air, there is their own private name, so that none may be confused with another." Arthur Conan Doyle, "Sir Nigel," 1906.

Ordinarily, February is not a particularly good month for watching birds, but this year was different. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month a Northern Lapwing was seen near Thurmont. This is a bird that normally lives in Asia and Europe, and had been seen previously in the U. S. only 22 times, so the news went out on the Internet and birders from all over the country immediately headed this way. I got there too late. Among 23 other birders and several thousand dollars worth of binoculars and telescopes, I stood for two hours in the field where the bird had been seen the day before; on my right was a man from Carlisle and on my left, one from South Carolina ... but the Lapwing had moved on. However, the day wasn't a total loss; the first meadowlarks of the year were singing in the corner of the field, and better yet, several dozen horned larks were scurrying about among the emerging winter wheat. As I watched them, I was reminded of one of the oddest books that I own.

The title of the book is "An Exaltation of Larks," by James Lipton. It is not the kind of book you would sit down to read; rather, it is the kind you start leafing through at random, and suddenly look up to find that an hour has passed. The text consists of a collection of names for groups of things, accompanied by drawings that look as if they might have been done by the same guy who illustrated "Alice in Wonderland." Most of the names are for groups of animals, and according

to Lipton, they originated from the fact that in Merrie Olde England young gentlemen were expected to know the group names of creatures they were likely to encounter when hunting. Some of them are familiar; everyone has heard of a school of fish, a pride of lions, or a gaggle of geese. The name in the book's title is a bit less familiar, but logical in derivation; everyone has heard the expression, "happy as a lark," and exaltation is defined as a state of exhilaration or extreme happiness. Hence, if one lark is happy, a whole bunch of larks would have to be an exaltation; and that was the emotion I felt, standing in the field watching them.

I hadn't looked at this book for years, so when I got home I took it down and started browsing through it. Once opened, it's hard to put down. Some of the names are no longer used; nowadays you never hear of a skulk of foxes or a murder of crows. Some applied to people; among the more inventive were an impatience of wives, a prudence of vicars, and a sentence of judges. Toward the end of the book, Lipton gets carried away and invents a few modern groups such as a glut of commercials, an obsolescence of appliances and a hive of allergists. But the group that caught my eye was a parliament of owls. I had seen such a group just a week earlier.

Everyone who has lived in the country knows we have four common species of owls around here. The great horned owl and barred owl are large, predaceous birds which hoot loudly as they hunt; the screech owl is much smaller, but equally noisy. The barn owl doesn't hoot, but it is familiar to country folk because it regularly nests in barns and outbuildings. All four species are solitary and hunt at night.

It is less well known that 15 other species of owls are native to North America, and several of these visit us in the winter. Of these visitors, the short-eared owl is the commonest; from its home in northern Canada, it migrates as far south as the Carolinas each winter.

It is nearly as big as a barn owl, with a body about 16 inches long and a wingspan of nearly 40 inches. But it breaks many of the rules of owlhood; unlike our resident owls, it often sleeps on the ground in groups, and also may nest in groups in the Canadian tundra. Because the summer nights are so short in those latitudes, these owls commonly hunt during the day, especially in the morning and evening hours.

Several years ago, members of the Gettysburg Audubon Society found that short-eared owls regularly stop to spend the winter in fields south of the Battlefield, and I have seen them there in each of the past four years. Usually there are only a few, but this year there were more than usual, so one evening I took my wife and Ruth Richards to look for them. We parked along the road by the field where they had been seen and waited. Fifteen minutes passed and my wife's patience was beginning to wane, when suddenly, as if they had been ejected from a volcano, owls rose from the field and started buzzing around like a swarm of giant gnats. Buzzing may not be the right word, for their flight is silent, but that was the effect they produced. We counted 27, but more kept coming and they zoomed about so rapidly that we lost count. It was indeed a parliament of owls, and it was the most spectacular sight I have seen in years.

They must have spent the day sleeping on the ground, hidden among tufts of grass and weeds, as they do in their Canadian home. Evidently their biological alarm clocks all went off at the same time, and they woke up hungry. Once in the air, they immediately began to hunt; we saw several drop to the ground to catch field mice. They gradually dispersed into the surrounding fields, flapping lazily like giant moths; some hunted by gliding along a few feet above the ground, and others perched on fence posts or small trees to scan about for prey.

I don't know how a group of owls came to be called a parliament, but it is interesting to speculate. In ancient times, owls were the symbol of Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom, and I imagine 13<sup>th</sup> century Englishmen thought wisdom would be a desirable quality for a parliament to have. These owls, however, have a ring of black feathers around their eyes and black "eyebrow" marks that give them a look of bewilderment ... which, come to think of it, seems to be a good description of the usual state of things in parliaments around the world.

So February 2005 will go into my record book as the first month in which I saw both a parliament of owls and an exaltation of larks. It would have been nice to see the lapwing too, but since I didn't see it, at least I can be glad there was not more than one of them. A group of lapwings is called a deceit, and we all can do without that.

## EDUCATION

### Local Scholarships for College-bound Students

**Susan Allen**  
Staff Writer

According to Valerie Lamoreau, Career Center Coordinator at Catoctin High School (CHS), graduating seniors at CHS and area adults returning to college can receive financial assistance from a number of local organizations. The groups listed below are a **sampling** of more than 20 that granted scholarships to members of Catoctin's class of 2004. The Community Foundation of Frederick County does not administer these scholarships. (See "Scholarships for High School Graduates," p. 10, *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, Jan. 20, 2005.)

**Catoctin Colorfest Scholarship Committee** - five scholarships. Two \$1,000 awards to adults returning for college study. Two \$1,000 grants, and a \$1,500 presidential memorial scholarship, are available for members of the CHS Class of 2005. Application deadline is April 15. Application packets, guidelines and instructions are also available at [www.catoctincolorfest.org](http://www.catoctincolorfest.org). Since its inception, this group has granted 92 scholarships totaling \$94,000 to students in the greater Catoctin region.

**Catoctin High School Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA)** - two \$500 books and supplies scholarships to CHS seniors. The awards are based primarily on students' community service, and require a short essay about the service activity.

**Emmitsburg Elementary School PTA** - one \$250

scholarship to a graduating CHS senior who attended Emmitsburg Elementary School (K-5) for a minimum of one full year. Applicants must have an overall 2.85 grade-point average (GPA), as verified by the CHS guidance office, for their four high school years. Each student must include a letter of recommendation from either a high school or community contact, and an acceptance letter from any accredited 2 or 4-year college or technical school. Submit applications to Jennifer Garrett, Scholarship Committee, Emmitsburg Elementary School PTA, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg MD 21727, no later than March 31.

**The Emmitsburg High School Alumni Association** - three \$1,000 scholarships to students who reside within the boundaries of the former Emmitsburg High School district (which includes Rocky Ridge.) The scholarships are awarded for one year, and recipients can apply for a second year. Contact M. C. Shields, 301-447-2109.

**Edwin C. Creeger Jr., Post 168, Thurmont American Legion** - two 2-year and two 4-year scholarships. Application criteria include submission of a short essay, recommendations from school and community members, and academic record as shown on the students' high school transcript. Return completed applications to the CHS guidance office by Apr. 1.

Applications for these and many other scholarships are available from the CHS Guidance Office. Contact Ms. Lamoreau, 240-236-8082.

### Emmitsburg Lions Club Memorial Scholarships

The Emmitsburg Lions Club offers three annual memorial scholarships to high school students living in the 21727 zip code and the Emmitsburg Elementary School district.

**George Morningstar, Bob Gauss, and Harry Prongas scholarships**

The Morningstar and Gauss scholarships will award \$1000 and the Prongas scholarship \$500 for college or other post high school education. Applicants must submit an essay application and a signed cover letter to the Emmitsburg

Lions Scholarship Committee. The essay should include career goals, high school activities, non-school activities, and any other information applicants consider relevant. Each essay must show how these men's lives relate to applicants' goals.

All applications must be received by noon March 16 and should be mailed to Chairman, Emmitsburg Lions Club, Scholarship Committee, Post Office Box 1182, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Further information is available at [emmitsburg.net/lions/scholarship.htm](http://emmitsburg.net/lions/scholarship.htm).

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## VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winners



L-R: Dolores Henke, VFW Auxiliary Chairperson, Sarah Swope, Emily Zier, Theresa Cecil, and Mother Seton School Principal, Sister Mary Catherine Conway.

Eighty-eight students from grades 6, 7, and 8 at Mother Seton School competed in the annual VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, co-sponsored by the Emmitsburg VFW Post 6658, Commander Robert Dinterman, and the VFW Auxiliary President, Mary R. Topper.

Winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Theresa Cecil; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Emily Zier; 3<sup>rd</sup>

place, Sarah Swope. Each received a monetary award, a plaque and a certificate from the VFW Post and from the Auxiliary. Twenty-nine students received honorable mention and were given a monetary award and a certificate. In District 7, Sarah Swope received 1<sup>st</sup> place and Amber Hammond received 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

The 2004-05 contest theme was, "What service

to our country means to me." The chairperson of this contest was Auxiliary Secretary, Dolores Henke.

"Patriot's Pen" is an annual nationwide youth essay writing competition for students in grades 6, 7 and 8. The competition strives to foster patriotism, promote Americanism, and support educational activities. Contestants write a 300 to 400-word essay around a patriotic theme. More than 116,000 students participated this year.

The first-place winner receives a \$10,000 savings bond and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The top national winners each receive a savings bond worth between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

The 2005-2006 theme is "Who are today's patriots?" and the entry deadline is Nov. 1, 2005.

## Guiding Good Choices – Thurmont Middle School Families that Care workshops

Beginning April 7 the Frederick County Health Department is offering a free five-session workshop for parents of children in grades four to eight who want to strengthen family bonds and reduce teen drug use risk factors.

The workshops will be held Thursday evenings from 7-9p.m., April 7 to May 5 at Thurmont Middle School. Sessions will

cover drug use prevention, setting guidelines, developing healthy beliefs and clear standards, saying no to drugs, managing conflict, constructively expressing and controlling anger.

For a complete workshop schedule, see [www.frederickhealth.org/substanceabuse](http://www.frederickhealth.org/substanceabuse). To register, call the health department at 301-631-3357.

## Teacher of the Year

The Thurmont Lions Club is accepting nominations for Thurmont Teacher of the Year. Teachers from Thurmont Primary, Elementary and Middle School, and Catoclin High

School are eligible.

Contact Susan Favorite, 240-409-1747 for a nomination form. All nominations must be postmarked no later than April 16.

## "Instruments in the Attic" program helps needy schools

Music & Arts Center has begun its third annual "Instruments in the Attic" campaign, asking the community to donate used musical instruments which will be repaired by Music and Arts Center technicians, and given to needy public schools. The campaign runs Feb. 28 through March 31.

For more information

about donating an instrument, stop by a Music & Arts Center. To find the nearest store, visit [www.MusicArts.com](http://www.MusicArts.com).

To learn more about the "Instruments in the Attic" program, contact Lori Lee at 800-237-7760, extension 1117.

Last year's campaign collected over 400 instruments company-wide.

## Library to sponsor Teen Magazine

Join other Frederick County teens, grades 6-12, in the first issue of the library's new magazine devoted to local student work. Submit your work, along with a suggested name

for the new magazine by April 30 to any Frederick County Public Libraries Branch.

The magazine will be published in May 2005. Submitted work can

be no longer than two typed pages and can include nonfiction, poetry, opinions, reviews, drawings, cartoons and photographs. See [fcpl.org/teenmag](http://fcpl.org/teenmag) for more details.



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## ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

### Library Events

#### Storytimes

**Babies with Books** (birth-24 months with an adult)  
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - March 16

**Two Terrific!** (age 2 with an adult)  
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. - March 15, 22, 29

**Family Storytime** (ages 3-5 with an adult)  
Wednesdays at 7 p.m. - March 16, 23, 30

**Preschool Storytime** (ages 3-5 with an adult)  
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. - March 10, 17, 24, 31

#### For Teens

**Teen Book Club** (grades 6-12)  
Third Tuesdays. March 15, 7 p.m. Selection: "Feed" by M. T. Anderson.

**Anime/Manga Club** (grades 6 and up)  
Join us for our first meeting at the Thurmont Branch. Give us your ideas and watch a full-length film. Popcorn and soda, too! Co-sponsored by the Thurmont and Emmitsburg branch libraries.

Friday, March 11, 6-8 p.m.  
**Fashion Makeover** (teens and adults)

Weekenders' Coordinator Cindy Oertel will show you how to mix and match, accessorize, and choose clothing that highlights your best features.

Thursday, March 31, 7-8 p.m.

#### Special programs for the family

**Leaving a Legacy: Writing About Your Life** (adults)

Join this writing group and learn to record your stories, events, anecdotes, family characters and your personal observations of what life was like "back when..."  
First Mondays, 1:30-3 p.m. April 4, May 2

**Artbeat** (ages 6-11)  
Architecture, sculpture, painting - What is it art?

Explore the mysteries of the art world with Frederick Community College art history instructor, Sue Cardella, who will present a Power Point show of art ranging from Paleolithic to 20<sup>th</sup> century that will test your powers of observation.

Saturday, March 12, 11 a.m.  
**Registration required.**

**Third Thursdays at Thorpe Wood** (ages 3-5)

Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries host a monthly preschool story program at beautiful Thorpe Wood Nature Retreat. Register monthly at [www.thorpewood.org](http://www.thorpewood.org) or call ThorpeWood, 301-271-2823.

Thursday, March 17, 1 p.m.  
**Registration required.**

**Knitting Club** (adults and teens)

Open to all, beginners to experts. Even if you don't know how to cast on, someone in the knitting circle will be glad to help you. Bring your yarn and needles, your questions and your expertise.  
Third Thursdays. March 17, 4 p.m.

**Book Discussion Groups/ Adult Reading Club**

**Evening Club**  
Second Tuesdays. March 8, 7:30 p.m. "Founding Mothers" by Cokie Roberts.

**Non-fiction Book Club**  
Second Thursdays. March 11, 1 p.m. Any book on Social Security.

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**March 12 - Wormald Subdivision Review.** 9 a.m. Liberty Township Building. Public meeting to review the Wormald Company's application for five subdivisions on land earmarked for the PRD.

**March 12 - Furniture Preservation Workshop.** 10 a.m.-noon. Historical Society of Frederick County Museum, 24 East Church Street, Frederick. Bruce Scheutinger will explore the conservation process, including techniques and methods for furniture care and conservation. Multi-media presentation and questions and answers. Fee: \$10 at the door.

**March 12 - Music Extravaganza.** 6 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church, Emmitsburg. Teen Praise Choir and Children's Praise Choir will present the gospel through music. Everyone is welcome.

**March 12 - Easter Basket**

**Bingo.** 7 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m. Banner School, 1730 North Market Street, Frederick. Tickets available at the school, Mon.- Fri. 9-3; Friday from 5-10 p.m.: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door for 25 games, \$6 for extra packs; \$1 each for special games.

### Emmitsburg Municipal Meetings

**March 15 - Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Town Office

**March 21 - Town Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Town Office  
Public hearing on proposed ordinance 05-01 to allow emergency services to expand without having to provide the currently required off-street parking.

**March 28 - Planning and Zoning Commission Workshop.** 6 p.m. Town Office  
Comprehensive Plan finishing Chapter 5, "Transportation"  
Comprehensive Plan Review Chapter 7, "Economic Development and Renewal"

**March 28 - Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Town Office  
Emmitsburg Osteopathic Revised Site Plan Request for Approval  
Emmitsburg Ambulance Company Preliminary Site Plan Request for Approval  
Comprehensive Plan Continuing Discussion and Review

### Senior Events

March winds are blowing in some special events! Seniors will observe St. Patrick's Day on Mar. 16 with entertainer Jim Thompson, "the flying Scotsman," at 10 a.m., and Green Bingo after lunch. Bring a green prize. Meeting day is March 15. The center is sponsoring a bus trip to Hanover Farmers' Market on March 19. Advance sign-up is required. There will be a covered-dish luncheon on Wed., March 23 at 11 a.m. The center will be closed for Good Friday on March 25.

**Bowling:** Mondays at Taneytown Bowling Center. Carpool; meet at 12:30 p.m.

**Strength Training:** Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m. Dress comfortably, wear athletic shoes, participants will use small weights. Led by Kathy Araiza.

**Bingo:** March 2 and 16.

**Cards-500, and Bridge Group:** March 9 and 23.

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

Programs are held in the Community Center on South Seton Avenue. Call for lunch reservations 24 hours in advance. When bad weather strikes, the Senior Center will be closed when county offices are closed. To register for special events or for information, call program coordinator Linda Umbel, 240-629-6350.

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**March 13 - "The History of Frederick County ... Presented Through a Video Camera."** 2-4 p.m. Historical Society of Frederick County Museum, 24 East Church Street, Frederick. Documentarian Chris Haugh will discuss producing local history documentaries and offer insights into presenting Frederick County history through a camera lens. Followed by a screening of "Sugarloaf the Quest for Riches and Redemption in the Monocacy Valley."

**March 13 - All English Concert.** 2:30 p.m. Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown. Free concert featuring the music of English composer Michael East. Guest musician Jeff Clise joins

regular consort members. Reception follows. Information: 301-739-5727, TTY for the deaf, 301-739-5764, or visit the museum's Web site, [www.wcmfa.org](http://www.wcmfa.org).

**March 14 - Fairfield School District Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Fairfield High School Auditorium. Discussion of Act 72 and what it means to taxpayers.

**March 15 - History of Frederick County Fire Service.** 7 p.m. C. Burr Artz Central Library Community Room, Frederick. Clarence "Chip" Jewell, a 34-year fire and rescue service volunteer, will share his personal experiences and explore the development of the county's fire service, from the acquisition of the first fire engine in 1760, through

the turbulent years of the Civil War, to the "big fires" of the 1970s. Historical Society of Frederick County's 2005 Lecture Series.

**March 16 - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Program.** 6-8 p.m. Thurmont Primary School. Dinner provided from 6-6:30, program begins at 7. Childcare available. Questions and information: Catocin CASS, 240-236-1770. To pre-register for childcare and dinner: Families Plus, 301-694-9002.

**March 18 - Health Screening.** Weller United Methodist Church, 101 North Altamont Avenue, Thurmont. Five health screenings to help prevent stroke, heart attack or osteoporosis. Test prices range

from \$25 to \$40. Space limited to 50 registrants: 1-800-446-0925.

**March 18 - Fish Fry.** St. Joseph's Hall, DePaul Street, Emmitsburg. Menu: fried or baked pollock or catfish, salmon cakes, coleslaw, potato wedges, green beans, applesauce, rolls, coffee & tea, desserts. Sponsored by St. Joseph's Holy Name Society. Cost: \$10 adults, \$3 children, 5 and under free.

**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.

**March 18 & 19 - Turkey & Oyster Supper.** Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday 1-6 p.m. Graceham Moravian Church 8231-A Rocky Ridge Road, Thurmont. Cost: \$11 adults, children (5-10) \$5, under 5 free. Carry-outs available, \$12. Information: 301-271-2379.

**March 19 - Bake Sale.** 9 a.m.-noon. Incarnation United Church of Christ, 124 West Main Street. All proceeds to benefit victims of South Asian tsunami. Sponsored by the Sunday school and youth, in partnership with youth groups throughout the Catocin Association of the UCC. Rainy day location will be inside the education building in rear of church. Information: 301-447-6891.

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**Bus Trip: "The Lion King."** Hippodrome Theatre, Baltimore, Md. Sat. 8/20/05. Call 301-447-2551 for details.

**Community Yard Sale.** Spaces available. Looking for participants for yard sale at Fellowship Baptist Church, Fairfield, Pa., April 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spaces are \$10. No other fees. Turn your trash into cash! Widely advertised. Call Debbie at 717-642-8730.



**For Sale: Yamaha TT-R125** w/ electric start. Bought in 2004 as 2003 leftover. Less than 25 hours. Excellent condition - not a mark on it. Paid \$2500.00 w/ tax. Must sell. Make offer. Ray at 240-674-5064 or 717-334-6899.

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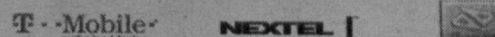
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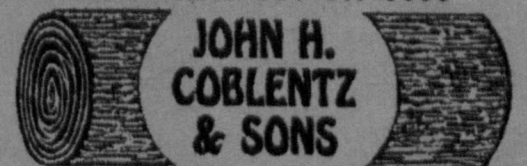
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