

TOWN MEETING

**615 East Main Street
Thurmont, Maryland**

7:00 P.M

NOVEMBER 1, 2016

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2. APPROVAL OF 10/25/16 TOWN MEETING MINUTES**
- 3. PROCLAMATION – MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT WORKS MONTH**
- 4. GUEST SPEAKER – SENATOR MICHAEL HOUGH**
- 5. REPORT – TREE PLANTING PROJECT AT COMMUNITY PARK**
- 6. PROCLAMATION – ARBOR DAY IN THURMONT**
- 7. 2016-2017 SAFETY AWARD**
- 8. ANNOUNCEMENT – 2016 HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS**
- 9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**
 - a. Commissioner Buehrer**
 - b. Commissioner Hooper**
 - c. Commissioner Hamrick**
 - d. Commissioner Burns**
 - e. Mayor Kinnaird**
 - f. Jim Humerick**
- 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

11/12/16 – YARD WASTE DROP OFF
11/12/16 – MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT WORKS MONTH OPEN HOUSE
11/18/16 – THURMONT MAIN STREET ART & WINE STROLL
11/--/16 – PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING (TBD)
11/29/16 – TOWN MEETING – THURMONT THINK PINK PRESENTATION
12/3/16 – CHRISTMAS IN THURMONT

Minutes from November 1, 2016 Town Meeting

A Town Meeting of the Thurmont Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The following were present: Mayor Kinnaird; Commissioners Buehrer, Hooper and Hamrick; CAO, Jim Humerick; Sr. Administrative Assistant, Becky Long; CFO, Linda Joyce; Samantha Hogan (FNP), Dick Lee, Elizabeth Lee, Viktor Kraenbring, Jim Wilkins, Ken Simmers, Timothy Vaught and Senator Michael Hough. Commissioner Burns was absent this evening.

Commissioner Buehrer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of 10/25/16 Town Meeting Minutes

Motion – Commissioner Hooper said “motion to approve.” Commissioner Hamrick seconded the motion. Vote – 4-0-0, motion carried.

Proclamation – Municipal Government Works Month

Mayor Kinnaird said every November is Municipal Government Works Month in the State of Maryland. This is part of our Banner City and Sustainability requirements and we have done this several years now. He then read the proclamation (see attached). Part of the Government Works Month, is an Open House we’ll be having on Saturday, November 12th from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. here at the Town Office. You will get to tour the Municipal Offices, meet our Staff and talk with elected officials. The Thurmont Police Dept. “Safety Pup” will be here from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. and the Thurmont Police Dept. K-9 “Buddy” will demonstrate his abilities at 12 p.m. The Thurmont Public Works vehicles and equipment will be on display and we have two new trucks to come out and look at. One is a high pressure water truck and vacuum truck for the Wastewater Dept. and the other is a pole truck that the Electric Dept. has purchased. Thurmont Police vehicles will be on display. The Guardian Hose Co. will have fire apparatus on display and the Thurmont Community Ambulance vehicles will be on display. There will be Thurmont Main Street information and Thurmont Green Team information. If you haven’t done so already, staff can assist you in signing up for the Town of Thurmont and the Thurmont Police Dept. Emergency Notification System. There will be snacks, beverages and giveaways provided. So, I encourage anyone who wants to come out and take a look around on Saturday, November 12th from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. for our Town of Thurmont Open House.

The Mayor went to the MML Chapter Meeting the other night in Middletown and we had a group picture of all the Frederick County Mayors with a Maryland Government Works Flag, which will be prominently displayed on our website and on Facebook.

Guest Speaker – Senator Michael Hough

Senator Hough said I have been working my way around, I have eleven municipalities in my district, so obviously I’m up here for the parades and things like that, but I’m trying to make an effort I’ve almost made it through all of them now stopping in municipalities. I want to make sure everybody has my card, contact information and let you know some of the things we’ve been working on locally and statewide. We are going into session in January, so first off anything that is coming up, any projects, anything you need any help with let me know now, because it would be a good time to start working on it. I am in discussions with the Catoctin Wildlife Preserve. In 2015 we did secure a bond bill for them for \$50,000

to build a wolf preserve that they have up there now and we are talking with them again about doing another bond bill to help them to expand that facility. This last year in the budget the Town of Thurmont received \$217,294 in Highway User Revenue, the hope is and I know Governor Hogan is very committed in trying to get that money back to the municipalities. That money was stripped out when Governor O'Malley was there and a decision was made that I disagree with. It's good to know that the Governor has made that commitment, I know he came down and visited at the MML Convention and he talked about that as well. The State does have a budget shortfall that unfortunately has popped up of about \$82 million dollars and they are trying to figure out how to deal with that now. We had hoped and I hope we will continue to work to cut taxes. We did pass a bill thru the Senate to cut income taxes at all rates, unfortunately the bill, the legislation died in the House, but there has been a real effort to try contain spending and cut taxes. The Town of Thurmont also received \$71,000 in Police Aid Funding last year from the State. Some of the big things that I have been working on, last year we did our Justice Reinvestment, which is basically a 90 page rewrite of our criminal justice system. It was a huge undertaking and is expected to reduce incarceration, but also for a lot of people who have drug addictions we are trying to move those people into treatment and away from incarceration. It's a model that we are trying to follow that states like Texas and Georgia and some of these other states have done. Part of the legislation was also for violent offenders, for people who had committed murder, people that were major drug traffickers we actually increased criminal penalties. But, the long and short of it is and I know from doing my college scholarships and talking to kids that have gone to Catocin that there are a lot of drug problems, especially heroin, throughout the county and specifically in the northern part of the county. This legislation will free up \$82 million dollars over the next ten years, half of it is supposed to go into drug treatment. So, we know that there is a major need to get especially young people treatment for this terrible heroin addiction.

We also passed another bill, which I worked on and has somewhat of a local tone to it, we have changed what the Maryland State Police Training Standards that they will continue to work with the Department of Disabilities, given the issue with Ethan Saylor, so that there is a better coordination between the police and the disabled community. I have some private property rights protection things that passed, I could sit here and talk all night about everything we did in session. The main thing I just wanted to come up here and make sure you have my card and take any feedback, suggestions or anything that I can be helpful to you down in Annapolis. Mayor Kinnaird said a topic that we've bumped our head against a few times up here and it has nothing to do with Annapolis, but certainly has something to do with the State of Maryland. Senator if you look at this map (see attached), left to right diagonally is Route 15 and you see the intersection there, below that intersection is Sheetz and to the right of that is a large field and the road that runs towards the right hand top is Emmitsburg Road. When the State Highway Administration upgraded Route 15 and put in the overpasses there, it created in effect a lake area that we have a problem with and our residents have a problem with regularly in that large open space there. So, whereas water used to run away, now it flows down from the High School and comes underneath of Route 15 thru the conduits and dumps it in that area and it really has nowhere to go. And we've had a property there that some people have been trying to develop and can't because of water problems. On Emmitsburg Road we have 15 or 16 homes that are plagued repeatedly with flooded backyards, flooded basements, you go out there and there are actually ducks living in one of the gentlemen's properties out there, because it is always full of water. It is our opinion that when the infrastructure was put in for the Route 15 Bypass, which was many years ago, made this issue worse than it ever was previously. We've been considering how to go about addressing this with the SHA, to

see if they could do a study for us and look into some kind of possible relief to carry the water away from the area that it goes into and we ask you if you have any recommendations or if you could work with us or work for us and help us approach the SHA. Senator Hough said I'd be more than happy to contact the State Highway. When exactly did they do this work that caused this? The Mayor replied they did this in the 1970's. But, what's happened is, we've slowly had houses building on Emmitsburg Road and you'll see about 14 or 15 new homes there and they have constant water problems and the property right across the street from them is a large empty field area with a house right in the middle of it, they have constant water problems and that area the property owner has been trying to subdivide it and build on it. But, there is so much water in that area that we can't in all good conscious allow anything to be built there, because of the problems we are having with the water. I think the SHA was contacted about years ago at some point, but it has just reared its ugly head again recently and we have residents out there that are really getting to their wit's end with the issues we are having with the water in that area. Senator Hough said I'd be more than happy to and I will contact them tomorrow and work on that. Mayor Kinnaird said if you give us your card we'll make sure we get some notes written down and some diagrams on the map with a description of exactly what it is that you're looking at and have that sent down to your office and if you could help us with that we would really appreciate it. Thank you for coming the other day to the Bridge Dedication in Emmitsburg for 1st Lt. Seidel.

Report – Tree Planting Project at Community Park

Jim Humerick said this is a pretty brief report, it's to precede the next proclamation you'll be reading in the next few minutes. As everyone knows and it's been widely publicized, we do have an emerald ash borer situation in our Community Park and you gentlemen have been taking a proactive approach to start moving forward with funding some tree planting projects and trying to get ahead of this in case we have to take out a good number of our trees. This coming Saturday will be the first step in this tree planting project, we're going to be working in the afternoon at Community Park to start replanting some trees down there. We've only taken out about 18 trees so far and we've treated 46, so we're making an effort to save more than we take out, but we'll have to wait and see how bad the emerald ash borer situation is as it progresses. Over the last few months I've done a lot of work the Department of Natural Resources and I was able to get a \$1,500 grant thru the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee and I was able to create a partnership with the DNR where they are also going to give us \$2,000 towards this tree planting project. This is going to be a two phase project, it may be more than two phases before it is all said and done, but we are going to do 25 trees in the fall and we are going to do another 38 trees in the spring to start moving forward with this proactive approach. They are all going to be native trees and we are going to be working with a group of volunteers this weekend to start that project and we are focusing mainly on the front part of the park right now. We are trying to think about the view shed, we want to make sure the aesthetics remain there if we'd have to take some trees out that these trees that we are putting in would eventually take over in place of those trees. Thru DNR's efforts here they have done a great job of giving us some consultation and some advice of what types of trees to put in and while we love our park right now, we love the trees that are in there, but it does need a little bit more color, so we are putting some trees in that's going to provide a little more color at different times of the year. Some will be colorful in the spring and some in the fall, so it'll some color year-round. This is the first phase and the Mayor will be talking here shortly about a proclamation, this project will make us eligible to become a Tree City USA Community and this is also something that goes towards our State of Maryland Recertification in three years. We have been lucky enough and

fortunate enough for at least the last three years and I think for more than that we've always gotten the Plant Award, by becoming a Tree City USA we'll be automatically eligible for the highest level of that award, which hopefully we'll get after the first of the year.

Commissioner Hamrick said I'd like to see us reach out to the community, to individuals, to civic groups, to see about them getting involved as far as donating. I don't know how we want to do that. Can we do in memory of, can we do in honor of or dedication of, because I know there are some civic groups out there that would probably want to be involved. Right now the grants that you've secured are paying for some of the tree replacements, right? Mr. Humerick said the trees and the associated things that go along with it, the mulch and the deer protection and things like that. The Commissioner then asked what size trees would they be, are they pretty mature as far as footage goes? Mr. Humerick said you are probably thinking the same way I was thinking, because I really wanted to get these trees in there that would make a difference quickly. DNR recommended against that, because of the soil make up down there, they are recommending that we go with anything from 5' – 8' to start off with.

Commissioner Hamrick asked are we using our own Staff for the removals? Mr. Humerick said we have been using a contractor for that. The Mayor said it's my guess that ash trees aren't any of the trees you are planting. Mr. Humerick replied they absolutely are not. Commissioner Buehrer asked the number that's been identified that have no prayer. Mr. Humerick said that number varies, because when we had the Davey tree experts come in, they were looking at it in a more analytical level and they identified less numbers than we had originally thought, I don't remember the exact number, but it was not as many as we originally thought. Originally we were going to treat 12 and we ended up treating 46 or 48, we found some that were certainly more eligible for the treatment and this particular treatment has had great success in Frederick City, so we are hoping we have the same success here. Commissioner Buehrer agrees with Commissioner Hamrick that there are some civic groups and some individuals that would like to participate. We're talking 276 trees that could get eradicated, it's going to take a long time to replace that, so I'm sure we have people in the community.... Commissioner Hamrick said I guess we just need to find out what the process would be for individuals who want to come and approach us for that. I guess it would just be a donation and we would arrange for the acquisition and planting. Mr. Humerick said I would just recommend that if we do that we just continue using the States Tree-Mendous Tree Program. That's reasonable prices and we know that's a good stock of trees. I think we just continue moving in the same direction and just take donations for those trees as well.

Proclamation – Arbor Day in Thurmont

Mayor Kinnaird read the proclamation for the Arbor Day in Thurmont (see attached). Mr. Humerick added that we would have a second Arbor Day in the spring, when we do that second planting. The Mayor said we have always had a strong inclination to plant trees in the Town of Thurmont and I'm glad to see that we are carrying that on.

2016 – 2017 Safety Award

Linda Joyce stated on October 27th I attended an awards breakfast that was sponsored by Chesapeake Employers Insurance and they are the workers' comp carriers for the Town. The Town was one of the recipients of the 2016-17 Safety Award. This year there were 37 winners out of over 3,500 workers' compensation insurance policies. This award was an acknowledgement of the great strides that the Town has made in implementing strong loss control as well as timely claims reporting. The award also

recognized the Town for making back to work a priority. All of this has proven effective in reducing the claim cost for the Town. The award says "2016 Award of Excellence for Safety and Claims Management presented to the Town of Thurmont, Chesapeake Employers Insurance Workers' Compensation Specialists"

Announcement – 2016 Halloween Decorating Contest Winners

Mayor Kinnaird said I will turn this over to Commissioner Hooper who did an excellent job this weekend with Jill, his wife, and all of the volunteers at Halloween in the Park. This decorating contest was their idea to help promote Halloween in the Park.

Commissioner Hooper said if any of you had a chance to ride around Town to see some of these decorations, I think it brought out quite a few. It helped to bring out a sense of community, I believe. The judges, there were four, ended up deadlocked on a couple and then went back and redid it and came up with the 1st prize winner at 6 Emmitsburg Road and they really went all out and they win the \$75 prize. The 2nd prize went to 116 Bennett Drive, the electronics on that one was really interesting if you set there and watched it go back and forth. The 3rd prize was 803 Woodland Avenue and they win the \$25, plus each one of them will get a nice little memento. The judge thought there were two that should have an honorable mention and they were the residents at 5 Terben Court and 219 Apples Church Road. I want to thank everybody for putting the effort out, I think it brought a little interest to the Town during Halloween. Mayor Kinnaird said I want to of course congratulate the winners and the honorable mentions, but I want to take the time to thank the residents that participated this year, this is our first Halloween Decorating Contest and I'm sure we'll have it again next year. Again, thank you Wayne for your group of volunteers and for coming up with this great idea and we look forward to doing it again next year.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Buehrer:

- This coming Saturday from noon – 4 p.m. the Veterans Program at the Seniors Center. We have four speakers, so if you are a veteran or a widow of a veteran, it would behoove you to spend some time there to get a clear understanding of all of the benefits that are possible for you.
- I want to recognize Dick Lee, Jim Wilkins and Donna Voellinger for their collections of the canned goods at Halloween in the Park, they filled a pickup truck. Thurmont is the best municipality in Frederick County and what these folks did Saturday night is just more evidence of this community and the spirit that we have here and the volunteers. Thanks to you guys.

Commissioner Hooper:

- I want to thank everybody that participated in the "Think Pink" for the month of October. Got a lot of comments on the pink street lights, they liked them. Hopefully our numbers will come in good. I'm anxious to see what we get out of our efforts, but it's all going to the cancer research project and hopefully we'll beat last years. The presentation is the 29th.
- Halloween in the Park, we had perfect weather and it was a tremendous turn out, a record crowd, just by the ticket count we had over 2,700 people. That is far better than we've ever had. We couldn't do it without all of the volunteers, it takes over 150 people to do that and I don't want to miss anybody, I want them to know how much they are appreciated for all they

do. And the stores that donated, we couldn't do it without them, the Weis Markets, Food Lion, Dunkin Donuts and the Walmart in Waynesboro. We were able to get quite a bit in donations for the Food Bank. This is a very nice family event and it's all volunteer.

Commissioner Hamrick:

- This coming Sunday is the annual Veterans Day Celebration Service at Trinity UCC here on E. Main Street. It starts at 11 a.m. and it is to recognize all the veterans and their families. Pastor Dale Williams, retired US Navy, will be preaching. Sheriff Chuck Jenkins will be there along with the AMVETS, the Legion, a few of us Commissioners and the music will be provided by the Solid Ground Band from Ft. Detrick and Rev. Sherman Mason and the Trinity Bell Choir with Rocky Birely. They are going to have a luncheon immediately following the service and if you would like to attend, RSVP by calling the church at 301-271-2305.

Jim Humerick:

- We have a lot of projects going on in Town and it is impacting traffic and we really appreciate the patience and understanding of our residents and visitors as they try to drive thru town without being stopped, but that is pretty difficult to do right now. The projects are all progressing on schedule or ahead of schedule and at this point it is probably going to be easier to report on them as they get completed rather than in progress reports, because we'd be sitting here a long time each week going over that report. Once again, thanks to the residents and the citizens for their patience and I think that the end results are going to be very much worth the impacts they are going thru right now.

Mayor Kinnaird:

- The traffic lights at the square, they are putting in new traffic lights and for the last two days they have been working on one of the new columns and when they get this one done they will be working on the one on the other side of the bank. So, just be careful going thru there, the lanes will be narrowed and there will be some lane closures probably in the next couple of weeks.
- Thanks again to Commissioner Hooper, his wife Jill and all of the 150 or so volunteers that were down there at Halloween in the Park. It made a fantastic evening for our residents. I thank everyone that came out and especially those that came out and made a donation to the Food Bank, the Food Bank always appreciates that. Jim and I had a great time doing the wagon ride through the park. I want to thank Robert Black of Catoctin Mountain Orchard for providing the wagons that we used.
- Saturday morning I attended the Elower Dance Production 5K Run at Mt. St. Mary's. They are raising money this year for cancer research and I want to thank everyone that came out to that, a lot of them were in costumes. I appreciate being invited to help start that race.
- Also on Saturday morning I attended a bridge dedication ceremony at the Route 140 overpass in Emmitsburg, where Route 140 crosses Route 15. The bridge there was dedicated to the memory of 1st Lt. Robert Seidel III, this was planned and executed by Councilman Kirby Delauter. I want to thank Councilman Delauter for recognizing a local boy that was killed in action. It was a great event, a very solemn event, but I think the important thing was that the family and a lot of the guest speakers said that Rob had dreams since the 5th grade of graduating from West

Point Academy and being an officer in the United States Army and he lived his dream. And he died living his dream and serving the Emmitsburg community, which he really loved and his great county. Again, I want to thank Councilman Kirby Delauter for arranging that and for the invitation to attend that, it was a very emotional and very moving ceremony.

Public Comments

Jim Wilkins, 1 Ironmaster Ct., it's my first time this year of actually seeing the Halloween in the Park and it was a real honor to serve Thurmont. I think the Food Bank got healthier to help the people who are less fortunate than many of us. I really enjoyed it, I was tired, but it was wonderful and he went on about everything that night.

Mayor Kinnaird said there is one last thing that I was approached by a resident and I forgot to mention last week, but I want to bring it up this evening. A resident who has relatives that live in Rochester New York commented to me that the Rochester Police Department has a program whereby they designated a parking space in their parking lot as an Ecommerce transaction site. You ask what is an Ecommerce transaction site. This is for people who buy and sell stuff on the internet and they meet someone and they exchange whatever it is they are purchasing and pay for it. The Rochester Police Dept. has set up a safety zone in front of the Police Station and it is under 24 hr. video surveillance, so that people have a secure place to go when they buy something off of EBay and they want to meet someone and they can exchange the funds and complete the Ecommerce deal. The question was posed to me, can we do that here in Thurmont. I responded that we certainly could do something like that, but the issue is that the Thurmont Police Dept. isn't manned 24 hrs. a day like the Rochester New York Police Dept. is and there's no video surveillance. After talking to a couple of residents about it, we decided that an ideal place would be like Sheetz or 7-Eleven, some place that's under video surveillance and I'm going to talk to the Chief about this and I just want to get your opinion on it that we could ask one of the convenience stores if we could designate a parking space or two parking spaces as a Ecommerce safe transaction zone and put a sign out there that says Ecommerce Safety Zone and just encourage people if they are going to do stuff like that that they could go to this particular place, where there is always someone around, so you don't have to worry about anything happening during a transaction. I want to talk to the Chief about it and see how he feels about it and I also want to approach probably Sheetz or 7-Eleven, one or the other and I just wanted to fly it past you guys before we go any further with it. After a brief discussion, the Mayor will talk to the Chief about this.

Motion – Commissioner Hooper said “motion to adjourn.” Commissioner Hamrick seconded the motion. Vote – 4-0-0, motion carried.

Without further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Clem
Recording Secretary

The Commissioners of Thurmont



PROCLAMATION

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Thurmont, proclaim November to be Municipal Government Works Month.

WHEREAS, Maryland is home to 156 other municipalities; and,


WHEREAS, municipal government represents the most responsive level of government, allowing citizens to have direct access to elected officials; and,

WHEREAS, in an effort to educate citizens about municipal government and the importance of their participation, the Town of Thurmont is proud to promote municipal government awareness; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities have enhanced the quality of life for their respective residents by making Maryland a great place to live, work, play and explore.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Thurmont, Maryland, a Banner City, hereby joins the Maryland Municipal League in declaring November to be Municipal Government Works Month in Thurmont.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and have caused the seal of the Town of Thurmont be affixed this 1st day of November, 2016.




John A. Kinnaird, Mayor



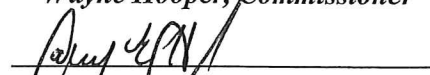
Bill Buehrer, Commissioner



Martin Burns, Commissioner



Wayne Hooper, Commissioner



Wes Hamrick, Commissioner

Town of Thurmont

OPEN HOUSE

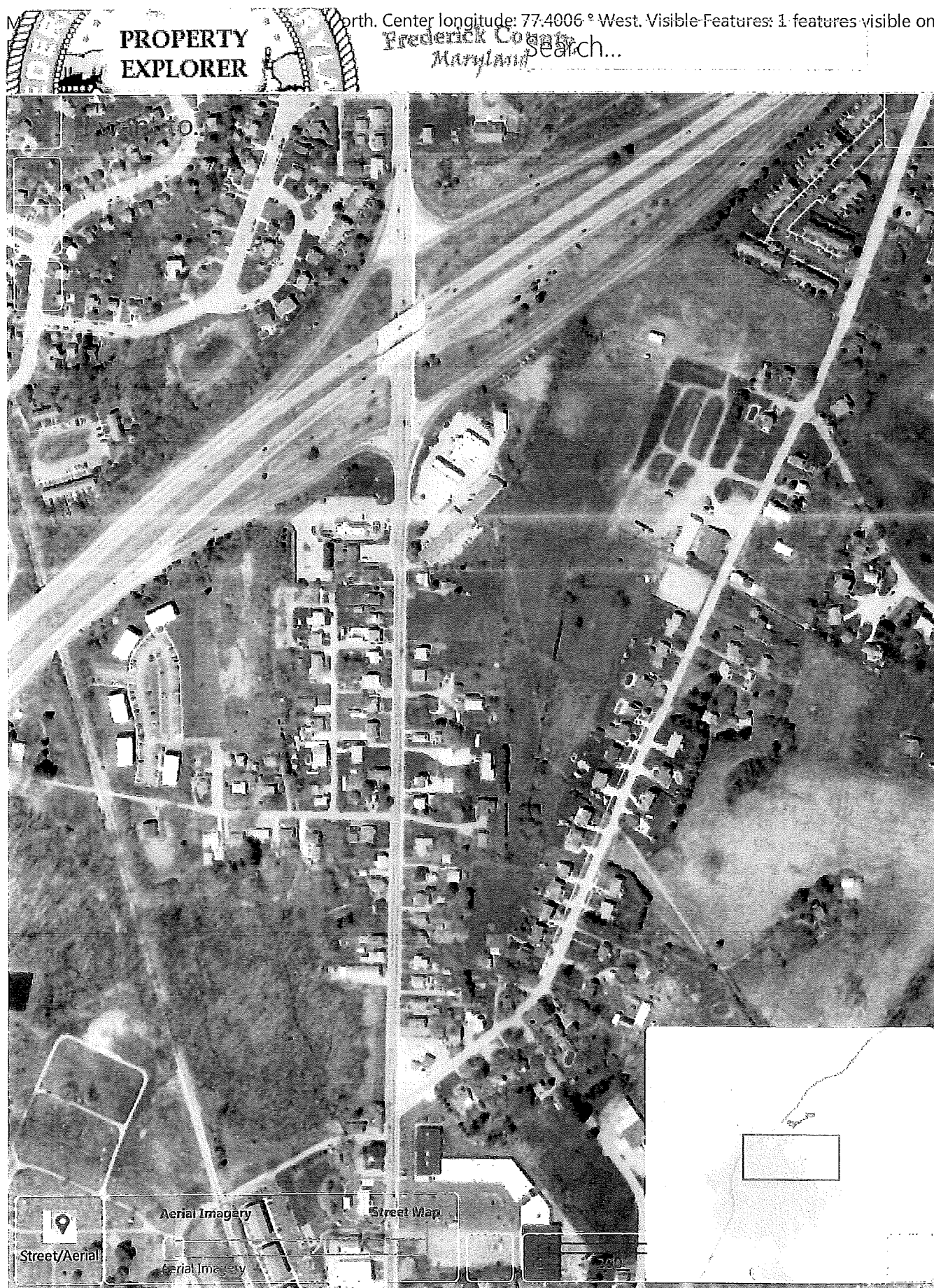


Celebrate Municipal Government Works Month with staff and elected officials at the Town of Thurmont Municipal Offices located at 615 East Main Street on Saturday November 12 from 11AM until 2PM

- *Tour the Municipal Offices & Meet Our Staff*
- *Talk with Elected Officials*
- *Thurmont Police Dept. "Safety Pup" from 11AM until 12PM*
- *Thurmont Police Dept. K-9 Demo at 12PM*
- *Thurmont Public Works Vehicles & Equipment on Display*
- *Thurmont Police Dept. Vehicles on Display*
- *Guardian Hose Co. Fire Apparatus on Display*
- *Thurmont Community Ambulance Vehicles on Display*
- *Thurmont Main Street Information*
- *Thurmont Green Team Information*

If you haven't done so already, staff can assist you in signing up for the Town of Thurmont and Thurmont Police Dept. Emergency Notification System.

***SNACKS, BEVERAGES AND
GIVE-AWAYS PROVIDED***



The Commissioners of Thurmont



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and,

WHEREAS, this day now called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees; and,

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and,

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, and provide habitat for wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, trees in our town increase property values, enhance the economic value of business areas, and beautify our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE the Commissioners of Thurmont do hereby proclaim November 5, 2016 as ARBOR DAY in the Town of Thurmont, MD.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and have caused the seal of the Town of Thurmont be affixed this 1st day of November, 2016.

John A. Kinnaird, Mayor

Bill Buehrer, Commissioner

Martin Burns, Commissioner

Wayne Hooper, Commissioner

Wes Hamrick, Commissioner