Vol. 17, No. 1 Winter 2024



Published by the Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland, Inc.

Happy 187th Birthday, Carroll County!



We hope you can join us for the Carroll County's 187th Birthday Party, on Saturday, January 20, when we will highlight the history and achievements of Lehigh Cement in Union Bridge. We will also bid farewell to Plant Manager, Kent Martin, who is retiring after 18 years of outstanding leadership, and welcome new Plant Manager, Paul Rogers.

The celebration, complete with cake, will be held at 2:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 21 Carroll Street, in Westminster.

According to a January 23 article in *Cement Industry Journal* of the Americas, Lehigh Cement in Union Bridge is the largest Lehigh Hanson (a division of Heidelberg Materials) operation in North America.

In the 1900s, vast deposits of limestone were found at the edge of Union Bridge. In a July 22, 2018, *Carroll*

Yesteryear's article, written by Mary Ann Ashcraft, "Tidewater Cement (the predecessor of Lehigh) began operating in Union Bridge in 1909." She notes that Tidewater Cement brought a large workforce into Union Bridge. Many of the workers came from Italy. Lehigh Cement, out of Allentown, PA, purchased the Union Bridge quarry in 1925. Today, Lehigh is the largest employer in Union Bridge and operates 24/7, producing 2,000,000 tons of cement per year.

Over the 99 years that Lehigh has been in operation in Union Bridge, it has done many innovative things. One was the installation of its state-of-the-art and now iconic kiln, dedicated in 2002. A May 4, 2002, article in the *Frederick News-Post*, written by Ike Wilson notes, "It took 6 years to construct. Site preparation required the removal of 400,000 cubic yards of soil, enough dirt to fill Camden Yards to the top twice."

The transport of multiple 17' diameter kiln sections (made in Germany), from the Baltimore harbor to Union Bridge was an amazing logistical feat. The sections were transported at night and required lifting 98 traffic signals before reaching I-795.

Another Lehigh innovation was the construction of a 5-mile conveyor system to run from the Union Bridge plant to a New Windsor quarry. As reported in a January 12, 2016, article posted on *Construction Equipment Guide.com*, "the project involved 9,600" of tunnels, up to 60" deep in some locations, and 11,300" at grade under a jumbo cover on a concrete slab.... Throughout the length of the conveyor there are seven road crossings, six of which required tunnels to be built.... It required tunneling through dairy farmland easements and restoring the land to its previous condition." The project required tunneling under three streams while effectively managing wetlands impact. Throughout the process, Lehigh kept the community informed of progress through update postings on its website and meetings with community groups.

An article in the July 2022 edition of *World Cement* reported that Lehigh in Union Bridge "will fully transition to *EcoCem* as its primary product in 2023". This greener alternative "reduces energy required to make cement and lowers emissions."

Lehigh Cement is a tremendous transformative community partner that has helped numerous organizations, including the Historical Society of Carroll County, and supported many projects. One of Lehigh's generous gifts, noted in Ike Wilson's *Frederick News-Post* at the time of the kiln dedication, was a donation of "\$50,000 to the Town of Union Bridge to complete two local projects, Little Pipe Creek Park and the William Henry Rinehart monument, which will anchor the new Town Square."

We hope you can join us on January 20 to thank Kent Martin and recognize Lehigh's many achievements over 99 years!

Winter Wine Tasting With Bernie Vogel



Join Bernie, wine enthusiast and owner of the iconic JeannieBird Baking Company, on **Saturday, February 24th at 4 pm** as he takes us on a virtual tour of the wines and flavors from the rugged Italian island of **Sardinia**. Pick up your wine and nosh and enjoy Bernie's talk via Zoom. Your tasting package includes a bottle of red, a bottle of white, and a snack-pack of savory treats to compliment the wines he will be showcasing. Wine and nosh will be available for pick up on Saturday, 2/24, from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Tickets are \$100 (each ticket includes two bottles of wine and nosh for 2). Please register online by Friday, February 16, at hsccmd.org, or call (410) 848-6494 ext. 200 to arrange for tickets. We hope you can join us!



2024 Legacy Gala

The theme of HSCC's 2024 Legacy Gala is *Fly Me to the Moon*. On Saturday, April 27, from 6:00 -11:00 p.m., we will gather at Antrim 1844 to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the Historical Society of Carroll County. We will be sending invitations out shortly. Make sure you purchase your tickets early! We look forward to celebrating with everyone.

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please visit our website at https://hsccmd.org/gala/ or call the Society at 410.848.6494 ext. 200 to speak with Laura Bankard, Outreach & Events Director.





Congratulations to Doug Velnoskey for the honor of being the

2023 Carroll Magazine Person of the Year!

If you have not had a chance to read the article in *Carroll Magazine*, please follow the link to learn about Doug's boundless energy for our community in the form of giving back and community impact.

https://carrollmagazine.com/douglas-velnoskey-a-legacy-of-giving-back/

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Historical Society of Carroll County, MD, Inc. 2024

210 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157

410-848-6494 · info@hsccmd.org

Society Open Hours

Wednesday—Saturday

Tours, Shop, Exhibits: 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Library: 12-4 p.m.

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of HSCC,

At our annual meeting of the membership in October, we recognized Frank Batavick, Jim Lightner, and Cindy Lawyer for

their selfless service to HSCC and our community. We also shared with attendees the many exciting initiatives underway spurred on by the directives outlined in the Society's 2023-2025 Strategic Action Plan. For example, page 23 of the Plan notes:

Develop position descriptions for two new part-time staff positions.

a. Librarian/Historian b. Collections Assistant

In November, we hired Kyle Wichtendahl to serve as our Archivist/Library Assistant (a slight adjustment in title as compared to the Plan). Welcome Kyle! We also decided to temporarily hire museum consultant Samantha Dorsey on a 3–6 month contract to help us with curatorial work and collections management duties. Assisting Samantha, another collections expert, Kurt Lewis, will be working on site from time to time. Samantha will be with us two days per week. Laura Bankard and Bev Staub masterfully ran operations during my absence with the help of Stephanie Eckhard, Luke Rippeon, and Cathy Rose, our bookkeeper. We have a tremendous team.

But HSCC staff is only strong because of the Society's tireless volunteers and Board members. We have robust, active committees with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. We have day-to-day volunteers that staff the library, make repairs, pick up our recycled items, write articles, maintain our beautiful gardens, clean, decorate, and give tours. Furthermore our Board, led by Chair Lynn Wheeler, is strong and unified. They give generously, and each member serves on at least one committee. A warm welcome to Commissioner Tom Gordon (ex-officio) and Joe Dominick. We are thrilled to have you on the Board!

Indeed, HSCC has much to be grateful for as we anticipate our 85th anniversary in 2024. To all our members, donors, partners, and friends, thank you!

Sincerely,

Jason

Our Newest Board Members



Commissioner Tom Gordon Photo provided by CC Government



Joe Dominick Photo provided by Carroll Magazine

2023 Year in Review

Thanks to our new Strategic Plan, membership has continued to grow! We look forward to welcoming more new members as our plan objectives become accomplishments.

Thank you to our members, new and returning, for your continued support and encouragement!

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| Mr. Steve Allgeier | Ms. Joelle Jarvis | Dr. Michael Rosner |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Mr. Joe Anderson | Mr. Paul Kelly | Ms. Stacy P. Shaffer |
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| Mr. H. Byron & Mrs. Emma Corcoran | Mr. Joshua Marks | Ms. Christine Thompson |
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| Mr. & Mrs. Joe & Andi Dominick | Ms. Melanie Nilsson | Mrs. Wilma Welling |
| Ms. Patricia Greenwald | Mr. Richard Resh | Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur & Sandra Wright |
| Mr. & Mrs. Clyde & Cindy Hirt | Mr. Shawn Restivo | Mr. William Wyand |
| Mr. Albert Horak | Ms. Carole Roberts | Mr. & Mrs. Carroll L. Yingling |
| Mr. Christopher Horak | Mr. Ben Rogers | Ms. Helena Zinkham |

Society funds presented at the Annual Meeting

ACNB General Checking Account: Current Balance \$68,555

ACNB Payroll Account: Current Balance \$18,993

ACNB Account for Shellman Use Only: Current Balance \$15,089

ACNB Special Projects Funds Accounts (for restricted projects):

| 1024.1 GFTC 2019 Fund (Collections Care) | \$13,413.00 |
|---|--------------|
| 1024.2 GFTC 2021 Fund (Shellman Preservation) | \$16,409.95 |
| 1024.3 GFTC 2022 Fund (Shellman Preservation) | \$26,032.50 |
| 1024.5 Exhibits Fund | \$14,813.14 |
| 1024.6 Sophia Jean Brown Hall Fund | \$25,000.00 |
| 1024.7 Outreach and Education Fund | \$1,752.14 |
| 1024.8 Collection Care and Conservation Fund | \$31,591.58 |
| 1024.10 Digital Library Fund | \$20,000.00 |
| TOTAL | \$149,012.31 |

Society Investment Accounts

Shipley Endowment (for Shellman): Current Balance

| Reserve/Shipley Farm Proceeds Fund: Current Balance | \$1,109,281.26 |
|---|----------------|
| Endowment Fund: Current Balance | \$ 177,447.49 |

Diagramata!

Welcome,

to our new Archivist/Library Assistant, Kyle Wichtendahl.

He is a native Marylander, originally from Mt. Airy, but now living in Catonsville. He has a lifelong passion for studying history, especially the Civil War era and Maryland history. Kyle is a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland and studied for a time at the University of Maryland,

College Park. He previously served as
Educational Programming Coordinator for the
National Museum of Civil War Medicine, where
he was involved with the Frederick Historic Sites
Consortium and served as past president of the
Harpers Ferry Civil War Round Table. Kyle is
also a great outdoors enthusiast and an avid
birdwatcher.



Please note!

Our annual fund drive kicked off in October. To date, we have raised nearly \$37,900 toward our \$60,000 goal! Thank you!

\$ 258,065.57

Carroll History Journal Update for 2024





Carroll History Journal



The Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland, Inc.



Dear Society Members,

On behalf of the HSCC Publications Committee we are writing to inform you that exciting changes are in store for the Society's Carroll History Journal in 2024. Our plan is to consolidate our workload, printing, and mailing costs, and publish the Journal annually as a bound periodical. Many historical organizations publish an annual journal in this way, and we are currently reviewing samples from societies throughout the region. We recognize that the *Journal* is a valuable resource and cherished by our members. The Publications Committee intends to print and mail the new, revamped *Journal* by the Fall of 2024. Therefore, you will not see a spring or summer iteration. Thank you for your understanding, membership, and continued support of the Society. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

Sincerely,

Jason Illari, HSCC Executive Director

Frank Batavick, HSCC Publications Chair

History Happenings Throughout the County & Beyond

A lot of our county museums and historic sites are closed during the winter months (January, February, March). However, you can always visit their websites, listed below, to see if anything is happening or what they are planning in the future.

Carroll County Farm Museum carrollcountyfarmmuseum.org

Carroll County Genealogical Society ccgsmd.org

The Gate House Museum thegatehousemuseum.com

Manchester Historical Center Visit them on Facebook

Hanover Area Historical Society hahs.us

Mount Airy Museum mountairymainstreet.org/mount-airy-museum

newwindsorheritage.org

New Windsor Heritage Museum Taneytown Heritage & Museum taneytownhh.org

Union Mills Homestead unionmills.org







2023 Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting on October 31st, occurred at Best Western Conference Center. Our guest speaker, Margot Kopera, Director of Learning & Interpretation, Maryland Museum of History & Culture, did a great job enlightening everyone about the struggles and successes of bringing a huge exhibition like the Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited to a museum. Our year and success were shared with all the members.

Congratulations to Dr. James Lightner on his Distinguished Services Award, Frank Batavick on his Distinguished Historian Award, and Cindy Lawyer on her Volunteer of the Year award.

Please review the Society funds presented and contact us with any questions or comments.



2023 Donor Garden Party

On October 12th, we thanked our donors for their contribution to the start of refurbishing the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House. Sam Muller was on hand to explain his masonry work and answer any questions. Lots of delicious lite fare and wine was shared. The donors and members are the reason we are doing so well at the Society, and we thank everyone for all they do to make the Historical Society of Carroll County a great place!



Library



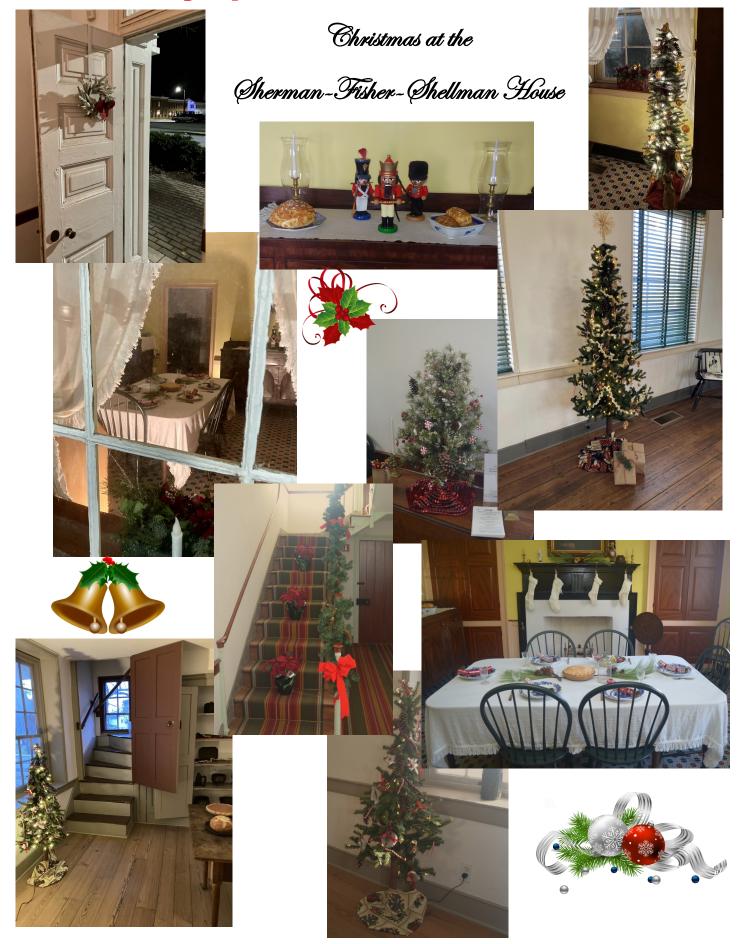
News



The Land Preservation Trust presented the Historical Society of Carroll County's Research Library with a Maryland Geological Survey Soil Map of Carroll County.

Pictured left to right: Mimi Ashcraft, Loie Maminski, Lee Magnuson, Belva Lamotte (seated), Marihelen Stringham, Bill Palm (seated), J.P. Smith, Jr., Jason Dutterer, Debbie Bower & Bernie Jones

2023 Holiday Open Houses





Tales from the Library



By Lee Magnuson, Library Assistant

History of the Sherwood Distillery Building



Sherwood Distillery on Railroad Avenue about 1960. Bob Porterfield photo.

The smokestack with "Sherwood" emblazoned in the brickwork, and the building known as "The Distillery" with fading painted whiskey advertising on its walls, are familiar landmarks on Railroad Avenue in Westminster. They are such a part of the landscape they may be overlooked or thought of as being "part of the scene forever." They have not always been there, and the site has a history much older than the distillery.

The original town, as drawn by William Winchester, was very short, including only a small section of Main Street (then called King Street) at its east end. As Westminster grew, Main Street extended westward down the hill, reaching the Liberty Street intersection. The area behind the town lots to the north was part of the original land grant called "Bedford" and became part of John K. Longwell's estate, "Emerald Hill."

The Western Maryland Railroad reached Westminster in 1861 and the street along the tracks to the north became Railroad Avenue, while to the south it was called Liberty Street. Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue had been extending westward for some time with both residential and commercial development. Railroad Avenue and Liberty Street became a busy industrial and commercial district with the railroad delivering raw materials and shipping finished products and supplies to the county and beyond. Flour mills, tanneries, lumbervards, brickvards, ice houses, and myriad other businesses lined the tracks on both sides in both directions.

By the 1870s food canning had become an important industry in agricultural areas thanks to advances in technology. Between 1869 and 2000 at least 52 canneries operated in Carroll County. In 1881 John Smith, Joshua Yingling, and

Austin Yingling acquired an acre-and-ahalf parcel of "Emerald Hill" for the Smith Yingling Canning Company and predicted their early production would reach 10,000 cases of canned goods annually. By 1910, however, their output reached 100,000 cases per year. A promotional article for the company in 1910 touted their policies: "Too much cannot be said to the credit of the Smith Yingling Company for what they have done for the working people of Westminster . . . and for the excellent markets they have established. They have demonstrated that absolute harmony can exist between capital and labor and the solution of the problem is very simple give the working man his just dues and respect his rights." This approach was certainly very progressive for its time.

The canning processes required many buildings on the site including five warehouses, husking sheds, processing rooms, a business office, other storage buildings, and more. In 1892 the company bought bricks from the demolished Union Meeting House in

Westminster Cemetery which it used to build one of the cannery offices. World War I created a high demand for large-sized cans and the need continued during the war recovery efforts. Agricultural prices declined in the 1920s and the crash of 1929 further diminished the demand for finished products. The Smith Yingling Company saw profits fall. In 1933 it declared bankruptcy and put the property up for sale at auction.

Maryland and Pennsylvania rye whiskey, made using local crops (as opposed to the corn used farther south), had been a popular product since the 1700s. Turning grain into distilled alcohol increased the price and lowered shipping costs by reducing the volume of selling the whole grain. Commercial distilleries thrived throughout the region in the 19th and early 20th centuries in towns like Baltimore, Pikesville, Cockeysville, and Calverton. Carroll County had at least 28 legal distilleries in 1840 and undoubtedly many more unreported (or taxed) private "stills." In 1920 the 18th Amendment brought legal production of alcoholic beverages to a stop. Prohibition, however, was a failure, and 1934 saw its repeal.

Louis Mann, a major distillery operator before Prohibition, already owned facilities in Baltimore, Pikesville, and Cockeysville, along with the brand names "Pikesville, Maryland" and "Sherwood Rye" as well as "Old Horsey" and other brands. Mann, apparently an astute businessman, saw an opportunity and bought the Smith Yingling Cannery in 1933 with an eye toward re-starting and expanding his distilling empire. Many of the cannery buildings and some equipment could be repurposed, and he set about using some of them and building more, including the "Barrel House" for aging his whiskey. Mann



Early Smith Yingling Canning Company label

Tales from the Library, continued:

The History of the Sherwood Distillery Building

By Lee Magnuson, Library Assistant

predicted that by October 1933 the Sherwood Distillery would be turning 600 bushels of grain into 50 barrels of whiskey every twenty-four hours. Production and sales were good for the rest of the 1930s, but World War II would change the business drastically.



View from Longwell Avenue looking west toward the rear of the Sherwood Distillery buildings lining Railroad Avenue. Photo probably taken during World War II.

In early 1942 the U.S. Government contracted with Mann and his companies to produce industrial quality alcohol for munitions. On April 17, 1942, a Hanover newspaper printed a story entitled "Alcohol for Ammunition," and reported "the first carload of industrial alcohol ... for the manufacture of ammunition was being shipped out." Ramping up production required more energy, and during this period the familiar Sherwood smokestack was built, probably replacing smaller ones. The "glass house" (now Paradiso Restaurant) was constructed to dry the used mash for cattle feed. After the war Sherwood resumed producing whiskey until about 1950.

The demand for straight rye whiskey declined in the 1960s and 1970s. Blends like Canadian Club, Seagram's 7 Crown, Black Velvet, and Calvert Extra became more popular and were often called "rye." Some Maryland distilleries shut down, others sold their recipes and brand names to large firms in Kentucky or Tennessee who claimed they made "Maryland-style" whiskey and used the names Pikesville and Calvert. The last distilling license to Sherwood expired in 1970, but the entire property was already for sale in 1969.

During the 1970s some of the distillery buildings housed various businesses. Merlin Industries recycled used X-ray films to make binders, sheet protectors, and other products. The drying shed/glass house held a company producing artificial

landscape rocks and also a plumbing supply firm. Around 1980 a new owner, landscape architect and developer John Donofrio, recruited investors with a grand plan in mind. He envisioned a development called "Sherwood Square." The project would stretch from entrances on Main Street back to the Barrel House building and include four floors of shops and offices, a restaurant in the boiler house, a bank in the glass house, a candy store, bakery, meat market, produce store, deli, grocery, and a family restaurant. Leggett Department Store and a variety of outlet stores would occupy the Barrel House. However, about

the same time, other developers suggested creating Cranberry Mall along Route 140. Leggett did renovate and move into the Barrel House in 1985 but announced its intention to move to the newly-built mall by 1987. Donofrio and the Sherwood developers soon sought protection from creditors, but by 1989 the bank had foreclosed on the property.

In 1990 Carroll County announced it would buy the Sherwood buildings "to house school district staff," and it has been used by various County agencies since. In 1992 repairing and restoring the smokestack was deemed less costly than demolishing it. In 1998 Salvatore Romeo bought the "glass house" and moved his restaurant, "Paradiso," there from a location on Locust Lane. The former "glass house" has since been recognized as a fine example of mid-20th century architecture, even being called a "Bauhaus masterpiece" by some.



The Sherwood Distillery building and smokestack, fixtures of downtown Westminster, stand today as an example of the creative reuse of historic structures by area businessmen and the Carroll County government as times and needs have changed.





Please check our website (hscccmd.org) and Facebook for updates on our upcoming events.

JANUARY

In observance of Martin Luther King Day, the HSCC campus will be closed.

Box Lunch Talk -Westminster High School "Auld Lang Syne" – Galen Roop

> Westminster High School opened at 121 Longwell Ave in 1936 and served as

the community's high school until 1971, when the current high school opened on Washington Road. The old high school then served as East Middle School for the next 50 years. In 2023, it was demolished to make room for a new East Middle School. In honor of the old high school, join us for a walk down memory lane, led by Westminster high school "Owl" Galen Roop. We encourage alumni and friends to bring photos and memories to share! Help the Historical Society create an archive for the old school! The event will include a virtual tour of the new East Middle School.

12-1 p.m., Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster. \$3 for HSCC members; \$7 for non-members.

Carroll County Birthday Celebration
Join HSCC to celebrate the 187th anniversary of the founding of Carroll County. See p. 1 for details.

FEBRUARY

In observance of President's Day, the HSCC campus will be closed.

Box Lunch Talk Crawford Yingling
Insurance: A Century of
Service—John Yingling

In 2019, Crawford Yingling Insurance celebrated a century of service to the community. Started by John Yingling 's grandfather, Carroll Crawford, in 1919, the business has weathered wars, the Great Depression, technological changes, and more to reach its 100th anniversary. John will share the interesting history and resiliency of the firm. He will also share history of the Crawford and Yingling families in Carroll County.

12-1 p.m., Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster. \$3 for HSCC members; \$7 for non-members.

Winter Wine Tasting The Wines of Claude
Monet's Loire.

Virtual program; 4-5:30 p.m. See p. 1 for details.

MARCH

17



Box Lunch Talk Westminster High
School Alumni in World
War II—Steve Bowersox

Steve Bowersox, longtime Westminster High School

history teacher shares his work on his ongoing project to identify and share the history of former Owls who served in World War II. Steve began researching the connection of Westminster High to World War II in 2007. He has been able to place over 650 Westminster High students, male and female, in the service during World War II. The students served all over the world and participated in every major campaign of the military. He will share some of their stories. Steve graduated from Westminster High School and served in the Army for two years before going to college. He earned his master's degree in education at then-Western Maryland College and maintained his passion for history along the way.

12-1 p.m., Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster. \$3 for HSCC members; \$7 for non-members.



In observance of Good Friday, the HSCC campus will be closed.





210 East Main Street Westminster, MD 21157

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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