

The Reporter

4-H news from around Frederick County



December 2025 - March 2026

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Want to learn more about our 4-H opportunities and program?



Below is the link to our website where you can access the recent editions of our Spark Newsletter containing information about upcoming 4-H events. You can also subscribe to receive the newsletter from our website.

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/frederick-county/local-4-h-youth-education/newsletters/>

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Events

Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast with Santa this weekend at the Frederick County 4-H Camp & Activities Center, Inc. Food was delicious, crafts were fun, and Santa was there!



Events

SHIP Toiletry Drive

4-H in the News! Thanks to our 4-H Clubs for helping to donate so many items to the SHIP toiletry drive in November & December!

Frederick News Post. Saturday, January 31, 2026

Readers Say Thanks

Throughout November and December, 75 boxes have been collecting hygiene items throughout Frederick County for youth experiencing homelessness. After generous support from each of you, we were able to collect \$5,390 worth of donations from our Homeless for the Holidays Drive!

From shampoo bottles to feminine hygiene products to laundry detergent, our students are extremely appreciative of all the businesses, partners, and community members who support this drive. Because of you, you helped numerous students receive the hygiene items needed so they can succeed in education.

We're also extremely thankful for our volunteers from members of our local Civitan Club, 4-H Students, Girl Scout Troop 37080, and The Flying Cows! The Girl Scouts sorted all boxes and bags from the collected items from the drive.

4-H Students assisted in collecting items, sorting, and packing for the schools. The Civitan Club and The Flying Cows packed and delivered items to about 30 schools to serve our McKinney-Vento students!

— SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership)



News

Winter Workshop

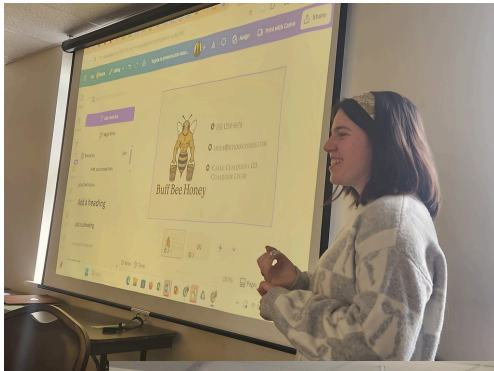


Throwback to good memories at our 2025 Winter Workshop and Teen Craft Night!!! So many fun crafts and so many smiles We can't wait to see all of the beautiful projects at fair in September!



News

Build Your Own Business Workshop



Before the big snowstorm hit this past weekend, our Frederick 4-H Build Your Own Business workshop on Saturday, January 24 was buzzing with big ideas and even bigger dreams!

Our participants learned how to build a business plan, crunch the numbers, and spread the word through marketing. A HUGE thank you to our awesome business panelists and proud 4-H alumni Mia McGuffin (Green Acre's Suds) and BreAnn Reed (@the turquoise trailer botique) for sharing their stories, insights, and encouragement with our kids

These young entrepreneurs are just getting started, and we can't wait to see where they go next!

News

Achievement Gala



The Maryland State 4-H Achievement Gala was held this past weekend on 2/15/26 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds.

Frederick County had 9 youth participants and 5 adult volunteers recognized at the event. We had graduated youth receiving scholarships, youth being recognized for their participation in national trips, and youth being awarded state recognition for their animal science project records. Congratulations to all!



News

Central Cluster Public Speaking Workshop

Yesterday, we welcomed 38 youth from across the central cluster (Frederick, Montgomery, and Howard) to our office for the annual Public Speaking workshop! We can't wait to see everyone at the Central Cluster Public Speaking Competition on March 14th.



News

Central Cluster Upcycled Fashion Workshop

We had an incredible time at our 2026 4-H Upcycled Fashion Workshop with the Central Cluster this past Saturday!

After some creative inspiration and sketching out their ideas, the 4-Hers jumped into hands-on stations including sewing, fabric painting, and adding embellishments like buttons, lace, ribbon, and patches. It was amazing to watch thrifted pieces transform into one-of-a-kind designs.

Our goals were simple: spark creativity, help 4-Hers learn sewing and design skills, and share information about the upcoming 4-H Fashion Revue Contest. By the end of the morning, participants walked away with finished (or nearly finished!) altered garments – and a whole lot of confidence.

A huge THANK YOU to our dedicated volunteers who guided, encouraged, and cheered on our designers every step of the way.



News

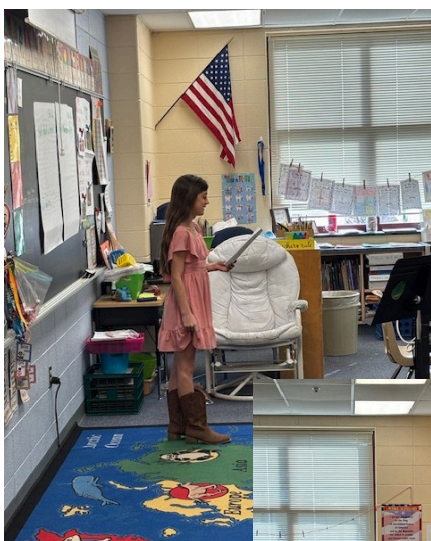
Livestock Skillathon Contest

Saturday was an incredible day as 12 of our Frederick County 4-H youth proudly represented us in the MD 4-H Livestock Skillathon competition! All of our youth did a fantastic job with Junior level Erin F. placing 5th and Ella E. placing 19th. At the Intermediate level, Gianna S. placed 5th and Adalyn E. placed 18th. At the Senior level, Preston C placed in the Top 12 and now has a chance at the national trip—what an amazing accomplishment! Every single youth did an outstanding job, and we are so proud of everyone's hard work and dedication! A huge THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped make this possible: Team Coaches Ashton Conover and Kaitlyn Fuss, Shriver's, Wagner's, Sheepmans, Patty Sanville/Rhiannon Huscha, Rawlings Farm, Kathy Gordon, David Gordon, Dr. Amanda Grev, the Dinsmore family, Liam Grogan, Jayme Eaves, Dawn and Kim in the 4-H office, and all of the parents who drove their kids each week and supported them along the way. Your encouragement, time, and dedication truly make these 4-H opportunities possible!



News

Central Cluster 4-H Public Speaking Contest



So 4-H PROUD of our Frederick County 4-Hers who participated in the Central Cluster 4-H Public Speaking Contest on Saturday. Public speaking can be a bit scary, but these 4-Hers stepped up, even if they were nervous, and tried their best. CONGRATULATIONS to the following CHAMPIONS, who will go on to compete at the State level contest held at the University of MD on April 25th. Emma H. for Prepared Junior; Hailey H. for Prepared Intermediate; Olivia B. for Prepared Senior, Emma H. for Radio Junior; Hailey H. for Radio Intermediate; Danika W. for Radio Senior; Hailey H. for Extemp Intermediate; Olivia B. for Extemp Senior; Avighnya B. for Visual Junior; Dylan R. for Visual Intermediate; Shanvi S. for Interpretation Junior; Ella E. For Demo Junior; Aubrey H. for Demo Intermediate. CONGRATULATIONS to the following RESERVE CHAMPIONS, who will go on to the State contest if the Champion is unable to compete. Eva G. for Prepared Junior; Eva O. for Prepared Senior; Blake G. for Extemp Intermediate; Alleena J. for Extemp Senior; Matthew H. for Visual Junior; Joy O. for Demo Junior and Adalyn E. for Demo Intermediate. Best of Luck to those moving on to the Maryland 4-H Public Speaking Contest!

News

Dairy Skillathon Contest

We are 4-H Proud of our Frederick County 4-Hers who competed Saturday at the MD State 4-H Dairy Skillathon Contest. Congratulations to all and a special thank you to 4-H Volunteer Coaches Jason Ridinger and Nicholas Wachter!

Contest results (only top 10 per level were announced): Seniors: Michael B. 3rd, Jamie G. 4th; Intermediates: Matthew S. and Dylan R. participants; Juniors: Nathan S. 7th, Noah W. 9th and Luke G. participant.



Club News

Entomology Club

Gary showing some of our members some of the "Oh My" collection at the Smithsonian



Gemma and Gavin showing our creatures at the STEAM event at Hagerstown Community College



Some of our visitors at the STEM event at the Thurmont Elementary School



Members of The Entomology Club have been busy. We've been invited to take part in several STEM/STEAM events, where we have terrorized/educated the public (see some pictures below). We also enjoyed our annual Holiday Party where we got to enjoy some insect-looking treats (most didn't have any real insects in them). In February, we managed to do a behind-the-scenes tour of the insect collection at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. We are getting ready for our annual Stream and Lake Hike at Greenbrier State Park where we will walk in the stream and lake to look at (and capture a few with permission) some creepy crawlers.



Some of our food at our Holiday party



Emmet holding a live scorpion at the STEAM event at Monocacy Middle School



4-H leader, Erin Kline holding a live tarantula at the STEAM event at Monocacy Middle School

Club News

Kaleidoscope of Projects

In the past few months the Kaleidoscope of Projects Club had many fun events. Unfortunately, because of snow, pottery day which was supposed to be on January 17th, had to be rescheduled.



We donated money for wreaths to the organization Wreaths Across America. We also helped with placing the wreaths out in December and cleaning them up in January.



During the clubs' holiday party we baked cookies to distribute to places like the fire department. It was to thank people that have supported the club, like a very nice first responder who came as a guest speaker. We also played fun games like building marshmallow snowmen, and did a white elephant gift exchange. Other events included the Soup and Bread fundraiser on February 17th.

Club News

Lewistown

The past two months have been very busy for the Lewistown Mt. View 4-H Club. On December 5th, some club members volunteered at the Rocky Ridge Fire Company Christmas event by assisting children with making crafts. Several members also participated in the Breakfast with Santa event on December 6th at the 4-H camp center. Throughout the month, the club held a meat raffle fundraiser to benefit our club's involvement in local community initiatives and projects. Our annual Christmas party was held during our December 15th meeting. We started off eating pizza, playing games and assembling fruit/gift baskets for home bound friends and family members. Approximately 20 people were visited as we went Christmas caroling and delivered the gift baskets. The club's Community Service project for the month of December was sponsoring a family needing Christmas assistance through the Thurmont Food Bank. Club members purchased and wrapped gifts from the family's wish list and the gifts were then delivered to the family. We also recognized and presented gifts to Cheryl Lenhart, as she retired from her 4-H Club leader position. Cheryl contributed countless hours of time, effort and energy to the Lewistown Mt. View 4-H club over the past 20+ years. Cheryl was always supportive and encouraged each of her members "To Make the Best Better" which reflects the organization's commitment to continuous improvement and personal development.

Our January 20th meeting consisted of officer installation. Our 2026 elected club officers are: President-Tabrie Garner, Vice President-Ada Spencer, Secretary-Paige Riggs, Treasurer-Kourtney Bell, Corresponding Secretary-Brody Mathias, Historians-Kayia Spencer and Sophia Vattimo, Reporter-Masyn Sanders, Recreational Leaders-Eli Weddle, Myla Spencer, Finley Cregger, Tyler Appleby and Knox Axline. The club will be led by our new leaders Becky Riggs and Sarah Spencer. Newly installed officers attended officers training on January 19th at the Frederick County 4-H office, where they learned how to be successful in their new leadership roles. The club collected non-perishable food items to be donated to the Thurmont Food Bank for our January Community Service Project. We are always welcoming new members. Our next meeting will be held on February 17, 2026 at the Graceham Moravian Church, beginning at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully,
Masyn Sanders,
Club Reporter, Lewistown Mt. View 4-H Club

Club News

Lewistown



Christmas gifts that our club purchased for the family needing Christmas assistance through the Thurmont Food Bank



Cheryl Lenhart opening her retirement gifts from the club



Cookie trays that were delivered during Christmas caroling



Gift baskets that were delivered during Christmas caroling

Club News

Rabbit Raisers

These past months have been so fun for us rabbit raisers!



In December, our club members brought our rabbits to Santa Fly-In at the Frederick airport! There were many activities to enjoy, and also got to see airplanes close up. This was such a fun experience for everyone!



In February we served our community at a toy auction. It had been raising donations. It was so much fun seeing vintage tractors and toys.



In March we took our rabbits to the easter bunny event at the Frederick airport. Having such a good time, and seeing the easter bunny! Everyone who had gone was very happy, and so were there rabbits.

Club News

Tailwaggers

Growing Future Leaders
By Gavin Collins

She screams, “You can't make me, I don't want to do it!” Nine-year-old Catalina Caretti was having difficulty with her pony, which was refusing to jump. About ten minutes later, she completed the jump and was rewarded after the show with an ice cream treat. Reflecting on this incident seven years later, Catalina says this experience taught her not to give up and to persevere even if you are afraid.

Catalina's family is one of the 4-H clubs' multi-generational members. Her mother, Michelle Kluchuroaky was also involved in 4-H as a child. Michelle grew up in Pennsylvania. At that time, the club choices were limited to horses and photography.

Today's clubs are “doing a lot more practical things”, says Michelle. With lots of variation and variety from robotics to bug patrol, there is a club for just about any interest. The clubs also offer opportunities for members to perform community service and tailored classes for career building.

Recalling her time in 4-H, Michelle says the club “is just good for everybody,” helping develop communication skills and public speaking. With 4-H on her resume, Michelle received positive responses from prospective employers. It even helped her with her current occupation. “I always knew I wanted to be a veterinarian, but 4-H helped it.”

She remains involved in 4-H to this day as the leader of the Frederick County Tailwaggers Club. She enjoys being the leader, seeing kids come out of their shells is the biggest reward she gets for volunteering.

Tailwaggers is a club for kids who love dogs. Club members directly participate in training their dogs with guidance from experienced dog trainers at Catoctin Kennel Club and Breakaway Action Dogs. The kids may participate in obedience training, showmanship, and agility. Members get the chance to not only show off their accomplishments at the Great Frederick Fair but also at the Maryland State Fair.

Catalina has been a 4-H member since she was seven. She has participated in both the Tailwaggers Club and Boots 'N Buckles, which is a community club centered around horses. Throughout the years, she has entered several items at the fair, including photography and crafts. She credits 4-H for not only helping her develop communication and leadership skills but also giving her the confidence to talk to adults.

She has held various positions in her Tailwaggers Club. “I never thought I'd be the one leading the meeting because I never liked to speak out in front of people when I first joined.” This year Catalina is the president.

She also found that she is more involved in her community. She says, “I feel like if you're not in 4-H or doing events in the community, then you don't really get involved, and you kind of stay in your little box and so it's helped me get out there and do community events.”

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SPRING News from April to June - Due July 5, 2026
SUMMER News from July to Sept - Due October 5, 2026
FALL News from Oct to Dec - Due January 5, 2027

Email club or 4-Her submissions to Dawn Downing at ddownin1@umd.edu.

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