Winter 2016
January, February
& March

Burkittsville News

DATES TO WATCH
Events & Notices

TOWN MEETINGS
Second Monday of each month 7 pm at the Ruritan. Want to know what's going on? This is a good place to start!

PLANNING & ZONING
P&Z Meets on **the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm** at the South Mountain Heritage Society, 3 East Main Street.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP
Will be the mornings of **Jan. 12th & 16th**, please make sure all lights & decorations are removed, and that the trees are on the curb by 6 am. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING
Recycle your old lights! How? Bring old lights to MOM's Organic Market, 5273 Buckeystown Pike, where the free drop-off will run **until Jan. 31st**. Questions? Call 240-566-1444.

COUNTRY BUTCHERING
Fri., January 22, 8 am - 6 pm
Sat., January 23, 8 am - Noon
The Burkittsville Ruritan Club will hold a Country Butchering at the Ruritan Community Center, 500 East Main Street. Quality pork products!
Advance orders due by Sunday, January 17.
Call 301-371-7795.

COUNTRY BREAKFAST
All You Can Eat!
Sat., January 23, 6 am - 10 am
The Burkittsville Ruritan Club will hold a Country Breakfast at the Ruritan Community Center, 500 East Main Street. The menu includes fresh sausage, sausage gravy, puddin, hominy, scrambled eggs, pancakes, coffee, orange juice, and milk. Cost is $7.00 for adults, $4.00 for children (ages 6-12), and under age six free.

Comprehensive Plan: Complete and Approved

The Mayor and Council of Burkittsville, Maryland, are pleased to announce that the Comprehensive Plan for 2015-2035 was approved and adopted at the Dec. 14th, 2015 town meeting. This project, which has been ten years in the works, is now completed, approved and recorded.

The Mayor and Council would like to thank the current Planning and Zoning Commission, the two previous Planning and Zoning Commissions, our Environmental Management and Code Enforcement Admin and all the citizens who gave freely of their time and talent to help with this important task. The State requires that Comprehensive Plans be updated; because of these hard-working people, Burkittsville was not the last Municipality to submit this document to the Maryland State Government.

Without a current Comprehensive Plan, Burkittsville could not continue to be *Burkittsville*. This accomplishment shapes the neighborhood, community and future of our town. Thank you all!

The Comp. Plan is available upon a written request to the Town Office or online at www.burkittsville-md.gov under the Government link.

A direct link to the Comp. Plan (without a history of hearings or workshops) can be found here:

http://burkittsville-md.gov/Comprehensive-Plan-2015-2035.php

Before you Build…

Apply to the **Burkittsville Planning and Zoning Commission**, via Town Office, PO Box 485, Burkittsville, MD 21718

This step is necessary before filing with Frederick County.

Tale of our Tiny Turnpike

"**Claggett's Station**" was a stop on the Washington County Branch of the B&O Railroad, which connected the mainline to Hagerstown. Collection of SMHS

The word "turnpike" conjures up many thoughts. Some may think of modern toll roads like the Pennsylvania Turnpike, while others might consider some of our nation's earliest public roads, like the National Pike (Rt. 40A), which winds its way through the Middletown Valley. Few would ever consider that such a road existed in Burkittsville…

George Alfred "Gath" Townsend began purchasing land atop South Mountain in Crampton's Gap in the 1880s while working on his novel *Katy of Catoctin*. While many of the buildings were still being constructed on the large estate in 1892, Gath, along with other local business leaders, planned the construction of a turnpike to connect the western edge of the estate to the train depot in Claggett's Station, a mile distant in Pleasant Valley. The Hagerstown *Herald and Torch Light* reported on Nov. 3, 1892 that the Gapland Turnpike Company had been incorporated with $3,000.00 in capital stock, divided into shares of $20.00 each. **The road was to be thirty feet wide with 15 feet macadamized.**

Were we home to the smallest turnpike in the United States?

Though Gath's name would be the one most associated with the turnpike locally and in the press, the company's incorporators included several prominent citizens of Burkittsville. The largest stockholder in the company was Gath himself, with 51 shares. Closely behind him was Burkittsville's **John D. Ahalt**, proprietor of the Mountain Spring or "Ahalt's" Distillery with 50 shares.

Turnpike *continued page 2*

DATES TO WATCH

Artist Margaret Kennedy's Solo Show at The Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center
Sat., Jan 30th - Sun. Feb. 28th
Reception Sat., Feb. 6, 3-5 pm
Regular hours: 9-5 pm M-Sat., Sundays 11-5 pm Free
40 South Carroll Street, Frederick City. Please use the parking garage, the kind people at the Delaplaine are very sad to see you towed.

FOOD & CLOTHING DRIVE
Sun., Feb. 14 & Sun., Feb. 21
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5 E. Main Street.

COUNTRY BUTCHERING
Fri., March 11, 8 am- 6 pm &
Sat., March 12, 8 am - Noon
The Burkittsville Ruritan Club will hold a Country Butchering at the Ruritan Community Center, 500 East Main Street. Your chance to buy quality pork products, place your order soon! **Advance orders due by Sunday, March 6, 2016.** Call 301-371-7795.

COUNTRY BREAKFAST
All you can eat!
Sat., March 12, 6 am - 10 am
The Burkittsville Ruritan Club will hold a Country Breakfast at the Ruritan Community Center, 500 East Main Street. The menu includes fresh sausage, sausage gravy, puddin, hominy, scrambled eggs, pancakes, coffee, orange juice, and milk. Cost is $7.00 for adults, $4.00 for children (ages 6-12), and under age six free.

EASTER EGG HUNT
Sat., March 26th,
Food: 12 pm, Egg Hunt: 1 pm
Rain or Shine!
Meet inside the Ruritan Community Center, 500 East Main Street, for free hot dogs and other goodies at noon. Make sure your child has a bag or basket to gather up eggs, the hunt begins at 1 pm sharp! This event is open to children 1-12 yrs old. Prizes are awarded in 3 age categories.

YARD WASTE
Is collected on the first Tuesday of each month.

Burkittsville Wants You

to think about joining Town Government, or to talk to a neighbor you think would be great for the town's future.

The Nominating Convention and Elections are coming up in Spring/Summer of 2016. Start thinking about it now, and watch for more information!

Any time of year is the right time to think about the Burkittsville Backyard Produce Exchange- share recipes, seedlings, garden plans and compare methods of putting food by. Drop by facebook to join in- www.facebook.com/groups/BurkittsvilleBackyardProduceExchange

Open to Burkittsville residents. Sign on, sign up, say hello toa new way of sharing!

Thank You, Adopt-A-Road Volunteers!

For the last six years, four times a year, a few dedicated Burkittsville residents have cleared trash from Gapland Road. Thanks go out to all the 2015 Adopt-A-Road Volunteers, your work makes a difference not only to the appearance of the land and our community, but to the health of Maryland's environment.

Have you ever wondered ...

how Fire Protection works in Burkittsville?

Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., The Fighting Fifth, Frederick County, MD is comprised of 100% Volunteers. In cooperation with First Hose Company of Boonsboro, Rohersville Substation, the BVFD protects Burkittsville.

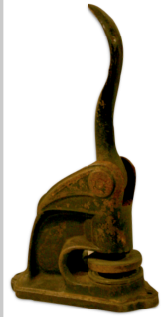
Let's show our support of these brave men and women. Many events are held each month to fund their efforts. Learn more about the company itself and how we can show our appreciation at www.BVFD5.org visit them on Facebook www.facebook.com/The-Brunswick-Volunteer-Fire-Company-143178233683/ or call (301) 834-8300 to ask a volunteer about Bingo and other community events.

Turnpike *continued from page 1*

David M. Whipp, a farmer who lived where the Char-Mar Dairy Farm is now located held 41 shares and **George C. Huffer**, storeowner in Burkittsville, held 11 shares.

For Burkittsville's industrialists and businessmen, the turnpike meant easier transport of their goods to the railroad. In the 1890s, access to the railroad from Burkittsville meant going down the valley over six miles to Brunswick or crossintg the mountain via a narrow, rough road to Claggett's Station (modern-day Gapland) in Washington County. Even with paying a toll, the ease of transporting goods to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad's Washington County Branch line **meant increased profits.**

Construction of the road was slow and difficult, owing to the steep and rocky terrain of the mountain. The Frederick *Daily News* reported in 1893 that "the mountain stone was found hard and expensive to break," so to accommodate expanding costs, the turnpike's stock was increased to $5,000.00. A part of the construction process included building the toll house which served as the main office for the company and a residence for the toll keeper. This building still stands today, located where Gapland and Townsend Roads divide just over the mountain from Burkittsville (where **Van Gilder Pottery** is located). One of the tollgate keepers for the turnpike was **Mrs. Ida Rohrback Stover** from Locust Valley.



"Seal Embosser"

A cast iron seal embosser, used to notarize stock certificates for the Gapland Turnpike.

Collection of SMHS

The life of the turnpike company was short and tumultuous. In 1905, **Judge Martin Luther Keedy** of Hagerstown ordered the turnpike to cease collection of tolls until the road could be upgraded and repaired. Apparently the company was not able to make sufficient repairs. Judge Keedy again ordered a cease to toll collection in 1907. A year later in 1908, the court abolished the turnpike company, ordering that the tollgates be removed and turning the road's care over to Washington County. At least one effort was made to reorganize the company in 1911, but to no avail. Gath left Gapland in 1911 heavily indebted and died while living with his daughter in New York City in 1914. The company's other largest stockholder, John D. Ahalt, died in 1916.

Turnpike *continued page 3*

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Margaret Kennedy

A Retrospective

Jan. 30 - Feb. 28, 2016

Margaret Kennedy, the artist who established Brushmark Studio in Burkittsville during December of 1988, will be featured in a solo show at The Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center this February.

Opening on January 30, the show's official reception will be on Sat., February 6, from 3-5 pm at 40 South Carroll Street, Frederick.. Free and open to the public, the reception will include light refreshments and good company.

The exhibit includes a range of paintings and mixed-media canvases that Margaret created while living here in Burkittsville.

Hailing from Rochester, NY, Margaret traveled to Oberlin College, OH, where she studied art and art history. She earned her MA, concentrating on printmaking with a specialty in engraving. In addition to her other studies, Margaret explored the art of stained glass.

Margaret attained her MFA from the University of Wisconsin, pursuing her interest in black and white images through drawing, wood cut, and especially lithography.

The move from black and white to color was a natural one for Margaret, who ventured back to working with stained glass during the 60's and 70's. From cutting, painting, firing and leading, Margaret created an entire complement of stained glass windows for six churches in the U.S., designing and fabricating even more from her studio in Indiana. Among other accomplishments, in 1983 Margaret earned her Master of Divinity degree at Earlham College in Richmond, IN, where she also taught art. She taught art at five other colleges and universities in the Midwest and was on the Fine Arts faculty at FCC, Frederick,, MD.

In the 1980's, Margaret's media shifted again; with the inspiration of the New York School of Abstract Expressionists and California Bay area artists, she moved first to oil painting, then to acrylics and collage, with which she creates powerful, abstract art. Acrylics from her Burkittsville years ('87-present), typified in part by blocks of bold, rich color and inspired composition, will be on display in this upcoming exhibit.

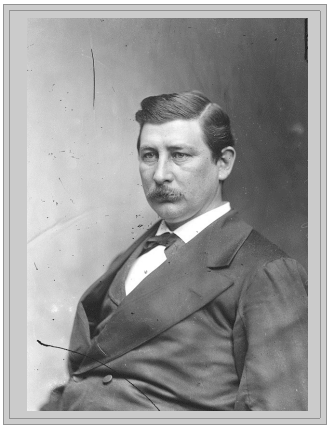
Experience her talent for yourself- February, Mon-Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-5, at the Delaplaine! Visit the center www.delaplaine.org or call 301.698.0656 to learn about other offerings.

Turnpike *continued from page 2*

Despite its short-lived operation, the Gapland Turnpike holds a unique place in Burkittsville history. Some historians have cited it as the shortest turnpike to ever operate in the country. The road was certainly among the shortest turnpikes in the State of Maryland. Today, we drive over the old turnpike when crossing South Mountain, passing the beautifully preserved toll house which is built from the same native mountain stone "**Gath**" used in all of his buildings.

Mr. Jody Brumage, *Vice President, Historian and Curator, SMHS, is a quarterly contributor to the Burkittsville News.*

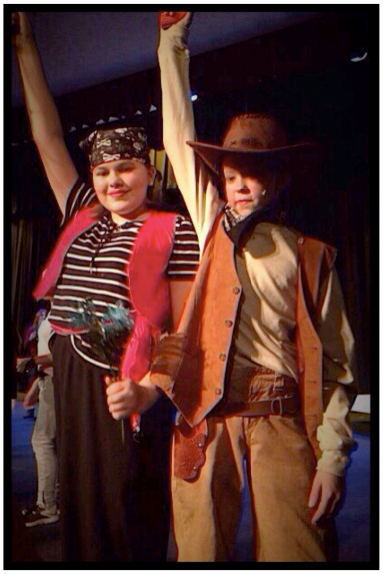
See www.southmountainheritagesociety.org and http://eyewitnessburkittsville.wordpress.com for more glimpses into the future of Burkittsville's history.



"George Alfred Townsend"

George Alfred "Gath" Townsend, circa 1880.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress



These Shows Had Spirit!

This fall many Burkittsville children were in plays. Kaz Stronge and other talented local kids were in Brunswick Middle School's production of *Night at the Wax Museum* in November.

In December, several of our aspiring Burkittsville actors took part in Brunswick High School's play, *A Christmas Carol*. Burkittsville children certainly are interested in the theater!

Auditions were just held for Valley's play, *Aladdin and his Wonderful, Magical Lamp*. The play will take place Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12.

Left: Scene from *Night at the Wax Museum*

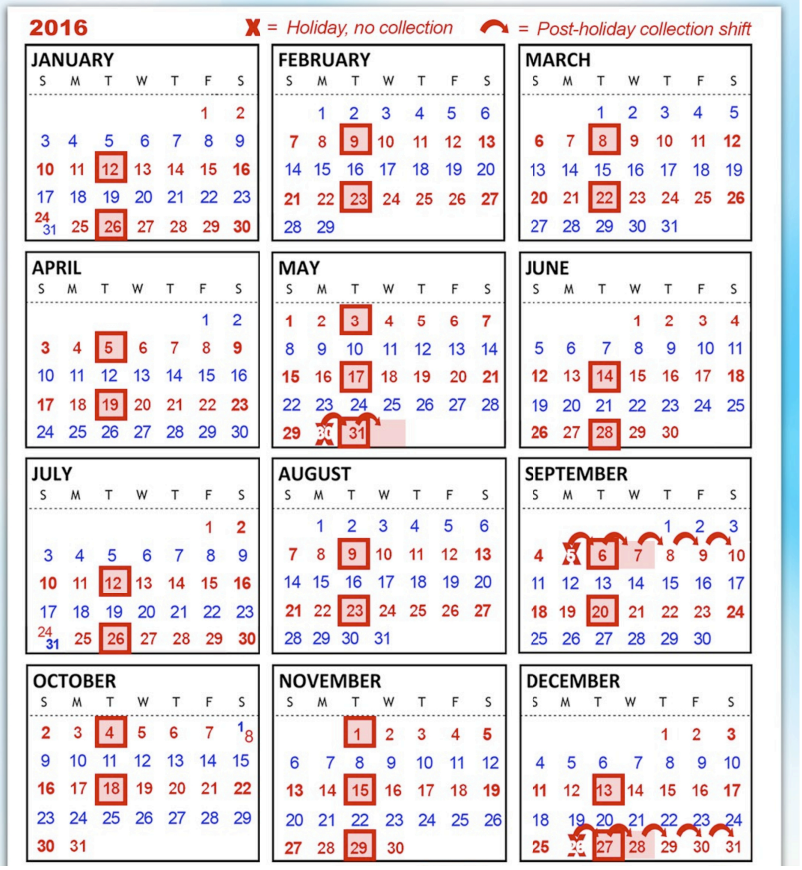
Top: Cast of *A Christmas Carol* hams it up for the camera

Origingal story contributed by Rebecca Remaley

2016 Frederick County Curbside Recycling Schedule

Burkittsville's biweekly recycling collection occurs on "Red Tuesdays". Please see the calendar below for specific dates.

Please have the cart to the curb by 6am on your collection day.



Don't Miss the latest...

from the **Burkittsville Green Team!**
Take a moment to visit

www.SustainableBurkittsville.org

Check in on the Burkittsville Green Team's website to learn more about Sustainability, Projects and how to Get Involved.

Take advantage of the Resource Center and Sustainable Burkittsville Blog, too. From new developments around town to important data on how "green" behaviors and practices work, there's something for everyone at this user-friendly website.

Do you want to get in touch with Burkittsville's Green Team? The website is an easy way to make contact.

HVAC *for* HISTORY

South Mountain Heritage Society plans to replace its ancient heating systems this winter. The ancient oil-fired furnace promises to give out any day, and the gas fireplace in the museum room is a real fuel hog.

New heating and air conditioning will create a more stable environment for SMHS's museum contents and documents. Visitors will be more comfortable, too – you'll be able to plan a summer wedding, concert, or other gathering at SMHS without worrying about melting!

A generous anonymous donor is going to match all contributions for this purpose. If you would like to help pay for this improvement of a valuable community resource, please send a check (made out to SMHS) to Treasurer, SMHS, PO Box 509, Burkittsville, MD 21718.

Heartfelt thanks to those who have already made donations!

- Catherine Cox

The Green Little Red Barn Rises

Phase One Complete!

The "Green Little Red Barn" project, properly known as The Harry Pfeifer Scenic Overlook Information Center, has made good use of its $37K Project Open Space grant in phase one of development, thanks to the excellent work of Blue Ridge Floors & Home Services, Inc. Phase one included rehabilitating the historic carriage house using green-sourced materials as feasible. The exterior, including its siding, windows and renewable-wood doors, is complete. The infrastructure of the future park/visitor information/ sustainable resource center (and more) has been carefully mended as needed.

Time for Phase Two!

Additional sources of funding are needed to complete GLRB. We need every kind of volunteer, from geek to green-thumb and everyone in between. If you are still reading this, you probably qualify. There are physical and mental chores to be done; we need people to do them.

It's time to Raise the Barn a little Higher!

Burkittsville says a sad farewell to two of our residents

Janice A. Crone

and

Patrick L. Simpson

who passed away this December, 2015.

Your Social Skills Needed

The Social Committee is looking for a few more residents.

We have some volunteers to help spruce up the playground in Spring (date to be determined, we can work with your schedule), and more are very welcome- but what about this Winter? Could you run a Game Night, or another fun activity? We have the space, now we need you.

Contact the Town Office, PO Box 485 or TownOffice@burkittsville-md.gov Attention: Social Com.

Special Exhibit at SMHS For 2016

South Mountain Heritage Society is happy to announce that we will open a special exhibit in the spring of 2016, which will run for the museum season (April through September).

"The Story of Burkittsville in 30 Objects" will explore the full timeline of our community's history, beginning with the first English settlers in the 1740s and ending in the present day.

The exhibit will feature several objects never before exhibited at SMHS. More information about the exhibit in the Spring SMHS newsletter.

SMHS is open regularly on the first Saturdays of the months April through September from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

New Neighbors

Greetings to Richard & Ann Cox and family who have recently joined us in town.

Welcome to Burkittsville!

Important Town Meeting

Mon., Jan. 11, 7 pm at the Ruritan we'll have a presentation from the Sheriff's Office on the new kind of

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Town Office: 500 East Street
Phone: 301-834-6780
Mail: P.O. Box 485, Burkittsville, MD 21718
Email: townoffice@burkittsville-md.gov

Mayor
Deborah Burgoyne
mayorburgoyne@gmail.com

Council
Shelby Beaver, Larry Beller, Catherine Cox-Murray

Clerk/Treasurer: Tammy Drake, TownOffice@burkittsville-md.gov

Board of Appeals: Joyce Brown, Paul Gilligan, Michele Jones

Planning & Zoning: Andrew Burgoyne PZCTofBurkittsville@outlook.com, Mark Carroll, John 'Jad' Drake, Laurel Gilligan, Charlie Isemann

Environmental Management/Code Enforcement:
Brandon Boldega, planning.burkittsville.md@gmail.com

Town Bailiff: Robert Millard

Post Office: 301-834-9592
Widow service: Mon. - Fri. 12-4 pm, Sat. 9-12 pm

Town Website: www.burkittsville-md.gov **Webmaster:** Carl Snook

Editor/Internet assistant: A. Elwell Cox burkittsvillenewsletter@gmail.com

Our listing on Facebook is City of Burkittsville, Maryland
www.facebook.com/Burkittsville.Maryland

WHO TO CALL

Non-Emergency Sheriff Line: 301-600-2071
Please use this number to report speeding, vandalism, theft and other crimes.

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
Animal Control: 301-600-1526
Abuse Information: 1-800-422-4453
National Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Recycling Questions: 301-694-6498
Trash Collection: 301-668-8282
(Key Sanitation)

To report a non-life-threatening natural event, take shelter then call: 301-600-1603 or 911

For traffic alerts and delay info: 511

As always, in an emergency, dial 911

To have an issue on placed on record with the town, write a detailed email to townoffice@burkittsville-md.gov (please put the topic of the in the subject line) or write a detailed letter to: Town of Burkittsville P.O. Box 485, Burkittsville, MD 21718.

Do you have a short note or feature you'd like to send to the Burkittsville News?

We'd like to hear from you! Send contributions in the body of an email to BurkittsvilleNewsletter@gmail.com or to the Town Office, PO Box 485, Attention: Newsletter.

Is you news seasonal or time-sensitive? Please take note of these contribution deadlines:

Spring Edition (April, May & June)	send on or before March 15th
Summer Edition (July, Augugust & September)	send on or before June 15th
Autumn Edition (October, November & December)	send on or before Sept. 15th
Winter Edition (January, February & March)	send on or before Dec. 27th

(If you send in a submission through the mail, allow an additional 3 days before the due date for delivery and data entry. If sending a handwritten notice, please print clearly. Thanks!)

Shorter notes or "blurbs" are the staple of the "News". The Dates to Watch section is ready and waiting for any town or town-related activitiy open to the Burkittsville community. Remember to include the "who, what, where, when, why and how" (and how much, if this applies) in your note. Don't have a date yet? Give us what you have- we'll work with you. Longer articles are usually planned in advance with the editor (get in touch early if you'd like to write one). In doubt? Read a few of the archived newsletters on this website to get a general idea of what we can include. As usual, all submissions may be edited as needed.

Tell us if don't want your contribution online. If you want something included our print version but would not like it online, please be specific about your privacy choices. Take the time to consider what you'd like *more easily* available on the internet. News items or events sent to the Burkittsville News may be shared on the Town Facebook page or in Current Events on www.burkittsville-md.gov unless the contributor makes other wishes known.

Be safe, please do not mail the only copy of any photograph you'd like to contribute. Need photos returned? Include an envelope which can hold them, address it to yourself, affix enough postage – and take the last step of placing your address on the back of each photo. Let us know who the photographer is so that we can give credit if it's desired. Sending an image file with your email? While JPEGs are easiest to handle, we do our best to work with what you send. Note: Images seldom look exactly the same on a monitor, phone screen or printed photo, the same is true for images in the newsletter; our volunteers do their best given size limits and other factors. Thank you for understanding.

Have questions? Email BurkittsvilleNewletter@gmail.com or write to the Town Office, PO Box 485, Attn: Newsletter