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"EXALTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION" —EDWARD R. MURROW

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Town 'Books' Better Than Expected

Conservative spending because of the uncertainty with COVID pays off. **Page 2**

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Humor

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Lawsuits disrupt candidates' primary plans

Lawsuits resulting from the gerrymandering of state delegate district boundaries have thrown a monkey wrench in the plans of many who had hopes to run in the upcoming June primary.

Ordinarily, candidacy papers must be submitted by February, however, due to court challenges to the congressional and legislative maps, candidacy deadlines for all races have been extended by a month to March 22 according to the Frederick County Board of Elections.

In December, the Democratic controlled Maryland Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission released a proposed legislative redistricting plan designed to shore up vulnerable Democrats and create a opportunities for Democrats to pick up more seats — despite already holding supermajorities in both the House of Delegates and Senate.

Under the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission maps, Fredrick County, which currently encompasses one district sending three Republican Delegates to Annapolis, will find itself divided, with the Democratic southern part of the County now its own district and the northern part of the

County, comprising Emmitsburg & Thurmont, combined into a Washington County centered district.

In response, Maryland Republican Governor Larry Hogan created the multi-partisan Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw up non-gerrymandered congressional and legislative maps. Under Hogan's plan, all of northern Frederick County would be made into a single Delegate District, mirroring the new County Council District 5, which encompasses Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Woodsboro and Walkersville.

Normally at this time, candidates would be out campaigning in earnest for the June primary, but with the uncertainty at the outcome of the lawsuit on legislative boundaries, and the possibility that the extended deadline will bring out additional candidates, many announced and potential candidates are scratching their heads as to what to do next. Candidates are torn between the need to start campaigning or to hold back and save money until such time as they know who will be their respective opponents.

While the State races are in chaos, Frederick County government races are beginning to



Brad Young's entry into the County Council-At-Large race was welcomed by Democrats who hope to retain the seat currently occupied by Kai Hagen.

take shape. Yet unless something changes, there will be little incentive for many to get out and vote come June.

The only real 'horserace' this year is on the Democratic side of the County Executive race, where Daryl Boffman, Jessica Fitzwater and Kia Hagen are vying for the slot to take on the sole Republican candidate Michael Hough, who, without an opponent, will automatically advance to the general election.

In the race for the two County Council-at-Large seats, Phil Dacey & Dylan Diggs are the sole candidates on the Republican ticket, with Renee Knapp and Brad Young

on the Democratic Ticket. Unless someone else joins these races, all four will also automatically advance to the general election in November.

In the County Council District Five race, Julianne Lufkin is running unopposed on the Democratic slate, while the current Councilman Michael Blue is being challenged by a high school student in the Republican Primary.

In just about every other race, from Sheriff to Clerk of Court, there is only one candidate per party for each race. Only the school board primary offers any opportunity for excitement ... more on that next month.

Historical Society works to expand membership

Although slowed by the pandemic, the Fairfield Area Historical Society is up and running. The Society started as a Civil War Sesquicentennial committee and morphed into the historical society known today in 2015.

The society acquires and catalogs artifacts and information with local historical significance of the boroughs of Fairfield and Carroll Valley as well as the townships of Hamiltonban and Liberty. Membership benefits include supervised access to the collection of the Society at no charge, as well as discounts on products and activities sponsored by the society.

The most exciting aspect of working with the society, FAHS President Camille Cline says, are looking at the deeds that the society has collected. Some of them date all the way back to properties from the mid 1800's, "it's amazing to see how today's property lines changed over time, and discover names that have long disappeared into history."

The society is always looking for new members and history buffs of all kinds to join in their crusade and lead as program present-

ers. "I am always willing to learn and listen. We want this society to be more than just about the Civil War," Cline said.

The society is active in the community and has commissioned professional town studies and aims to hold four publicly engaging programs a year. The first of which will be the hosting of the 'Victorian Historian,' Adam Shefts, March 17, at the Fairfield town Hall.

Shefts leads participants in a grandiose escapade portraying glimpses of the Victorian days of the late nineteenth century. Partake in a one-of-a-kind journey into the unique, fascinating, and sometimes shocking facts, stories, and happenings to come out of America's Victorian and Edwardian eras.

Daily events and happenings showcased by the Historian occurred country-wide during the Victorian era including spirit communication seances and could very likely have happened right in Fairfield, society President Camille Cline said.

Shefts' passion for American history spans the Civil War through



If the Fairfield Historical Society has its way, residents will soon have stories that go along with pictures like this.

the sinking of the Titanic so most topics range between the 1860s and 1912, though some subject matter may occasionally pre-date the 1860s. Categories covered by Shefts include everything from common trends, natural disasters, to criminal masterminds of the era.

If you've ever wondered about the amount of arsenic dolled by

fashionable Victorian women, criminal masterminds, or regular superstitions taken to heart during that era, then Sheft's presentation will be right up your alley.

More information about the FAHS and membership can be found at www.fairfieldpahistoricalociety.org and by calling 717- 642-5640.

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