

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## CLUB OF THE MONTH

THURMONT LIONS CLUB, MARYLAND

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1929

**MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS:** The club's 85 members are a mix of retired and younger people, and men and women are almost equally represented. The club meets at the Cozy Restaurant, which, because of its proximity to the Presidential Retreat at Camp David has hosted U. S. presidents, Cabinet members and foreign dignitaries over the past 82 years. The club's charter—framed and on display at the restaurant—was signed by Melvin Jones himself.

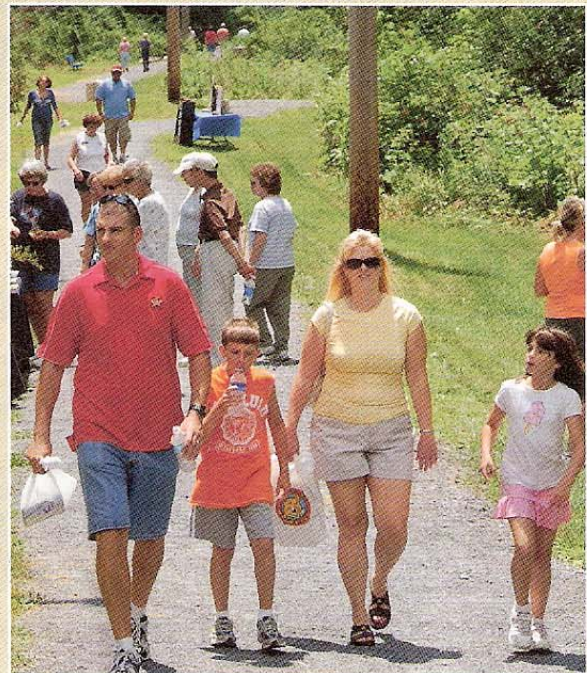
**RAILS TO TRAILS:** To mark its 75th anniversary, the club transformed an unused one-mile trolley route through town into a recreational trail. After three-and-a-half years of work and with the assistance of an LCIF grant, the Lions completed the Thurmont Trolley Trail. It has since been a popular spot for walkers, runners and bikers. The club has continued to make improvements with plantings, benches and picnic tables. An annual art festival along the trail brings the community out to enjoy the beauty of nature and the talents of local artists.

**FOODIE FUN:** Thurmont Lions raise funds through several food-focused events. With a spring fish fry, summertime pit beef, pork and turkey sales, a fall foods festival and food booths at many community events, these Lions are comfortable in the kitchen. They happily slice potatoes, knowing that every french fry sold helps them serve those in need.

**ENTHUSIASM FOR YOUTH:** At their annual Education Night, the Lions give scholarships to four students, honor a Teacher of the Year and present funds to each of the community's schools. A sponsor of two Leo clubs, the club also presents annual awards to the students with the most volunteer hours.

**RALLYING THE COMMUNITY:** When the Lions discovered that four members of one family had been struck with cancer, they held a community breakfast that brought out the whole town. After raising \$10,000 to help the family, the Lions set up funds to help community members with medical problems.

**WHY SERVE?** "Giving back to the community that I grew up in and that my children are growing up in is worthwhile on so many levels—that is why I am a Lion and my two daughters are Leos." – Lion Wes Hamrick



Community members enjoy the annual art festival along the Thurmont Trolley Trail.



Lion Gene Long, who was instrumental in the trail project, operates a steam roller to smooth out the stone.