DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE

THE BARNESVILLE TIDBIT

TOWN EVENTS
All town meetings or events are being conducted virtually or outdoors until further notice. Events at the town hall are suspended until gatherings are safe. Town meetings usually are held the third Monday of the month (4th Monday if 3rd Monday falls on a holiday). Events may be added to the schedule in addition to the events listed below. Check the website for more complete information. Contact clerk.bmd@gmail.com for zoom information.

Gingerbread House Decorating with Darina: December 12, 4 pm VIA Zoom. To register: https://forms.gle/R6QEzN3sUhnskvzZA

Barnesville Creates...Luminaries with Dalis: December 16, 4 pm Via Zoom. To register: https://forms.gle/R6QEzN3sUhnskvzZA

Visit from Santa and Caroling: December 19, 4 pm at Lillard’s Corner (Town Hall if inclement weather)

Contact Information:
Mildred Callear (Mayor): mildredcallear@gmail.com
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The Parsleys (Joanne, Chris, Andrew, and James) decorate for Halloween
COMMITTEE REPORTS

If you are interested in joining any of the committees, please contact the town clerk at clerk.bmd@gmail.com

**Beautification Committee:** The Beautification Committee consists of Lisa Hilton (Chair), Jane Thompson, Holly Larisch, and Jan Lillard Burdette. After weeding, watering, and mulching the new plantings at Lillard’s Corner, the Beautification Committee is taking a much-deserved break for the winter.

**Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission consists of Woody Bailey (Chair), Meg Menke, Judy Stone, Cynthia Jennings Field, and Mildred Callear. The Planning Commission did not meet over the summer. The Planning Commission will start up its meetings once it is tasked by the Commissioners on how to proceed with the recommendations made in the Master Plan. The Commission continues to review building permits and related matters.

**Sustainable Barnesville** (formerly the Green Team) is co-chaired by Joyce Bailey and Audrey Morris with Lauren Greenberger, Julee Evans, Jane Thompson, Anne Sturm, Linda Pepe, Tina Brown, Julie Super, Deb Dresser, and Carole Bewley as members.

The Sustainable Barnesville committee has been sharing ideas via email and will have its next meeting on Tuesday, January 11, at 7 pm, via Zoom. If anyone is interested in joining the group or has ideas to share, please contact them through the Town Clerk.

With some new residents joining us in town, and possibly new to properties where the homeowner must maintain a well and septic system, we are thinking of repeating two programs that the Town sponsored about 3 years ago. One would be an educational session (via Zoom) on septic systems – how they work and how to maintain them. The other would be a town-sponsored well water testing event. See the separate article on well water in this issue.

The committee is also looking into some educational programs about our local environment, possibly including a presentation on the bat population in our area (they eat mosquitoes!), a citizen science project where families can get involved by monitoring the environment through observing nature around us, a visit to a resident Barnesville vulture to learn about the role these birds play in our natural world, and a springtime walk around town to visit some of our most notable trees.

As the global community addresses ways to adapt to and reduce the impacts of climate change, the committee is always looking for ways to encourage our neighbors to make changes in their own daily habits to reduce our impact on the climate. The Town’s efforts to get sidewalks built throughout town are one effort – to reduce the need to use our cars for short trips around town. Many residents in town use low-impact yard maintenance practices – reducing the lawn area of their property, letting leaves decompose naturally rather than collecting them, and planting and maintaining their yards to create wildlife habitat and increase carbon sequestration. And we have several examples in town of greenhouse gas reduction efforts using solar panels, geothermal HVAC and electric vehicles. The Sustainable Barnesville committee will be sharing some of these “Best Practices” with our neighbors over the coming year.

**Community Connections Team:** The Community Connections Team consists of Susan Pearcy (Chair), Cherry Barr, Tina Brown, Dalis Davidson, Holly Larisch, Carol Perlmeter. Our Team is an outgrowth of the previous Event Committee. Our hopes are to provide activities for our Townspeople throughout the year but also try to provide links to other events in surrounding areas that might be of interest to you. We also are exploring sharing information in the form of a
Town Directory and also one that deals with services that are recommended by our neighbors. Many of us live in older homes that require a lot of work, both inside and out.

The Halloween decorating/carving contest was a success with 20 participants. We are looking forward to our holiday programs including Darina Callear hosting Gingerbread House-making on Dec. 12 and Dalis Davidson doing a demo on creating your own luminaries for your home on Dec. 16. We will also help Santa with gift bags.

These are some examples of the luminaries that Dalis will show us how to create. Here is the link to register for this event and the Gingerbread House-making with Darina. [Link](https://forms.gle/R6QEzN3sUhnSkvzZA).

In 2022 we plan on continuing our series on the history of Barnesville and its residents. Bill Hilton & his family have agreed to be future speakers. Also on the historical front, the year 2022 marks the 275th anniversary of the founding of the town. The Community Connections Team would like to work with the Commissioners and other Committees to celebrate this milestone.

Other possibilities for the new year are to continue doing some Valentine Crafts and the Chili Cook-off. Another suggestion was a conversation about relics we have found in our homes/backyards. Of course, we will have to wait and see if these programs will be virtual or in person. We hope to see our Facebook page be expanded and a resource for our community. We'd love to have your ideas for programs. Talk to one of our team members listed above.

**Traffic Committee:** The Traffic Committee is chaired by Jim Brown

According to Streethawk Traffic, Inc. we have averaged 75 tickets a month now that more people are going into work and students have returned to school. We have increased patrols to 8 from 6 a month due to the increased traffic. Speed. Stop sign blow through are decreasing but still occurring.

The town has appealed to County Highway for speed calming measures on the stretch of Barnesville heading toward Dickerson due to the deadly crash that occurred last month due to high speed. The County has responded that the letter was received and they will get back to the town regarding the action to be taken.
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

We are looking forward to this holiday season--from making gingerbread houses to luminaria to Santa's highly-anticipated visit. We hope to see as many of you as can make it on December 19 at 4 pm to sing some carols, greet Santa and bask in the glow from our newly lighted tree, complete with star on top. I must say, it was news to me that the star had all those lights, yet it has been up there for some time! I am glad we were able to put it back in commission. It is a treat to gather in person after all this time and we hope that the weather cooperates. If not, those who are willing can join us at the town hall where we will have access to a little heat! We have a lot of new residents in town and hope that you will have a chance to meet some of them including those children who have moved in this year and need to be sure that Santa has their new address!

It is this time of year that makes us all feel proud of our community and helps us remember what brings us together. Having our new town park as a backdrop for this event is also a first. Santa drove through Barnesville this time last year but didn't stop at the park. And Lillard's Corner really blossomed into being this past year as the plantings were added and came into their own. Let’s add this new gathering spot to our reasons to be grateful this season! We look forward to a new year full of promise and want to encourage everyone to join us for our regular monthly meetings as well as for meetings of the various committees and events that our community connections team is planning for the months to come.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Mildred Callear

NOTES FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

As winter sets in, and the landscape of Barnesville turns bare and stark in its beauty, we are usually inclined to find comfort in the warmth of our homes. I always welcome the excuse to put down my to-do list and read a book by the fire or play a game with my kids. On the other hand, it does take some exercise, fresh air, and sunlight to maintain good spirits all winter long, so I hope to run into you on a walk or picking up the mail. Please reach out if there is anything you need, or if you have ideas for projects in 2022. In the meantime, I wish you a restful holiday season, and blessings of health, peace, and joy. Best regards, Maria

As 2021 comes to a close I hope that a good year was had by all. Today it seems that COVID related challenges permeate almost every aspect of our daily lives, but that makes me all the more grateful for our town. There truly is nothing like relaxing with friends and family in our own little slice of heaven where these worries seem to slip away.

Happy Holidays to all and see you around town, Mike
Sidewalks: The Town continues to work with the County, SHA, and the landowner in getting a sidewalk built from the intersection of Barnesville and Beallsville Road to the Post Office.

American Rescue Plan: The Town received the first tranche of funds in September 2021. The Town is still awaiting the final Treasury guidance, expected in January, to determine how the money will be spent. Stormwater management appears to be the likely area; the town consultant, Doug Lohmeyer, is exploring assistance from the county in addressing stormwater issues.

Lillard's Corner: The growing season has ended and Lillard’s Corner has been tidied up for the winter by the amazing park volunteers including Holly Larisch, Jan Burdette, Julie Super, Jane Thompson, Tina Brown, Audrey Morris, Lauren Greenberger, Lisa Hilton and Joyce Bailey. Given the lack of rain this fall, you may have noticed these volunteers lugging water to the site to get the young plants established before they go dormant. Thank you to these volunteers for their efforts throughout the year. You may also notice that many flower stalks have been left in place, to feed the birds and provide some habitat for wildlife over the winter. The beds will be mowed down just before spring.

The town has replaced the lights on the town tree for the holiday season – and repositioned the lighted star at the top! Lillard’s Corner will be the site of this year’s town holiday celebration on December 19. This will be the first use of the park for a community event, bringing the town together at Lillard’s Corner just as intended.

Building Permit Facts: Any new construction, whether you are building a new house or renovating, adding on, or building an accessory building, requires a permit from both Montgomery County and the Town of Barnesville. "Every applicant must submit two requests because:

(a) the Town regulates zoning and land uses, (b) the County regulates compliance with all building and safety codes, including well and septic.

The County staff will not start its review of construction details until the Town has reviewed and approved the application required by Barnesville."

To build a new house, you need at least four acres as defined in the Barnesville Zoning Ordinance. Generally, Barnesville allows single-family homes with accessory buildings (barns and garages). Standards such as size and siting requirements are found in the Zoning Ordinance. For more information, and for the Building Permit Form, go to barnesvillemd.org/plans-and-codes and barnesvillemd.org/forms on the town’s website (www.barnesvillemd.org)

TOYS FOR WUMCO

Please donate new, unwrapped toys for children 12 and under or store gift cards (Target, Kohls) for teens to the box located outside Town Hall until December 12. Town clerk also will be available to receive gifts on Saturday, December 11.
The Troutdeau family (yellow house on Beallsville Road near the train station) consists of Cat, Alex, Corwin (18), Keaton (12), Ellie (10). They moved here recently from Potomac, but are still relatively new to the region having moved here from Atlanta, GA, in 2017. Alex works at AstraZeneca in oncology analytics. He is an avid runner, so there's a good chance you've already seen him running on the roadside around town. He placed 2nd at the recent Poolesville Day 5K. Cat teaches AP Environmental Science and Physics at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac. She used to coach the school’s JV softball team, having pitched at the collegiate level. This year she’s focusing on helping with pitching coaching at the school and with Ellie's team. Corwin is finishing his senior year at Churchill, and is an avid volleyball player. He is currently making his college decision, weighing both academic and volleyball opportunities. Keaton is a 7th grader at John Poole Middle, where he runs cross country and plays euphonium in the band. Ellie is a 4th grader at Monocacy. She is looking forward to singing in the chorus and is currently playing her first season of softball with the local rec team. They are homebodies by nature, so a fun day for them is relaxing around the house and enjoying a family meal together on the patio. They are eager to get to know their neighbors, help out where they can, and get their younger kids connected with local friends.

The Boren family moved to Barnesville (across Old Hundred Road from Town Hall) in July from Takoma Park and are loving the beautiful area. Zach specializes in workforce development and registered apprenticeship programs at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. Liz is a nurse at the National Institutes of Health. They have two daughters. Lucy, 8, is a third-grader at Monocacy Elementary School and enjoys reading, horseback riding, and art. Violet is 3 and attends preschool at The Barnesville School and loves animals. The family also has a dog, Baxter, and three chickens-- Sarah, Charlotte, and Taco. They look forward to getting to know their new Barnesville neighbors!

Christine Jordan and her husband, Cory Bryant moved to Barnesville (corner of Barnesville Road and West Harris Road) in May of 2021 with their two dogs. They were both born and raised in Montgomery County. Christine works for a labor union in Washington, DC, and Cory does IT work for the government. They are both mostly working from home right now. Their dogs are Moose and Tuesday. They are both very friendly despite the fact that they bark at almost everyone passing by. Cory enjoys checking out the mountain bike trails in the area. They both like to travel and spend time with family and friends. When they were looking to buy their first house together, they never expected it to be in Barnesville, but they stumbled upon this really, really old house, and fell in love!

A warm welcome to all the new families!
The Rustic Route Coffee roasting business officially opened on September 7, 2021. It took Robin Snider about a year from the time her coffee roasting machine arrived in October 2020 to the time it took to obtain all the necessary permits from the County and the Town of Barnesville. Located on the bottom floor of the family barn at the corner of Beallsville and Barnesville roads, the roasting room is both industrial-looking and warmly inviting. Robin shared a little of her background and her hopes for her new business over a cup of coffee.

Robin was born in Kensington and traveled with her family to Switzerland as part of her father’s employment. While living in Switzerland, Robin became fascinated with the hospitality industry and the process involved in making guests feel welcome. The Snider family moved to Barnesville when Robin was in 10th grade, and she graduated from Poolesville High School. Robin graduated from Virginia Tech in 2007 with a degree in Hospitality and Tourism. In 2008 Robin enrolled in the Hilton training program in Arizona. She finished the program right around the time of the 2008 crash which limited the number of full-time jobs available. Robin returned to the DC area and worked at Martin's Caterer's in Prince Georges County for a few years and then at The Barnesville School as a Fundraiser and Event Planner. Right before the pandemic hit, Robin went back to her foodie roots and started working at the Watershed Café in Poolesville. There, she became interested in the process of making a great cup of coffee.

When the pandemic started, she bought a little machine as a project that she thought would be fun. She soon realized that a coffee roasting business could fulfill her dreams. Robin wanted to create a fresh simple process in which people can smell and experience coffee as close to its origins as possible. She bought a larger machine, although it is still considered a hobby-size machine, from Mill City Roasters. Robin hired a lawyer to help her with setting up a business and obtaining all the necessary permits. The Sniders added piping to the building according to County regulations but all else was determined to be up to code. While there is no machine noise heard from outside the barn, Robin occasionally checks with her neighbor just to make sure.

Robin purchases coffee beans from Genuine Origin, a major coffee importer who works directly with small sustainably farmed cooperatives in Ethiopia and Colombia. People often ask if the coffee is organic. Although most of the beans are grown in organic conditions, the cost of labeling the products as organic is prohibitive. Robin roasts coffee once a week. The process, which takes about 15-20 minutes for 5 lbs. of beans, was originally done by trial and error. She meticulously kept track of details involved in roasting – what the season is, what the temperature is – to see the effect it has on the roasting process. The moisture level in each bean is different and she made adjustments accordingly. After roasting, the beans are set aside for 24 hours for the carbon dioxide to be released. Coffee beans are 80% acid. The darker the roast the less acid because there is more of a breakdown.

The process of creating a business has been a community effort – family and friends helped with the name and designing the logo and bag. Other friends have taken professional photographs to be used for the website and other marketing. She is working with others in designing a strategy to increase subscriptions. Rustic Route Coffee is locally available at Calleva Store, Locals, K2 Café and Thanksgiving Farms. You can also order whole bean coffee from her website: www.rusticroutecoffee.com Robin delivers her coffee within a 10-mile radius. To answer the often asked question about why she doesn't grind the coffee, Robin encourages people to buy a home grinder as the best quality coffee should be sipped when freshly ground. Decaf coffee and espresso beans have just been added to the menu of available choices.

Robin loves being involved in the process of bringing food to the broader community. In addition to her website, make sure you check out her Facebook and Instagram page.
BARNESVILLE'S NEW POSTMASTER

Welcome to Barnesville's new postmaster, Melinda Roybal – better known as Lindy. Lindy moved here from the San Francisco Bay area about 4 years ago. Lindy grew up in the Bay area and has two sisters and one brother. She has three children: her daughter lives in this area, one son lives in Idaho, and one in California. Lindy has worked in many professions: she worked in a bank for many years, as a daycare worker, an assistant pre-school teacher, and as the assistant to the head of Chobani Yogurt. When Lindy's daughter and son-in-law moved to this area to pursue their master’s degrees, Lindy decided to join them. Her daughter, who was a letter carrier at one time, suggested Lindy apply to work for the Postal Service. So, she did. Lindy started to work in the Poolesville Post Office two and a half years ago and she still helps the Poolesville post office one morning a week. She started as the Barnesville Postmaster about 6 months ago and loves the community here.

She currently lives in Germantown but will soon be moving to Mt. Airy. Her daughter and son-in-law recently purchased a large home that will allow Lindy and her husband to have plenty of space for themselves and their dogs (a golden retriever and malty-poo). Yes, Lindy has a lot going on in the next few months. She got married on November 22 and will formally be known as Melinda Roybal-Kingfield. In addition, she will be welcoming her first grandchild on December 27. Welcome, Lindy, and we look forward to seeing you after you return from your honeymoon.

WELL WATER – PROVIDING YOUR OWN WATER SUPPLY

As homeowners in and around Barnesville, we each maintain our wells and treat any issues that come up in our water supply. For a full education on well water, please see the Maryland Extension website at: https://extension.umd.edu/resource/understanding-and-maintaining-private-wells

A couple of common issues that we see and treat in our well water locally are:

• Bacteria – due to the livestock in the Agricultural Reserve around us, the bacteria level in our well water is often above the healthy range. This can be treated in a couple of different ways.

• Acidic water – often our water has a low PH level. This is obvious in your home if you see green stains on your porcelain plumbing fixtures or other places where water sits. Acidic water will cause your copper pipes and other fixtures in your home to deteriorate. Again, this can be treated inside your home.

The first step to determine your individual situation is to obtain a test of your well water. Normally the costs related to a well water test by an independent lab (as opposed to a company that is trying to sell a water treatment system) include a site visit fee to get the sample as well as the basic testing cost. Three years ago, the town reduced the cost to homeowners by obtaining the test kits and having people collect their own sample, with the Sustainable Barnesville committee organizing the delivery of the samples to the lab. This saved everyone the site visit fee. This is a voluntary program and your results will be sent to you privately. If you are interested in having your well water tested at a reduced cost, there will be a sign-up sheet in the post office in January. The costs will be outlined on that sheet.
MAKING CIDER
By William Price

Cherry and I purchased the vintage cider press about 35 years ago at an antique store in Virginia on a road trip. It was used several times but ultimately ended up in front of the office where for years the cider press bucket was the drop point for tax returns. Eventually, it decayed to the point that the pieces were hauled off to the barn. A few years ago a restoration was completed with the help of Garland Johnson. Remembering making cider as a kid, I thought it would be fun to share the experience. Here is what making cider in Barnesville looks like. All had a good time -- no fingers were crushed and no bee stings were reported.

Sugarloaf Mountain Treasured Landscape
By Tina Brown

Sugarloaf Mountain, the only real mountain in the Maryland Piedmont region, and the surrounding farmland and forest are treasured resources for Barnesville residents and a defining element of Frederick County's scenic and rural landscape. Ecologically diverse, the mountain and surrounding rural landscape contain high biodiversity and ecologically significant wildlife habitat.

The Frederick County Planning Commission (FCPC) currently is reviewing future land use and zoning regulations for 17,630 acres that define the Sugarloaf Mountain landscape north of the Agricultural Reserve. Barnesville has been following developments with updates from Sugarloaf Citizens Association. The Barnesville Planning Commission has written in support of Natural Resource Protection, Conservation, and the surrounding rural communities.

A 490-acre area located on the west side of I270 near the interchange of I270 and MD Route 80 (Fingerboard Road) has been zoned as rural, agricultural, and considered as an extension of the Sugarloaf Mountain since the 1950s. This area recently was carved out (behind closed doors) from the Sugarloaf Plan's proposed "Rural Heritage Overlay Zone ("the Zone") as a result of a lobbying effort on the part of an Urbana developer who owns a large parcel in the carve-out. Notably, the FCPC refers to the developer's land and adjacent properties west of 270, as a potential “Urbana Community Growth Area.” Area residents objected to the carve-out. After an onslaught of letters and public meetings, FCPC reversed course and returned the carved-out land back into the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan (“Plan”). After reversing the decision, FCPC made it clear that the entire 176-page "Plan" is subject to change, including boundary changes.

FCPC will vote on changes to the "Plan" in the coming weeks. After review, a public hearing will be held to assess whether substantial changes are warranted. Then the plan next goes to the Frederick County Council for a vote. Area residents have proposed that "Zone" boundaries be extended to the Monocacy National Battlefield. The 176-page plan is available at Frederick Counties’ website https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/8046/Sugarloaf-Area-Plan. You can comment at the Planning Commission Public Hearing and email staff at: PlanningCommission@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Please speak up on behalf of our Sugarloaf Mountain Treasured Landscape, a natural extension of our town.
BARNESVILLE’S PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

The Winners

Results on the following page.
PUMPKIN DECORATING
CONTEST 2021

Ages:2-6
Vincent Wagner – Happiest
Connor Bell -Silliest
Violet Boren-Cutest
Katherine Gannon - Spookiest
Olivia Gannon -Scariest

Ages 7-11
Lucy Boren– Silliest
Malcolm Slotta-Spookiest
Ellie Trouteaud-Cutest
James Parsley – Most Creative

Ages 12-15
Gwen Slotta – Cutest
Andrew Parsley - Most Contemporary
Keaton Trouteaud – Spookiest
Teddy Slotta)-Silliest

Ages 16-21
Corwin Trouteaud – Spookiest
Valerie Sullivan-Cutest
Nick Spano -Silliest

Over 21
Joanne Parsley-Cutest
Marina Callear-Spookiest
Darina Callear- Most Country
William Price-Silliest

BARNESVILLE BOOK CORNER

Clare Smith, The Barnesville Book Corner’s editor, asked Emily Abbott, a friend from Clare’s teaching days in Morteau, France, for suggestions.

The Secret to Superhuman Strength (graphic novel) is a humorous and honest meditation on how we relate to our bodies. From the bestselling author of memoirs Fun House and Are You My Mother! (by Alison Bechdel)

Infinite Country explores the ties between members of a family torn apart by the border in a rich and emotionally-charged writing style. Engels’ descriptions of landscapes are well worth the detour! (By Patricia Engels)

Piranesi is a timeless, placeless fantasy told by a strangely endearing narrator. The story is a peculiar one but makes for a delightfully surprising read. (By Susanna Clarke)

Nancy Mitford’s Pursuit of Love is a charming autobiography about a declining English aristocratic family and two of the younger girls’ quest for true love. The cast of characters with all of their quirks and mannerisms invites the reader to really feel like part of the family.
William Price, Buddy Price’s son, remembers helping his father carry out this tradition when he was about 10 years old. His father used the beaters and William poured in the whiskey. Buddy Price made the eggnog for an after-midnight-mass party at St. Mary’s. The Price’s have an advent dinner every year and the party didn’t start until Buddy Price brought his egg nog. William has continued the tradition. Buddy Price was a true Barnesvillian - born, raised and died in this town.

Buddy Price’s Christmas Egg Nog
Separate 1 dozen eggs into 2 large mixing bowls (one very large). Beat whites until stiff, set aside. Beat yolks well-gradually add 2/3 cup confectioner’s sugar. Beat well. Add 1 quart bourbon (Virginia Gentlemen) very slowly – on a steady narrow stream. Mixing all the time. You may need another pair of hands for this. If you add bourbon too fast, it will cook the eggs.

Add gradually, 3 ounces apricot or any other brandy; 2- or 3-ounces rum and mix well. Add 4 quarts milk. Fold in egg whites, sprinkle with nutmeg. Let season in a cold place for at least an hour before serving. Serve in cups and sprinkle nutmeg on top. Keeps well in the refrigerator in milk cartons – but be sure to label them so kids won’t it on their cereal!

Pinkie Smith’s Bars
Pinkie and Dr. Gordon Smith lived in Susan Pearcy’s House from 1950 - 1985. Her son, Tim, remembers his mother making these bars and how everyone loved them. He highly recommends adding walnuts. Here is the recipe for Pinkie Smith’s Bars as it appeared in St. Peter’s Sugarloaf Cookery Book.

2/3 c. shortening
1 lb. brown sugar
3 eggs
2 ¾ c. flour
1 c. nuts
2 ½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
1 large pkg. chocolate chips