

# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL V, No. 23

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

DECEMBER 7, 2006



## SHOP LOCALLY

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## WinterTime

Special 12 page pullout in this issue of The Dispatch

A Mason-Dixon guide to activities, services, and events for wintertime.

## An Evening of Christmas Spirit

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Ready for a little holiday hospitality? Join the Emmitsburg community on Dec. 11 for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual "Evening of Christmas Spirit."

The hosts don't always count attendees, but they do count hot dogs — they've ordered 500 this year compared to 400 last year. Bob Hance, co-owner of the Carriage House, said, "We just want to welcome the entire

town to participate. It's a fun night. We've outgrown the downstairs (where refreshments were served in years past) and will be opening the ballroom to accommodate the numbers."

Sponsors are the Carriage House Inn, Town of Emmitsburg, National Emergency Training Center (NETC), and the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA).

6 p.m. - Emmitsburg tree-

lighting ceremony with Mother Seton School Choir in front of the Community Center, S. Seton Ave.

6:30 p.m. - National Emergency Training Center open house. Refreshments and holiday décor.

7 p.m. - Carriage House Inn festivities, including caroling, horse-drawn surrey, hayrides through town, complimentary hot dogs and cookies, live nativity scene and entertainment.

## Town water/sewer rates to increase

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioner approved a rate increase for water and sewer services at their Dec. 4 meeting. New rates will be reflected in the March 2007 bills. Customers using between 10,001 and 20,000 gallons per quarter will see an

increase of \$5 per quarter. Larger volume water customers using 20,001 gallons and up will see a \$17 increase per quarter. Rates for customers using less than 10,000 gallons will not change. Look for more information in the Dec. 21 issue of *The Dispatch*.

### This Issue



Emmitsburg tradition makes national news

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Business association trying to make a comeback

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New Emmitsburg Glass building garners County 'Project of the Year' award

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Fairfield-Hamiltonban development moving slow

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CHS Seniors raise \$10K

-see page 12

## Old building comes down as Vigilant Hose expands

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
Emmitsburg News Editor  
rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The old, former apartment building attached to the side of the current Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) firehouse bay must be demolished because of decrepit structural elements and crumbling bricks.

Original plans called for simply renovating the 29 West Main Street structure, but as work pro-

gressed on upgrading the VHC headquarters, the old building was deemed unsalvageable, and construction crews began demolition during the first half of November.

Once beyond that unexpected hurdle, the fire company still plans on completing the \$1.5 million overhaul and expansion of the headquarters during the summer of 2007.

Early in 2005, Vigilant Hose

-See **Vigilant Hose** on page 5



- RICHARD D.L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

Demolition takes place of the former apartment building attached to the west side of the current fire house.

## 'Taxation without (accurate) computation?' Municipalities, tax bureau dig-in over tax dispute

BY WILLIAM REINKE  
Contributing Writer

ADAMS COUNTY, Pa. — In response to the misallocation of \$1.85 million in tax revenue by the now-defunct Adams County Earned Income Tax Collection Agency, the York Adams Tax Bureau's board of directors will meet on Jan. 29 regarding adoption of currently proposed repayment options.

The issue was first brought to the attention of Adams County municipalities and school districts in an Oct. 10 memo from the tax bureau transition committee.

Of concern are the earned income taxes distributed during the period from Feb. 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006, during which time ACEITCA alleges it overpaid 28 of the 29 municipalities and one school district.

Tax bureau tries to deal with its fiasco

The first repayment option

proposed is to withhold the debt from the municipalities' May 2007

-See **Tax dispute** on page 10

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The 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 *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 for verification purposes. The Dispatch reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

## Business association alive and well

Recently the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA) has begun a revitalization process. Under the guidance of Bo Cadle the EBPA is once again becoming a strong community organization. The EBPA has become a sponsor of the town's "Evening of Christmas Spirit."

The group's efforts this year will be focused on helping with

donations on Dec. 11 to benefit the Lions Club annual food drive. Both canned foods and monetary donations will be collected at The Carriage House from 6-9 p.m. on that evening.

The EBPA wishes to invite all businesses and professionals to the first annual holiday dinner/meeting. This year the dinner meeting will be held in JoAnn's

Ballroom at The Carriage House on Tuesday, Dec. 19 with a social from 6-7 p.m. The cost is only \$12 for the buffet dinner. Please make reservations with Bo Cadle at (301) 447-6275 or [bojean40@msn.com](mailto:bojean40@msn.com). We hope to see you there.

- Happy Holidays  
from the EBPA

## Commissioner thanks poll workers

I would like to publicly thank all the poll workers in Emmitsburg for their hard work this past primary, and the general election. Democracy only works when people participate. The working of the polls is essential for fair and honest elections. Having

worked for the election board in a past election, I understand what an incredibly long day the poll workers go through. I was proud as a teacher from Frederick County Public Schools to see a former student of mine working as an election judge. The traditions of

democracy are being passed onto the next generation. So, in closing, a big thank you to the poll workers of Emmitsburg for a job well done.

- Glenn Blanchard  
Emmitsburg Commissioner

## Holiday shop locally this season

Frederick County is blessed with a superb business community. During the upcoming holiday season we encourage you to support the more than 1,000 local retail establishments. By doing so you help preserve and grow our diverse economy. Frederick County businesses offer a broad range of gifts including home décor items, antiques, jewelry, electronics, recreational and sporting goods, great foods and clothing.

For local gift-giving ideas, we encourage you to visit the Frederick County Office of Economic

Development's Web site at [www.discoverfrederickmd.com](http://www.discoverfrederickmd.com). Our "Homegrown Here" and "Buy Local, Buy Fresh" campaigns are exciting and consumer-friendly. The Virtual Farmers' Market link is designed for Frederick County agricultural producers to sell and promote their products online. Additionally, you may want to visit the Tourism Council of Frederick County's website at [www.fredericktourism.org](http://www.fredericktourism.org) for shopping and dining suggestions and to find out about festive holiday events.

After an exhilarating day of shopping from Brunswick to Emmitsburg and Mount Airy to Myersville, we encourage you to dine at some of the many outstanding restaurants in Frederick County.

Thank you for supporting our local economy; we hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Marie S. Keegin  
Executive Director  
Frederick County Office of  
Economic Development

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.

December 7, 1906

## House Destroyed

On Monday morning, the house belonging to St. Joseph's Academy, occupied by Mr. James McGrath, to the Southwest of town, was gutted by fire.

At about 11:30 word was sent to St. Joseph's that the chimney of Mr. McGrath's house was on fire but before help could be sent the high wind had spread the sparks and flames from one end of the roof to the other. Unfortunately the chimney, from which the flames spread, was the one on the windward side of the house and it was apparent that the building was doomed.

A large crowd of neighbors and townspeople soon gathered and by their willing and efficient service removed all the household goods, except one bed. Word was immediately begun toward saving as much of the house as possible. The pump to the rear of the dwelling was kept going and men and boys formed a bucket brigade from the race to the burning building. For several hours the work was kept on and at last the fire was quenched after it had completely destroyed the roof and upper floor.

So effectual was the work of the men that much, if not all, of the movable woodwork of the house was saved. Doors were taken off their hinges, windows and mantles removed and the porch to the south of the house taken down and carried to a place of safety.

The walls of the house were injured somewhat when one of the chimneys which seemed to threaten those at work in the house was pulled down. Two large cedar trees were ordered down and some few panels of fence were taken up and removed.

The loss on the property is not fully covered by insurance; the loss on the personal effects

of Mr. McGrath was small.

To Mr. Jenkins, who directed the work of the firemen, the saving of the lower floor is due. He with a corps of men from the Academy was soon at the fire and these men probably saved the destruction of more property as the wind carried the sparks and burning embers a great distance. At one time several ties on the railroad across the pike were in flames but were soon put out.

Mr. McGrath and family, after the destruction of the home in which they have lived for so many years, took up their residence with Mr. William Zurgable, Mr. McGrath's son-in-law. It is not known for a certainty whether the house will be rebuilt on the old site or not, but the supposition is that in a short time another building will be erected on practically the same place.

On Saturday evening about 7 o'clock the chimney to the house occupied by Mr. Bernard Lantz but a short distance from the corporation limits to the West of town, caught fire and burned fiercely. The high wind threatened at one time to carry the flames to the adjoining properties, and it looked as if a serious conflagration might ensue. Mr. Lantz was able to at last to quench the fire, but not before the hose and reel had been gotten out.

Quite a crowd gathered and there was a good deal of excitement. The flames had they spread, would have undoubtedly swept down the street and no end of damage might have been done.

## Personals

Mr. James Gelwicks, who has been ill for sometime, has so far recovered that he was able, a few days ago, to come down stairs. It is the sincere hope of the whole community that Mr. Gelwicks may rapidly recover his full health.



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# Christmas season kicks off with swag making



More than 35 volunteers helped assemble the town's traditional Christmas swags used to adorn the community's lampposts and other town property. The volunteers assembled 200 swags at the municipal garage Nov. 18 in less than three hours. The majority of materials were donated, according to Mayor James E. Hoover.



PHOTOS BY EMILY BALLENGER / THE DISPATCH

## Emmitsburg swags make national news



Emmitsburg's Christmas swag-making tradition is featured in the November/December issue of *Country Woman*, a magazine devoted to country lifestyles. The article was written by Chata Carr, wife of former Emmitsburg Mayor William Carr, and was illustrated with swag-making photos taken in 2005 by Raymond Buchheister, publisher of *The Dispatch Community Newspapers*.



### This Town's Spirit Is Evergreen

By CHATA CARR  
Emmitsburg, Maryland

When Christmas comes to Emmitsburg, Maryland, we don't just deck the halls...we spruce up the entire town!

For over 30 years now, local people have been observing a decorating tradition that suits the quiet beauty of our small community of 2,200. In late November, we hand fashion Christmas

swags by the hundreds to hang along our main streets and town square.

Bright and early on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, volunteers meet at the town garage, eager to get to work. The spicy aroma of fresh-cut pine is invigorating, and the warm greetings and laughter automatically put us all in the holiday spirit.

A day as in before, the town's maintenance crew picks up cut trees, generously donated by area residents. They're stacked outside the garage, and the men (including my husband, Bill) saw the limbs down to a manageable size and bring them inside for assembling.

A *Bough to Tradition* (in center photo above) is one of about a dozen swags who started making swags for our town back in 1973. It was one answer to getting rid of the pink plastic Christmas trees that decorated the light poles.

That first year, we crafted in close quarters on one of our porches. Luckily, our volunteer ranks have grown to about 40 people, and our workspace has branched out accordingly.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER  
*The Emmitsburg Dispatch*

**Pining for Christmas**  
The town's maintenance workers hang our needed masterpieces. Emmitsburg main streets are illuminated by antique streetlights, and each one is trimmed with a swag. Instantly, the town turns into a Christmas card.

The aim is to hang the greens by the first Monday in December, when the town celebrates an Evening of Christmas Spirit. It's a wonderful affair, with a tree lighting, a Nativity with real animals, choral performances and caroling on the square.

True, trimming a whole town does take work and planning, but it's also a lot of fun. So, when the first brisk winds of November blow, we start dreaming a "green" Christmas, again.

**Editor's Note:** Emmitsburg is about 65 miles northwest of Baltimore. From Baltimore, take I-695, exit 20 to I-795 to MD 163, follow the highway to Emmitsburg. For more information call 1-240-629-6300.

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Thanks to everyone who works at the National Emergency Training Center for what you bring to our community from the NETC Emmitsburg Alliance.

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Dec. 11th ~ Evening of Christmas Spirit at Carriage House  
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### CORRECTION

In the article entitled "By all means let us have a library," in the Nov. 16 issue it was stated that the library currently has a collection of over 3,000 items. In actuality, the collection size is around 33,000 items.

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**EDITORIAL**

**Give more to those who have less**

The catalogs arrive every day. The sales are everywhere. Sorting out what we "need" is difficult. But maybe we don't need as much. Maybe we could want less and give more. This season of love and joy is a wonderful time to remember – and teach – the joy of giving. We include here a partial listing of area charitable resources that would welcome your donations or time. Check our Web site, [www.thedispatch.us](http://www.thedispatch.us), for a comprehensive list, which we will make available year round. If we have omitted a local non-profit organization that would welcome assistance, please contact us so that we can include it on our list.

**Catocin Pregnancy Center**  
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502 E. Main Street, Emmitsburg.  
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**Community Agency School Services**  
(240) 236-1770

Emmitsburg Community Center, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. Supported by the Frederick County Public Schools, CASS is designed to provide integrated, coordinated, family-focused management services to families of children who are in risky situations.

**Emmitsburg Food Bank**  
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502 E. Main Street, Emmitsburg. Free food and support for Emmitsburg residents. Tuesday & Wednesday, 7-8 p.m., Friday, 1-2 p.m., Saturday 10-11 a.m.

**Emmitsburg Senior Citizens**  
(240) 629-6350  
Emmitsburg Community Center, S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, directly behind the Ambulance Building. Activities and services for anyone 60 years and older.

**The Infants and Toddlers Program**  
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**Taneytown clinic** (410) 857-2999  
St. Joseph Catholic Church, 44 Frederick Street, Taneytown.

**Gettysburg clinic** (717) 337-6469  
Gettysburg College, Musselman Stadium, W. Lincoln Avenue extended, Gettysburg.

**Seton Center Outreach Program**  
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*A Word from a Commissioner*  
**Celebrating the birthday of our town library**

It is with great pride that I witnessed our town library celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. In my 15 years of living in Emmitsburg, I have been well pleased with our town library. From the library's different locations over the last couple of years, the service at the library has always been exemplary and outstanding.

As a father of a four-year-old daughter, I have spent my share of afternoons in the library enjoying the different services provided. From story time to the different hands-on activities, the library has

been a resource for all the families of the town of Emmitsburg. As a teacher in Frederick County Public Schools, the need for a place of research for our students in this town is essential.

One of the library's best services is the ability to acquire books from whatever library has the book you need. This is done in a manner that is professional and expedient. Along with the services for families, the access to computers has helped numerous individuals have access to technology they might not have as an individ-

ual. Information is the key to survival in our modern world and our town library provides the keys to survival for many citizens.

As a town commissioner, I believe in the passing on of the traditions of democracy. To do this well, we need an educated and knowledgeable populace. The library accomplishes this goal with great enthusiasm.

Lastly, as we celebrate the town library's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, please say a big thank you to Joan Fisher who is retiring at the end of this year. Joan has served the

Frederick County Library system for many years and especially Emmitsburg in particular. Joan has always been helpful and professional in her service to our community. It has been an honor to have known Joan over the last couple of years and I wish her well.

In closing, celebrate our library and give Joan Fisher a big thank you for her years of service.

- Glenn Blanchard  
Emmitsburg Commissioner

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TOWN NEWS

# Local business organization strives to make comeback

By RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
Emmitsburg News Editor  
rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association seemed to have vanished for the past year, going from meeting once a month at the Carriage House to no meetings at all.

Resident Bo Cadle, acting as facilitator, is determined that the organization, which appeared to be down over the past year, is not out, and is heading up an effort to save the organization through an EBPA *ad hoc* committee created as part of an "interim board."

In order to keep the organization afloat, Cadle presented a "schedule of benchmarks" at the group's Nov.

14 meeting, listing several potential objectives for the remainder of 2006 and early 2007, including:

- November: Officially file the organization's articles of incorporation (drafted in 2002 but never filed);
- December: Finish planning for the Dec. 11 "Evening of Christmas Spirit" and finalize EBPA committee structure; and,
- January: Plan a membership campaign and recruitment drive for committee members.

A subsequent meeting was held Nov. 28 to develop a current active membership list, identify new businesses in town, and plan for December events.

Local realtor Donald Briggs, president of the EBPA from 1998 to 2001, told *The Dispatch*, "It's (Cadle's effort to breathe new life back

into the organization) welcomed by the business community and especially the members of the *ad hoc* committee to pull us back together again."

Briggs stated that the EBPA is really needed, and "He (Cadle) was always very involved and wanted to see it come back because it connects a lot of things in the community."

The temporary board is planning a Christmas holiday dinner meeting at the Carriage House Inn for all members and guests on Dec. 19. The event will begin with a cash bar from 6-7 p.m., followed by dinner (\$12 per person, including gratuity). Featured speaker will be Chris Horowicz, Clinical Director, Maryland SportsCare & Rehab, located in Seton Place.

To learn more about the EBPA, contact Bo Cadle at (301) 447-6275.

## Vigilant Hose

-Continued from page 1

announced plans to refurbish a neighboring, former apartment building to house emergency staff, provide administrative quarters and serve as temporary housing for residents left homeless by fires.

Project Architect Michael Profitt stated that the proposed expansion would increase the present structure by about 820 square feet, and would involve refurbishing much of the original structure, including dealing with a bulging outer wall on the School Lane side.

He said the historic façade would be maintained, but new stairs, an elevator and sprinklers would be added to bring the structure into compliance with safety standards.

As further evaluation of the old

building progressed during 2006, the planned overhaul got ugly.

John Damskey, vice president of the fire company and chair of the buildings committee, recently told *The Dispatch*, "We started out two and a half years ago thinking we could remodel (the apartment building)," but have since been advised "not to do it."

He confirmed that the fire company would be demolishing the structure completely. He said it had been determined that the building had serious structural problems, including a wall bulging out towards the alley, and that it would be a "better deal to demolish it" than to attempt to save it.

Saving the front façade, as was originally proposed, became hopeless after it was learned that the bricks were crumbling. Damskey said, "We thought we could save the front wall, but we ran into soft

brick," and as a result of that discovery, the façade will have to come down as well.

The fire company vice president stated that an effort will be made to rebuild it "as close to how it looked" before it was demolished.

The up side of the bad news is that the demolition will permit the creation of a basement large enough to provide a recreational and exercise area for company personnel.

The remaining plans for use of the overhauled building remain little changed. An elevator will be installed, as well as staircases. The first floor of the new structure will serve as offices, with the second floor serving as the "bunk" area. The new attic when completed will be used for storage.

Damskey said, "We're hoping for the project to be completed during the summer 2007," but that it also dependent on what work can be accomplished during the winter.

### Vigilant Hose authorized to issue bonds

EMMITSBURG, Md. - The board of commissioners unanimously approved at their Nov. 20 meeting Vigilant Hose Company's request for authorization to issue \$1.6 million in tax-exempt bonds to support the remodeling of the firehouse.

The authorization came in the form of acknowledgement by the board that Vigilant is the town provider for fire services, and approval by the town that the fire provider issue bonds.

- R. Fulton

See related story, "Old building comes down as Vigilant Hose expands" on the front page of this issue of *The Dispatch*.

Relax and enjoy your Holidays

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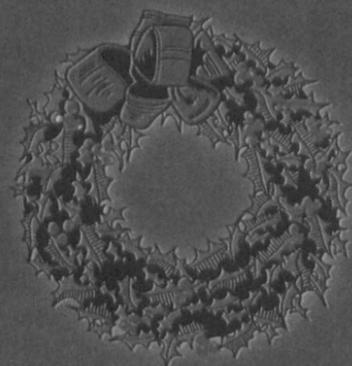
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# 17th Annual Evening of Christmas Spirit Monday, December 11th 6 - 9pm



Schedule of events:

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

6:30 pm ~ Follow with Santa and his Elves to an Open House at the National Emergency Training Center (Building K). Enjoy refreshments and view the beautiful holiday décor.

7 pm ~ Enjoy caroling, horse-drawn surrey, hay rides through town, complimentary hot dogs and cookies, live nativity scene, entertainment from local vocalists and musicians. Visit Santa and his elves at the Carriage House Inn.

Canned goods and donations accepted for the Emmitsburg Lions Club Christmas food drive.

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## TOWN NEWS

## Emmitsburg Glass receives economic development award

FREDERICK, Md. — The Frederick County Business Development Advisory Council and the Office of Economic Development recently awarded Emmitsburg Glass Company its 2006 Development Project of the Year award.

The company's new office building is a major effort that involved multiple partners: the town of Emmitsburg, a major company in Emmitsburg, a local real estate firm, Frederick County Government and representatives from the State of Maryland. The relocation and expansion project couldn't have been done without each and every partner, according to the Office of Economic Development.

The new 43,000-square-foot plant is a state-of-the-art facility

on ten acres on Creamery Way in Emmitsburg.

The town applied for and was awarded a Community Development Block Grant. The expansion of the glass company facility was a major factor in receiving the grant, and funding was used in part to

help repair the longstanding problems with the town's water and sewage lines.

In addition, the project will create an additional 2 million gallons of storage capacity at the sewage treatment plant, doubling the plant's capacity.



## Town supports county wellhead protection plan

By RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
Emmitsburg News Editor  
rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The board of commissioners voted Nov. 6 to support a county proposal to protect lands serving as watersheds owned by municipalities, but outside their boundaries.

Emmitsburg owns 1,300 acres outside its town limits, according to Town Manager David Haller, all of which are likely contained within wellhead protection areas.

The purpose of wellhead protection, according to the Maryland Department of the Environment, is to protect public drinking water supplies "by managing the land surface around a well where activities might affect the quality of the water."

The agreement established with

the county ensures the following regarding wellhead properties:

- The county Division of Permitting and Development Review will alert municipalities to any subdivision or development proposal submitted for DPDR review located within wellhead protection lands owned by municipalities;
- The county Division of Planning and Zoning will advise municipalities of any pending zoning-related activities involving wellhead protection lands owned by municipalities;
- The county health department will notify municipalities of new proposed septic systems involving wellhead protection lands owned by municipalities; and,
- DPDR, DPZ, and FCHD

will advise municipalities of any enforcement actions originating in any of those offices involving wellhead protection lands owned by municipalities.

Additionally, each participating municipality agrees to notify the county Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management of development and zoning proposals occurring within municipal boundaries.

The agreement to participate, supported by the Frederick Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League, will likely be entered into by all 12 municipalities in the county.

Only Walkersville has expressed concerns that the agreement did not include issues relating to sink holes, according to a letter written Sept. 13 by county MML President Martin Burns, also president of the Thurmont board of commissioners.

## Town News Briefs...

### Streets adds one and appoints chair

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The town streets and transportation committee membership has increased by one as a result of the appointment of Dianne Walbrecker.

Walbrecker, who also serves on the parks and recreation committee and is a former town commissioner, was unanimously appointed Nov. 20 by the board of commissioners on a recommendation by Mayor James E. Hoover.

Catherine Forrence was elected by the streets committee as their new chair. Forrence was also recently appointed as a regular member of the planning and zoning commission. — R. Fulton

### Enforcement yields more than \$3,400 in October

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Enforcement of town regulations resulted in \$3,451 in revenue in October according to a report filed by town staff at the Nov. 20 meeting of the board of commissioners.

According to the report, parking meters generated \$1,491, while parking permits brought in \$345. Parking citations yielded a total of \$1,615. Parking revenue goes toward the town's after-school program.

Citations issued in October specifically included 293 for overtime parking, six for parking in a no parking zone, two for parking at a yellow curb, and one each for parking in a crosswalk, parking next to a fire hydrant, failure to park between designated parking lines, and for parking on the wrong side of the road.

Other non-vehicle related citations issued included two for abandoned and movable property and five for grass/weeds violations. — R. Fulton

### Town experiences another sewage spill

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The wastewater treatment system experienced a "minor" 3,000 gallon raw sewage spill on Oct. 27 as a result of system pumps not being able to keep up with the infiltration and inflow caused by excessive rain.

Town Manager David Haller stated in his October report filed at the Nov. 20 meeting of the board of commissioners that the area received 2.4" of rain that day. "The pumps," he said, "could not keep up with that kind of flow."

Haller further stated that the spill took place in Emmet Gardens Park area, and not the former problem area on the Waybright property, which has been addressed.

The treatment plant also exceeded its permitted capacity of 800,000 gallons per day on the day of the spill, processing a total of 1,688,000 gallons of wastewater. — R. Fulton



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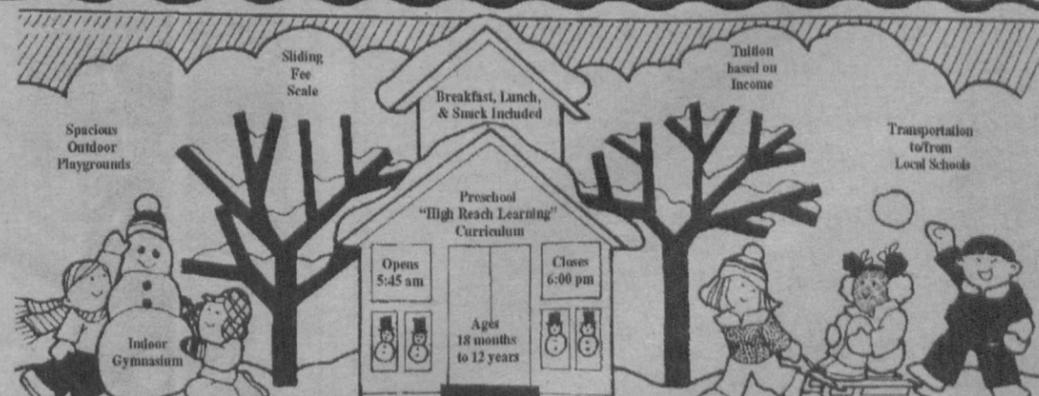
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TOWN NEWS

Emmitsburg Library's celebration focuses on community, continuity

BY SUSAN ALLEN  
Contributing Writer

The Emmitsburg Library extended its Saturday hours well into the evening on Dec. 2 as part of its celebration of "100 Years of Service." Library branch administrator Joan Fisher welcomed about 100 area citizens of all ages to the Community Center gymnasium, declaring that the center is "the heart of the community." In an "abbreviated history" of the library delivered later in the program, Fisher noted many occasions since its 1906 founding when the library was saved from closure by the financial support of its friends in Emmitsburg.

During its one hundred years volunteers have donated time, books, furniture, and the rent money when some or all of those things were needed. In turn the library supported the community, initiating children's programs, art classes, and connected with other libraries over the course of the century.

Mayor James E. Hoover and former president of the board of li-

brary trustees, Francis Smith, echoed the theme of community support sustaining the library. Smith helped lead the fight to keep the library in Emmitsburg in the early 1990s. He referred to himself as "the missing link between the old library and the



Librarians Joan Fisher (L) and Kate Warthen (R) open gifts at the 100th anniversary celebration

new library."

Darrell Batson, director of Frederick County Public Libraries, also praised Emmitsburg for its forthright support of the library, citing in particular the efforts of former mayor William "Doc" Carr. Batson also spoke of his own experiences as a young library patron of a small library. "If you wanted to learn something, you would go to a library." Libraries are themselves communities, he emphasized, communities where today people go to learn via books and computers, and they are "bas-

tions of peace and pondering."

Former Emmitsburg librarian Kate Warthen added a brief personal reminiscence on the library's history, and also recognized Fisher's seven years of fulltime service to the branch with a gift from the Friends of the Library. Fisher is retiring at the end of December.

Shirley Snider of Fairfield, Pa. won the raffle for artist Benjamin Jones' painting of the Community Center, "Lifelong Learning."

The centennial festivities began with music by Home Comfort Band, a folk/bluegrass group who also performed as part of the library's grand re-opening celebration in 2004. John Martin of The Martin Family Singers sang his composition "Celebration," with lyrics adapted for the occasion.



PHOTOS BY DICK BLOOM / THE DISPATCH

Food, festivities and singing added to the celebratory ambience at the "100 Years of Service" commemoration on Dec. 2 at the Emmitsburg Library. About 100 people attended the event held in the Community Center gym. Entertainment was provided by the Home Comfort Band, a folk/bluegrass group.

The Martins performed seasonal carols with jingle-bell accompaniment by the members of the audience. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to the library. Along two walls surrounding the speakers, audience,

and musicians were copies of old photographs of the library, its past staff members, trustees, friends, and patrons, members of the community who made the Emmitsburg Library part of their history and legacy.

Emmitsburg librarian served for 37 years

BY BRENDAN WEEKS  
Special to the Dispatch

EMMITSBURG, Md. - When Kate Warthen began working at the Emmitsburg library in the 1960s, it was in need of revitalization. The library had declined in popularity and until 1999, Warthen would work to breathe life back into the cultural center.

"I came here in late 1949, from Knox County Kentucky," said Warthen, "My older sister lived here and she was having a baby and she needed help." Shortly after moving to the town, she met her husband, Bud Warthen, and married in October of 1950.

Warthen began as a volunteer in August 1962, working the few odd hours the library was open. "It had basically just slowed down to a crawl," said Warthen, "maybe (open) two hours a week. But it was still in existence and still had regular hours."

After a while a paid librarian

position came available and she was encouraged to apply. Warthen recalls at the time Chamber of Commerce member Maryanne Oddo saying to her, "This is a job you can do and only you can do it."

Warthen began asking talented visitors to host workshops at the library to help attract people. "I used to find out who was an artist," said Warthen. "We always had something going on."

Over the next several decades she fell in love with her job. "It was wonderful," she said. Warthen enjoyed being able to meet new people and finding out about their interests. "It was a social thing for me as much as academic," she said.

"I really hated to retire when I did," said Warthen, "But, you know, there comes a time."

Warthen currently lives just outside of Emmitsburg and has five children and eight grandchildren. She enjoys spending her free time doing physical activities and still frequents the library.

"I like healing books and books



Kate Warthen

that help you to advance in your thinking," said Warthen "I'm not a big fiction reader."

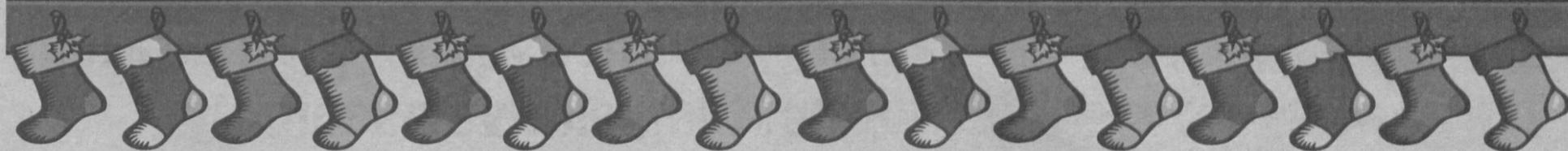
"I just think that Emmitsburg deserves a library and it is so rich with anything you want to look up. It's just a real cultural place to go," said Warthen, "I'm glad we have it. I'm glad the people here before us got it going and realized how important it was then."

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# EMMITSBURG GIFT GIVING



## Give a little Emmitsburg for the holidays

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON  
Emmitsburg News Editor  
rfulton@emmitsburgdispatch.com

EMMITSBURG, Md. – For those who want to send a “gift from home” for the holidays, there are a number of sources in town with Emmitsburg “branded” products for sale. The list below includes some of the major sources we found.

**Emmitsburg Branch Library**  
300 South Seton Avenue  
(240) 629-6329

Emmitsburg Library offers notecards with a scene of Emmitsburg with the mountains in the background printed from a painting by local watercolor artist Ben Jones. The cards are being sold as a fundraising activity by the Friends of the Library.

**Homeland Security’s National Emergency Training Center**  
16825 South Seton Avenue

Although NETC maintains an on-site gift shop, it may be a little easier to purchase NETC-related gifts at any of the businesses in town that handle items for the center.

**Poplar Fields**  
1 East Main Street  
(301) 447-3151

Carries NETC shirts, golf shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, hats, mugs and coasters, pens, brief bags, statuary, plaques, belt buckles and other assorted items.

**Grannie’s Attic Shurt Haus**  
123 East Main Street  
(301) 447-3033

Also offers NETC items, including items similar to those listed above. In addition, Grannie’s offers fire personnel-related statuary and shadow boxes.

**Seton Shrine Gift Shop**  
333 South Seton Avenue  
(301) 447-7122

The only place in town we could find which offered Emmitsburg-related postcards was the Seton Shrine Gift Shop, primarily featuring scenes relating to the National Shrine of St.

Elizabeth Ann Seton. Many of the other types of gifts offered feature or address Mother Seton, the first United States born canonized saint, who founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph’s and essentially began her work in and around Emmitsburg.

Seton Shrine Gift Shop is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and is closed Mondays and holidays.

**Vigilant Hose Company**  
25 West Main Street  
(301) 447-2728

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ONE MORE TAVERN

Members of the 2nd Platoon A Co. 1/13 AR, 3rd BDE 1st AD, stationed near Baghdad, show off their One More Tavern shirts, sent to them by the Emmitsburg restaurant.

pany has a number of gifts bearing the company insignia, or relating to the fire services.

Included among their offerings are t-shirts, golf shirts, sweatshirts, caps, glass mugs, miniature firehouses and die-cast fire engine replicas.

**Eatery & Pub Shirts**

Several local restaurants and pubs offer shirts branded with their respective logos. Included among these are:

**One More Tavern**  
135 Chesapeake Avenue  
(301) 447-6749

**The Ott House**  
5 W. Main Street  
(301) 447-2625

**The Palms**  
20 E. Main Street  
(301) 447-3689



RICHARD D. L. FULTON / THE DISPATCH

Several local retailers carry items representing the National Fire Academy, like these statuettes offered at Poplar Fields.

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## REGIONAL NEWS

## Fairfield-Hamiltonban development moving slowly

BY BRENDAN WEEKS  
Special to the Dispatch

The proposed development known as McGinley's Choice which will span Fairfield and Hamiltonban boroughs is coming along little by little according to Fairfield zoning officer Bob Fortenbaugh.

"It is slowly going through the approval process," said Fortenbaugh.

Concepts for the new development were first pitched to the town in November 2004. However, the developer, Empire Homes, did not officially file an application until April of this year.

The plan, which includes approximately 144 homes in Fairfield and around 350 in Hamiltonban has set a precedent for the boroughs. "It's a very large development for this jurisdiction and Hamiltonban," said Fortenbaugh. "Neither town has ever had to deal with something this size."

Fortenbaugh says the massive size of the project is the reason for the lengthy approval process. "The preliminary plan that is in our possession now is 130 to 150 drawings. Literally you could take it to the gym and work out with it," said Fortenbaugh.

Despite its length, Fortenbaugh feels that the process is running smoothly. "Generally I would describe the process as amicable," said Fortenbaugh.

The proposed development will bring needed improvements into the borough according to Fortenbaugh, "We needed more water and a stand-pipe is proposed." The plan also calls for a new sewer plant to service the development. Fortenbaugh says the town looks forward to the new plant, "we're pretty much at capacity."

Fortenbaugh is unable to say when the preliminary plans will finally be approved. "We're a lot closer than we were six months ago," said Fortenbaugh. "It continues to creep along."

## County municipalities plan strategy for next legislative assembly

BY JAMES RADA JR.  
Thurmont News Editor  
jrada@thurmontdispatch.com

THURMONT, Md. — Representatives from all of Frederick County's municipalities and most of the county's state delegation met Nov. 30 to discuss what the municipalities would like to see happen in the Maryland General Assembly in the 2007 session.

While there was little turnover in Frederick County's state delegation from November's election, more than 20 percent of the General Assembly will be new faces, according to Stewart Cumbo, first vice president of the Maryland Municipal League. That means a lot of new relationships will need to be formed to get the municipalities' agenda passed.

That agenda for 2007 includes three items:

- Increased state aid for municipal police protection.
- Local government authority to purchase streetlights.

- Municipal opt-out electrical aggregation.

"With 1.2 million new residents expected in the next 25 years, it's important that cities and towns are prepared to protect citizens," Cumbo said.

Currently, municipalities get \$1,800 in state aid for each sworn officer, but that amount hasn't increased since 1999.

"Every year since 1992, police aid grants have funded a smaller and smaller portion of the public safety expenditures," said John Miller, burgess of Middletown.

In fiscal year 1990, municipal police aid grants paid 10 percent of municipal police expenditures. By fiscal year 2005, the percentage had fallen to 6.9 percent.

MML would like to see the formula revised to increase the grant amount. This would benefit Thurmont, which has its own police force.

Streetlights on wooden poles are owned by utility companies in Maryland. If municipalities could own them, the municipalities could minimize costs by

upgrading the lighting systems. The municipalities could also speed up response times for outages. Thurmont already owns its streetlights.

Municipalities would also like to be able to combine to use economies of scale to purchase electricity at cheaper rates than they currently pay. The General Assembly has strongly resisted this idea and would not let a similar bill be voted on last year.

"It doesn't do any good to look at me when the committee chair won't let the bill out," said Delegate Rick Weldon. He believes the bill will die again this year because it won't get out of committee.

Because Thurmont owns its own electric utilities, it is able to negotiate a better price by joining with three other municipalities. As a result, electric rates in Thurmont have risen nowhere near the level they have in other locations.

"If Thurmont can do it, everybody else should be able to aggregate and save the state money," said Thurmont Mayor Martin Burns.

## Local voter turnout for the 2006 General Election

Voter turnout at local polling places was, for the most part, below the countywide voter turnout.

	Registered	Voted	Turnout
Emmitsburg Elementary School	3,081	1,468	47.65%
Sabillasville Elementary School	1,332	688	51.65%
Thurmont Elementary School	2,606	1,367	52.46%
Thurmont Middle School	2,269	1,224	53.94%
Creagerstown Luth. Parish House	678	382	56.34%
<b>Frederick County</b>	<b>126,657</b>	<b>73,071</b>	<b>57.69%</b>
Lewistown Elementary School	1,814	1,064	58.65%

Source: Frederick County Board of Elections

## Tax dispute

-Continued from page 1

distribution, which is generally about double the other quarterly distributions.

According to Carroll Valley Borough Manager David Hazlett, the borough (which has one of the highest repayment figures in the county at \$144,320) would then receive a net check of "about five or six thousand dollars."

The second plan calls for the debt to be satisfied in two equal withholdings in May of 2007 and 2008.

A third plan calls for the debt to be withheld from the municipalities' delinquent tax distributions until December 2008 or the municipality's obligation has been satisfied, whichever comes first.

If the entire debt isn't repaid under this plan by the end of 2008, the municipality would then have to come up with the balance. ACEITCA Transition Committee member, Dr. Mark Sewell, has suggested this option may be a relatively painless way to satisfy the obligation since municipalities cannot really budget for this irregular stream of revenue.

According to the current proposal, if the YATB Board adopts these options, municipalities would have until March 2007 to indicate their repayment plan. If none is chosen, the second plan will be the default.

The issue, according to Fairfield Borough Solicitor Matthew Battersby stems from a miscalculation of how the tax revenues were allocated between the municipalities and area school districts.

## Questions remain unanswered

However, according to Hazlett, the figures ACEITCA said it distributed does not reconcile with the receipts of the borough's books.

Battersby summarized most of the municipalities' sentiments. "If the numbers are justified and there was a mistake, then we can address it at that time, but not the way it's been handled thus far."

In spite of two meetings and multiple requests for additional information, most municipalities in Adams County feel they still do not have enough information to warrant giving back significant amounts of their constituents' tax dollars.

"We still have more questions unanswered than answered," said

Hazlett.

Carroll Valley and Fairfield have not budgeted for any repayment in their 2007 budgets that will be approved this month.

Liberty Township has taken a proactive approach to address their alleged obligation of \$44,066. They have reduced their police force from two full time officers to a full-timer and one part-timer.

Additionally, they have reduced their roads budget for 2007 by \$9,000 and the township supervisor's salaries by 57 percent. These steps, according to township Supervisor Peter Foscatto, will allow them to repay their share in two installments, in May 2007 and May 2008.

Foscatto stressed that Liberty is not any more comfortable with the numbers than any of the other municipalities, but recognized that they will likely owe something before the issue is resolved, and steps were taken by the township to be prepared.

Gettysburg Financial Director Ramona Overton said the borough hasn't budgeted for the possible \$118,951 bill in 2007, but they also haven't accounted for the receipt of delinquent taxes either. She indicated that although "hundreds of thousands of dollars" in back taxes are owed the borough, there is no way to budget how much will actually be collected. The inevitable receipts of some of these monies, however, could be used to repay this obligation.

Several municipalities have indicated that their solicitor is in contact with other solicitors in the county to pursue collective legal channels if their clients feel their concerns are not adequately addressed.



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# WINTERVILLE

A Mason-Dixon area guide to Activities, Services and Events for Winter 2006!



Walk in the footsteps of a saint - page 3

Hit the slopes at a local resort - page 4

Take in Taneytown's history - page 10

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# Experience a great winter!



Welcome to WINTERTIME, a Mason-Dixon area guide to activities, services and events for winter 2006, brought to you by *The Dispatch Newspapers, LLC*, Emmitsburg, Md., its

advertisers and sponsors.

With the cold weather setting in, it's time for winter sports for the outdoor lovers. There are also house tours for the holidays, museums to visit, and stage productions to enjoy. And when you make those New Year's resolutions, there are exercise programs to challenge your body and art programs and new hobbies to energize you. In these pages you'll find articles, directories and regional business advertisements featuring winter specials.

Our advertisers have highlighted the variety of activities and services they provide. With more than enough to fill your calendar, our guide will help you and your family throughout the winter, focusing on what's going on in our area, helping you plan day, evening or weekend fun.

WINTERTIME is free to you, compliments of *The Dispatch Community Newspapers*.

Currently we publish two newspapers, *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* and *The Thurmont Dispatch*. Both papers are printed the first and third Thursday of every month and mailed to every home and business in each paper's circulation area - more than 15,000 copies total, and 100% market saturation for advertisers.

The papers are filled with local and regional news from our award-winning news editors, columns by local writers, community events, sports and recreation and regional entertainment listings. We are not a wire-service publication, preferring to include local news that directly concerns you.

We hope you find this guide useful as you make your winter plans in the Mason-Dixon area, and welcome your comments. We thank the advertisers who have joined us this time around, and look forward to our next regional guide, SPRINGTIME, due out in March.

**Lori Stromberg**  
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## 'Journey through Hallowed Ground'

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground follows the U.S. Route 15 and Route 20 corridor for 175 miles from Gettysburg, through Frederick County and ending in Charlottesville, Va. It was designated as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by The National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2005.

Here are the Hallowed Ground sites in the Mason-Dixon Region:

### Southern Adams County, Pennsylvania

- Adams County Courthouse (a historic structure in Gettysburg)
- David Wills House (site of the final edits of "The Gettysburg Address")
- Dobbin House (Civil War hospital and Underground Railroad stop)
- Eisenhower National Historic Site (President Eisenhower's weekend retreat)
- Gettysburg College (Civil War field hospital and command post)
- Gettysburg National Military Park (Civil War battlefield)
- Lincoln Cemetery (burial site of Gettysburg's African-American citizens and Civil War veterans)
- Lincoln Railroad Station (Civil War railroad station)
- Lutheran Theological Seminary (Lutheran seminary)
- Sachs Covered Bridge (covered bridge near Gettysburg)
- Soldiers National Cemetery (site of Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address")

### Northern Frederick County, Maryland

- Catocin Furnace (standing remains of Catocin Furnace Stack #2)
- Emmitsburg Historic District (largely intact antebellum neighborhood)
- Fourpoints Bridge (1876 steel bridge)
- Graceham Moravian Church and Parsonage (18th century church)
- Loy's Station Covered Bridge (covered bridge near Thurmont)
- Mother Seton Shrine and St. Joseph's College (shrine to Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton)

For more information, visit [www.hallowedground.org](http://www.hallowedground.org).

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## A stop on the Journey through Hallowed Ground America's first native-born saint called Emmitsburg home

BY JAMES RADA JR

*Editor's Note: This is the second in our series of features on sites in the Mason-Dixon Region along the "Journey through Hallowed Ground," the 175-mile area along the U.S. Route 15 corridor that reaches from Gettysburg to Charlottesville, Va.*

EMMITSBURG, Md. — When Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton arrived in Emmitsburg in June of 1809 to form a religious educational community for women, she found, not a city like New York or Baltimore, but a small community, not yet a town. Yet, what the town lacked in population, it made up for in faith. Emmitsburg had a strong Catholic base. It was very unlike the larger cities where Seton had lived where Catholics were shunned or only a small part of the social fabric.

"This place was an absolute wilderness back then," said Sister Joan Angermayer who serves at the Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton National Shrine.

Seton was a tiny powerhouse of spiritual fervor, which would be needed to form a community of sisters. The first winter in Emmitsburg, in particular, was a challenge. Leonard Feeney wrote in his biography, *Mother Seton: Saint Elizabeth of New York*, "There could be no such expensive beverages as tea and coffee. Fresh meat was forbidden. Butter, milk were also among the prohibitions. They did not even have enough material to supply them their ordinary religious dress, and some of the nuns (this an humiliation beyond compare) were obliged to go around in lay attire. The shack in which they were quartered had no glass in the places for the window-panes.

And thus fortified against the winter, the first snowstorm arrived. In it blew through the open window, and the nuns had to shovel it out again."

When a conflict in leadership of the sisterhood led Seton to appeal to Archbishop John Carroll, he told her, "Let it be your only concern to progress more and more towards the union of your soul with God. ... I declare an opinion and belief that its [the community's] ultimate success under God depends on your sacrificing yourself, notwithstanding all the uneasiness and disgust you may experience, and continuing in your place of Superior."

Seton persevered, even as two daughters and a sister-in-law died, and the Sisters of Charity began to flourish.

Seton started St. Joseph's Academy and expanded the school into the "White House" in order to accommodate all of the students seeking admission. St. Joseph's also gained the reputation as a fine school under Mother Seton's guidance. St. Joseph's Academy was the first Catholic parochial school in the country. Besides boarders, it took in day students from Emmitsburg. From this small school, the Catholic parochial school system grew. For

this, Mother Seton is known as the Foundress of the American Catholic Parochial School.

Elizabeth Ann Seton died on Jan. 4, 1821 at the age of 47. Besides the school and sisterhood she founded in life, Elizabeth Ann Seton's legacy includes six religious communities. The sisters of these communities serve in schools, social ministries and hospitals in America and Korea.

In 1963, Pope John XXIII said of Elizabeth, "In a house that was very small, but with ample space for charity, she sowed a seed in America which by Divine Grace grew into a large tree."

Seton became America's first native-born saint in 1975.

About 50,000 people a year visit the Na-



**Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's remains are interred in the basilica located on the grounds of the national shrine.**



- PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON NATIONAL SHRINE

**Pope John Paul II designated the Seton Shrine Chapel as a minor basilica in 1991. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's remains are housed in the basilica. On the lower floor is a visitor's center/museum that contains many artifacts of Seton's life and her road to sainthood.**

tional Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, according to Harding. Visitors can tour a museum of Seton's life and canonization, the basilica that houses her remains, the stone house where the sister originally lived, the "White House" where Seton taught school and died, and the old cemetery.

"The places are full of history, but they are also full of her spirit," Harding said. "Peo-

ple who walk the grounds say they have a sense of peace and serenity."

The shrine is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except Mondays and major holidays. For more information, call (301) 447-6606 or visit the Web site, [www.setonshrine.org](http://www.setonshrine.org).

The shrine is one of the many stops along "The Journey Through Hallowed Ground."

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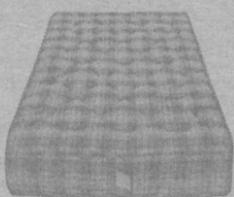
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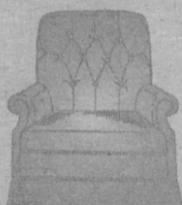
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# Liberty Mountain Resort ready for the cold

By BRENDAN WEEKS

As winter approaches, a lot of people get ready to hibernate from the cold temperatures and messy snowfalls. However many daring souls out there revel in the chance to trek or fly through the snow. Their destination – Liberty Mountain Resort and Conference Center in Carroll Valley, Pa.

Known for many years as Ski Liberty, the resort is offering skiers and snowboarders a variety of improvements this year to make their trips more enjoyable.

Liberty Mountain has rebuilt one of its main ski lifts, the "Dipsy Double," transforming it into a quad. "The new lift is certainly pretty exciting," said Marketing Coordinator Anne Weimer. "It is a much more comfortable ride for the guests." They have also re-designed exit areas of the lift to allow for ease in getting off. "We've made it much easier for beginners to get off the lift," said Weimer.

One of the biggest changes this year is the new Burton "Learn to Ride Center" for children and adults. Sharing this honor with Vail and Heavenly resorts, Liberty will now exclusively offer Burton rental equipment. "They are the most widely recognized," said Weimer. The equipment line includes a specially designed snowboard for novices. "They've done some special designs to make

it easier to learn to ride," said Weimer.

This year, the Advantage card that Liberty offers will be good not only at Liberty, Ski Roundtop and Whitetail Resort, but also at Stratton Mountain in Vermont. This allows eager skiers the chance to get a little early season skiing in if they're willing to make the trip.

Even if you're not ready to learn to ski, Liberty offers a simple alternative – snow tubing. "It's something everyone can do," said Weimer, "It's just like sledding in a controlled environment." This will be the fifth season for tubing at the mountain and this year they have added a climbing wall and zip lines to the lodge for something else to do.

Weimer says if you can take the day off, the best time to come is midweek during the day. "You'll have the resort to yourself," she said.

As far as opening is concerned, Weimer says, "We always shoot for the first part of December. As soon as it gets cold we fire up the (snowmaking) guns." Ski Liberty anticipates a great season for snow, especially if AccuWeather forecasts are correct and we have a cooler than normal winter this year.

Ski Liberty is located at 78 Country Club Trail, Carroll Valley, Pa. For more information, visit [www.skiliberty.com](http://www.skiliberty.com) or call (717) 642-8282. For a snow report, call (717) 642-9000.

## Selected upcoming events hosted by Ski Liberty this season ...

### January

- 4 – **Learn to Ski and Board Day.** \$10. Registration begins Dec. 18.
- 6 – **Winter Trails Snowshoeing Demo.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.
- 13 – **Free Ski and Snowboard Demos.**
- 17 – **College Nights** begin. Every Wednesday evening from 5-10 p.m. during the season students get free rental equipment or a learn to ski or snowboard package for \$25.
- 20 – **Girls Learn to Ride.** 10 a.m. Women give snowboarding lessons. Cost: \$60. Pa. Breast Cancer Coalition receives \$10 of registration fee.

### February

- 3 & 4 – **Verizon Luge Challenge.** For those age 10 and up. Begins at 9 a.m. Meet U.S. Olympic Luge athletes, learn their skills, and then race for prizes.
- 7 – **Operation Thank You.** Active military, firefighter, law enforcement, and EMS receive free eight-hour lift ticket
- 10 – **Girls Learn to Ride.** 10 a.m. Women give snowboarding lessons. Cost: \$60. Pa. Breast Cancer Coalition receives \$10 of registration fee.
- 22 – **Community Appreciation Day.** Residents of Fairfield, Carroll Valley, Orrtanna, Cashtown, Gettysburg, and Emmitsburg receive 50% off lift tickets, rentals, lessons or tubing.

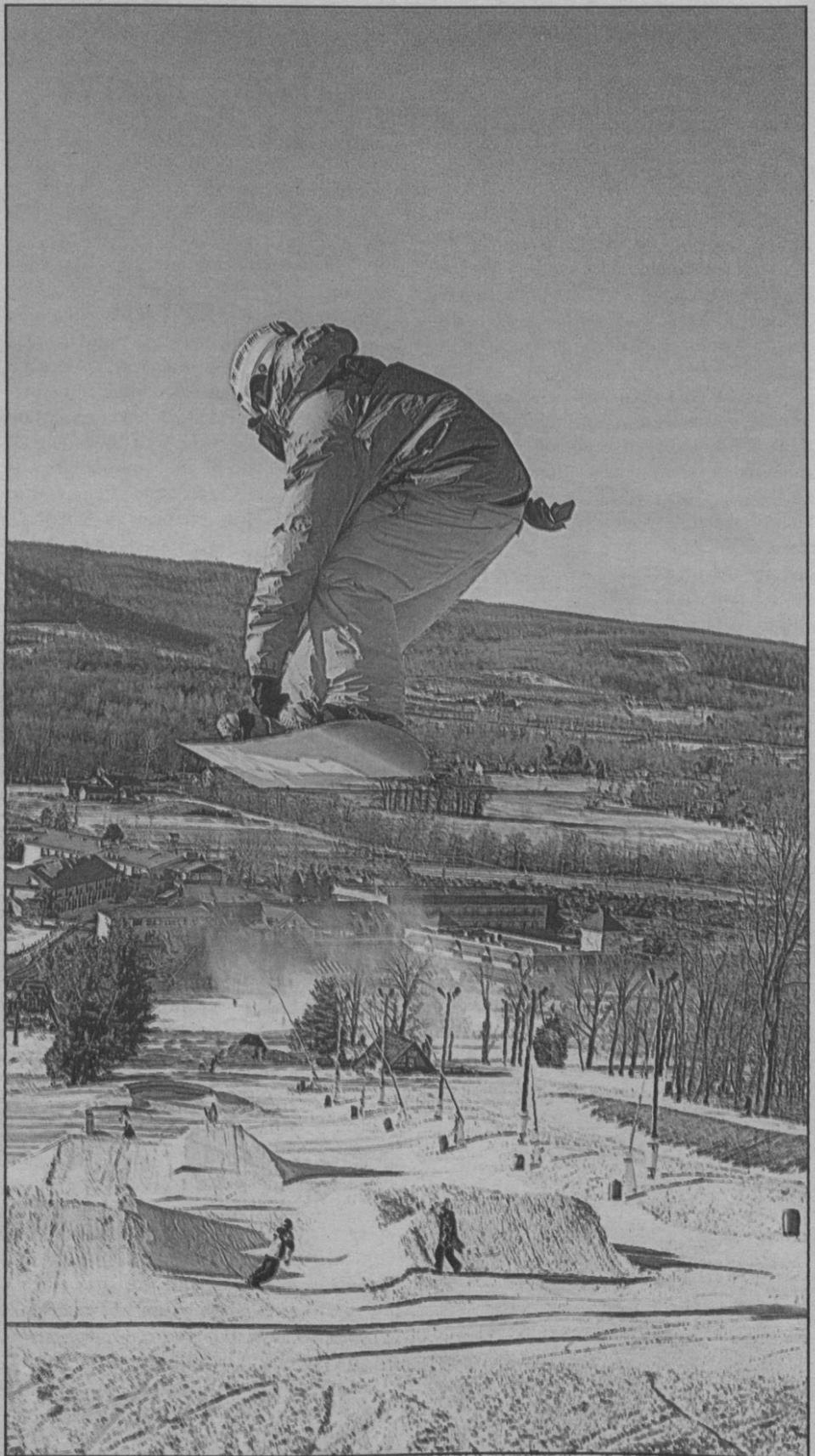


PHOTO COURTESY OF LIBERTY MOUNTAIN RESORT

Liberty Mountain Resort presents a variety of improvements this year, including a new Dipsy Double lift, certification as Burton Learn to Ride Center, and an Advantage Card that offers discounts at Stratton Mountain in Vermont.

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# Fairfield Area Holiday Home Tour

In the small town of Fairfield, Pa., and the rural valley surrounding it in Adams County, just north of Emmitsburg, Md., several historic and unique homes will be decked out in seasonal finery on Sunday, Dec. 10, from noon to 5 p.m. English afternoon tea will also be available.

Included among the homes on the tour:

**Fairway Springs.** A Civil War home built in 1840 by Major John Musselman, an officer in the state militia. The home features a natural spring in the cellar that still furnishes the water system for the house and pond.

**Converted Main Street Store,** Fairfield. Built in 1859 as a store on the first floor and

social meeting hall on the second floor, the building was converted to residential use during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and completely restored in 2002.

**Main Street Home,** Fairfield. This mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Federal style home was the residence of the owners of the store next door. It has been fully restored and features a three-story, wood spiral staircase.

**A hand-hewn log artist's hideaway** that is a craftsman's dream. It is completely furnished in handmade furniture built and hand-painted by the owners using wood from the fallen timber on the site. Gifts from the artist's studio will be on sale. Antique car display.



**"Second Chance,"** a 3,000-sq.-ft. home originally constructed in the 1750s, with additions in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Highlights include exposed beams and beautiful hardwood floors. The home will include period decorations.

**English afternoon tea** will be served for \$6 per person at the Pecher Farm, a circa-1800 stone farmhouse that has been renovated to provide comfortable 21<sup>st</sup> century living. Particularly attractive are the large stone fireplaces and traditional wide board floors.

**Tickets:** \$15 each or two for \$25. Tickets will be on sale at the homes on the day of the tour, or may be purchased in advance at E-

Plus Copy Center at Jubilee in Emmitsburg, Md.; Gallery 30, Blue Parrot Bistro and Yellow Canary Market in Gettysburg, Pa.; Fairfield Barber Shop in Fairfield, Pa.; or by calling 717-642-5436 or -5815.

Proceeds benefit the Save Our Liberty legal fund. Save Our Liberty is a grassroots citizens' group working toward responsible development in southern Adams County. The legal fund supports legal counsel and expert witnesses on behalf of community citizens.



Gettysburg's Lightner Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast is one of 13 stops on the 10th Annual Holiday House Tour held throughout Gettysburg. A graceful Federal-style brick home built in 1862 by an Adams County sheriff and farmer, the Lightner Farmhouse B&B served as a hospital for wounded soldiers following the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

# Gettysburg Area Holiday House Tour

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Gettysburg Holiday House Tour will be held Dec. 9 from noon to 5 p.m. Included are 13 stops – 10 area bed and breakfast properties, and three community properties: The Historic Gettysburg Railroad Station, the GAR Building and the Daniel Lady Farm.

The Historic Gettysburg Railroad Station, 35 Carlisle Street, made famous by the Nov. 18, 1863 arrival of President Abraham Lincoln to deliver the Gettysburg Address, will be resplendent in holiday décor following a recent \$3.5 million renovation by the Gettysburg Borough.

Historic Licensed Town Guides will reveal the history of the station as well

as the American Christmas holiday, both of which began during the Civil War era. A Victorian-era caroling group will provide period music.

Each property will be decorated for the season, with free snacks, beverages and recipes available. In addition, each location will offer a demonstration, entertainment or give-away.

The tour is organized by the Inns of the Gettysburg Area, a Bed and Breakfast Association. Advance tickets \$10; \$12 the day of the tour. For more information, visit [www.gettysburgbedandbreakfast.com](http://www.gettysburgbedandbreakfast.com).

Tour proceeds benefit the GAR Building and Main Street Gettysburg's Downtown Christmas Décor Fund.



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What's the one word that Kimberley hears most often from buyers & sellers when handling their real estate needs... *Thanks!*

# The Lodge offers breathtaking views, fine food and elegant atmosphere

BY JAMES RADA JR

During the 1980s and 1990s, the Lodge at Blue Ridge Summit was a place that only chief executive officers could enjoy. However, with new owners and a new purpose, the lodge has now become a place where people can enjoy an elegant night of dining and more.

The Lodge sprawls over 68 acres on top of the mountains. The large lawns offer beautiful views of the surrounding countryside.

"If a photographer can't do a good picture up here, he's got a problem," said Mark Lynch, who along with partner M.L. Carroll, owns the Lodge at Blue Ridge Summit.

The main lodge is where banquets, weddings and other meetings are held. It also has 12 guest rooms. The building's interior is reminiscent of a British country home with wood paneling, stone floors, large windows and large fireplaces. The banquet food is provided by Canapés Catering, which operates out of the Lodge.

"Our meals are mostly 100 percent from scratch," Lynch said. "Very little of our food is pre-made."

The Lodge offers a variety of country



- ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL / THE ROSENSTEEL STUDIO

The Inn at Pheasant Ridge offers visitors both casual and fine dining. Diners can eat on a heated patio and enjoy the view, relax in the library, or enjoy a warm fire in the main dining room.

pursuits including biking, skeet, trap and sporting clays, fly fishing, pheasant hunting, tennis, swimming, hiking and lawn games.

The Inn at Pheasant Ridge, the lodge's restaurant, offers casual and fine dining. It is open for lunch and dinner every day except Monday and offers Sunday brunch as well. The building also has five guest rooms with

Jacuzzis, a guest pool and a library.

"It's a very different type of restaurant experience," Lynch said. "Most restaurants make money by getting you in and out of there, but at the inn, you can have the table for as long as you want."

This leads to a very unhurried atmosphere where diners can sit on the heated

porch and look east through the mountains toward Emmitsburg and Gettysburg.

The lodge began as a 1,000-acre playground for corporate executives being courted by Grove Cranes.

"Grove called it a training center but it was really a sales center. They would bring people in from all over the world and show them the cranes. They could bring executives up to hunt deer and pheasant or shoot skeet," Lynch said.

When the operation closed in 2001, the lodge went on the market until Lynch and Carroll bought it in 2004.

"We stumbled upon it in 2004 and really got it opened in earnest in the second half of 2005," Lynch said.

Because of the private nature of the lodge during its previous life many people don't realize the property is there.

"We've really started to draw folks from the community around here who have discovered us as a place for good food," Lynch said.

The Lodge at Blue Ridge Summit is at 13026 Stahley Road. For more information, call (717) 794-1128 or visit the Web site at [www.thelodgeatbrs.com](http://www.thelodgeatbrs.com).



- ROBERT A. ROSENSTEEL / THE ROSENSTEEL STUDIO

The Lodge at Blue Ridge Summit sits on 68 acres atop the mountains in southeastern Pennsylvania. The views from either the Lodge or the Inn at Pheasant Ridge (pictured above) offer beautiful vistas.

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## The (retired) Ecologist Nuts to 2006



BY  
BILL MEREDITH

Legend has it that during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, a U. S. battalion was surrounded by German forces, and the German commandant sent a communiqué asking if the Americans wished to surrender. The American commander, Gen. Tony McAuliffe, sent back a one-word answer: "Nuts!" Unable to interpret this American idiom, the baffled Germans send a second message asking, "Does your reply signify affirmative or negative?" Needless to say, McAuliffe did not surrender; he survived the battle, and took his place in the historical pantheon of things that may or may not really have happened.

It is the essence of a living language like English that words pass in and out of fashion. New words are invented (nowadays mostly by computer geeks and people in California) and old terms and expressions that once were useful disappear. Mention the word "mast," for example, and most people will think you are referring to the pole that holds up the sails on a ship. But a

couple of generations ago, mast had another meaning. It came from an ancient Germanic word that meant "meat," and it was handed down through Old English as a term for the crop of nuts that fall to the ground and are available as food to animals. A reminder of the old Germanic root is found in the vocabulary of my generation even today; we older folk still refer to the edible part inside the shell as the meat of a nut.

Botanists classify nuts as a type of fruit. Technically, the nut is the hard shell, which we usually discard; the edible part, which we mistakenly call the nut, is actually a seed. This seed consists of two parts: an embryo, which will grow into a new tree, and a food supply for the embryo to live on until it can make its own food. When we eat a "nut," in effect we are stealing that supply of food.

The food reserve in the seed is a rich source of energy, and animals of various kinds have come to depend on eating nuts as their means of survival in wintertime. This has been a dilemma for trees ever since they appeared on earth. On one hand, the best way to ensure that a seed will germinate successfully is to bury it in the ground, and animals such as squirrels, other rodents and some birds do that when they hide their winter stashes. On the other hand, if these animals eat all of their hidden supplies, there will be none left

to germinate.

Fortunately, because they have such a long life span, trees do not have to reproduce successfully every year in order to perpetuate their species; and therein lies the solution to their dilemma. As a survival mechanism, they have developed a pattern of producing "normal" crops of nuts in most years, while they store food reserves in their roots. The populations of nut-eaters will adjust to this "normal" food supply. Then, when a year with good growing conditions comes along, the trees will mobilize their stored reserves and produce an extraordinary crop of nuts... more than the animals can possibly consume.

Thus, every few years, it is inevitable that some of the hidden nuts will not be eaten, and a new generation of trees will be ensured. Ecologists call these special times "mast years."

Mast years are among my earliest memories. There was a big hickory tree in our yard, and at age 3 or 4 I discovered that the shells would float. A quarter of a shell made a very fine canoe, and I spent hours imagining I was Hiawatha and floating it in the catch-basin of the pump at my grandmother's well. One year there was an extraordinary crop of nuts, and I had enough canoes for battles between Indian tribes. That year we also had a glut of walnuts, which we gathered in burlap bags and dumped in front of the garage, where the car would run over them and remove the outer shells. Our shoes, clothes and hands took on a brownish-yellow stain that lasted for weeks, and throughout the fall evenings were spent sitting in front of the fireplace cracking nuts. Until well after Christmas, the cakes and cookies that appeared every week on baking day were rich with nuts.

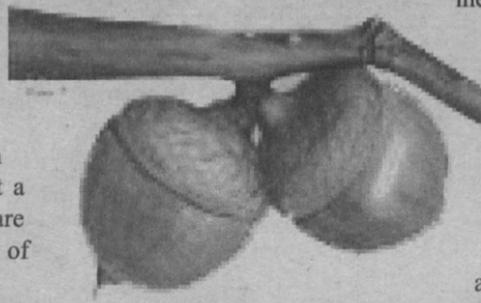
In my father's time, mast years were important. In those days the dominant forest tree was the American Chestnut, and each fall the whole family spent days in the woods collecting chestnuts for winter storage. Quantities of them were eaten... "roasted on an open fire" and otherwise... but the bulk of them were fed to pigs. In fact, many farmers simply turned their pigs loose in the woods for a month or so to fatten them on chestnuts. In mast years the pigs... and soon thereafter, the whole family... ate especially well. This practice ended in the

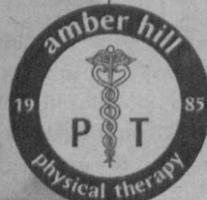
late 1920's when the chestnut trees were all killed by blight, but 60 years later my father still wistfully recalled the taste of pork from pigs fattened on chestnuts.

Our forests have changed so much that it is hard to realize now how important the mast crop was. Before the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the most abundant bird in North America was the passenger pigeon; its numbers were estimated to be in the hundreds of millions. During migration season, flocks flew so dense that they blocked out the sun flew over for days. These enormous populations fueled their fall migrations by gorging on mast, particularly acorns and chestnuts. Incredibly, they were hunted to extinction... the last one died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1916. Perhaps they were doomed anyway; whether they would have survived after the chestnut blight destroyed their main food source is an unanswerable question. Likewise, the primeval populations of deer, bear, ruffed grouse and wild turkeys that lived here in pre-colonial times were dependant on mast for their winter survival. All of these nearly became extinct in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century because of hunting and habitat destruction. They have made comebacks in recent years, but their future is by no means certain; gypsy moths now threaten the oak trees, and the entire forest ecosystem is under attack by the twin scourges of air pollution and development.

2006 is a mast year. After a series of dry years, we had an unusually wet summer with relatively moderate temperatures. The result has been a bumper crop of acorns, hickory nuts, beechnuts and walnuts. For the squirrels in my yard, this fall was a time to play; it didn't take long to store all the nuts they can possibly use, and next spring I expect to find oak and walnut seedlings popping up in my flower beds. Hunters tramping through the local woods will feel acorns under foot on every step, and the venison may taste a bit nuttier than usual. Perhaps Mel Tormé's "Christmas Song" will have a little extra meaning this year.

*Editors Note: Bill Meredith is a Dispatch columnist. His "Parliament of Owls" won a first place award in the 2005 MDDC Press Association competition for local columns in "non-dailies" under 10,000 circulation. One judge commented "This is brilliant. Really exhilarating reading." The "Retired Ecologist" appears the second issue of each month. Past articles are available on-line at [www.thedispach.us](http://www.thedispach.us).*





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2. Use a lightweight push-style shovel.
3. Place hands a distance apart on the shovel for more leverage and easier lifting.
4. Maintain good posture and the natural curve of your spine.
5. Stand with your feet about shoulder width apart to maintain balance, and keep the shovel close to your body.
6. Bend at the knees - not the waist or back.
7. Lift with your legs - not your back. Do not twist your body.
8. Scoop small amounts of snow into the shovel and walk to where you want to dump it.
9. Never remove deep snow all at once. Shovel an inch or two at a time.
10. Pace yourself, take frequent breaks to stretch your back and extremities.

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-PHOTOS COURTESY OF TANEYTOWN HISTORY MUSEUM

Opening in August of 2004, the Taneytown History Museum's collection has drawn visitors from as far away as Australia and Nigeria. After the holidays local Civil War artifacts will be on display.



An exhibit of Taneytown peaches and Keymar sweet corn canned locally.

## Don't miss these other Mason-Dixon area museums!

### Catoctin Iron Furnace

12627 Furnace Road, Thurmont, MD 21788  
(301) 271-2306

### Union Mills Homestead & Grist Mill (Shriver family home & industrial complex)

3311 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21158  
(410) 848-2288

### Western Maryland Railway Historical Society Museum

41 North Main St., Union Bridge, MD 21791  
(410) 775-0150

### American Civil War Museum

297 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg, PA 17325  
(717) 334-6245

### General Lee's Headquarters Museum

401 Buford Avenue, Gettysburg, PA 17325  
(717) 334-3141

### Schraver House Museum

309 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325  
(717) 337-2800

# History on display in Taneytown

BY BRENDAN WEEKS

If you've never seen an antique switchboard or if you don't know about Dr. Wells' homemade Civil War remedies for diarrhea, then you might want to stop by the Taneytown History Museum.

The Taneytown Chamber of Commerce formed a committee in the fall of 2003 with the intention of opening a local history museum and visitor center. Working with the town and several civic groups including the Republican Women's Club, the Lions Club, and various church groups, the committee opened the museum in August 2004 on East Baltimore Street.

"It's really been a community effort," said museum curator Tyler Boone. "Lots of different groups and organizations have been involved."

On the first floor, you can see Victorian-era calling cards – engraved cards handed out by higher status women during social visits or events, or reprinted copies of *The Spinning Wheel* magazine which circulated throughout the 1940s and 1950s.

So far the museum has been extremely popular, drawing visitors from as far away as Canada, England, Australia, and Nigeria. "We had a really strong opening and I think the momentum has been able to be carried through," said Boone.

In August 2005 the second floor of the building was opened as a gallery showcasing local artists including the Zepp Brothers and Joseph Wantz. Unlike the first floor, second floor displays are changed periodically. "There's always something new to see," said Boone.

Volunteers are currently preparing the second floor for the Holiday of Trees celebration. The museum has invited community businesses to decorate trees that will be on display to the public until Dec. 16. During this time a silent auction will be taking place for the trees, with the proceeds going to the museum.

Once the Holiday of Trees auction is finished, docents will begin setting up a Civil War display. "After the holidays we're hoping to get together an exhibit of Civil War artifacts that relate somehow to the area," said Boone.

"We are extremely fortunate that we have members that are docents who are really into the Civil War," said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Donna Sako.

The museum is open on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Chamber of Commerce is always looking for volunteers to help maintain the museum as well as for artifacts to add to the collection. For more information, visit [www.taneytownmuseum.org](http://www.taneytownmuseum.org), or call (410) 756-4234.

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- Dr. Swann's specialty is internal medicine consultations and cranial sacral therapy.

Health Tapestries is open by appointment with offices in the Thurmont area. For questions or to make an appointment, call 240-409-3486, email [wbswann@adelphia.net](mailto:wbswann@adelphia.net) or visit [www.swannodo.com](http://www.swannodo.com).

Some insurance plans available

## Eat your heart out, Thomas!

BY JAMES RADA JR

Eighty-eight-year-old John O'Neill of Westminster still likes to play with trains. He has model train sets taking up a good part of his house.

"My wife keeps saying, 'What are you going to do with all this?'" O'Neill said.

O'Neill's reply?

"I let the hobby pay for my entertainment," O'Neill said.

He sells off some of his sets and then turns around and buys something different that catches his eye. He can't help it. He's been playing with model trains for about 30 years.

On a pleasant day in October, he drove from Westminster to Thurmont to visit Catocin Mountain Trains and Hobbies. He went home with a train set made of tin and brass that was a reproduction of a 1930s train set.

The shop on Thurmont's downtown square is the destination of many model train enthusiasts across the region because Catocin Mountain Trains and Hobbies specializes in O gauge and O 27 trains. Other collectors call or mail in orders from around the world.

"There are not many dealers who specialize in these types of trains and our customers know we discount off the retail

price," said store owner Paul Johnson.

With the onset of the Christmas season, the store can get very crowded.

"It's our busiest time of year," Johnson said. "It's when a lot of children and adults get train sets."

Johnson said model trains tend to bring back memories for many collectors. As children, many of them visited the large department stores and stared at their model train gardens.

"Back in the 40s and 50s trains were very big," Johnson said. "It seemed like trains were in every home around the Christmas tree."

Though the trains of today may look like yesterday's trains, Johnson says the quality of the new trains is much better.

"The quality is so good with sound systems and volumes that they are better than the trains of even 15 or 20 years ago," Johnson said.

For people interested in starting their own model train set-up, Johnson recommends a starter set.

"You get everything you need: track, trains, transformer, instructions," said Johnson. "It can be set up in 20-30 minutes and it's easily expandable."

Prices for good starter sets begin at around \$300.



- PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN KINNAIRD

Catocin Mountain Trains and Hobbies specializes in O gauge train sets and services customers around the globe. Model railroading is a popular hobby and model railroad starter kits are a popular gift at Christmastime.

### Some local model train clubs

#### Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society

Contact: Turk Russell      Scale: G or large scale  
11548 Airport Road  
Waynesboro, PA 17268  
(717) 762-8873  
t\_turk@earthlink.net  
www.trainweb.org/svgrs

#### Waynesboro Model Railroad Club

Contact: Joe Goodrich      Scale: N, HO, O (2-rail), O (3-rail)  
P.O. Box 352  
State Line, PA 17263  
(717) 597-0334 - day  
(717) 597-0334 - evening

#### Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum Inc.

Contact: Robert Morningstar      Scale: HO, O (2-rail)  
P.O. Box 1181  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
(301) 824-2239  
Hmrm\_inc@hotmail.com  
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# Wintertime Arts & Entertainment

## Concerts

**Jan. 6 – Common Ground on the Hill Concerts Series.** 9 p.m. Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, Westminster. “Ceph and Wiggins,” blues. 410-857-2771.

**Jan. 19 – Women of Windham Hill.** Barbara Higbie, Lisa Lynne and Liz Story. The Majestic, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg. 717-337-8200 or [gettysburgmajestic.org](http://gettysburgmajestic.org).

**Jan. 21 – Aulos Ensemble.** Five Julliard graduate play Baroque music on original instruments. The Majestic, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg. 717-337-8200 or [gettysburgmajestic.org](http://gettysburgmajestic.org).

**Feb. 3 – Common Ground on the Hill Concerts Series.** 9 p.m. Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, Westminster. “Santa

Cruz River Band,” Southwestern folk music. 410-857-2771.

**Feb. 25 – Caledonia.** 3 p.m. The very best of Scotland’s music performed by 10 of today’s top Celtic musicians and world-renowned fiddle champion Bonnie Rideout. The Majestic, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg. 717-337-8200 or [gettysburgmajestic.org](http://gettysburgmajestic.org).

## Stage

**Dec. 22, 23 – “A Gettysburg Stage Christmas.”** Tickets: \$12 and \$10 for students and seniors. Keefauver Center, 157 Lefever St., Gettysburg. Information: 1-866-859-5912

**Jan. 19 to March 10 – “Forever Plaid.”** Four young, eager male singers, killed in a car crash in the 1950s on the way to

their first big concert, are miraculously revived for the posthumous chance to fulfill their dreams and perform the show they never did. Way Off Broadway Dinner Theater, 5 Willowdale Drive, Willowtree Plaza, Frederick. 301-662-6600, [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).

**Jan. 26, 27, and Feb. 2, 3, 4 – “Amadeus.”** Jack B. Kussmaul Theatre, Frederick Community College. Winner of a Tony Award for Best Play, an Oscar for Best Movie, and recent revivals in the West End and on Broadway, this provocative work weaves a confrontation between mediocrity of Antonio Salieri, established composer in the court of the Austrian Emperor, and genius and child prodigy Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

## Events

**Jan. 5 – Thurmont Thespians 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Fundraiser.** 8 p.m. Cultural Arts Center of Frederick County, 15 W. Patrick Street. Evening’s theme is “Baseball, Peanuts and Something Wicked.” Information and tickets: 301-271-7613.

**Jan. 8 – Historic Railroad Equipment and Model Train Displays.** 1 to 5 p.m. Baldwin and Oklahoma Avenues, Sykesville. 410-795-3157.

**Jan. 20 – 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Maryland Farm Toy Show.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Westminster Agriculture Center, 700 Agriculture Center Drive. Information: 410-848-3247.

## Bring out the creative artist within...

**A sample of classes from the Information Station**  
The Adams County Arts Council  
18 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325  
(717)-334-5006

**The Wonderful World of Wool**  
Grades 5-8: Tuesdays, Jan. 2-23, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Learn to dye raw wool and wool yarn. Build a spindle to spin the wool and a small loom for weaving the dyed yarn.

**Basic Acrylic Painting**  
Adults: Thursdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 1, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Learn the basics and discover the versatility of water-based acrylics.

**Clay Castle Making**  
All ages: Mondays, Feb. 19-March 12, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Use basic handbuilding techniques to create a 3D clay castle.

**Catoctin Mountain Park**  
6600 Foxville Road, Thurmont, MD 21788  
(301) 663-9388

**Winter Photography Seminar**  
Sunday, Jan. 21 at 1:30 p.m. Visitor Center. Learn to capture the winter landscape using time-tested techniques for winter photographic success.

## Learn new hobbies At the Library...

**Emmitsburg Branch Library, 300-A South Seton Avenue (301)-600-6329**  
**Genealogy Focus Group**  
Uncover resources and share tips to help track down those elusive ancestors. Thursdays, 7 p.m., Jan. 25, Feb. 22

**Knitting Nook**  
For beginners and experienced knitters Monthly, 3rd Thursday, 4 p.m., Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15

**Thurmont Branch Library, 11 Water Street (301) 271-7721**  
**Knit & Chat**  
Learn to knit or bring a project in-process. Monthly, 1st Thursday, 7 p.m., Jan. 4, Feb. 1

**Quilt with...**  
**Mason Dixon Quilt Guild**  
Beginners welcome. No dues. Discussions, demonstrations. 6:30-8 p.m. Catoctin Church of Christ, Gateway Shopping Center, Franklinville Road, Thurmont. 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. Information: (301) 271-4102.

## Cut your own tree

If you want to cut your own tree this holiday season, one of the following tree farms should be a convenient drive away:

**Beaver Dam Tree Farm**  
11935 Beaver Dam Road  
Union Bridge, MD 21791  
(410) 775-2661

**Clemsonville Christmas Tree Farm**  
10120 Clemsonville Road  
Union Bridge, MD 21791  
(410) 848-6083

**Franz Tree Farm**  
Monrovia, MD 21770  
(301) 831-6840  
(3 miles west of Damascus on MD 80)

**Gaver Tree Farm, LLC**  
5501 Detrick Road  
Mount Airy, MD 21771  
(301) 865-3515 or (301) 865-0747

**Hardee Farms**  
12002 Renner Road  
New Midway, MD 21775  
(301) 384-6576 or (301) 384-9455

**Mayne's Tree Farm**  
Buckeystown, MD 21717  
(301) 662-4320 or (301) 874-2665  
(5 miles south of Frederick on MD 85)

**Sewell's Farm**  
3400 Harney Road  
Taneytown, MD 21787  
(410) 756-4397

**Timber Falls Tree Farm**  
17794 Old Frederick Road  
Mount Airy, MD 21771  
(410) 788-7277

**Unionville Tree Farm**  
Talbot Run Road  
Unionville, MD 21792  
(301) 829-0604

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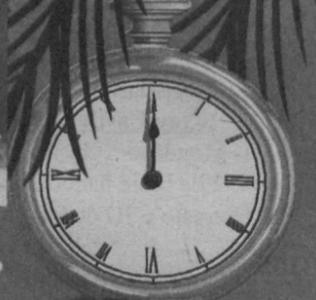
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*Thank you for letting us work with you in our community over the last year.*

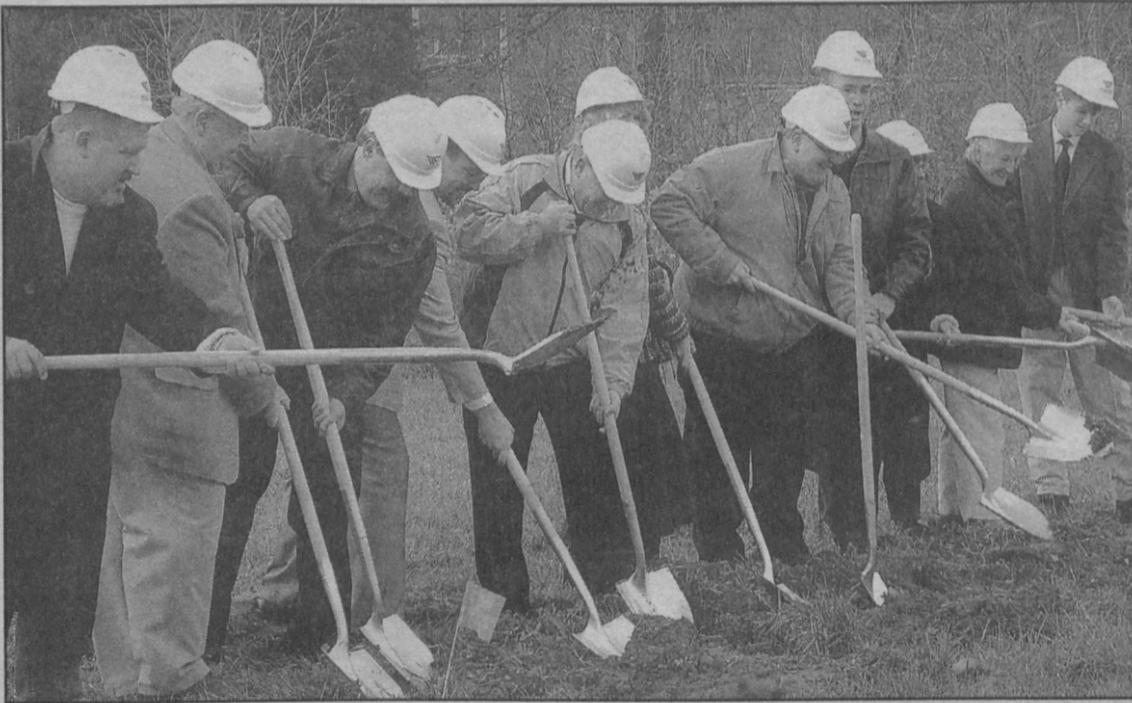
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>~ Evening of Christmas Spirit ~ Carriage House 7 - 9pm.  
Don't forget your canned food donations

Dec 19<sup>th</sup>~1st annual Emmitsburg Professional & Business Association's Holiday Dinner.  
Call Bo Cadle 301-447-6275

Seton Center is accepting cash donations for its Christmas Program.  
Volunteers are needed for the Seton Center Thrift Shop. If interested  
please call Doris Slavey or Sr. Ellen at 301-447-6102

**Merry  
Christmas  
&  
Happy  
New Year**

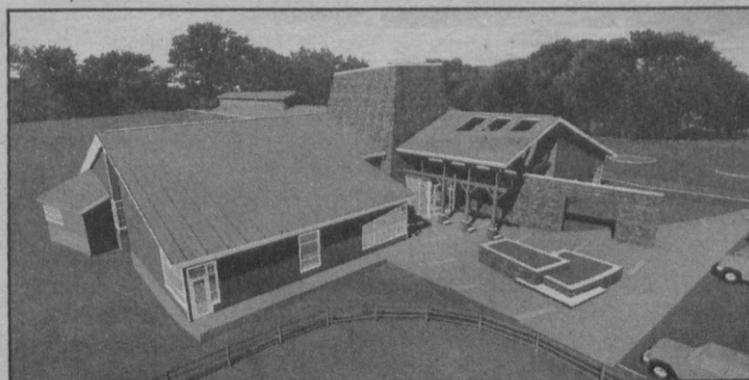
## REGIONAL NEWS



-EMILY BALLENGER / THE DISPATCH

# New library breaks ground

A variety of library board members, Thurmont officials, county officials and representatives of the company building the new Thurmont Regional Library were on hand November 18 for the groundbreaking of the new library. The new Thurmont Regional Library as seen in this artist's rendering (inset) includes elements reminiscent of Catoctin Furnace and barns. The 25,000-square-foot library will have two meetings rooms, computers and relaxing seating areas. Children will be able to enjoy the section of the library designed just for them which will have lots of colorful art, unique furniture, plenty of computers, and comfortable spaces to sit and read. There will also be a special room just for programs and story times. Teens will also have their own trendy space to choose books, use the computer, and participate in special programs.



-ARTIST RENDERING COURTESY OF PSA-DEWBERRY, INC.

# Around Frederick County

A selection of news briefs of happenings around Frederick County from the Frederick County Office of Economic Development.

### Brunswick

- The city's planning commission has approved a final draft of a new master plan.
- A special election, to fill a vacancy on city council, will be held Feb. 6.

### Middletown

- The burgess and commissioners will hold a public hearing Dec. 7 to consider the adoption of a resolution to increase the cost of water rates for residential and non-residential users.

### Mount Airy

- The town has submitted three requests to the Maryland Municipal League: one requesting relief from unfunded mandates, a second supporting a new water allocation formula for public wells and a third that would allow aggregation of consumer accounts that could reduce electric rate increases for the Allegheny Power service area.

### Woodsboro

- The town council has awarded a contract for upgrades to the municipal water system. According to a statement on the Woodsboro Web site, the system will monitor wells and keep the town better informed on the availability of water.

## Sex offenders found in compliance

FREDERICK COUNTY, Md. — An unannounced compliance check on 143 sex offenders, child sex offenders and sexually violent offenders within Frederick County determined that none of the offenders were unaccounted for.

Participating in the compliance check conducted on Nov. 20 and 21 were the Thurmont Police Department, Frederick (City) Police Department, Maryland State Police and the Frederick County Sheriff's Office.

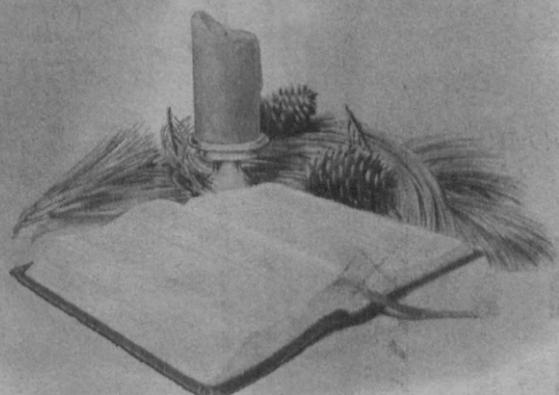
Police found that all offenders listed for Frederick County had complied with notification requirements and notified police of their addresses, places of employment and contact information.

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EDUCATION

# CHS seniors raise \$10,000 to support friends in need

BY BRENDAN WEEKS  
Special to the Dispatch

Generosity is not a characteristic always associated with teenagers. Catocin High Seniors Tiffany Free and Ronnie Terpko are an exception to that school of thought.

Each year, graduating seniors at Catocin High School are required to complete a "senior project." The subject of the project can vary from composing a song to building a computer to restoring an old vehicle. For Free and Terpko it was an opportunity to help friends in need.

Free and Casey Bly have been friends since middle school. When she found out that Bly had been diagnosed with leukemia she was worried. "You can't really describe that feeling," said Free.

Terpko, 17, considers himself very close to his teacher Doug Williams. "He has always been there for

me," said Terpko. "He's kind of like a second father figure." When he found out that Williams' daughter had serious health issues, he was compelled to do something.

The two approached psychology teacher Steve Cree to help run a fundraiser. The two students conjured up what would turn out to be a modest goal of \$3,000. A class competition was set up between Cree and history teacher Matt Sweigart. The competition was set to run for two weeks in October.

And then the money started pouring in. Students were bringing in as much as they could, \$5 here and there, \$50 bills when they could. According to Cree, students were cashing their paychecks and immediately donating half. He said it came down to "kids being much more generous than they had the right to be."

The fundraising didn't stop there. Free and Terpko went out into the

community trying to collect as much as they could. "We had a stand at Col-orfest and containers around town," said Free.

After the collection was up, Free and Terpko realized that they had far surpassed their goal with a total of \$10,000. "We got a lot more, which was definitely a good thing," said Free.

Half of the money was donated to Bly and his family, while the other half went to Williams. "I was amazed how much it was and how generous people can be and how nice of a person she is for doing it," said Bly. "I didn't know how to thank her. I was speechless."

Unfortunately, Williams' daughter passed away several days before they presented the money. "He was really thankful," said Terpko. "He and his family couldn't believe it."

"People don't think of teens as giving people," said Cree. "It's nice to see kids give so much."

The Thurmont Lions Club recognized Free for the success of her project at their Make a Difference Day. "I think it was a wonderful project," said Lions Club president Susan Favorite. "I think it's a great reflection on our community."

Free plans to attend Penn State University in Mont Alto and wants to become an occupational therapist. "I just like to do things for other people," said Free. Terpko has aspirations to become an elementary level teacher.



-EMILY BALLENGER / THE DISPATCH

## 'Angels Above' golf tournament contributes \$7,800 to Mother Seton

Members of the Little family present a check on Dec. 1 for \$7,800 to Sister Joanne Goecke, principal of the Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg. The funds were raised for the Jack and Shirley Little Scholarship Fund by the "Angels Above" Golf Tournament, held Oct. 13 at the Moun-

tain View Golf Club in Fairfield, and were donated to the school to help provide "a Catholic education to students from families of diverse economic backgrounds." From left to right: Pam Bolin, Tim Little, Mary Lou Little, Ed Little, Tony Little, Jane Moore, and Scott Little.

## FBPW offers scholarships

The Frederick Business & Professional Women's Club is seeking applicants for its annual scholarship awards. Scholarships will be awarded for summer and or fall semesters 2007 to women currently enrolled and attending a college-level course of study.

Applicants must be residents of Frederick County, show financial need, have professional prom-

ise, have academic achievements and meet personal qualifications. All applications, college level transcripts and letters of reference must be received by Feb. 2, 2007.

For more information or application, send a request to FBPW Club Scholarship, P.O. Box 1045, Frederick, MD 21702. Applications are also available at [www.bpwfrederick.org](http://www.bpwfrederick.org).

## Mansfield appointed to Board of Education

FREDERICK, Md. — Leslie Mansfield will be the newest member of the Frederick County Board of Education. The Frederick County Commissioners appointed her to fill the unexpired term of Barbara Craig, who resigned earlier this year. Mansfield's appointment was effective Dec. 1 and will run until December 2008.

Mansfield, who received

22,186 votes in the recent general election, was one of 18 people who applied for the position.

For further information, contact Administrative Officer Joyce Grossnickle of the Office of the County Manager at (301) 600-1102 or e-mail [jgrossnickle@fredco-md.net](mailto:jgrossnickle@fredco-md.net).

-J. Rada

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## ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

### Library Events

#### December at the Emmitsburg Library

##### Storytimes

###### Babies with Books

(birth-24 months with an adult)  
Dec. 7, 13, 20, 27 at 10:30 a.m.

###### Two-Terrific Storytime

(age 2 with an adult)  
Dec. 12, 19 at 10:30 a.m.

###### Family Storytime (all ages)

Dec. 13, 20, 27 at 7 p.m.

###### Preschool Storytime

(ages 3-5 with an adult)  
Dec. 14, 21, 28 at 10:30 a.m.

##### Children's Programs

###### Children's Holiday Tea (all ages)

Dress up in holiday finery and enjoy holiday stories and music while you sip tea.  
Dec. 9 at 10:30 a.m.  
Registration required.

###### "Did You Know?" Series: Winter Wonderland Workshop

"Rein" in your creative spirit as we make cards, bags, and a fun snack - all with a reindeer theme.  
Dec. 16 at 11 a.m.  
Registration required.

###### The Book Bunch (ages 6-9)

A celebratory book discussion with craft or activity. Check the library

desk for book titles.  
Dec. 20 at 4 p.m.  
Registration required.

###### Reading Rocks! (ages 10-12)

Choose either book, and join us for a snack, an activity, and book discussion. "Chasing Vermeer" by Blue Balliett or "From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler" by E. L. Konigsburg.  
Dec. 11 at 4 p.m.  
Registration required.

###### Night Owls (ages 6-12)

Join friends during winter break for an evening of games and crafts.  
Dec. 28 at 6:30 p.m.  
Registration required.

##### Teen Programs

###### Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club

(teens and adults)  
Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. "Winter Prince" by Elizabeth E. Wein.

###### Animé/Manga Club

(grades 6-12)  
Join us for Animé/Manga movies, card games and more.  
Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.

##### Adult Programs

###### Just Mousin' Around

Ongoing, one-on-one computer lessons. Call to arrange a time.

###### Tuesday Evening Book Club

"Running with Scissors" by Au-

gusten Burroughs.  
Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

###### Non-Fiction Book Club

Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.

###### Knitting Nook

(teens and adults)  
Beginners and experienced knitters welcome. Bring your own needles and yarn, or call for info.  
Dec. 21 at 4 p.m.

Programs, unless otherwise noted, are held at the Emmitsburg Library in the Community Center on Seton Avenue. Registration or information: (240) 629-6329.

### Senior Events

Here we come a-caroling, bringing in December, announcing holiday activities we hope you will enjoy. We're traveling this month, first to **Thurmont Elementary School** on **Dec. 6** for their **holiday program**; we will leave at 12:45 p.m. On the following day, **Dec. 7**, it's off to the new **Urbana Senior Center** to share in a "**winter picnic**;" lunch will cost \$6, plus \$2 for transportation. Our **annual Christmas dinner** will be held on **Dec. 15**; reservations needed by Dec. 8. Meal cost will be \$6. Bring a wrapped \$5 gift to exchange with those of your gender. "**Green Bingo**" is our feature on **Dec. 20**, so bring a prize that's green. **The center will be closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1, 2007.** Our bowling group is still growing; join us on Monday afternoons. Don't forget men's pool games every Wednesday at 1 p.m. We are still looking for a volunteer to teach us how to make beaded jewelry and we know there's someone in the community who has the skill to share with us.

The seniors encourage all eligible persons (50 years and older) to join them for regular program activities and special events. Our lunch program is open to those 60 and older. The center is lovely and the "natives" are friendly! Check us out!

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

**Strength Training & Conditioning:** Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. Dress comfortably, wear athletic shoes. Participants will use small weights. Led by Linda Stultz.

**Bingo:** Dec. 20.

**Cards, 500, and Bridge Group:** Dec. 13 and 27.

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

**Shopping at Jubilee Foods:** Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

**Frederick Shopping:** Second Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.

Programs are held in the Community Center on South Seton Avenue. Call for lunch reservations 24 hours in advance. The Senior Center will close whenever county offices are closed. To register for special events or for information, call program coordinator Linda Umbel, (240) 629-6350.

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**Open Houses will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the following locations:**

**Wednesday, December 13**  
Hampton Inn  
5311 Buckeystown Pike  
Frederick, MD 21704

**Monday, December 11**  
Garrett College Auditorium  
687 Mosser Road  
McHenry, MD 21541

**Tuesday, December 12**  
Holiday Inn  
100 S. George Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502

**Thursday, December 14**  
Four Points Sheraton  
1910 Dual Highway  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Attend one of these sessions and learn how you can avoid large increases when rate caps expire.

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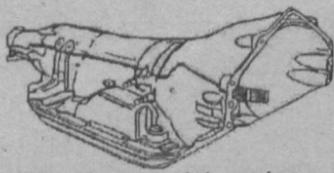


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**OBITUARIES**

**Mrs. Dolline Free**  
Mrs. Dolline B. "Dolly" Free, 86, of Rocky Ridge, died Nov. 21, 2006, at the Beverly Health Care Center, Frederick.  
Born Sept. 30, 1920, in Harmony, she was a daughter of the late Orville and Annabelle Shriner Baker, Sr.  
Surviving are two sons, Franklin R. Free and Robert E. Free; seven grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; one brother, Orville Baker, Jr. and three sisters, Mary Ann Harman, Florence "Kitty" Cook and Rachel Eichelberger; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Nov. 25 at the Monocacy Congregation Church of the Brethren, Rocky Ridge, with her pastors: Brother Donald Stine, Brother Ralph Schildt and Brother David Collins officiating. Interment was in Rocky Ridge Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Rocky Ridge.

**Mrs. Martha Harbaugh**  
Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Harbaugh, 82, of Thurmont, died Nov.

28, 2006, at St. Catherine's Nursing Home, Emmitsburg.  
Born Sept. 2, 1924, in Garfield, she was a daughter of the late Keifer and Adeline Draper Green.

Surviving are two children, Mary Ann Sharer and David Wayne Harbaugh; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Virginia Miller; and numerous other relatives.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 2 at 1 p.m. at the Robert E. Dailey and Son Funeral Homes, P.A., Thurmont, with her pastor, the Reverend Barry Taylor, officiating. Interment was in Creagerstown Cemetery.

**Mrs. Betty Lemmon**  
Mrs. Betty L. Lemmon, 77, of Silver Run, Md., died Nov. 20, 2006, at the Gettysburg Hospital.  
Born Oct. 29, 1929, in Rocky Ridge, she was a daughter of the late Charles F. and Oneida B. (Welty) Eyer.

Surviving in addition to her husband of 50 years, Earl D. Lemmon, are three sisters, Dorothy Am-

brose, Doris Schildt and Josephine Dinterman; three brothers, Charles J. Eyer Jr., Richard Eyer and Francis Eyer; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Nov. 25 at Little's Funeral Home, Littlestown, Pa., with The Rev. James S. Dunlop officiating. Interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery of Silver Run.

**Mr. Robert L. Reaves**  
Robert L. Reaves, 77, of Lakeview Avenue, Lake Mary, Fla., died Nov. 7, 2006, at Longwood Healthcare.  
Born Jan. 3, 1929, in Lake Mary, Fla., Mr. Reaves was the son of the late John R. and Amanda A. (Sjoblom) Reaves.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Bobie J. "BJ" (Galloway) Reaves; one son, Lance Reaves; one sister, Virginia Heath; one brother, John Reaves of Emmitsburg, Md.; two grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Nov. 9 at Central Baptist Church, Sanford, Fla.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS



-PHOTO COURTESY OF LAWRENCE MCKENNA

Members of Boy Scout Troop 727 and Cub Scout Pack 727 stocked the shelves on Nov. 11 at the Emmitsburg Food Bank with food they collected. Shown, L to R, are (front row) Devin Cash, Paul Slotwinski, Brandon Snyder, Andrew Neibecker, Jude O'Donnell, Gabe Weigelt; (back row) Matthew McKenna, Thomas Neibecker, Alex McKenna, Chris McKenna, Jack Downham.

### Local scouts join in "Scouting for Food"

Boy Scout Troop 727 and Cub Scout Pack 727, based in Emmitsburg, participated for the first time in November's "Scouting for Food" project. The annual program provides vital supplies to food banks throughout Frederick County, and this year generated 1,008 items for the Emmitsburg Food Bank.

John Slotwinski, scoutmaster of the local troop, said the boys were very pleased to be part of such a successful project, although "the credit really goes to the folks in Emmitsburg. We just delivered the bags and picked them up ... they filled them."

Linda Kraft, assistant manager of the food bank, said the Scouts were "very helpful. They counted every item for us and helped put it all on the shelves. We have been very short on food at times this

year, and these donations should really help us help our clients through the holidays."

According to Slotwinski and Assistant Scoutmaster Larry McKenna, Troop 727 and Cub Scout Pack 727 both were started in January of this year and have participated in many activities. Both men have high praise for a large group of supporting parents. They made a commitment when we were planning the groups, and "we couldn't do this without them," said Slotwinski.

St. Josephs Church parish in Emmitsburg sponsors both the Boy Scout troop and the Cub Scout pack.

Emmitsburg has not had a Boy Scout troop for many years. The Scouting for Food program in town has been conducted by a troop from Frederick in recent years.

### "Museums by Candlelight" on Saturday

EMMITSBURG, Md. - Frederick County's annual event, "Museums by Candlelight", in which museums and historic sites open their doors in a festive way, starts off at Emmitsburg, the northernmost site on the tour, in the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9. Those visiting the Seton Shrine will find warm cider and cookies waiting for them.

Twenty museums and historic sites of the Frederick Historic Sites Consortium look forward to your visit. Start at the shrine and work your way south to Frederick City to visit other historic sites on the tour. The other sites are open from noon to 5 p.m.

Museums by Candlelight is one of the featured events of Children's Weekend in Frederick.

All museum admissions and programs are free of charge on this day. For further information on the other sites, call the Tourism Council of Frederick County, (800) 999-3613 or (301) 600-4047.



-PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE MOSER

### The Dispatch goes to Italy

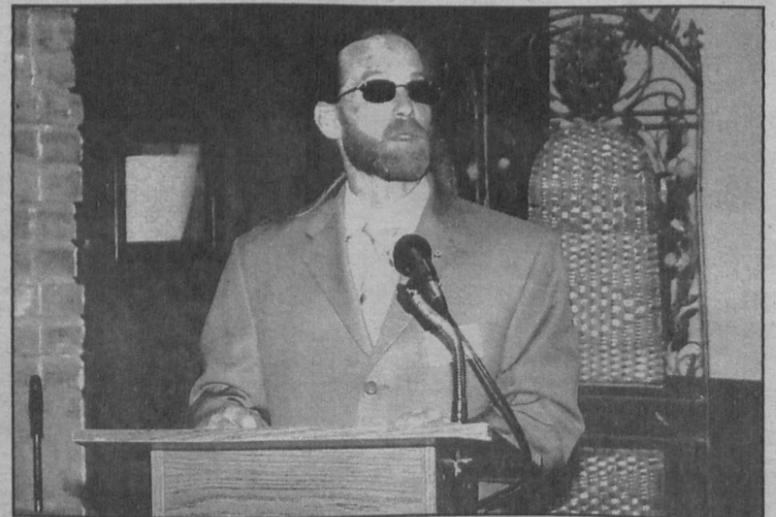
Several local residents enjoyed a recent trip to Italy sponsored by "Barbara Rice Tours" of Frederick. The group visited Rome, Vatican City, Florence, Pompeii, Pisa, Venice and Stresa. Thurmont residents on this trip were (left to right) "Buddy" and Lottie Bostian, Joe and Dawn Moser (holding a copy of The Dispatch) and Marie and "Wibby" Stimmel.

### News from CHS Safe & Sane Committee

#### Food Lion helps with fundraising

Each time you shop at Food Lion, the store will donate money to Safe & Sane, once you register online. Go to [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com), click on "Register," select MD, Thurmont, Catoctin HS for Safe and Sane Graduation. You will also need your MVP card number.

Dec. 13 Committee Meeting and Moped Raffle Drawing. CHS Media Center. Senior and Junior parents needed as volunteers. All committee chairs filled, but help is still needed. Two drawings for the 2007 E-Ton America Beamer II Moped. Tickets: \$5. Available at Rocky's and Ace Hardware or call Tish Shirey at (301)-748-8622.



-PHOTO COURTESY OF THURMONT LIONS CLUB

### Thurmont Lions Club rehabilitating Lions

Michael Sano of the Suburban Lions spoke to the Thurmont Lions Club about "rehabilitating Lions" to recognize the needs of unsighted people and how to assist them. Sano was injured in an accident that caused him to lose his sight. He is a skilled craftsman who volunteers at Walter Reed Hospital and the Veterans Hospital. He is also in his third year at the University of Maryland,

majoring in psychology. His goal is to teach people who are born blind or become blind or visually impaired that they can do whatever they want, and that nothing is impossible.

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# Thespians named "Outstanding Arts Organization of 2006"



-PHOTO COURTESY SHUAN BUTCHER, FAC

The Thurmont Thespians received the 2006 Arts Organization of the Year from the Frederick Arts Council (FAC) at its recent annual dinner. Pictured from left to right is Jack Pumphrey, FAC Board President, Beth and Spencer Watson of The Thurmont Thespians, and Shuan Butcher, FAC Executive Director.

At the Frederick Arts Council's annual grant awards dinner on Nov. 21, President Jack Pumphrey announced that the Thurmont Thespians had been named the "Outstanding Arts Organization in Frederick County for 2006" for their local community outreach. President and Artistic Director Beth Royer Watson accepted the honorary plaque from the Frederick Arts Council Executive Director, Shaun Butcher on

behalf of the organization. "The board of directors was pleased to present the award this year to The Thurmont Thespians because of their extensive outreach to the community. They are great partners to the arts council as well," said Shuan Butcher, Frederick Arts Council executive director.

Thurmont Thespians were also awarded another Community Arts Development Grant for 2007.

## Thespians to celebrate with gala fundraiser

The Thurmont Thespians are sponsoring a 10th Anniversary Gala Fundraiser on Friday, Jan. 5 at the Cultural Arts Center of Frederick County, 15 W. Patrick St., Frederick.

The evening's theme is "Baseball, Peanuts & Something Wicked" and everyone is invited to come in costume - a baseball or softball league shirt and cap, or dressed as a character from the comic strip "Peanuts," or dressed as a character from the Broadway show, "Wicked." The evening will include a shortened version of the Thespians' production of the comedy "Rounding Third," with free champagne, sparkling cider and hot and cold

hors d'oeuvres served during intermission. Following will be musical performances by the teen cast of March's production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" and vocal selections from the Broadway show, "Wicked" performed by Eileen Winston, Jeanine Collins, Doug Benson, Mary Beth Johnson and Wyatt Whitsel. Robbie Freed will accompany the performances on piano.

Tickets: \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Entire purchase is tax-deductible. To order, call Mrs. Urian at (301) 271-7613 or mail a check made out to "Thurmont Thespians, Inc." to 14826 Manahan Road, Sabillasville, MD 21780.

# A&E Calendar

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Area school Christmas programs and concerts

**Thurmont Elementary School**  
Thursday, Dec. 7. Chorus concert at 6:30 p.m., 5<sup>th</sup> grade play, "Santa's Rockin' Christmas Eve" at 7:30 p.m. in the Catoctin High School auditorium.

**Catoctin High School**  
Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$5. "Jack Frost," a holiday play for children and families presented by the CHS Drama Dep't.

**Mother Seton School**  
Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. "The Special Gift," a Christmas musical for children, presented by grades Pre-K-2, with the MSS chorus and band.

**Emmitsburg Elementary School**  
Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. - Musical program by grades 1-2  
Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 1:45 p.m. - Holiday sing-along

**Lewistown Elementary School**  
Friday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. - Winter musical

**Sabillasville Elementary School**  
Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 2:15 p.m. - Holiday sing-along

### For Children

**Dec. 9 and 10 - Children's Weekend in Frederick.** Breakfast with Santa, Belsnickling, live performances and a Holiday Market for kids. Information: 301-228-2841 or visit [www.celebratefrederick.com](http://www.celebratefrederick.com).

**Dec. 9 - Museums by Candlelight.** Noon to 5 at Frederick County locations. 2-7 p.m.; City of Frederick locations. Free, self-guided tours of 20 museums. Special children's activities. Locally: National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (10 a.m.); Catoctin Mountain Park; Cunningham Falls State Park Visitor Center and Catoctin Furnace. For driving direc-

tions, visit [www.fredericktourism.org](http://www.fredericktourism.org), and click "attractions."

**Dec. 9 - American Boychoir Christmas Concert.** 8 p.m. The Majestic Theater, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg Sacred and secular holiday music. Tickets: \$29-\$34. Call 717-337-8200.

### Concerts

**Dec. 9 - 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Concert, with Walt Michael & his East Coast Company.** 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30. Carroll Arts Center Theater 91 West Main St., Westminster. General seating only. Tickets: Adults: \$17; seniors 65+, children 12 and under, student w/ ID: \$15. Common Ground on the Hill Concert Series. Information and tickets: 410-857-2771. [www.commongroundonthehill.org](http://www.commongroundonthehill.org) or e-mail [cground@qis.net](mailto:cground@qis.net).

**Dec. 13 - A Viennese Christmas.** 7 p.m. The Majestic Theater, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg. Features America's first touring pops orchestra, the New Sigmund Romberg orchestra. Christmas carols, holiday classics and Viennese waltzes. Tickets: \$41, \$35, \$30. Reservations: 717-337-8200.

**Dec. 17 - Christmas Concert.** 10:30 a.m. Mountain View Ministries, 103 Apples Church Road, Thurmont. Featuring the Wingert Family Singers. Free. Information: 301-271-2380 or 301-271-9088.

**Dec. 19 - The Lettermen Christmas Show.** 7 p.m. The Majestic Theater, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg. Famous love songs including "The Way You Look Tonight" and "Can't Take My Eyes off of You." Tickets: \$22-\$28. Reservations: 717-337-8200. Information: [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org).

### Galleries, Exhibits, Art Shows

**Through Dec. 22 - Landscapes by Mark Brockman.** Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center, Frederick. A plein air and studio painter, Brockman has painted for 30 years, in oil, pastel and watercolor. In the landscape he sees both the beauty and the abstract qualities.

**Through Dec. 23 - Holiday Poster Art Competition and Frederick Camera Clique.** Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center, Frederick. Reception, Nov. 29, 5:30-8 p.m. Annual poster competition sponsored by The City of Frederick's Office of Special Events. This year's submissions will be exhibited in the F&M Gallery. In the Kline Gallery the Frederick Camera Clique will exhibit members' digital, black and white, and color photography. Information: 301-228-2844.

**Dec. 9 - Museums by Candlelight.** Noon to 5, Frederick County locations. 2-7 p.m.; City of Frederick locations. Self-guided tours of 20 museums. Special children's activities. Locally: National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; Catoctin Mountain Park; Cunningham Falls State Park Visitor Center and Catoctin Furnace.

### Stage

**Through Dec. 30 - "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol."** 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 3 p.m. matinees on Dec. 16 and 23. Village Dinner Theater at Gettysburg; Patriot Point Village, 241 Steinwehr Avenue. Actor/playwright Tom Mula. Marley's spin on Dickens' famous Christmas tale. Tickets: adults - \$29.50; seniors, students, past and present military; folks in period clothing - \$26.50. Information and reservations: 1-800-570-4590. [www.patriotpoint.us](http://www.patriotpoint.us).

**Dec. 9, 15, 16 - "Bill W. and Dr. Bob."** Gettysburg Stage. Keefauver Center, 157 Lefever St., Gettysburg. By Samuel Shem and Janet Surrey. The founding of Alcoholics Anonymous came from one man's courage and determination, with support from some, criticism from others, and a personal vision of salvation for thousands of addicted drinkers. Tickets: \$10-\$20. Information or reservations: 1-866-859-5192 or e-mail [gettysburgstage@hotmail.com](mailto:gettysburgstage@hotmail.com).

Call 717-642-8211 or 800-548-8504  
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Comedian Dave Reilly - March 24, 2007  
Ronnie Dove Concert - April 28, 2007  
Kelly Bell Band - May 25, 2007

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# Community Calendar

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Dec. 10 – Holiday Tour of Homes.** Noon to 5 p.m. Five homes in the Fairfield area will be decked out in seasonal finery. Included is a hand-hewn log artist's hideaway, along with four historic homes, including "Second Chance," a 3,000-sq.-ft. home originally built in the 1750s, with 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century additions. Tickets: \$15, two for \$25. English afternoon tea served at the Pecher Farm, an additional \$6. Purchase tickets the day of the tour or in advance at E-Plus Copy Center at Jubilee Foods - Emmitsburg; Gallery 30, Blue Parrot Bistro and Yellow Canary Market - Gettysburg; Fairfield Barber Shop - Fairfield; or call 717-642-5436 or 5815.

**Before Dec. 21 – Toys for Tots** is in need of new unwrapped toys to be delivered to 317 N. Church St., Thurmont, as soon as possible since the pick up for the toys to go out for Christmas is Dec. 21.

**Dec. 7-22 – Thurmont Lions Christmas Tree sales.** Ace Hard-ware parking lot, N. Church St. Monday through Friday, 4 to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Scotch and white pine, blue spruce and Douglas fir. Fundraiser for local youth activities in its 50<sup>th</sup> year. Information: 301-271-2800.

**Dec. 8 – Christmas open house at Men's Oasis.** 7 p.m. North Church Street, Thurmont. Gifts and prizes. Consider bringing a toy for Toys for Tots.

**Dec. 8 – Basement Coffee House.** 7 p.m. Elias Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg.

**Dec. 8 and 9 – ThorpeWood Holiday Open House.** Friday, 5-9 p.m., Saturday, 3-7 p.m. Light refreshments, a warm fire, seasonal music, and the beautifully decorated Christmas tree, with over 3,000 lights and many homemade decorations. Information and directions: 301-271-2823 or visit [www.thorpewood.org](http://www.thorpewood.org).

**Dec. 9 – Annual Thurmont Senior Christmas Party at Graceham.** Turkey and Oyster dinner \$12 per person. Reservations and information: 301-271-7911.

**Dec. 9 and 16 – Take and bake sale.** 9 a.m. to noon. Thurmont Community Ambulance Service. Take and bake apple dumplings and pies. Information: 301-271-3413.

**Dec. 9 – National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes "A Christmas Retreat: A Deeper Personal relationship with Jesus."** Noon. Directed by Father Bill McCarthy. Information: 301-447-5318.

**Dec. 9 – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Gettysburg Holiday House Tour.** Noon to 5 p.m. Visit ten area bed and breakfasts and three local homes. Information: 717-337-9058.

**Dec. 9 – St. Joseph's Parish Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.** 3:30 to 7 p.m. St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Emmitsburg. Adults \$7, children ages 6-12, \$4; children under 6, \$2. All proceeds will be donated to the Community Foundation fund in honor of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert Seidel III. Information: 301-695-3423.

**Dec. 9 – Oldies and Goodies Cookie Walk.** 9 a.m. to noon. Sponsored by Tom's Creek United Methodist (Snow date Dec. 16). Tom's Creek Church Rd,

off Rt. 140 Emmitsburg. Homemade Christmas cookies and candy at \$6.25 per pound. Information: 301-271-3260.

**Dec. 9 – Winter Wonderland Ball.** Teen dance from 7-10 p.m. Emmitsburg Ambulance Building, 300 S. Seton Ave. Semi-formal. Information: 301-447-2073.

**Dec. 11-13 – Thurmont Holiday Decorations Contest.** Decorate your home or business and you might win one of six prizes awarded by the town of Thurmont.

**Dec. 13 – Bare Forest Walk.** 5:30 to 7 p.m. Strawberry Hill Nature Center, 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield, Pa. Walk for adults and reasonably quiet children. Look for signs of the animals that are still active as winter approaches. Register by Dec. 12. Members free; non-members \$3.

**Dec. 18 – Emmitsburg Historical Society meeting.** 7 p.m. Emmitsburg Community Center.

**Dec. 19 – EBPA Christmas holiday dinner.** 6-7 p.m., cash bar. Followed by dinner. Carriage House Inn, Emmitsburg. For all EBPA members and guests. \$12 per person. RSVP to [bojean40@msn.com](mailto:bojean40@msn.com).

**Dec. 21 – New World Luncheon.** Noon. Thurmont Senior Center, 806 East Main Street. Help celebrate the Pilgrims' Landing in 1620.

**Dec. 21 – Third Thursday @ ThorpeWood.** 1 to 2:30 p.m. A holiday-themed story time. Plan to bake, decorate and eat cookies too. Reservations: 301-271-2823.



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...to celebrate the birth of Jesus



# Christmas Eve

## 4:30 PM Family Candlelight Service

(Worship time for parents and Happy Birthday Jesus Party for children)



## 7:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service

All are welcome! Register children for Birthday Party by calling 301-447-3740 and leave a message

# The Dispatch COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS Classifieds

100% market saturation in these area zip codes

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- 21757 - Keymar
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<p><b>Services</b></p> <p><b>ADKINS AUTO REPAIR</b> Foreign &amp; Domestic, ASE Certified Technician. 13035-C Brice Rd., Thurmont, MD 21788. Call for appointment: 301-271-0512.</p>	<p><b>Services</b></p> <p><b>HOMESCHOOL CLUB-EMMITTSBURG</b> Safe, supervised, after school homework assistance program and child care. Services provided for early/late starts, holidays, and emergency releases. Before care provided too. Siblings discount. Call 301-447-2660.</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE BY OWNER</b> As is. \$220,000. 1800s. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, spiral staircase. House is in Frederick County near the Ca-toctin Mountain Park and Michaux State Forest on 2.3 acres. House in need of some TLC but very livable. Fenced pasture with 6 stall barn and loft. For more information please call 301-241-4772</p>	<p><b>Misc. For Sale</b></p> <p><b>APPLIANCES</b> Whirlpool 4 burner Electric Range in good condition \$100 OBO. Chest Freezer in good condition \$100 OBO. Call 301-271-3806.</p>	<p><b>Misc. For Sale</b></p> <p><b>LOOKING FOR A HEALTHY WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM?</b> Introducing "CINCH" By SHAKLEE! YOU CAN: Keep muscle you have, burn fat you don't need, lose inches you don't want. Debbie, from Emmittsburg, says, "The CINCH plan came along at just the right time for me." She lost 12 lbs. and went down one dress size in approximately 6 weeks. Go to <a href="http://www.Cinchplan.com/JCE">www.Cinchplan.com/JCE</a> or call Jeanne 301-305-1466.</p>	<p><b>Wanted</b></p> <p><b>WILL PAY FINDERS FEE</b> Business work papers of Frederick County Surveyor, <b>Edmund K. Schroyer</b>, "Eddie" b 1876, d 1952. Especially survey work done for parcels west of Tower Road, around 1925 for Stanley Hauver, Potomac Hills Development Co. Contact M. Bassford 301-340-2824</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted</b></p> <p><b>GUEST SERVICE AGENT</b> Part-time evening and weekends. Apply in person. Sleep Inn Suites, Emmittsburg, Md.</p>	<p><b>Need Help?</b> Advertise here Ads are also seen in both online editions of <i>The Dispatch</i></p>

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<p><b>Dining</b></p> <p>Merry Christmas from everyone at <b>The Palms Restaurant</b> 16-20 W. Main St. Emmitsburg, MD 21727 301-447-3689 *Serving Breakfast, Lunch, &amp; Dinner *Daily Specials *Homemade Soups *Beer, Wine &amp; Cocktails Terry Ryder Doug Long</p>	<p><b>Feature Ad - Movie Theatre</b></p> <p><b>Village Stadium 10</b> located in the Gettysburg Village Outlet Center 1865 Gettysburg Village Drive Movie Hotline: 717-338-0101</p> <p><b>FRANK THEATRES</b> www.franktheatres.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Stadium Seating</li> <li>* Digital Surround Sound</li> <li>* High Back Rockers</li> <li>* Wall to Wall Screens</li> <li>* Group Rates</li> <li>* Birthday Parties</li> <li>* Student Discounts</li> <li>* and Bargain Matinees Daily!</li> </ul>		<p><b>Movie Listings</b></p> <p>Opening December 8 Apocalypto - Rated R Blood Diamond - Rated R The Holiday - Rated PG 13 Unaccompanied Minors - Rated PG</p> <p>Opening December 15 Charlotte's Web - Rated G Eragon - Rated PG 13 The Pursuit of Happiness - Rated PG 13</p> <p>Opening December 22 Rocky Balboa - Rated PG We are Marshall - Rated PG</p>
<p><b>Computer Services</b></p> <p>Computer Services of Emmittsburg, Inc. <b>CSE</b> Thomas Osborne A+ CERTIFIED Phone: 301-447-2093 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cseinc1@verizon.net">cseinc1@verizon.net</a></p>			

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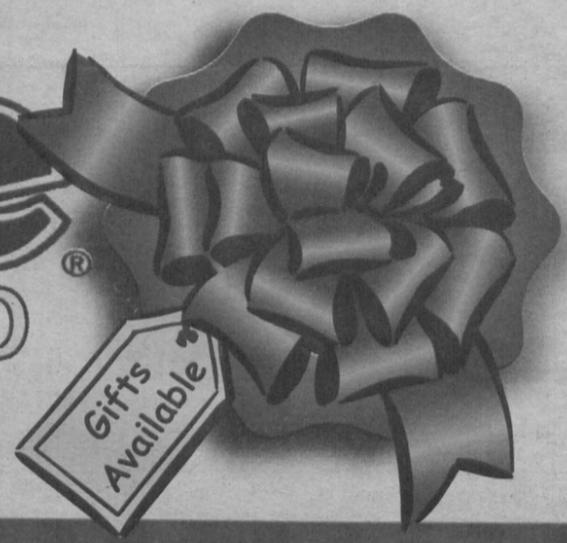
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Saturday, December 16th  
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Guess the  
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