

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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FREE

New 50+ Community Center Coming to Brunswick



Proposed location for Brunswick 50+ Community Center between Rt. 17 and Rosemont Drive, across from the Brunswick Fire Hall. Source: Frederick County Division of Aging and Independence.

By DIANE ELLIS &
JEAN DOYLE

After many years of community pleas for a new senior center in Brunswick, a design concept for a new renamed 50+ community center was unveiled on Sept. 8 by Frederick County leaders.

Speaking outdoors at the Brunswick Fire Hall, County Executive Jessica Fitzwater announced the future site of the center would be across from the fire hall between Rt. 17 and Rosemont Drive on land purchased by the county from Marvin and Betty Hope. Fitzwater said the design phase is funded and construction will begin in fiscal year 2028. The county's Capital Project Summary shows an estimated completion date at the end of 2029.

Calling it a "historic watershed moment for Frederick County's older adults," Fitzwater said the Brunswick center will be "the first senior center in Frederick County built from the ground up specifically and intentionally to serve our older adult community."

The design for the new center emerged from the Senior Center Feasibility Study by MGT Impact Solutions and funded by the Frederick County Division of Aging and Independence. This work included listening sessions and surveys among people in the Brunswick area, analysis of population trends, mapping, facility visits, interviews and community feedback.

The Brunswick 50+Community Center will be a regional center serving southern Freder-

ick County. The design will be a prototype for other 50+ community centers in the county. Brunswick was selected as the first location for the new design concept. The feasibility study report can be accessed on the Frederick County Aging and Independence website at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/SeniorCenterStudy.

Replacing the old senior center

The new center will replace the Brunswick Senior Center on A Street that has served seniors for almost 50 years. The old center is 900 sq. ft. and was identified by users as "severely outdated, limited space, and poor parking," according to the feasibility study report.

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Chaos at FCPS Community Meeting on New High School Location

By ELLIS BURRUSS

Over 60 residents were present at the Brunswick Elementary School cafeteria on Sept. 17 for a community meeting organized by Frederick County Public Schools to explain the reasons for the proposed placement of the new Brunswick High School which is scheduled to open in 2030.

There has been widespread objection to the proposed site, primarily because it would entail the destruction of Brunswick's 61-year-old baseball field, which holds an important place in the community and was developed over many years of local labor and funding

to make it one of the premier school stadiums in the area.

At an earlier meeting on Aug. 26, Superintendent Cheryl Dyson had indicated that the school system would "go back and evaluate" the site selection, but the meeting agenda on Sept. 17 seemed more geared to explaining the existing site selection. The agenda called for presentations from the architect, civil engineer, and construction managers. That was to be followed by breaking up into three groups for more detailed questions and answers.

FCPS Chief Operating Officer Dr. Paul Lebo introduced the presenters who spoke for

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ELLIS BURRUSS

People from the Brunswick community listen to an FCPS presentation on the new high school at the elementary school cafeteria on Sept. 17.

Brunswick Railroad Days 43 years of trains, music and community

By JANE CLIFFORD

Brunswick's 43rd annual Railroad Days festival rolls back into town Saturday and Sunday, October 3-4, turning downtown into a lively weekend of trains, music, food, and community.

From model railroads and an excursion train through Harpers Ferry, to live bands, local artisans, kids' activities and plenty to eat and drink, there's something happening around nearly every corner. The festival is free, with events taking place throughout downtown.

Railroad Days pays tribute to the railroad heritage that helped shape Brunswick while celebrating the people, businesses and community organizations that make the city what it is today.



Train riders board the MARC special to West Virginia during Railroad Days.

Live music

Music will be spread across downtown at four locations this year. The main stage at Square Corner Park will feature Cazmiere, a Top 40 dance variety band, on Saturday from 2-5 p.m. On Sunday, The Reagan Years, an '80s tribute band, will take the main stage from 2-5 p.m.

Other performances include

Michael Stone and Boo Troxell on the Square Corner Park side stage, Freddie Long, the Celtic Rhythm School of Dance, Michael Stone and Shade Tree Collective at the Kings Pizza stage, and acoustic performances at the B&O Railroad Park deck and Gilded Dragonfly patio.

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BRUNSWICK NEWS

BHS Location Meeting CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

about 30 minutes, explaining the myriad details of reasons for the proposed site selection. Many factors had to be weighed including the site's topography, needed earth moving, drainage, traffic patterns, timing of construction, and more.

After the presentations, the attendees did not want the meeting to break into smaller groups and they demanded to be heard. Questions and comments were shouted from the floor and were fielded by Dr. Lebo and the presenters. Many concerns were raised, including issues about limited access during emergencies, the need for traffic circles on Souder Road and Rt. 464, and other issues not directly related to the proposed BHS site plan.

The meeting was scheduled to run until 7:30 p.m. At 7:25, the meeting did break into smaller groups before adjourning. However, most of the attendees left before the groups formed.

What's Next?

After the meeting, Brunswick Mayor Nathan Brown said: "I appreciated FCPS putting the meeting together in response to our community wanting more information and dialogue on the project. There is clearly a lot of passion and interest in the project and ensuring that they get it right. I share the same passion and interest."

In August, Mayor Brown sent a letter to the Board of Education requesting more dialogue with the community before a decision is made. The BOE is scheduled to hold a "Community Listening Session" at Brunswick High School on Oct. 14. The board is scheduled to vote on the site selection at their board meeting on Nov. 18.

"Since my letter to the BOE, we seem to be moving to a better place of collaboration and conversation from FCPS on this project, and I hope that continues," the Mayor said. "I encourage our community to continue to show up and ask questions, seek information, and advocate on this project in a respectful way. This advocacy has proven to work before in ensuring that BHS gets replaced and was moved up on the timeline, I know it can work here to ensure that the community's needs are addressed." ■

Railroad Days CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

Food, Drinks and Family Fun

Food vendors will be available throughout the festival, with options ranging from barbecue, tacos and Mediterranean food to acai bowls, crepes, kettle corn, soft serve and lemonade.

Local restaurants will also be serving festival-goers. Smoketown Brewing will host a beer garden at Square Corner Park, while several distilleries will offer tastings at designated locations around the festival.

For children, Tiny Tracks Junction in the American Legion parking lot will feature inflatable, a petting zoo, pony rides and a trackless train. Free face painting and glitter tattoos will be available. Cash Forge will demonstrate traditional blacksmithing, including work with reclaimed railroad materials.

New 50+ Community Center CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

The study director, Dr. Lance Richards, said he was impressed by the open candidness of people surveyed in Brunswick. He described Brunswick as having a diverse senior community, and their participation in their center is only limited by the building itself.

At more than 20,000 square feet, the new center promises a "full range of programs and services, including fitness areas, health services, multipurpose rooms, commercial kitchen, and community partnership opportunities," according to the feasibility study, although it noted that the final site features will be prepared following the selection of a developer.

Local leaders rejoice

Brunswick Mayor Nathan Brown spoke at the event, calling it "a wonderful day for Brunswick." He said he was incredibly excited and honored that the new center would be built right here in Brunswick, and he recalled how his grandmother, Mary Kathleen Lowery, was an avid member and volunteer at the senior center. He said he spent a lot of time there as a child. "A senior center is so much more than a building. It's a lifeline," he said.

Cathy Barnes, Director of the Brunswick Senior Center, called the new 50+ community center "long overdue" and said, "I am beyond excited." Barnes has served as director for 36 years, increasing activities and services at the center despite the building limitations. ■



Sample conceptual design for Brunswick 50+ Community Center. The final site design will be prepared following the selection of a developer. Source: MGT Senior Center Feasibility Study.



Tiny Tracks Junction in the American Legion parking lot will feature a trackless train for kids.

ables, a petting zoo, pony rides and a trackless train. Free face painting and glitter tattoos will be available. Cash Forge will demonstrate traditional blacksmithing, including work with reclaimed railroad materials.

Artisans and Downtown Businesses

Artisans, crafters, community organizations and small businesses will line Potomac Street and other festival areas with handmade goods, artwork, jewelry, home décor and other items. Local businesses through-

out downtown will offer Railroad Days specials and food and drink offerings.

This year's festival map divides the event into several zones, including Locomotive Lane, Freight Yard Market, Grub Junction, Caboose Corner, Railway Row and Tiny Tracks Junction, making it easier for visitors to find food, vendors, music and family activities.

Train Rides into West Virginia

A round-trip, non-stop MARC commuter train will travel a scenic route from Brunswick through Harpers Ferry to Shenandoah Junction, W.Va., before returning to Brunswick. Trains depart at 1 and 3 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. The ride takes approximately 45-50 minutes.

Tickets are \$10, with children 3 and under riding free, and must be purchased online. The fully enclosed train is wheelchair accessible and can accommodate strollers, wagons and wheelchair equipment. There

is no stop for passengers to get off the train before returning to Brunswick.

Model Trains on Display

Train enthusiasts can see several model railroad displays during the festival. The American Legion will host displays by the Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society and National Capital Trackers, while the Frederick County Society of Model Engineers will have a layout in the Kaplon Building on West Potomac Street.

Free Admission and Parking

Admission to Railroad Days, including the live music and train displays, is free. Parking is free in the MARC lot by the train tracks, with accessible parking available there as well. For train tickets, the full music schedule, vendor information and a festival map, visit brunswickrailroaddays.org. See you there! ■

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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Notices of events, news stories, photos, and interesting articles, poems or stories may be submitted by regular mail or email to: Editor@BrunsNews.com

Blocked Railroad Crossings Update

The Brunswick News-Journal is publishing monthly statistics on the number of complaints submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration regarding extended blockages of railroad crossings in the city. These involve two crossings, Maple Avenue (North) and Maple Avenue (South).

To submit a complaint to the FRA, go to <https://www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings/>



	Blockages 8/16/26- 9/15/26	Duration: 16-30 mins	Duration: 31-60 mins	Duration: 60 mins or more	Blockages YTD	Notes
Maple Ave. (South)	33	5	9	19	103	First responders unable to cross tracks on Sept. 6.
Maple Ave. (North)	8	3	3	1	38	MARC passengers unable to get to their cars on Aug. 19 and 20.

BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL

Mayor and Council September Update



Back Row L-R: Eric Smothers, Andy St. John, John Caves, Daniel Yochelson
Front Row L-R: Brian Sandusky, Nathan Brown, Jerry Bonanno

By JULIE GOURLEY

Council vacancy

By the time you read this, applicants for the vacant Council seat will be known. As of September 8, several people picked up applicant packages, but none had yet returned them. Should there be only one candidate, that person will be sworn in as the new Council member at a future meeting.

If there are multiple candidates, the Council will interview them in private on Tuesday, September 29. The Council will interview them in public on Monday, October 5 at 6:00 p.m. Immediately following, the Council will go into a closed session to discuss. The Council will have until October 13 to reach consensus agreement on a candidate. If they agree, the candidate will be sworn in at a future date. If they cannot reach agreement on a candidate, a special election will be announced.

New senior center

Mayor Brown attended an event at the Fire Company on Sept. 8 to hear the results of a county feasibility study on the future of senior centers. He said Brunswick will be the first community in the county to get a brand-new senior center. It will be located along Rt. 17 across from the Brunswick Fire Hall. (See the story on page 1 for details.)

New train service to Baltimore

The mayor also announced that MARC launched a pilot weekday roundtrip train connection between Brunswick and Baltimore's Camden Station, bypassing Washington, D.C. and avoiding the need to change trains at Union Station. (See page 8 for more details.)

Brunswick High School site plan

The mayor reminded the community that the construction team for the new high school will host a public meeting on Sept. 17 at Brunswick El-

ementary School. (See page 1 for results of that meeting.)

Kaplon building redevelopment

The prospective owner of the Kaplon building, Monocacy Hospitality, and the city government will enter into a memorandum of understanding on the preliminary steps toward purchase and development of the building.

The agreement will cover the planning and design processes for a new restaurant, in order to reach an overall project price that Monocacy will be comfortable with. The city and Monocacy will split the cost of the planning and design process.

In Other News...

- Mayor Brown swore in the newest police officer, Beth Hiliard, on Sept. 8. One vacancy remains on the force.

- Chief Grunwell reported the arrest of a severely mentally ill man who was responsible for malicious destruction in the downtown area. There were several arrest warrants in connection with him.

- After some initial issues, the parking situation in and around Brunswick Elementary School has improved with fewer Central Avenue backups and traffic jams.

- Utilities Director Matt Campbell reported that the test well to be drilled near the water tower (reservoir) will cost \$22,475. The test well will determine whether the plan to drill a well to supplement the city's water supply will be feasible. He also reported that the new reservoir will go online in 2028 and that the city applied for a \$1 million grant from USDA to help cover the cost.

- The redeveloped and expanded Brunswick Sports Complex is on schedule to be finished by the end of September. The city will submit the required paperwork to be reimbursed for the \$2 million grant that was awarded for the Sports Complex a few years back. ■

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

What in the world is going on with CSX and the blocked crossings?

One of my favorite weekends of the year is almost here. On October 3 and 4, Brunswick will celebrate our annual Railroad Days festival. This event continues to thrive, and it remains one of the best opportunities to celebrate the history, culture and community spirit that make Brunswick special.

Downtown will be filled with vendors, children's activities, live music, train rides, great food and thousands of visitors enjoying everything our city has to offer. A special thank you goes to Lauren Craker and our Community Development team, whose hard work brings this event to life each year. New this year, we will be shuttling folks back and forth from the Brunswick Elementary School parking lot for overflow parking.

As we prepare to celebrate our railroad heritage, it seems like an appropriate time to address a question I hear almost daily: What in the world is going on with CSX and the blocked crossings?

Two viewpoints on blocked crossings

The discussion around blocked crossings is often divided between two different viewpoints. On one side are residents, business owners and visitors who are frustrated by crossings blocked for extended periods of time. They worry about the impact on businesses, tourism and Brunswick's efforts to grow as a destination for outdoor recreation along the C&O Canal and Potomac River. They wonder how many visitors decide to turn around after sitting at a crossing for 30 minutes, an hour, or even longer. Those concerns are understandable and deserve to be taken seriously.

At the same time, Brunswick is and always will be a railroad town. Generations of families built their lives and livelihoods through the railroad. Our history, identity and culture remain



deeply connected to it. We are proud of that history and proud of the men and women who worked, and continue to work, in the rail industry. But I believe an important point is often missed in this conversation. Brunswick

When crossings are blocked for 45 minutes, an hour, or longer, the consequences go far beyond inconvenience.

has never been anti-railroad. In fact, Brunswick exists because of the railroad.

A railroad is part of the community

The B&O Railroad was not simply a company operating through our community. It was part of our community. Throughout Brunswick's history, the railroad and town worked together. The railroad contributed land and resources for schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal facilities, a swimming pool, medical services, housing and infrastructure. At one point, nearly every aspect of Brunswick's economy was connected in some way to the railroad and the thousands of families who called this community home.

There were certainly disagreements over the years, but there was also a relationship. Problems were discussed, ideas were shared and solutions were pursued together.

That is the kind of relationship I hope Brunswick can have with CSX today.

The issue is not trains

Brunswick understands the importance of freight rail, and no one is asking CSX to stop operating trains or abandon the important role the Brunswick yard continues to play in the regional rail network. The concern is the growing frequency and duration of blocked crossings and the impacts they have on public safety, quality of life and economic development.

When crossings are blocked for 45 minutes, an hour, or longer, the consequences go far beyond inconvenience.

Brunswick sits alongside a beautiful but sometimes dangerous section of the Potomac River where water rescues are regularly necessary. Thousands of people use the C&O Canal towpath each year, and our parks, campgrounds and recreational areas often require access by emergency responders. We have documented incidents where emergency personnel were delayed by blocked crossings, at times waiting 20 or 30 minutes before they could proceed. When someone is facing a medical emergency, needs rescue services, or requires immediate assistance from firefighters or law enforcement, every minute matters.

Blocked crossings also affect our local economy. Over the last several years, Brunswick has worked hard to diversify an economy that was once almost entirely dependent upon the railroad. We have invested in downtown revitalization, outdoor recreation, tourism and small business development. We are working to capitalize on something truly unique: a historic railroad community located directly along two of Maryland's greatest assets, the C&O Canal and the Potomac River. The railroad should be part of that success story, not an obstacle to it.

A conversation with CSX

For those reasons, the City has again reached out to CSX and requested to sit down and have

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A PERSONAL TRIBUTE
Jeff Snoots

By WAYNE ALLGAIER

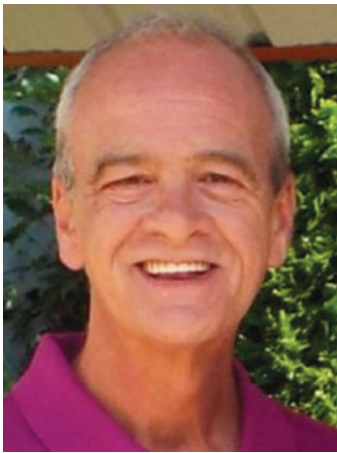
Most people in Brunswick will remember Jeff Snoots as our mayor from 2016 to 2020. But he was much more than that. He cared deeply about everything he did, especially his personal relationships with others.

While I was probably not among Jeff’s closest friends, he made me feel as though I was. When Vicki and I would drop by to pay a “short visit” with him and his mother Patsy (and their dog Jerzee) at their home on Concord Drive, we found ourselves staying for a couple of hours. As busy as his life was, he was never in a hurry. Some of our fondest memories are evenings spent with Jeff and Patsy eating crab legs at Avery’s. He made us feel special.

Civic involvement
from a young age

His involvement in civic affairs began when he was elected to the Brunswick City Council at the young age of 24. As mayor, he was deeply involved with the renovation of our Sports Complex, the planning of the new City Operations Building at 811 West Potomac, and the upgrading of Yourtee Springs. As is the case with anyone in public office, not everyone agreed with Jeff, but every decision he made was in the best interests of Brunswick, the town where several generations of his family had lived and worked.

Jeff was instrumental in two initiatives that were of special interest to me. He headed the committee to restore the Old Berlin Cemetery which had been neglected for years. And in 2018, he revived the Distinguished Citizens Recognition program which was started in 1976 but had remained dormant for 23 years. These are



two programs that he invited me to become a part of, so I have a special appreciation of their significance.

In his professional life, Jeff was well respected for his knowledge, his devotion to his job, and the care that he had for his coworkers. He was scheduled to retire on Friday, August 28, and that week was filled with retirement parties (including a mock funeral) and well-wishes from those who worked with him. Sadly, he passed away suddenly on August 26. Out of deep respect, many of his work associates took time from their busy schedules to attend his funeral and bid him one final farewell.

Jeff was selfless. His focus was on the needs of others. He was especially devoted to his mother Patsy who, although still very sharp mentally, has needed some assistance as her age has begun to have its effects on her physical abilities.

Jeff was 63 years old, with plans to retire and enjoy “the good life.” All of us were shocked to hear of his unexpected passing. Those of us who knew him will miss him deeply. However, as Pastor May reminded us at his funeral, “It is we who mourn Jeff’s passing. He is happy where he is.” And his influence will be felt for generations to come. ■

Mad Queen Stars in Halloween Display
on North Maple Avenue

By ELLIS BURRUSS

When is a good time to start planning Halloween decorations — September? October? How about January?

That’s when Katie Brown starts planning. If you have driven past her house at North Maple Avenue and F Street in Brunswick in the past six years, you will have seen some very imaginative scenes.

In 2020 it was the Haunted Forest, 2021 — the Creepy Circus, 2022 — Sleepy Hollow, 2023 — Pirates, 2024 — Zombies, and 2025 — Monster Mash!

Katie’s decorations are a lot more than pumpkins peering out windows. The Haunted Forest in 2020 involved planting hundreds of dead corn stalks in rows in the front yard. The 2023 pirate ship had to have concrete footings poured for the 30-foot-long ship repli-



KATIE BROWN

ca constructed of porch lumber. The ship’s sail was the re-used circus tent from the Creepy Circus (which had been stitched together from alternate red and white table cloths).

The theme this year will be Alice in Wonderland. There

will be a rabbit hole (of course), playing-card people, and the Mad Queen, among other characters.

Katie’s Halloween display has been in the planning since January and should be completed by mid-October. ■

From the Mayor CONTINUED

Continued from page 3

meaningful conversations about blocked crossings, public safety concerns, emergency access and the impacts these operational challenges have on our community. My hope is that by the time this article is published, those conversations will already be underway.

I recognize that railroad operations are complex. Managing a major freight network is not simple, and many operational challenges are more complicated than they appear from the outside. At the same time, the challenges Brunswick faces are real, and they deserve thoughtful discussion.

There may not be a single solution to this issue, and there may not be an easy solution at all. Addressing blocked crossings will likely require creativity, persistence, partnership and a willingness by everyone involved to explore possible options. The encouraging news is that, based on the communications we have received, CSX appears willing to continue engaging with us as we work through these challenges. That is a positive step and one that I hope continues.

The City will continue working with CSX, state agencies, federal partners and anyone else willing to help improve the situation. We will continue advocat-

ing for our residents, documenting impacts, pursuing solutions and doing the hard work necessary to keep this issue moving forward.

Long-term actions

We are also continuing to pursue long-term improvements that could help reduce some of the challenges associated with access across the railroad. One project that has been discussed for years is a pedestrian bridge connecting downtown Brunswick, the MARC station area, and destinations along the C&O Canal and riverfront. While such a project would not solve every issue, it could significantly improve connectivity, access, and safety for residents and visitors.

Through our partnership with MDOT, the project has reached approximately 30 percent of design completion, and we continue to pursue funding for final design and construction.

Our futures are
connected

For more than a century, Brunswick has embraced its railroad heritage. You can see it in our architecture, our museum, our community events, and the stories passed from one generation to the next. Respecting that history does not mean we cannot ask questions about current chal-

lenges. In fact, our history teaches the opposite. The railroad helped build Brunswick because the railroad and the community understood that their futures were connected. That remains true today.

CSX is not going anywhere, and neither is Brunswick. We share the same geography, the same crossings, and many of the same challenges. That reality means we have a responsibility to keep working together, even when the issues are difficult, and solutions are not immediately obvious.

Brunswick will continue advocating for our residents, and I remain optimistic that CSX will continue engaging as a community partner. If we keep talking, keep working together, and keep searching for practical solutions, I believe we can continue building the kind of relationship that respects both the importance of the railroad and the needs of the community that has grown alongside it for generations.

For more information about the City’s efforts regarding blocked crossings, including the live crossing camera and instructions for reporting crossing blockages to the Federal Railroad Administration, visit the City’s website, brunswickmd.gov, and click on CSX Crossing Live Feed, Reporting & Info. ■

Nathan Brown

Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance &
Rescue Auxiliary Fundraisers

Homemade Apple Dumplings

\$15 for a pan of 4 dumplings
Order by Saturday, October 10
Regular and sugar free
available



Homemade Pies

\$16 per pie
Order by Sunday, November 15
Flavors available: Pumpkin, Apple,
French Apple, Blueberry,
Cherry, Peach, Lemon,
Chocolate, and Coconut.
Sugar free available in fruit flavors

To order call 301-471-7007
or scan the QR code to order
online



BRUNSWICK NEWS

Halloween Events in Downtown Brunswick

Halloween fun happens in downtown Brunswick on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 6-8 p.m. with a Halloween Party in Square Corner Park. A Halloween Carnival with games welcomes families across the street in the Horine parking lot.

Halloween Party

The party in Square Corner Park (corner of Potomac St. and Maple Ave.) features a costume contest with prizes awarded for most creative, silly, spooky, or adorable costume. A live DJ will play Halloween hits and family friendly favorites to set the mood for dancing and fun.



ABBIE RICKETTS

See brunswickmd.gov/special-events for information.

Trunk or Treat

This is an event hosted every year by New Hope United Methodist Church, featuring a lineup of decorated car trunks with Halloween displays and treats for children and families.

Halloween Carnival

The Main Street organization will hold a Halloween Carnival at the Horine Building parking lot at 2 East Potomac St. across from Square Corner Park from 5-8 p.m. Kids can enjoy hometown carnival style games and win prizes. There is also a free "Tunnel of Terror" for those who enjoy getting scared.

The Halloween Carnival is an inexpensive way to add to the fun of the big celebration. Proceeds from the carnival help to raise funds for downtown revitalization projects including beautification and community events.

Volunteers are needed for set up, actors, game attendants, marketing (passing out flyers) and tearing down at the end of the evening. If you have an hour or two to spare to help kids have fun, email organization@brunswickmainstreet.org. ■

City Receives \$400,000 Bikeways Grant



Letters A to G are potential access points.

By ABBIE RICKETTS

The City of Brunswick recently was awarded a grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation's Bikeways program. A concept for a project came up in the Comprehensive MultiModal Safety Action Plan which was presented to the Mayor and Council on April 28, 2026 by Wood Valley, the company that was engaged through a Safe Streets for All grant previously awarded to the city.

To provide connectivity

City Administrator Julie Martorana said, "The idea was to provide connectivity from the High/Middle School area

all the way down to Route 180. There are several development projects occurring in this corridor over the next few years that will allow additions without having to build the entire pathway ourselves. For example, the Springdale development taking place on the old Cooper Farm will provide a 10 ft. bike/pedestrian pathway from Route 464 along Souder Road to Second Avenue. Also, the new 50+ Community Center location (across from the Fire Dept.) will include a walking path along part of Route 17."

The newly awarded Bikeways grant for \$400,000 will fund the design/planning for the full pathway and coordi-

nate with the other developers to ensure a seamless trail.

Martorana said, "The City is so excited about this grant award and how this project will integrate with future development. The concept of improving connectivity between neighborhoods and sections of town will provide a much more cohesive community and improve accessibility for all. However, the topography of Brunswick presents sometimes overwhelming challenges, but we have learned that bringing experts to help us visualize what's possible is the key to future success as we integrate the old with the new into one community." ■

BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
AUGUST 2026

Copies of past police reports are available by contacting the Brunswick Police Department

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Maryland State Citations	23	262	33	229
Maryland State SEROS	4	25	10	44
Warning Citations	72	742	102	609
Parking Citations	9	151	27	206

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Calls for Service	1,385	10,769	1,749	11,738
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	3
Robbery	0	0	0	0
Assault	7	44	4	32
Breaking & Entering	0	5	0	1
Theft	1	25	2	28
Auto Theft	0	0	0	0
Adult Arrests	9	52	6	54
Juvenile Arrests	0	2	0	4

OTHER INCIDENTS				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Motor Vehicle Accidents	10	62	11	55
Emergency Evaluations Mentally Ill/Suicidal Persons	10	75	9	56
Overdoses	1	10	0	6

YTD = year to date PY = previous year N/D = no data *warnings
SEROS = safety equipment repair orders (a law enforcement officer can issue a SERO to the operator of a vehicle with defective or non-functioning equipment, such as a taillight)

Brunswick's Traffic Cameras

THEY'RE NOT WHAT YOU MIGHT THINK

By JULIE GOURLEY

Many Brunswick residents know that the Brunswick Police Department installed traffic cameras around town to help track down criminals, suspects and missing persons and to help with other emergencies.

Early on, some people were upset about this, assuming that BPD might one day use the cameras for nefarious purposes and questioned BPD's assurances that there would be no surveillance of the public.

One year on, things have run smoothly, and many suspects and criminals have been caught without any need for surveillance, according to Captain Andy Crone.

The Turing Camera System

BPD utilizes Turing Security Cameras with a total of 32 units installed at various locations throughout the city. The cameras are strategically placed to monitor the majority of the city's ingress and egress points, as well as city-owned parking lots.

The Turing system does not include automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) as some other camera systems do that have become controversial.

Automatic License Plate Readers

In addition to the Turing system, BPD operates three ALPRs. Two of these units are mounted on speed trailers frequently seen around the city. Although deployed primarily as speed deterrents, the trailers also perform ALPR functions.

The third unit is installed on a marked police vehicle. It can alert officers if a scanned plate is associated with a stolen vehicle, is flagged by MVA, or has other enforceable violations. Officers must still verify all information for accuracy prior to initiating any enforcement action.

BPD does not manage nor retain ALPR data and cannot independently search or access ALPR data.

Instead, all collected information is automatically transmitted to the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC). Officers who need ALPR data for an investigation must formally request it from MCAC, providing a case number, justification, and receiving agency approval before the information is released. MCAC has strict policies surrounding the release of any information to law enforcement agencies only.

What About AI?

Some Turing cameras are equipped with artificial intelligence features that attempt to identify license plate numbers on passing vehicles. However, the system does not have the capability to run plate information through any database. It simply records video and associated data that officers can later search when investigating incidents.

Over the past year it has aided in resolving several cases, including hit and run crashes, missing persons, thefts, and fraud investigations.

Privacy Concerns

It is important to note that BPD uses the Turing system reactively only. There are no city personnel who monitor it 24/7.

BPD follows strict policies and procedures governing the use of these systems, ensuring they are used only for legitimate law enforcement purposes. The network is closed and fully controlled by the department, including access to stored data. Even the system vendor must receive explicit permission from BPD before accessing the system for maintenance.

Continued on page 8

BRUNSWICK NEWS

BEACON Celebrates 20 Years of Community Service

By ABBIE RICKETTS

The non-profit organization Brunswick Ecumenical Assistance Committee on Needs, better known as BEACON, is celebrating 20 years of charitable service to the community.

BEACON was organized in 2006 to provide oversight for the Brunswick Food Bank, begun in 1979, and the Emergency Relief Fund, started in 2002. Individual churches were filling requests from the community, and a decision was made to join together through a central organization. The all-volunteer group works to improve the life of local citizens needing assistance.

First organized over 40 years ago by the Rev. George Harpel, it is the oldest organized food bank in Frederick County.

The original BEACON founders were community members Sandy Cox, Faye Williams and Shirley Shores. The Articles of Incorporation were signed by Mike Watterson, Andrea Ernest, Williams, Cox, the late Anne Ricciuti, Vicky Starnes and Shores. Today, Rev. Justin Wyckoff is President, having taken the helm from Dr. Wayne Allgair, and the Food Bank is managed by Jennifer Effler. Leslie Gum heads the annual School Supply Drive and the Community Christmas program.

Assistance for children and elderly

About 250 backpacks filled with school supplies were delivered to children this year, with 150 children provided Christmas gifts last December. BEACON also provides food baskets and donates to Brunswick High and Middle and Brunswick and Valley Elementary school lunch programs. The organization provides gifts to the residents of Brunswick House such as candy bags, wall calendars and greeting cards.



Assistance with utilities, rent and food

Shirley Shores, one of the original founders, administers the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) along with Faye Williams. The two are available on the first and third Wednesdays each month, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the City Annex Building on East Potomac Street, to meet with people needing help with utility bills and rent. They can also be reached daily by phone. While BEACON provides direct help, clients are also referred to other agencies for additional assistance, and the two handle Food Bank referrals. Shores said there has been an increase in need in recent years.

The Food Bank has grown to serve about 75 families and is open every Thursday evening from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the City Annex Building. First organized over 40 years ago by the Rev. George Harpel, it is the oldest organized food bank in Frederick County. A Leadership Team operating under manager Jennifer Effler manages the weekly distributions and food collections. The volunteers are known for their caring attitude and respectful nature.

Donations and grant funding

BEACON is able to manage its programs through donations and grant funding. In recent months the Food Bank received two \$25,000 grants through the Frederick County F.E.E.D. program to help food-distributing organizations recover from cuts in federal food programs.

To learn more about BEACON as they celebrate 20 years of service, visit www.brunswickbeacon.org or call (301) 834- 9718. ■

Brunswick 50+ Community Center Happenings

By JEAN DOYLE

The Fall Session begins the week of October 5. Registration is open now.

To register for activities with a fee, visit the eStore at: <https://frederickcountymd-gov.3dcart-stores.com>, and pay by credit card. To pay by check, made out to Frederick County Treasurer, drop off at Brunswick 50+ Community Center, 12 East A St. Or mail your check and form to Frederick County Division of Aging and Independence, Attn: 50+Programs, 1440 Taney Ave., Frederick, MD 21702. For free and virtual programs, register at VirtualSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Trips in October and early November

Saturday, October 10 — Voyage: Celebrating the Music of Journey @Luhrs’ Center. Voyage is the premier Journey tribute band. Enjoy the blistering guitar solos, lush keyboard arrangements, stunning harmonies, and timeless music of Journey. 4:45 to approximately 11:00 p.m. \$55 per person. Bring snacks for the ride back as we will not stop for a meal. Leaves from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, Sept. 25 at the eStore or at your local Senior Center.

Saturday, October 24 — Blue Ridge Arts & Crafts Festival. The festival is held at the Washington County Agricultural Education Center and Rural Heritage Museum. Enjoy visiting 70 local artists, live music and delicious food from numerous food trucks. 10:30 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. \$15 per person, bring money for food and shopping. Leaves from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, Oct. 9 at the eStore or at your local Senior Center.

Friday, November 6 — The Conowingo Dam. The Dam is an engineering marvel constructed nearly a century ago. It is located on the lower Susquehanna River, in northern Maryland. It is Maryland’s largest source of renewable energy. Learn all about the history of the dam at the Visitors’ Center. Hopefully see some of the bald eagles who congregate around and below the dam to feed on the many fish. 8:00 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. \$25 per person. Bring your lunch. Leaves from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, Oct. 23 at the eStore or at your local Senior Center.

Seniors in the Park

Friday, October 23 — Autumn Festival at Jumbo’s Pumpkin Patch. Enjoy a hayride, pumpkin patch, corn maze, petting zoo, boxed lunch, and general store with fall décor. An optional activity is a succulent workshop. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. \$12 per person, including lunch, for the festival. \$47 per person for the Festival and the Succulent Workshop (lunch included). Limited transportation may be available from some activity centers. Jumbo’s Pumpkin Patch is located at 6250 Holter Road, Middletown. Register by Friday, Oct. 9 at the eStore or at your local Senior Center.

Friday, November 13 — Friendsgiving Luncheon at Carriage House Inn. Celebrate a Thanksgiving-style lunch with friends. The menu is a traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner. A vegetarian entree is available upon request at the time of registration. 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. \$15 per person. Limited transportation may be available from some centers. Carriage House Inn is located at 200 South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. Register by Friday, Oct. 30 at the eStore, or at your local Senior Center.

Special Events at Brunswick 50+ Community Center

Tuesday, October 6 — Blood Pressure Checks and Safety Presentations. Presented by Frederick County Fire and Rescue the first Tuesday of each month. This month’s presentation is Fire Safety Month, Battery Safety. 11:00 a.m. Free. Drop in.

Wednesday, October 7 — C & O Canal Walk. October in Maryland is Walktober Month. Walk from the toll house at Lander Road to the aqueduct crossing Catoctin Creek. 9:30 a.m. Free, pre-register at 301-834-8115. Limited transportation may be available.

Wednesday, October 14 — Pizza Bowl Wii Bowling Competition. Filled with fun, food and fellowship. \$10 per person, pre-register at 301-834-8115. Space is limited.

Thursday, October 15 — Lunch Bunch Octoberfest. Enjoy a special Octoberfest menu of bratwurst and all the trimmings. Please reserve your meal a week in advance at 301-834-8115. Voluntary contributions are appreciated. The meal costs \$6.49.

Thursday, November 5 — Bingo Fun at the Brunswick Eagles Hosted by the Brunswick Senior Center. Join us for Bingo followed by lunch. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$10 with lunch, \$3 without lunch. Register by Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 301-834-8115.

There are many other activities offered this October through the Brunswick 50+ Community Center and the Frederick County Office of Aging and Independence. Don’t forget to register for the many virtual programs, the fitness classes, and arts and crafts activities. Go online at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/DAI to find listings of activities offered. You can also find out about the many classes by stopping in at the Brunswick Senior Center at 12 East A St., Brunswick.

CASH BINGO

to benefit Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church, Burkittsville

Friday, October 23, 2026

Doors Open 5:30 pm • Games Begin 7:00 pm

Fraternal Order of Eagles
401 Central Avenue • Brunswick, MD

20 Games + Special Games + Raffles

Tickets \$25 (Purchased at the Door)

Food and Drinks Available

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LIVE MUSIC FEATURING:

SIDE STAGE

10:00 AM

SATURDAY

Michael Stone Band

SUNDAY

Boo Troxell

MAIN STAGE

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SATURDAY

CAZMIERE

Top 40 Dance Variety

SUNDAY

THE REAGAN YEARS

*The East Coast's Original
80's Tribute Band*

KINGS PIZZA STAGE

SATURDAY

10:00 AM Freddie Long

**3:00 PM Celtic Rhythm
School of Dance**

SUNDAY

10:00 AM Michael Stone Band

**2:00 PM Shade Tree
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A GRAND CELEBRATION ALONG THE HISTORIC RAILS!

LOCAL NEWS

New MARC Train Service to Baltimore



By JULIE GOURLEY

On September 28, MARC launched a direct weekday roundtrip connection between Brunswick and Baltimore’s Camden Station, bypassing Washington, D.C. and avoiding the need to change trains at Union Station.

The route includes Brunswick, Point of Rocks, Barnesville, Germantown, Metropolitan Grove, Gaithersburg, Rockville, Kensington, Silver Spring, College Park, Laurel, and Baltimore/Camden Station. It creates direct links between Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Baltimore counties for the first time.

MARC will offer a promotional \$2 discount on one-way tickets between Brunswick Line stations and College Park, Laurel, and Camden stations. Discounts will also be offered on weekly and monthly passes.

A timetable for the train service is at mta.maryland.gov/Brunswick-Camden. ■

Traffic Cameras CONTINUED

Continued from page 5

Data Retention Policy

The Turing platform retains data for a maximum of 60 days; AI enabled cameras store footage on a secure cloud during that period. Other cameras record to a local network video recorder with a retention window of one to two weeks. Unless an officer proactively archives footage, it is automatically recorded over after those timeframes.

Can the Turing Cameras Have Broader Public Uses?

Yes! BPD is working to implement a public-facing live link on its webpage and Facebook page that will allow residents to view the two railroad crossings in real time to determine whether the tracks are blocked.

This will help people who use the canal towpath or need to get to a car parked in the MARC lot. It should also help with traffic back-ups on S. Maple Avenue and Petersville Road. ■

Smoketown Rotary Club Bestows Paul Harris Awards



Smoketown Rotary award presentation (left to right) Rotary president Jennifer Lolli-Hall, Anne Zumbach, Lee Zumbach, Rotary members Abbie Ricketts and Kevin Kenny.

By ABBIE RICKETTS

Smoketown Rotary Club honored Anne and Lee Zumbach on Sept. 2 with its highest honor, the Paul Harris Fellow. This award is given to distinguished community leaders who are exemplars of the Rotary motto “Service Above Self.” Paul Harris was the founder of Rotary International.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition requires a contribution of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation from an existing Rotary

member. This year club member Kevin Kenny contributed \$2,000.

Lee and Anne Zumbach were honored for the exemplary work they have completed over many years especially with the youth in the Brunswick region. Anne teaches high school and Lee is a retired teacher. They both coach several high school sports and work with the Express Running Club.

Anne also leads Boy Scout Troop #277. Lee is a long-time member of the Brunswick Area

Recreation Council (BARC). He also organizes runs and races, having recently organized the Potomac Street Mile for Brunswick Main Street and the Deadman’s Downhill Run for BARC. Anne is usually there to lend a hand.

The Smoketown Rotary Club is proud to honor Lee and Anne Zumbach.

The club is accepting new members. For more information, contact Jennifer Lolli-Hall at smoketownrotaryclub@gmail.com. ■

Bird City Brunswick Celebrates Two Years of Progress

Brunswick is celebrating two years as an official Bird City, a recognition program of Bird City Maryland. Bird City Brunswick is a community group formed to support Brunswick’s Bird City recognition.

The City of Brunswick is recognized at the High Flyer level with 28 action points completed. The city exemplifies a community committed to strong partnerships to help birds flourish. In addition to its Bird City recognition, Brunswick is also a silver level Sustainable Maryland city.

Brunswick completed actions in four categories: Habitat, Threats to Birds, Education and Engagement, and Sustainability.



nual native plant swaps and seed exchanges.

Library programs focused on birds

The Brunswick Public Library routinely presents environmental programming focused on birds and native plants, as well as hosting bio blitz tutorials and leading bio blitzes for young people. The library has installed window glass decals to prevent bird collisions.

Food Bank Garden

Brunswick has expanded the Food Bank Garden consisting of fruit and nut trees and vegetables to include an herb garden as part of the Bird City designation renewal. The garden, installed as part of the original Bird City Maryland application, provides food for birds, insects and the local community.

Wild Potomac, a local non-profit, hosted an educational event at the garden and

partners with the city in its maintenance. Visitors learned tree and shrub care as well as the benefits of each plant for wildlife and humans. After caring for the plants, attendees enjoyed a native food picnic complete with cookies baked with acorn flour, roasted nuts, and sumac lemonade.

Tree giveaway

Bird City Brunswick and Wild Potomac secured a grant to fund 110 native trees to give free to the community. Members helped people pick appropriate locations for their trees, provided mulch, and assisted with the planting. In addition, Wild Potomac has planted two residential food forests, and Bird City Brunswick hosts an-

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BRUNSWICK, MD 21716 | 301-834-7426

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Learn how to recognize, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges in young people ages 12–18.

A free course sponsored by Brook Lane and offered at Brownsville Church of the Brethren is designed to give adults the skills and confidence to support young people who may be struggling and connect them with appropriate help.

Whether you're a parent, educator, church member, coach, mentor, or someone who cares about the young people in your community, this training can help you recognize when a young person needs support and know how to respond.

Part I: Saturday, Oct. 17

Part II: Saturday, Oct. 24

Time: 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

For more information, call Doris at 301-432-8354, or email bcboutreach@gmail.com. Brownsville Church of the Brethren is located at 1911 Rohrsersville Rd. in Knoxville. ■

Festival Raises \$12,500 for FFA Students



Keira Ekstroem holding her diamond art best of show entry.

By ELLIS BURRUSS

Why is the Brunswick Community Festival held each year in Burkittsville? Because it's mostly about the Brunswick FFA (Future Farmers of America)

ca) which used to hold the festival in Brunswick High School before moving to the Burkittsville Ruritan Club.

This year's event on August 28–29 had perfect weather and raised over \$10,000 for the

Brunswick Alumni FFA Scholarship Fund. In addition, almost \$2500 was raised for the trip to Nationals for Brunswick FFA students.

“Best of Show” exhibitors were: Shirley Bell, Richard Bender, Keira Ekstroem, Wade Feago, Joyce Geisler, Roxanne Gunne, Kaitlyn Guyton, Vanessa Guyton, Danielle Kirkpatrick, Karen Koch, Eli O'Hara, Easton Savage, Rhett Savage and Julie Thompson.

Ben Kettner won the best patriotic award with his stars and stripes pie. Rich Goodman won the Grand Champion cake. ■



Chainsaw art by Joe Stebbing



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OPINION

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Electric Mobility Devices:
Take our readers’ poll

You may have encountered one of these while walking or driving: an electric-powered bike, moped, skateboard, or other Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device (EPAMD). That's how they are referred to in the Annotated Code of Maryland - Transportation. We are seeing more and more of them on our streets, sidewalks, paths, and parking lots.

What do you think of them? Are they just good recreation – getting young people outdoors and away from their phones? Are they a legitimate form of local transportation for a person who cannot afford a car.

Or are they a danger to both the user and anyone they may run into? Imagine that you're a 70-year-old going for a walk to get some fresh air and you get slammed into by 100 pounds of pre-teen and scooter going 20 miles an hour. Not good.

There are some general laws in our state about powered bikes, but they are not specific or up-to-date on the new products appearing on our streets and sidewalks. Should we have more local laws to regulate their use to protect both users and others from injury?

Please take a look at the readers' poll on our website, BrunsNews.com, and let us know how you feel. You can also use the QR code to go to the poll on the website. ■



How to send a Letter to the Editor

Letters intended for publication should be emailed to editor@brunsnews.com. Please include your name, town and phone number (phone numbers will not be published). Letters may be edited for grammar, length and content. We do not publish anonymous letters. Unpublished letters cannot be acknowledged. DEADLINE: the 18th of each month.

LETTERS

Support for Jerry Donald for State Delegate

I have been a resident of Frederick County for almost 40 years. During that time, I have come to know Jerry Donald well. From Trinity United Methodist Church, where I sang at his wedding, to teaching with Frederick County Public Schools, to work in policy and politics, I have worked with Jerry on a wide range of activities and projects. Jerry has been consistently reliable, trustworthy and caring.

As a resident of Frederick County District One, I have been fortunate enough to have Jerry represent me and my neighbors as a member of the Frederick County Council. Jerry is the epitome of a public servant. He works for the people he serves, which is precisely what elected officials should do. Jerry listens to and is engaged with his constituency.

I firmly believe that Jerry will be an outstanding representative for District 4 in Annapolis. Jerry will be a voice for the people, not for special interests. In the upcoming election, I will be voting for and supporting Jerry Donald to represent the people of Maryland District 4. I know he will serve us well.

— Dr. Lois A Jarman, Knoxville

Honored to Serve in Maryland General Assembly

It has been an honor to represent neighbors in the Maryland General Assembly for the past eight years. As your state representative, I have led the fight against data centers, power lines, gerrymandering and tax increases. I have passed landmark legislation and as the Chairman of the Frederick County Delegation, I’ve brought home record funding for our County.

I am proud to be the first legislator to oppose the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) and the first legislator to propose a data center moratorium in Maryland. In 2024, I organized a MPRP town hall at Linganore High School that had well over 1,000 attendees. We then were the first to contact the Public Service Commission, effectively delaying that project. We were also the first to oppose to the County Council’s data center CDI overlay expansion. We will continue to lead by example on these important issues.

As Chairman of the Frederick County Delegation, a position that I was unanimously elected to by both Republican and Democrat members, I have secured record funding for Frederick County. In 2024 we effectively advocated for and then secured millions to build a new Brunswick High School. During my two terms, I have represented as many as 11 municipalities and have secured significant funding for our cities, towns and villages, including a new emergency management center and numerous water quality improvements for the City of Brunswick.

I’m proud to have the endorsements of local Democrat, Republican and Independent leaders such as Middletown Burgess John Miller, Councilman Steve McKay and Brunswick Mayor Nathan Brown, to name a few.

Our family has been in Frederick County since the 1700s and I am proud to be raising our two sons here, who both attend Frederick County Public Schools. In addition to being your state representative, I am also a practicing attorney, little league coach, husband and father. I will always do what is right for Frederick County families.

I will never stop fighting for you, your family and Frederick County.

— Delegate Jesse T. Pippy

(Jesse Pippy is a candidate for re-election to the Maryland House of Delegates, District 4.)

Brunswick

Porch Sitters

Join Us !!

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Rumor Control Headquarters

Celebrating Our 2nd Year of Conversation and Community ! We Meet Once a Month Sharing Thoughts, Places, Announcements, Intriguing Discussions and Ideas--or Whatever You Want to Talk about.

(NO politics, though!)

No RSVP - Just show up and Share In The Friendship Which IS Brunswick !!

New Location! 10:00 am at the Brunswick Library
915 North Maple Avenue
(In the back by the fireplace)

Sponsored by the Brunswick Area Rec. Council

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

A BRUNSWICK MAIN STREET FUNDRAISER

Spooky Games

10 - 24 - 2026

5 PM-8 PM

2 E POTOMAC STREET

Brave the Tunnel of Terror

BOO TRAIL GHOST SCAVENGER HUNT

2 PM-5 PM

Valley Trail

We need a Brunswick education reporter!

Write for the Brunswick News-Journal about events or issues at our elementary, middle and high schools.

Join us! Volunteer and work at your own pace.

Email us: Editor@BrunsNews.com if interested.

FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

As October ushers in cooler weather and vibrant fall colors, it reminds us of the power of change and renewal. It's a perfect moment to recognize the value of community participation and the impact your feedback has on shaping our county's direction.

As we look ahead, Frederick County is brimming with exciting opportunities that strengthen and invest in our community. I encourage you to stay engaged, share your thoughts, and help us make Frederick County a place where everyone thrives.

DRRA Rejected, Pause on Data Center Applications Extended

Data center development continues to rightfully generate significant interest within our community, prompting thoughtful dialogue among residents, stakeholders, and officials. We have actively engaged with community members to gather input and address concerns.

This ongoing exchange has informed our approach as we work to ensure that decisions reflect both the needs and values of Frederick County.

That's why I recently rejected the application for a Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) sought by Catellus for the Frederick Digital Campus in Adamstown and signed an Executive Order ex-

tending the pause on data center applications until July 1, 2027.

The benefits Catellus offered would have met critical, expressed needs in Adamstown — but they came at too great of a cost to our community.

Thank you to all who shared your feedback and made clear that you do not want to see any more decisions made about data centers until we have the next County Council seated and not until the state completes its impact study.

To learn more, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/DataCenters.

Future Brunswick 50+ Community Center

Last month, I was proud to join the Division of Aging and Independence to announce the location of the future Brunswick 50+ Community Center and share the results of the County's 50+ Community Center Feasibility Study.

The Senior Center Feasibility Study gives us a comprehensive roadmap that shifts us from relying on repurposed facilities to investing in purpose-built, modern senior centers across Frederick County.

For Brunswick, the study's recommendation is clear: this community needs a right-sized, accessible, intentionally designed center for programming,



County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

wellness, social connection, and recreation. I am thrilled that we have the space to turn that vision into reality.

This study was developed by the Division of Aging and Independence in partnership with MGT Impact Solutions. It outlines a long term strategy to meet the needs of the county's rapidly growing older adult population and confirms the need for larger, modern, purpose-built facilities.

As a step toward implementing the study's recommendations, Frederick County has purchased 13.4 acres from the Hope family to build a new Brunswick 50+ Community Center.

This future center will play a vital role in providing expanded services and programs designed to address the growing needs of older adults. It will be the first stand-alone, purposely build 50+ Community Center in the county. Construction is expected

to begin in Fiscal Year 2028.

Learn more about the future Brunswick 50+ Community Center at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Brunswick50CommunityCenter. To learn more about the Feasibility Study, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/SeniorCenterStudy.

New Cistern Boosts Rural Fire Protection in Wolfsville

Along with the Division of Fire and Rescue Services, I recently unveiled the new Wolfsville Rural Water Supply Cistern.

The cistern is an underground tank that holds 30,000 gallons of water to be used in the event of fire in the community. Buried out of sight but essential to the community's safety, the cistern reflects a simple truth: some of the most important infrastructure is the kind residents never see until it's needed.

I want to express my appreciation to the Wolfsville Ruritan Club for providing the land needed to install the cistern.

This project is part of our broader effort to bolster rural fire protection systems and ensure that all communities have access to essential emergency resources. By providing a dependable water source, the cistern has enhanced local fire and rescue capabilities and improved preparedness for critical incidents.

New Carriage Museum Opens at Rose Hill Manor Park & Museums

I recently gathered with local officials and community partners at Rose Hill Manor Park & Museums to celebrate the completion of the new Robert H. Renneberger Carriage Museum facility with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The 6,000-square-foot, climate-controlled facility provides a new home for Rose Hill Manor's collection of more than 26 historic carriages, sleighs and wagons. The new facility replaces the original carriage museum, which opened in 1976, and provides expanded space and modern environmental controls to better preserve and showcase the collection.

The new facility creates opportunities for visitors to explore the history of transportation and learn how travel evolved over time. The collection offers a look at the variety of ways people traveled and transported goods throughout history, while helping connect visitors to the lives and experiences of the people associated with Rose Hill Manor.

I encourage everyone to visit the new museum to learn more about transportation and the role it played in the lives of people who lived at Rose Hill. The exhibits are hands-on and engaging, providing an opportunity for all to learn more about our community's rich history. ■

Oct 30th

Megan Jean's Secret Family

Nov 14th

The Few

Nov 27th

Doc Marten's Black Hole Friday

all tickets & info here

Brunswick's own concert venue

UP STAIRS

@ Smoketown

FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

League of Women Voters Holds Voter Registration Events at Brunswick High School

On September 8 and 23, volunteers with the League of Women Voters of Frederick County (LWVFC) were in the cafeteria during lunch periods at Brunswick High School to share information with students about registering to vote and serving as election judges. U.S. citizens can register to vote at age 16, but must wait until they are 18 to vote. If they turn 18 by the date of the gubernatorial general election, eligible voters can vote in the primaries at age 17. Students can also begin working as election judges at age 16. From September through early October, the LWVFC is providing voter registration and election judge information during lunch periods in high schools throughout the county. The League has conducted this program in coordination with Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) and Frederick County Board of Elections (BOE) each fall since 2024. Ginnie Kiesewetter, who coordinates the program for the LWVFC, said, "League members are as enthusiastic about

helping with this program as the school officials who welcome us and the students who learn about voting opportunities and responsibilities." **Student Opportunities as Election Judges** Students can earn Student Service Learning (SSL) credit or earn pay for working as election judges in the 2026 general election. A student can be paid \$300 for taking the required 3-hour BOE training and working as an election judge on Election Day. Election judges greet and check-in voters, hand out ballots and direct voters to voting stations and ballot scanners. Since the general election is on Tuesday, Nov. 3, Frederick County schools are closed that day. This allows students the opportunity to serve as election judges without missing classes. If students are interested in earning SSL hours for working as election judges, they should contact Brunswick High School's SSL Coordinator to determine eligibility and com-

plete the necessary paperwork. To serve as election judges, students who are 18 must be registered to vote, while 16- and 17-year-olds must register to vote and complete the parental permission form available online from the BOE. Frederick County Elections Director Barbara Wagner states, "In order to meet the need for election judges on Election Day in all 56 polling places, we need to recruit from all sources. This is a great opportunity for FCPS students to help their community, get involved, and learn about democracy. Thanks to the League and FCPS for all their work on this continued, coordinated project." **League of Women Voters** The League of Women Voters of Frederick County is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League focuses on empowering voters and defending democracy, while working to increase understanding of major local, state and national issues. ■



ELEMENT 5 DIGITAL / UNSPLASH



Voters' Guide and Candidate Forums Offered by League of Women Voters

Voters' Guide

The League of Women Voters of Frederick County (LWVFC) is offering its 2026 general election Voters' Guide online at VOTE411.org. The guide is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. and Maryland Leagues. The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Early voting in Frederick County is Oct. 22-29. VOTE411.org provides non-partisan candidate information, a place to check voter registration, polling place and drop-box locations, and other election information for all voters nationwide. Most of the information is available in English and Spanish by toggling between languages using a button on the

home page. VOTE411.org offers voters a chance to read and compare responses to queries about local issues from every candidate who will be on the general election ballot, except those who chose not to respond. **Candidate Forums** The League will also host in-person and virtual candidate forums for many of the races on the ballot this fall, including county council, sheriff, school board, state senators and delegates, and U.S. congressional representatives. The 2026 general-election candidate forums began on Sept. 9 and continue until just before early voting begins on

Oct. 22. Refer to the calendar page of the League's website at <https://my.lwv.org/maryland/frederick-county> for the most up-to-date forum schedule. The virtual forums will be streamed live on the League's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@frederickcountylwv313/streams>. The virtual forums and the in-person forums will be recorded for future viewing at the calendar page of the League's website and at the League's YouTube channel. The League will provide sign-language interpreters at some of the forums, whenever possible. The forums are all free to attend and open to the public. ■

Three Secure Ways to Vote

The Maryland State Board of Elections highlights three secure ways to vote and deadlines for the 2026 General Election. Their website vote.md.gov/vote2026 and Go Vote Maryland app are available 24/7 to help Marylanders make a plan to vote. **Marylanders can choose one of three voting methods:** **1. Early Voting In-Person: Avoid the Election Day rush by voting early.** **Dates:** Thursday, Oct. 22 through Thursday, Oct. 29. **Hours:** 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. **Note:** If you are in line by 8 p.m. you will be permitted to cast a ballot. A complete list of early voting centers is at vote.md.gov/vote2026. **2. Mail-In Voting: Voters who prefer to vote by mail should take note of the following application deadlines:** **By Mail or Fax:** Requests to receive a mail-in ballot by mail or fax must be received (not postmarked) by Tuesday, Oct. 27. **By Email:** Requests to receive a mail-in ballot via email must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29. **Submitting Your Ballot:** If returning by the USPS, completed ballots must be postmarked by General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Ballots may also be returned either by depositing them in an official ballot drop box or delivering them to your local board of elections by 8 p.m. on Nov. 3. Find ballot drop box locations at vote.md.gov/vote2026. **3. Election Day In-Person The third option is to vote in person at your local polling place on General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3.** **Hours:** Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Location:** Voters must cast their ballot at their assigned polling place. **Additional information** about Maryland's General Election is at vote.md.gov/vote2026 or by downloading the free Go Vote Maryland app from Google Play or Apple stores. ■

FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

Candidates for Frederick County Council

By MARK ROHNER

Candidates for Frederick County Council shared their views on limiting data center development and fostering more affordable housing in the county.

In the Nov. 3 election, there are four candidates for two at-large seats on the Council. Additionally, there are two candidates running to represent District 1, which includes the Brunswick area.

In the at-large race, Jack Felton, a Republican from New Market, is a retired U.S. postmaster.

Diane Fouché, a Republican and former Frederick County procurement director, was an unsuccessful candidate for county executive in this year's Republican primary. Fouché, who lives near Thurmont, was nominated for County Council by the county's Republican Central Committee after Pamela Ciliberti dropped out of the race.

Democrat Tiffany Grant is a financial risk management professional from Frederick. She did not respond after multiple attempts by the Brunswick News-Journal to contact her.

Renee Knapp, a Democrat from Adamstown, is running for re-election after having won a seat as an at-large representative on the Frederick County Council in 2022.

In the District 1 race, Democrat Louisa Conklin of Brunswick works in a trade organization for the biotechnology industry and previously was with National Public Radio.

Republican Frank Hollewa is from the Adamstown area and has worked almost 40 years in business management and accounting, overseeing sales, finance and credit account receivable teams.

Here are the candidates' responses to questions from the Brunswick News-Journal.



AT-LARGE CANDIDATES

Should data center development in Frederick County be extended beyond the currently approved projects?



Jack Felton (R)
No, I will vote no to any extended development of Data Centers in Frederick County.

Diane Fouché (R)
No response.

Tiffany Grant (D)
No response.



Renee Knapp (D)
Data center development started in 2021 in Frederick County with the purchase of the old East Alco property near Adamstown. Construction will continue there for several years. I made raising the regional standard for mitigating community impacts a legislative priority, and sponsored the bill to require Tier 4 backup generator performance, noise and vibration reporting, viewshed analysis, and dark skies lighting compliance mandatory for data centers in Frederick County.

To aggressively contain data center sprawl, I supported an overlay that restricts the amount of county land that can be used for data center development. As technology evolves, we should continue to evaluate new information to update operational standards. To deter additional data center development, Frederick County should remain vigilant and not expand the boundary created by the overlay.

Frederick County should continue to advocate for authority to assess higher taxes for data centers, like other juris-

dictions. This revenue should be invested in road infrastructure and public schools.

What are your views on how best to ensure affordable housing is built across Frederick County?

Jack Felton (R)
Unfortunately, housing has become unaffordable for many in Frederick County. We must have Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDU) making low-cost rentals possible. Expand housing types, including Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's), adaptive reuse of underutilized buildings, co-living options, and manufactured housing.

A more efficient review process, helping bring housing to market faster and with greater cost predictability. Fee waivers such as reduced or eliminated impact fees for developers which will be passed on to home buyers or renters.

Making housing a reality by using (LIHTC) Fannie Mae's low-income Housing Tax Credit. Public land partnerships where county or city owned land is used to lower development cost, which then lowers the cost for the home buyer or renter.

Lower the current property tax rate of \$1.11 per \$100 of assessed value back to \$1.01 which will lower our property taxes and in turn help affordability for all home buyers and current homeowners in Frederick County.

Diane Fouché (R)
No response.

Tiffany Grant (D)
No response.

Renee Knapp (D)
Whether you rent or own your home, Frederick County's growth must include housing that is attainable for working families, young professionals, and seniors. Rising housing costs are placing increased pressure on residents and the local workforce.

I support smart, balanced development that expands affordable housing options while meeting our agricultural preservation goals. I support workforce housing initiatives, and responsible planning that includes making sure our current zoning regulations are meeting the housing needs of all communities.

An important component to home affordability is implementing policies to grow our commercial property tax base which can reduce our reliance on residential property taxes that keep increasing.

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Should data center development in Frederick County be extended beyond the currently approved projects?



Louisa Conklin (D)
Before we decide whether we need more data centers in Frederick County, we need to address the issues the Quantum Frederick site has created for the surrounding community, farms, environment and Carroll Manor Elementary School. Frederick County and MDE need to work together to improve day to day oversight and establish an environmental emergency protocol to respond to air quality incidents, well and stream contamination and other hazards.

Now is a great time for data center developers and operators to focus on minimizing disruptions to nearby communities. Dampening construction noise, improving berms and figuring out where the light switches are so their neighbors can sleep at night would make for a decent start. When data centers prove they are capable of being responsible, unintrusive neighbors we can ask the residents of the Carrollton Manor communities how they feel about more data centers in their area.



Frank Hollewa (R)
Regarding data center development, I am on record as being against the CDI overlay expansion. I have taken part and have been very active in speaking at various MDE hearings fighting against diesel generators being placed in close proximity to the local elementary school and remain active in speaking against the overlay during numerous hearings including the Plan-

ning Commission hearings and current council hearings.

The current council overreached and extended the overlay way beyond what the Planning Commission's conservative approach plan recommended. There has been no cost analysis and environmental impact health studies. The data center negative impact on water, electric use and health concerns has far-reaching negative impacts on our Frederick community as a whole. I am flat out against the expansion and will fight and push back and vote to repeal the expansion, Period!

What are your views on how best to ensure affordable housing is built across Frederick County?

Louisa Conklin (D)
The different localities of southern Frederick County have different geographic, natural resource and infrastructure constraints that we need to consider when assessing affordable housing needs and solutions. We can look at building transit-oriented affordable housing (like Railroad Square in Brunswick) where the necessary infrastructure already exists. In areas that meet only some infrastructural needs, we can identify and address gaps before approving new construction. We can explore using county-owned land and integrating affordable housing into public projects like the Brunswick Senior Center.

As of October 1, 2026, all Maryland municipalities and counties are required to have laws authorizing accessory dwelling unit development (second dwellings within privately owned homes). This is an opportunity for local governments to tailor policy to different communities and their needs. Frederick County should help homeowners navigate ADU development to create accessible, affordable housing options, particularly for young renters and seniors looking to age in place.

Frank Hollewa (R)
Yes, there needs to be more affordable housing. It starts with government fees that drive up the cost before a unit is even built. Those need to be revised and lowered which will lower builder costs.

Also, property tax breaks are needed. A homeowner should not constantly have their property taxes increase which costs homeowners out of their own house. Our senior community in particular needs property tax credit breaks and help with higher tax costs. ■

FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

Candidates for Frederick County Board of Education

By MARK ROHNER

Candidates for the Frederick County Board of Education weighed in on the site selection for a new Brunswick High School. Responding to questions from the Brunswick News-Journal, several candidates criticized the process that led to a staff recommendation to build the new facility on the present site of the school's baseball field.

That choice has encountered intense opposition from supporters of Brunswick baseball. The recommended site was deemed the least costly of three alternatives that were considered — all requiring the relocation of existing athletic facilities. The Board of Education is scheduled to consider the recommended site on Nov. 18, after the Nov. 3 election, but before the newly elected board is sworn in.

Incumbents running for re-election are Board President Dean Rose, Board Vice President Rae Gallagher, and Board member Chad Wilson. Gallagher did not respond to questions from the Brunswick News-Journal after multiple attempts to contact her.

The three incumbents, along with candidate Casey Day, are running on the "Apple Ballot," a slate of candidates endorsed by the Frederick County Teachers Association and two other education labor unions.

The other four candidates are running on the "Orange Ballot," a conservative slate. They are Heather Fletcher, Shelley Potter, Geoffrey Seidel, and Tyler Walker.

Here are the candidates' responses to questions posed by the Brunswick News-Journal.

The site selection for the new Brunswick High School building has generated controversy because it would take over the present site of the baseball field, including improvements paid for by the Brunswick community. Do you favor this site selection?



Casey Day (Apple Ballot)

I strongly support a new Brunswick High School, but I have serious concerns about the current site selection. Lee Merriman Field represents years of work and significant investment by the Brunswick community, and that matters. I'm also concerned about safe secondary access to the new school.

Before making a final decision, I believe FCPS needs to take another serious look at the other recommended options and fully consider the community's concerns. Brunswick deserves a new high school, but the community also deserves transparency, real input, and confidence that they have chosen the best site.



Heather Fletcher (Orange Ballot)

I stand with the Brunswick community and believe residents should not have to choose between a new school and a baseball stadium that has been an important part of Brunswick for generations.

Brunswick residents have worked tirelessly for years to advocate for a new high school, and they deserve a meaningful voice in deciding where and how that school is built. As the parent of a current Brunswick Little League player, I know firsthand how important baseball is to Brunswick families. By working with the Brunswick community, I hope FCPS can knock it out of the park

and find a solution that gives Brunswick a beautiful new high school while preserving its beloved baseball stadium!

Rae Gallagher (Apple Ballot — incumbent)

No response.



Shelley Potter (Orange Ballot)

My initial response is...give the people what they want! A new school is not a gift from the government, but something the community has earned through years of work and taxpayer investment. However, I understand this is a complicated situation where knowledge of the land and topography as well as construction and demolition make coming to a decision more nuanced.



Dean Rose (Apple Ballot — incumbent)

Unfortunately, as a sitting board member, I'm not able to answer (this) question.



Geoffrey Seidel (Orange Ballot)

I absolutely support a new Brunswick High School. I do not support automatically sacrificing a valued community asset to build it. Before supporting this site, I want the FCPS BOE to demonstrate, with transparent and objective evidence, that this is truly the best location for students, families, taxpayers, and the Brunswick community. That means evaluating all viable alternatives, the full financial and infrastructure costs, traffic and safety impacts, and a firm plan to protect or

fully replace the baseball facilities and community investments made over the years. If the evidence demonstrates this is the best option, I will support it. If the evidence does not, we should keep looking.



Tyler Walker (Orange Ballot)

No. I support a refurbishment or replacement of Brunswick High School and providing students and teachers with the modern facility they deserve, but I have concerns about placing the new building on the existing baseball field. Brunswick is Baseball. When a community has invested its own time, resources and pride into a facility, that investment deserves serious consideration. We should pursue a solution that meets the educational needs of Brunswick students while minimizing unnecessary disruption to athletics and respecting facilities that have become important to the surrounding community.



Chad Wilson (Apple Ballot — incumbent)

I support replacing Brunswick High School with a modern, state-of-the-art facility. However, we must also respect the significant investment the Brunswick community has made in its athletic facilities. The final site decision has not been made, and we are still working through an important process.

The option I would like to see ensures multiple entrances and exits to promote the safety of students, staff, and the community. I want this decision made through open and frequent communication with Brunswick families, students, coaches, community members, and elected officials. I also want community-funded athletic improvements protected or replaced with equal or better facilities. Brunswick deserves a safe, modern school.

What are your views on the process by which the new BHS site was selected?

Casey Day (Apple Ballot)

I don't think the process included enough meaningful community engagement early enough. For projects this significant, we need more touch points with families, staff, students, local leaders, and the broader community throughout the process.

That two-way communication matters. It gives the community more opportunities for meaningful input, but it also helps Central Office better understand the history, concerns, and nuances that are specific to each community and should be considered in decision-making. Community engagement should happen while there is still an opportunity to influence the outcome, not after people feel the decisions have already been made.

Heather Fletcher (Orange Ballot)

The site-selection process must be transparent, thorough, and partnered with the Brunswick community. FCPS must address community concerns regarding the selected site, including emergency response times, traffic, road access, and sports facilities.

Currently, FCPS staff has recommended the South site, and the Board of Education will vote on Nov. 18, just after the Nov. 3 general election. Given the current loss of trust, the staff decision should be reconsidered and the final vote delayed until newly elected members take office in January. Major decisions shaping Brunswick's future deserve genuine transparency, partnership, and a process worthy of public trust.

Rae Gallagher (Apple Ballot — incumbent)

No response.

Shelley Potter (Orange Ballot)

After attending a recent BOE meeting where members of the Brunswick community came to speak and support each other, something that stood out was how many residents had extensive knowledge of the building process and various considerations to take into account. I think moving forward, FCPS and the community must work together as a team to decide where the building should ultimately be placed. If it is not possible for the building to be located at residents' most desirable location, they should



FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

Candidates for Frederick County Board of Education CONTINUED

know the details as to why this isn't possible and that the board and community members have worked tirelessly, with open communication, to come to the best solution for Brunswick's students and residents.

Dean Rose
(Apple Ballot — incumbent)

Each time FCPS begins the planning process for a new school and in particular, a replacement school, FCPS staff attempts to learn from prior experiences and provide additional engagement, communication, and transparency. This specific process involving BHS is ongoing, with several community meetings still scheduled. We will continue to gather input from the community and our staff prior to the formal presentation and decision in November.

Geoffrey Seidel
(Orange Ballot)

My concern is less about the outcome than the transparency, evidence, and accountability behind the process. A decision of this magnitude should be based on clearly defined criteria, objective comparisons of all viable sites, and meaningful community input. The FCPS BOE should publicly demonstrate how each site was evaluated, what trade-offs were identified, why the selected site scored highest, and who is accountable for the decision and its outcomes. Given Brunswick's significant community investment in the existing baseball facilities, those costs must be included. We should establish measurable expectations, publish the metrics, monitor results, and hold decision-makers accountable.

Tyler Walker
(Orange Ballot)

Community engagement must be more than checking a box. FCPS has held meetings and provided opportunities for public input, and I appreciate those efforts. However, when a decision significantly affects a community facility that has such a large vested interest, residents should be able to see how their concerns influenced the alternatives considered and the final recommendation. Brunswick residents deserve transparency about why this location was selected, what alternatives were evaluated, and how impacts to athletics and community investments were weighed. Major capital projects are ultimately stronger when the people most affected believe their voices were genuinely considered throughout the decision-making process.

Chad Wilson
(Apple Ballot — incumbent)

The process is early and ongoing, and no final decisions have been made. We are getting feedback early to ensure decisions reflect accurate information and community input. There are still opportunities for engagement, discussion, and collaboration among FCPS, the Board of Education, Brunswick government, and residents. The final site selection will require approval from the Board of Education and Brunswick City Council. I am still gathering information and talking with the community because this process is not over. Following procedures is important, but so is making sure residents feel heard and respected. Brunswick deserves a new school and a transparent process throughout. ■



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3. Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know.

4. Discipline yourself to save money on the even the most modest salary.

5. Commit yourself to constant improvement.

6. Commit yourself to quality.

7. Be decisive even if it means you'll sometimes be wrong.

8. Stop blaming others. Take responsibility for every area of your life.

9. Be bold and courageous. When you look back at your life, you'll regret the things you didn't do more than ones you did.

10. Take good care of those you love.

Adapted from H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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The next meeting of the
Burgess & Commissioners of the
Village of Rosemont
Will be on
Monday, October 19, 7pm
at Merryland Park.

Agenda items include a presentation of the FY26 financial audit.

The public is invited to attend.

OFFUTT, HORMAN, BURDETTE & MAY PA
Attorneys at Law

**GEORGE T. HORMAN
and CHRIS MAY**



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Estate Probate
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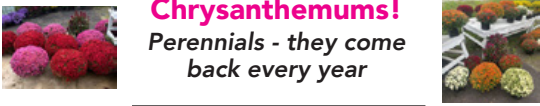
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LOVETTSTVILLE NEWS

Lovettsville Town News

By ABBIE RICKETTS

Traffic Pattern Change to Route 9/Route 287 Intersection in Effect

A significant traffic pattern change began on Sept. 17 at the intersection of Route 9 and Route 287 in Loudoun County. The new traffic pattern requires motorists to navigate the intersection as a roundabout. Route 9 eastbound and westbound traffic and Route 287 northbound and southbound traffic will shift their traffic pattern. The existing traffic signal will be taken out of operation and motorists will navigate a single lane traffic circle. This roundabout configuration will remain in place until project completion, currently estimated for winter (Jan/Feb/Mar) 2027.

Lovettsville Recycling Center

The construction of the new recycling center near the Milltown Road entrance of the Lovettsville Community Park is underway. During construction, access to a segment of the park's equestrian/natural surface trail will be limited. Access will be restored in early 2027 when construction of the recycling center is expected to be complete. There are no an-

ticipated impacts affecting access to Lovettsville Park Drive or to other trails, which will remain open to park users throughout the construction.

Town of Lovettsville Events

In partnership with **Walk 4 Mountains**, the Town of Lovettsville invites the public to save the date and register for the 9th Annual Walk 4 Mountains on Saturday, October 3. Visit Walk4Mountains.org for details and registration.

Halloween Trick or Treating, no set time but typically 6-8:30 (October 31)

Veterans Day Ceremony (November 11)

WintertainmentFest (throughout December)

Tree Lighting (December 4)

Lovettsville Cocoa Crawl (December 5)

Menorah Lighting (December 6)

Light Up Lovettsville Competition Judging (December 13)

Light Up Lovettsville Awards Ceremony (December 17)

Upcoming Meetings and Dates

Thursday, October 8
Town Council Open Forum-5-6 pm

Thursday, October 8
Town Council Meeting 6:30 pm

Monday, October 12
Administrative Offices Closed

Thursday, October 22
Town Council Meeting 6:30 pm

INOVA — Blood Drive

Saturday, October 10
8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
16 S. Berlin Pike, Lovettsville
Walk ins are welcome or schedule your time at: inovablood-saves.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/35534



Sportsman's Dinner & Raffle

Saturday, October 17
1:00–7:00 p.m.
16 S. Berlin Pike, Lovettsville
A donation of \$50 per ticket includes 1 raffle entry and dinner for you and 1 guest. Many other exciting chances to win including 50/50, tip jar raffle, and King Tut!

Dinner available starting 4 p.m. Menu: fried chicken, roast beef, green beans, coleslaw, bread, butter and cake. Drinks: beer, lemonade, tea, water.

Contact Fred George for tickets and list of raffle entry items, 703-623-5134.

Youth Archery Program: New Archers

Saturday, October 3
9:30–11 a.m.
16 S. Berlin Pike, Lovettsville
To register, go to the club's archery page at lovettsvillegpa.org/archery
Duration: 8 Weeks
Cost: \$80
Ages: 9–21

Distinguished Residents

The Town of Lovettsville has recognized this year's Distinguished Residents, community members whose service, dedication and contributions have made a meaningful impact on Lovettsville.

Denise Dant
Franklin Heskett
Jerry and Catherine Keller
John and Carolyn Payne
Sue Cangemi

Lovettsville Historical Society 2026 Lecture Series:

The Monocacy Aqueduct—Past Stories and Fresh Findings

Presented by Jon T. Wolz of Poolesville, MD

Sunday, October 11
2:00 p.m.
St. James United Church of Christ
10 East Broad Way, Lovettsville

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal historian Jon Wolz's lecture will provide information not previously documented in writings about the aqueduct.

Western Loudoun Food Pantry

Donations can be dropped off at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, on the white bench, or at Town Hall Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Food Pantry now has a refrigerator/freezer. Contact Andrea Miller, 703-216-4881, if you're interested in donating eggs and other items requiring refrigeration.

Dunkin Donuts Coming to Lovettsville

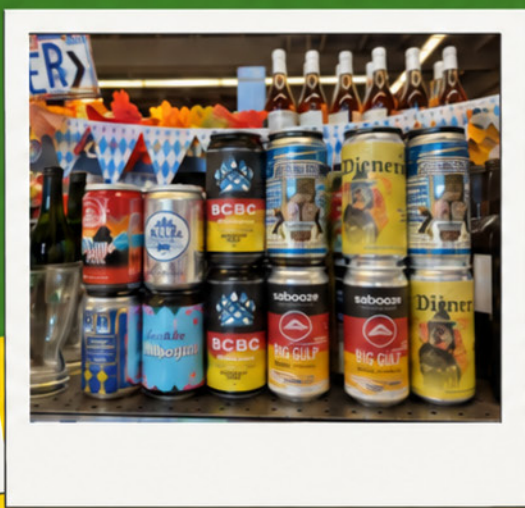
A Dunkin Donuts shop is coming to Lovettsville, according to the company's website, and reportedly a Jimmy Johns sandwich shop will be located next to it. The two are owned by the same company and have recently been paired in other locations.

El Pitayo Mexican Restaurant

The restaurant has been closed since August, due to damages from a car hitting the building. The owners noted the permitting process is taking a little longer than expected but they hope to open soon. Check Facebook for the opening date.



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IN THE KITCHEN

Break the Fast

By JEAN TOLEMAN

It's October. The thrill of a new school year is gone. It's harder to get the kids up, dressed, fed and out the door. In September, parents may have been excited to prepare a healthy breakfast, but now are out of ideas.

Why bother with breakfast?

Breakfast "breaks" the fast of a long night. We may have gone as long as 12 hours without eating. During sleep, our body does most of its growing and repairing. That work requires energy, protein and nutrients. Breakfast replaces what was used in the night and gets us through a big part of an active day.

Research has shown our internal clock, our circadian rhythm, "causes a robust metabolic peak around 7:00 a.m. and hits its lowest point around 7:00 p.m." This may be one reason the body is able to use blood sugar more effectively in the morning. Studies also show taking in nutrients in the morning focuses the brain and makes us more alert. Children who eat breakfast are better able to pay attention in school (Neurosciencenews.com 6/24/2026).

What if we are just not hungry? An early meal may not be for everyone. If eating breakfast is a problem, it may be better to skip breakfast and go for an early lunch, but eating something within a couple hours of rising is best. Breakfast doesn't have to be big, but there are important nutrients to include and some easy prep skills that can make mornings power-packed.

A power-packed breakfast needs fluid, fiber, protein

Fluid: We dry out during the night. With each exhalation, water leaves our body. Whether hot or cool, we lose water through our skin. After a night of sleep, we need to replenish



the fluid reservoir. The best is a glass of water, but you can also get fluids from juice, milk, tea and fruit. Our cardiovascular system needs it, as does our digestive system and especially our minds, young or old.

Fiber: Breakfast may be the meal where many of us get most of our fiber. Breakfast cereals have long been supplemented with fiber. The benefits of consuming a high-fiber diet are amazing: gut health, immune function, less inflammation. Great-grandma knew this, so should we.

Protein: A high-protein breakfast benefits muscle health and improves glucose regulation and satiety hormones. It has been shown to increase energy expenditure and supports weight loss. Shifting some of

our dinner protein to breakfast is a smart move.

An easy breakfast

Some of us like the same breakfast every day, while others find the traditional breakfast boring and easy to skip. Pull ideas from around the world, as other cultures have great breakfast traditions. A bit of planning helps. Have quick foods available, such as yogurt and cottage cheese, nut butters and avocado, fruit, hard-boiled eggs, egg muffins, or breakfast burritos. Throw fruit and yogurt in a blender and make a smoothie.■

Jean Toleman is a retired dietitian, living in Knoxville, who worked in the field of diet and nutrition for over 30 years.

Overnight Oatmeal

- 1 cup of old-fashioned oatmeal
- 1 cup of milk (dairy, soy, oat, almond)
- 2 Tbsp. plain Greek yogurt (optional)
- 2 Tbsp. maple syrup or honey (optional)
- 2 tsp. chia seeds (optional)

Give it a try, cold or hot, and meet all your and your child's breakfast needs. In an 8- or 12-ounce jar, combine all the ingredients. Stir, submerging oats in the milk. Cover and refrigerate overnight. In the morning add fresh fruit, dried fruit, nuts, cinnamon etc. It will last in the refrigerator for up to three days.

Savor the Sea

By CHRISTINA FRITZ

Oysters, mussels, clams, and scallops may be small, but they offer big benefits for flavor, nutrition and sustainability. These shellfish are known as bivalves, as they have two hinged shells. Bivalves are quick to cook, easy to pair with everyday ingredients, packed with nutrients, and sustainable for the planet.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend eating seafood at least twice per week, aiming for a minimum weekly total of 8 ounces of seafood. While seafood such as salmon, tuna, crab and tilapia are nutritious choices, bivalves also have a lot to offer. They are lean sources of protein and provide vitamin B12, zinc, selenium, iron and omega-3 fatty acids. These nutrients play important roles in energy metabolism, immune function, red blood cell formation, and heart health.

In addition to human health, bivalves contribute to a healthy planet. They are recognized as one of the most sustainable animal protein options. Many bivalves can be cultivated without farmland or fresh water and usually require no pesticides or fertilizer. As filter feeders, they also help improve water quality. Choosing responsibly sourced bivalves can support fishing communities, seafood farmers, fishers and a more resilient seafood supply.

Bivalves can feel a little intimidating at first, but once fa-

miliar, they are a simple way to add variety to your seafood routine. Choose fresh bivalves that are closed or close when gently tapped. Avoid those that have cracked shells or have a strong fish odor. Keep live shellfish cold in the refrigerator; do not store them sealed in water or in an airtight container. Frozen and canned oysters, mussels, clams and scallops are a nutritious, approachable way to become more familiar when first learning to cook bivalves.

Simple ways to cook:

- Mussels:** Steam with garlic, tomatoes, onion, and low-sodium broth, then serve with whole grain bread or pasta.
- Clams:** Add to chowder, linguine, rice bowls, or a light vegetable soup.
- Oysters:** Bake with spinach, herbs, and a sprinkle of cheese, or use cooked oysters in stews and casseroles.
- Scallops:** Sear quickly in a hot pan and pair with roasted vegetables, whole grains, or a citrusy salad.

October is National Seafood Month, so consider giving bivalves a place on your plate. Oysters, mussels, clams and scallops are nutrient-dense, flavorful and versatile choices that can fit into soups, pastas, salads, appetizers and simple weeknight meals.

Try the Angel Hair Pasta with Spinach and Clams recipe at weismarkets.com/recipes. ■



Angel hair pasta with spinach and clams.

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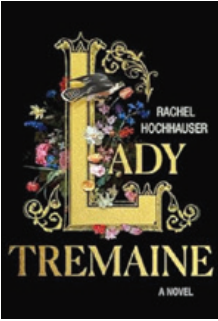
TRAVEL, ARTS & CULTURE

OFF THE SHELF

Each month, Brunswick Library staff recommend a few titles they love and think you might, too.

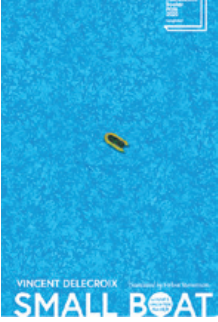
Lady Tremaine
by Rachel Hochhauser

A poignant and immersive reimagining of Cinderella, this novel challenges the traditional fairy tale by presenting Lady Tremaine not as an evil stepmother, but as a resilient woman navigating hardship and fighting to secure a future for her daughters. Recommended by Joy.



Small Boat
by Vincent Delecroix

Inspired by a real-life tragedy that claimed the lives of 27 people after delays in responding to their distress calls, this powerful short novel examines the complexities of bureaucracy, moral accountability, and the human consequences of the global migrant crisis. Recommended by Wallie.



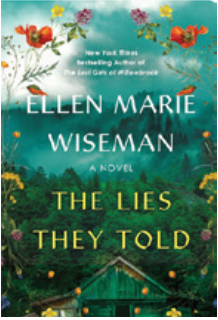
Reynard's Tale
by Ben Hatke

A modern fairy tale for grown-ups, this whimsical novella tells a new story of the trickster fox Reynard. Featuring charming illustrations and text by Virginia author Ben Hatke, it marks his first foray into books for older readers. Hatke is best known for his children's series Zita the Spacegirl. Recommended by Shelly.



The Lies They Told
by Ellen Marie Wiseman

This thought-provoking novel is an excellent choice for readers seeking their next page-turner. Especially appealing to fans of historical fiction, the story explores the darker side of history in 1930s rural Virginia and is likely to keep readers up late turning pages. Recommended by Monica. ■



Art Nouveau, Alphonse Mucha and the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

By JEAN TOLEMAN

If you love fine art but hate making the drive to D.C., you are in luck. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown has amazing exhibits and is an easy drive from our area. The museum is surrounded by several historic sites and sits in the center of City Park, a picturesque collection of lakes, wooded trails and gardens.

Established in 1931 by Anne Brugh Singer and husband William H. Singer, Jr., the museum is recognized as one of the finest small museums in the U.S. The museum has a permanent collection that includes American art, 19th century European art and art of world cultures.

Art Nouveau exhibition

Possibly because of its standing, the museum is able to host some amazing exhibitions and currently there is a beautiful one entitled: Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau. Alphonse Mucha, a Czech (1860-1939), created the elegant figures and decorative designs associated with Art Nouveau. Over 70 of his works are featured. Mucha incorporated flowing lines, floral motifs, luminous colors and idealized female figures.

One of his most famous works is the Gismonda poster. Sarah Bernhardt, the famous French stage actress of the late 19th and



Gismonda poster by Alphonse Mucha, 1894

20th centuries commissioned Mucha to produce a lithographic theater poster for the play she was starring in, Gismonda. She was so thrilled with the result, she contracted with him for six more posters. It is this piece that

brought the worlds eye to his work in 1895.

His influence continues to this day through contemporary culture, graphic design, fashion and film. The exhibition explores his career, influence and the “conflicts involved in simultaneously celebrating and objectifying women.”

Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau continues through November 1.

Other current exhibitions

Two other exhibitions are currently running at the museum. Kindred Spirits: Artists in the Tenth Street Studio Building examines the work of Frederic Edwin Church and other American landscape painters of the Hudson River School.

The annual Cumberland Valley Photographers Exhibition showcases the juried work of regional photographers. In honor of America’s 250th birthday, the photographs focus on the themes of unfinished revolutions, power of place, tell everyone’s story and American experiment.

Make a day of it

Enjoy the art and then spend time exploring the garden and surrounding grounds. The Museum is located at 401 Museum Drive in Hagerstown and is open Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission and parking are free. For more information, see wcmfa.org. ■

BNJ Travels



People as far away as Guraidhoo Island in the Maldives read the Brunswick News-Journal. Photo courtesy of John Caves



John Caves stands on Galle Face beach in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on the Indian Ocean.

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OUR COMMUNITY: Invest here. Create local career pathways, apprenticeships, training, and educational opportunities that benefit Frederick County residents.

GROWTH WITHOUT SACRIFICE: Data centers may become our neighbors. If they do, I expect them to be good neighbors—responsible with our resources, accountable for their impact, and respectful of the community they are joining.

How Did We Get Here?

2021	2022	2026	What’s Next?
The Arrival	Development Begins	The Pause	Be A Good Neighbor
The former Eastalco property near Adamstown is purchased for a massive data center campus.	The first land sale for data center development at the campus moves forward.	New applications are paused as Maryland studies the impacts of data center growth.	Growth must protect our power, water, environment, and the people who already call Frederick County home.

Authorized by Citizens for Alleria Stanley, Elizabeth Meier, Treasurer.

ENVIRONMENT & SCIENCE

Indianmeal Moths — Our Primary Pantry Pest

By DR. KATHY HEINSOHN

The Indianmeal moth is the main pantry pest around the globe. Its name comes from the coppery red of its forewings as well as its love for dried Indian corn. Plenty of moth species are commonly mistaken for Indianmeal moths, such as meal, flour, rice, almond, grain and even cork moths, but let's concentrate on Indianmeal moths.

Most often Indianmeal moths (IMM) are brought home from pet and grocery stores, particularly whole food/ethnic food/natural food stores. Vitamin shops, compounding pharmacies, and stores selling spices, snacks and tobacco can have moths too. This is especially true for stores that don't rotate their inventory much.

The most common items infested by IMM are dry pet foods, birdseed, dried fruits or veggies (peppers, beans, peas), nuts, chocolates, potpourri, flours, cereals, powdered milk, oatmeal-based powdered baths, scented soaps, scented candles incorporating nuts, fruits or seeds, decorative corn, holiday wreaths, and Hawaiian leis or souvenir jewelry made of nuts, beans, peas, or fruits.

You can get an infestation if you've had rodents, squirrels or birds cache nuts, acorns or seeds in an attic, crawlspace or wall void.

A common infestation results in homes where people regularly sit on their sofas and eat popcorn while watching tv! The kernels slip into the cushions and remain for long periods of time, attracting moths. Movie theatres are notorious for IMM issues.

How to Get Rid of Moths

To solve the issue, the homeowner must find and remove the source! The infested product must be taken out of the house in a bagged container and put directly in the trash.

If the infestation is caught early, this can solve your problem. If it has spread, more intensive efforts are required. A professional pest management technician should do an inspection and locate the issue. The problem is that adults live only to mate, then each female lays 400 eggs. The eggs hatch and larvae gnaw into all packages that are not either made of glass or hard plastic with tight-fitting lids.

Larvae have strong mandibles. They can chew through paper, plastic and foils. Unopened packages are not safe if larvae are present. When you bring home pastas, cereals, flours, birdseed and pet food, put them into glass or hard plastic airtight containers immediately.

Once the small (about 3/4 inch long) white larvae eat their fill and contaminate the product with webbing and fecal material, they migrate up to a ceiling corner to pupate. Pupae are brown, harder structures with lots of webbing silk. An adult will emerge from the pupal case, and the process of seeking a mate and laying eggs starts over.

Just throwing out a product doesn't mean you solved the problem. At night adults fly to lights such as TVs and computer screens, often nowhere near an infested product. Larvae are in the infested product or climbing the walls, while pupae are at the ceiling wall junction. A professional can see the evidence you might miss.

An adult male moth's antennae are highly sensitive. The female sex pheromone molecule can attract a male from over 50 miles away! IMMs occur naturally outside, coming to nut and fruit trees. If you hang a pheromone lure trap in your house, and your chimney flue or windows are open, you can attract native-occurring moths into your home. One pheromone lure trap is usually all you need to disrupt area males looking for females.

The market is full of electronic repellents which do not work. Save your money.

How to Prevent Infestation

To salvage food rather than tossing it, deep freeze the item for 4-7 days. Deep freeze means below 0F (not 32F). This can kill moths, but webbing, fecal material and molted skins are likely still present. Some people allergic to seafood arthropods (shrimp and crabs) may be triggered by arthropods like these moths, and consuming contaminated food may cause anaphylaxis.

All life stages including the eggs are killed by deep freezing. Heating can work as well, with 120F for a minimum 4 hours required. But you don't want to create a fire or change the integrity of the product, so it is probably best to throw it out.

To prevent bringing pantry

moths home, inspect packages while in the grocery or pet store. Once home, clean any spills around food bowls. Store cereals etc. in airtight containers. Prevent rodent, bird, and squirrel pests around your home. Be careful about bringing home souvenirs like leis, potpourri, scented candles, dried flowers, wreaths and decorative corn.

Pest professionals will look for contaminated products and toss them with your permission. The affected area can be treated with a liquid aimed

at the cracks and crevices of emptied pantry shelves. Do not clean right after, as you want the spray residue to work on any larvae.

Keep in mind that a population will grow fast or slow, depending on temperature and humidity. The egg-to-adult process can take 4-7 weeks, so you will naturally see a wane in adult presence as adults die after females lay eggs. It could take 7 weeks before you see adults again, so pest professionals may need to return to fully solve an issue. ■



Dr. Kathy Heinsohn has a PhD in Structural and Urban Pest Management from Purdue University and is a Board Certified Entomologist (B.C.E.) and local beekeeper. She lives in Brunswick.

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A Tragic Tale of Murder on a Farm

By ABBIE RICKETTS

On November 16, 1920, Mary Edith Coblentz Hightman, 27, who lived on a farm on Pete Wiles Road just north of Middletown, was raped and murdered. Charles R. Robinson, a young black teenager who worked on the farm and was 15 at the time, was charged and convicted of the crime. He was hanged at the Frederick County Jail on West South Street in Frederick on February 25, 1921.

An important caveat of this story is that it makes no claim to the guilt or innocence of Robinson. The racial climate was such that he may not have received a fair trial and that all avenues of investigation may not have been exhausted.

Mary Hightman and her husband Arthur's farm was a gift from her parents. The Coblentz and Hightmans were both prominent families owning a number of farm and commercial properties in the Burkittsville and Middletown Valley region. Arthur Hightman's father, T. Franklin Hightman, was a Frederick County Commissioner and once owned the Tyrconnel Farm just outside Brunswick on Burkittsville Road where Arthur grew up. Mary Hightman's first cousin was Emory Coblentz who was a major benefactor of Hood College. Coblentz Hall is named after him.

Mrs. Hightman and her husband were the parents of a 19-month-old son. On the day of the murder, her husband left their farm to travel to Middletown for supplies. Upon his return three hours later, he found his wife lying on the first floor badly burned and barely conscious. She was able to say that her clothes caught fire and she wrapped herself in a blanket to extinguish them. Her son was in a chair near her unharmed. She said she carried him down from the upstairs.

In the upstairs bedroom, a bed was on fire. Mr. Hightman extinguished the blaze and called for Dr. Lamar, a local doctor. Mrs. Hightman was able to tell her mother that she hadn't used the coal oil that day when asked how the oil got on her dress.

She died a day or two later, but some things didn't seem right about the details of her attack and subsequent death. An autopsy was ordered and the findings indicated she actually succumbed to a fractured skull caused by a strike on the back of the head by a hatchet rather than the burns. Speculation was Dr. Lamar didn't see the head injury, perhaps due to the efforts of treating her burns. After the head injury was discovered, the death was ruled a homicide.

The accused

15-year-old Charles Robinson, who was listed as a resident of the home in the 1920 census, was at the farm working that day and was arrested for her murder. He was taken to the Frederick County Jail under the watch of Sheriff William Wertenbaker Sr. After interrogation, he confessed to the murder. His story was that he walked in the house and asked about care of the chickens, then struck her on the head. While she was unconscious, he claimed he assaulted her then poured coal oil on her dress and lit it on fire.

Due to threats of a mob lynching, the sheriff transported him to the Baltimore jail where he remained until his trial. In speaking of the trip later, the sheriff described the previously stoic Robinson as becoming emotional and sobbing the entire ride there. Later, Robinson would recant his confessions and claim coercion and threats of lynching. One story was that he was told he'd be taken to jail in Baltimore where he could be safe from a lynch mob if he confessed. The Sheriff swore that the confessions were not forced.

Being young, no one knows if Robinson understood the dire consequences of the charges. Reportedly he told others that he would receive as little as a five-year sentence.

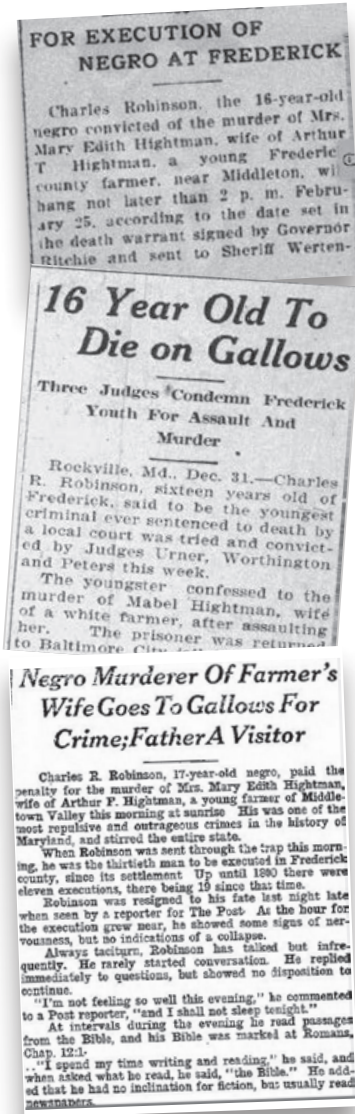


CHARLES ROBINSON

The murder occurred just after the "Red Summer" and racial tensions were high. The Red Summer was a period in mid-1919 during which white supremacist terrorism and racial riots occurred in dozens of cities across the country. Lynch mobs came to light again and finding justice for black people was difficult.

The trial

Robinson's trial was held just one month after the murder on December 20, 1921, before a panel of three judges who found him guilty after only two minutes of deliberations following a quick two-hour trial. The chief judge never left his seat and proceeded to immediately sentence him to death by hanging.



Some wondered at this rapid pace of the trial. Was there time for a defense attorney to investigate and prepare a case? No motive was revealed. The only defense witness to be called was young Robinson himself. Was the case thoroughly investigated or was there a rush to justice? Were any other suspects considered and vetted? Robinson's fate may have been sealed from the beginning: a black man from a poor family accused of murdering a white woman conceivably had little chance of receiving a fair trial or means to obtain a competent attorney in the racial climate of 1920.

Robinson's family

Robinson was also listed on the 1920 census as living in his father and mother's house near Burkittsville. His father, Damon Robinson, had long been employed in Burkittsville by County Commissioner T. Frank Hightman, Mrs. Hightman's father-in-law. The day before Robinson's execution, his father Damon came to visit him at the jail. Some accounts say he had not come before.

The now 16-year-old was visited daily by a priest, Father Kane, and had accepted the rites of the Catholic Church while he awaited execution. He smoked cigarettes and by some accounts ate large amounts of food. He read bible verses every day and remained calm going to the gallows.

Charles Robinson's father made arrangements to have his son's body brought to St. Mary's

Church in Petersville to be buried in an unmarked grave in the back of the cemetery.

Mary Hightman's granddaughter

Shirleen Hightman Staley has lovingly held on to some of her grandmother's things passed down to her. She provided this information about her grandmother: "I know very little about her since my father never knew her; my grandfather died when I was 10. No one ever talked about her when I was around because of the painful and horrific circumstances of her death.

"I was told she died from an accidental cook stove fire. I found out the truth when I was 17. What I know of her are from pictures and her journal she kept in her high school years and newspaper articles that the local Middletown paper wrote on any parties, weddings, and social events people attended. It appears she was quite social,

active with her high school and church events; she also liked to visit the Braddock Heights Park quite often and other social events the young people attended in those times around Middletown."

Mary Hightman graduated from Middletown High School in 1912 and married in 1917. By all accounts she was a lovely young wife, mother, and daughter who was highly thought of and well-liked. The brass bed Shirleen sleeps in today is the same bed that was discovered on fire at the time of the murder. She feels a special closeness with her grandmother.

Arthur Franklin Hightman, Shirleen's grandfather, went on to remarry five years after his wife's death and served as the postmaster in Brunswick in the late 1950s. He died in 1961. His son Arthur Thomas Hightman was raised by his maternal and paternal grandparents and his father. ■



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LOCAL HISTORY

Brunswick Masons Continue 134-Year Legacy in Brunswick

By PETER WENNER

With the July sale of their longtime home at 321 Brunswick Street, Brunswick Masonic Lodge #191 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons ended a 71-year residency in the former West End Elementary School. The lodge held its final meeting there in June, completing one chapter while looking forward to starting another.



For over 70 years, members of Brunswick Masonic Lodge #191 passed through this door at 321 Brunswick Street.

The Brunswick Masons, long known as the “Railroader Lodge,” are temporarily meeting at Columbia Lodge #58 in Frederick while they look for a smaller, more manageable home in the Brunswick area. “We’re still going to stay strong as an organization,” said Robert C. Brown, longtime member and the lodge’s Worshipful Master for many years. “We’re looking for our fourth home in Brunswick.”

Like many U.S. civic organizations and churches, the lodge has seen membership decline. A brotherhood that once held over 200 members in its railroad heyday, now stands at 85. The sheer size of the old school building, at 9,300 square feet, made maintenance and insurance costs prohibitive.

A place where Brunswick learned, gathered and served

Throughout its history, the building has served Brunswick as a place for learning, fellowship and community work – values also at the heart of Masonry.

The property dates to 1890, the earliest days of Brunswick, when developer William W. Wenner sold land to the Frederick County Board of Education for a one-room brick schoolhouse. When more space for a growing population was needed, the original building was moved to J Street to accommodate a school for Brunswick’s black students. Around 1905, a larger brick schoolhouse was

constructed on the lot by legendary Brunswick builder, Harry B. Funk, a Mason himself.

With an imposing brick facade and cupola, it served as home to the West End Elementary School until 1952. Its sister school was opened on the East End in 1892. The dividing line of North Maple Avenue determined which school Brunswick children would attend.

After Brunswick’s two schools consolidated into a new elementary school on Central Avenue in the Fall of 1952, the building became available. The Masonic Lodge, then meeting upstairs in the old Bank of Brunswick building, had outgrown the space. They negotiated with the Frederick County Board of Education to purchase the structure for \$5,000 in 1954. Knocking down the dividing walls of the old classrooms, members embarked on an extensive renovation prior to their first meeting on May 11, 1955, followed by dedication ceremonies that September. They created a lodge on the second floor and a social space on the first.

As Bob Brown noted, “The brothers did most of the work on the building.” Many were railroad workers, or worked in businesses that supported the railroad, alongside pharmacists, doctors, ministers and others. “They’d do their shift, go home to eat dinner, and then come up to the building and work until 11 or 12 at night,” he said. “A lot of labor was involved, and a lot of supplies were donated by the B&O Railroad.”

Over the years, the Masons shared the building with several groups, including their sister organization, the Eastern Star, an organization primarily for women.

Space was rented to the Brunswick Civil Air Patrol, which used the basement for several years starting in 1957. Their insignia remained on the wall until the sale.

From 1963 to 1989, Brunswick’s first public library occupied the eastern wing. After the library relocated to a new facility



The West End Elementary School on Brunswick Street, a 2-story, 8-room edifice, was opened in 1906. A wing was added on the eastern side, around 1930.

ty on North Maple Avenue, the space was rented to the Brunswick Memorial (later Sherman W. Lowry) Post 10421 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW chapter folded in 2016, due to declining membership.

Masonic roots in the country and community

Modern Freemasonry originated in England in 1717 and spread to the American Colonies before the Revolution. Its 1723 Constitution of the Freemasons became the foundational rulebook and philosophical template for a movement that would spread worldwide.

Freemasonry’s mission is to make better men by teaching them to live morally, responsibly, and fraternally — and to carry those principles into the world. Fourteen U.S. Presidents were Masons, including George Washington. Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere were among many notable brethren in American history.

The Masons are an ecumenical organization, which prohibits discussion of religion and politics in the lodge because,

as Brown said, “it divides people.” Members must believe in God and the hereafter, but the organization does not promote one faith tradition. “We have Christian and Jewish members. Muslims can be members,” he explained.

A King James Bible is open at all lodge meetings because, as Brown noted, it represents “a book of teaching” and “a symbol of where you can get guidance to become a better person.”

Reflecting on Brunswick’s railroad boomtown years, when lodge members included railroad officers, laborers, and business leaders, Brown said, “Everyone is equal in the lodge.” Some of his notable predecessors as Masters in Brunswick include John L. Jordan, Dr. Frederick J. Brown, Jr., Norman “Johnny” Gaither, Kenneth “Poppy” Lewis, and Reese Grams.

In the beginning

Acting on a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Brunswick’s first Masonic Lodge met in the original Red Men’s Hall at the foot of South Virginia Avenue. On May 26, 1892, the charter for Brunswick Lodge #191 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, dated May 10, 1892, was officially presented. The lodge has been active in the greater Brunswick community ever since.

Z.T. Brantner was installed as the first Worshipful Master. According to Brown, “He was a mover and doer in Masonry.” A B&O shop general foreman and lay minister at the First Methodist Church, sometimes referred to as Reverend Brantner, he established several lodges during his lifetime, in addition to Brunswick.

In 1901, after years of searching for their own space, the lodge leased the second floor of the new Brunswick Savings

Bank building on the Square Corner. It remained there until moving to the former West End school in 1955.

What the Masons have contributed to the community—yesterday and today

The Masons Brunswick legacy tracks closely with the city’s growth as a B&O Railroad company town. Their work is reflected in numerous cornerstones, including the 1904 Red Men’s Hall, most of the early 20th century churches, and the “Brick Walk” in front of the Brunswick Heritage Museum.

Brown said charity remains central to the lodge’s work. “In Brunswick, we contribute to the Food Bank and local school programs. We assist folks in getting the funds together to cover a funeral for members. We’ve provided over \$30,000 in scholarships for kids at the high school over the years.” The lodge pin symbolizes its bond with the school, featuring garnet and gold colors and an image of a train.

One of the most visible rituals remains the Masonic memorial service, conducted in funeral homes, churches, civic clubs, at the fire station, and graveside, with officers wearing tuxedos and aprons.

Saying goodbye to the former home

At 321 Brunswick Street, the lodge held thousands of meetings and helped generations of men serve their community. Bob Brown said he’ll remember the beautiful view of the town and river from the 2nd floor windows on the Brunswick Street side.

In summary, he explained that approximately 720 men have become Master Masons in Brunswick since 1892. “We’ve been an outlet for over 700 men



The original Red Men's hall on South Virginia Ave. was the meeting place for Brunswick Masonic Lodge #191 from 1892 to 1901. It stood next to the railroad tracks before being replaced by the D.C. Weinbrenner wholesale grocery warehouse.

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

BRUNSWICK HISTORY COMMISSION

BRUNSWICK HISTORY COMMISSION

LOCAL HISTORY

The *LATEST* from the *LAST*
C•E•N•T•U•R•Y

100 Years Ago
from *The Valley Register*
Compiled by
Julie Maynard

October 1, 1926.

Veritable Cloudburst
Sends Valley Streams
on a Regular Rampage
AUTO WASHED FROM ROAD

A terrific electrical storm, accompanied by a drenching rain broke over the entire Middletown Valley on Thursday evening of last week, shortly after 7 o'clock, bringing relief from the heat and doing untold damage. Heavy rain fell for almost an hour, [turning] the streets into roaring rivers and flooding cellars from one end of the town to the other. ... At the big bridge over the Catoctin on the new concrete road between Middletown and Burkittsville, about one mile south of Middletown, the creek rose rapidly and is said to have attained a height of fifteen feet over normal. At this point, the creek overflowed the concrete road for a distance of half mile or better.

Mr. William Smith, who conducts a store in Lovettsville, Va., and visits often in Middletown, left the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. Fred Ridenour while the storm was in progress. Crossing the last mentioned bridge, the machine, a big Buick coupe, occupied by Smith and another man, plunged into water that was raging across the roadway. The car was swept to the side of the road and stalled in the mud, while the men clambered out and hung fast to the stranded machine, calling loudly for help.

Mr. Glenn Nikirk, Frederick, who has a little summer place along the creek at this point, was on the Middletown side of the bridge in his Hudson sedan when he heard cries for help. He hurried across the bridge and plunged into the water, wading to his cottage. Calling to the men to hang on until he found a flash-light, he entered the shack. On returning to the porch, Mr. Nikirk found the water had risen rapidly and his feet were swept from beneath him as he stepped from the door.

Nikirk grabbed into the top of a tree growing along the banks of the Catoctin and clung fast, while the occupants of the stranded Buick clung to the top of the machine, about eight inches of which was all that was left projecting above the water.

Automobiles from Middletown, which had succeeded in towing the telephone poles from across the road west of town [where poles piled for use in an emergency had washed across the highway, blocking all traffic], had also gone to the bridge on the concrete road to see what damage had been done. They heard the cries for help and with the ropes in the machine, endeavored to rescue those marooned. The rope proved much too short, and a machine dashed back to Middletown, where a large coil of inch rope was secured from the Valley Supply Co.

Considerable wading and throwing of ropes were necessary when the machine returned to the creek, before the rescuers were able to get Mr. Nikirk from the tree-top. In the meantime, the two marooned on the automobile were able to stagger through the water to higher ground.

While the storm was at the peak and the waters were at their highest, any number of chickens, pigs, horses, cattle, etc., were seen drifting down in the high waters. Quite a number of reports have been circulated concerning the losses of horses and cattle, but none could be verified by "The Register." ...

For hours after the storm passed, residents were engaged in carrying water from their cellars

and much damage was reported.

... The rain was very heavy at Jefferson, Petersville, Knoxville, Brunswick and Point of Rocks, and all streams in that section were reported to be out of bank. ...

Mr. Holter inspected eight bridges, some of which had been entirely washed away. These were near Burkittsville, Broad Run and Petersville. Wherever possible, old materials will be used in repairing structures partly carried away.

Notice.

A Chicken and Waffle Supper is to be held in the Parish Hall, Burkittsville, by the Ladies Aid Society of the Lutheran Church, on Oct. 9, 1926. Supper, 40c. 10-1-25-61

Arm Broke in Fall.

Mrs. Laura Ahalt, of Burkittsville, suffered a fracture of the left arm when she fell down a flight of steps at her home. The fracture was adjusted by Dr. J. Elmer Harp.

Mrs. G. Edgar Shank / Is Horribly Injured / In Unusual Accident. Thrown From Wagon With Barrel of Cider—Nose Cut from Face, Both Upper and Lower Jawbones Broken. / SLIGHT CHANCE TO RECOVER. [Long story:] Mrs. G. Edgar Shank, a young married woman of Bolivar, is at the Frederick City Hospital with but a slight chance for recovering, following an accident near the Gaver and Younkins cider mill, west of town. ... [Next week: Edna Shank Dies From Injuries. ... survived by husband and three children.]

October 8, 1926.

Let us put your name on our "No Trespassing" list [during the hunting season]. It only costs a quarter from now until January 1st.

STEPPED IN PATH OF
TRAIN AND IS KILLED
Fatally Injured Near Home.

BODY SEVERED NEAR THE HIPS.

Victim Stepped From One Track To Avoid Express Train Without Hearing Other Train Approaching—Mrs. Allen's Dog Killed Following Day While Hunting Mistress on Railroad Tracks.

Struck by the Winchester train of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, a short distance from her home, on Thursday afternoon of last week, Mrs. Patrick Allen, of near Catoctin, in the lower part of Middletown Valley, was instantly killed, her body being severed near the hips.

Mrs. Allen, aged about 55 years, left home shortly before the accident and went to Waskey's store. While walking west on the railroad track, returning home, she stepped onto an adjoining track, out of the path of the Capitol Limited Express. It is supposed that the noise of the fast train prevented her from hearing the approach of the Winchester train, bound for Frederick, and she was run down.

The victim is survived by six children, two of whom, a boy and a girl, aged about 15 and 16 respectively, reside at home. Two other sons reside in Philadelphia, and a married daughter, a Mrs. Hemp, lives near Petersville.

The story of how a dog's devotion to his mistress led the animal to its death has come to light recently. It was a story about a dog which met its death in the same manner as its mistress, Mrs. Allen.

On Friday, following the accident in which Mrs. Allen met her death, the dog wandered back to the tracks and in almost the identically same spot on which its mistress was killed, the animal was struck and killed by another train.

The dog apparently sought to know what had become of his mistress, and instinct led the animal to the tracks and also to its death.

Four Hurt in Auto Wreck.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles House, of Burkittsville, are at the Frederick City Hospital and a young couple from near Winchester, Va., were taken to a Baltimore hospital, last Saturday as the result of an automobile accident at Petersville.

Mrs. House sustained lacerations about the face and a broken knee-cap, while Mr. House was cut about the head. The other couple, a young dentist and his wife on their way to visit in Baltimore, were severely cut. Both cars were badly damaged.

Injured In Auto Collision.

Mrs. Annie Frye, of Knoxville, was slightly injured and two machines slightly damaged when a Chevrolet sedan, driven by Mrs. Frye, collided with a Nash sedan operated by A. L. Glick, of Pittsburgh, on Wednesday, about a half mile east of Jefferson. Mrs. Frye sustained slight cuts and bruises. The two parties decided to settle the damages between themselves.

Files Petition for Divorce.

Edison S. Triplett, of Brunswick, through his attorney, Reno S. Harp, has made application for an absolute divorce from his wife, Katherine V. Triplett.

October 15, 1926.

Merhl, four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshal Ahalt, of near Broad Run, this valley, fell from a table yesterday and suffered a broken bone at the elbow of his right arm. Dr. R. V. Hauver was called, and he adjusted the fracture.

Papers Reaching Ye Editor's Desk.

The Brunswick "Blade-Times" did considerable crowing last week over the fact that both the East Brunswick School and the West End School had unusually high average attendances for the month of September. The former showed 97 per cent. and the latter 95 per cent. Crowing isn't a bad idea when you really have something to crow over, and Brother Rinker can well feel proud of this fine attendance. It shows an interest in education that would speak well for any town.

October 22, 1926.

Alcoholic Content In Doubt.

Pete Stevens, of Brunswick, at a hearing before Judge Worthington, on a charge of selling intoxicating beverages, was allowed to return home on his own recognizance. The State, in this case, was unable to prove that the "home brew" Stevens sold contained enough alcohol to be in violation of the law.

October 29, 1926.

Mr. Dewey Beachley, of near Broad Run, and Mr. Grayson Palmer, of Barnesville, had their automobiles badly wrecked on Sunday evening last, when they collided on the State road, near Broad Run, during the heavy downpour of rain.

Winter Weather.

Middletown Valley is getting its first taste of early winter this week. Several fairly heavy frosts have covered the ground on different nights, being sufficient to kill garden produce and flowers still remaining on the vines. On Monday afternoon several little flurries of snow were observed in and around town. Ice formed on at least two nights, and overcoats have come into their own. In extreme Western Maryland, snow an inch deep is reported along the Western Maryland Railway.

The annual prediction of a coal shortage is being made, proving winter is once more near at hand.

Twenty-five cents spent now protects your land against hunting during the entire season. Send us your name.



BRUNSWICK HISTORY COMMISSION

This was Brunswick Savings Bank on the Square Corner in 1906. Lodge No. 191 moved its meetings to the second floor of the bank building in 1901. Masonic lodges are often located above commercial spaces. City Hall occupies this lot today.

to contribute to the community, contribute to themselves, contribute to their family, and contribute to the country."

As the lodge searches for its

next home, Brunswick can look back with gratitude on the Masons' long legacy of service — and look ahead to their continued role in the life of the city. ■



BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

Nicholas Walker, Founder, and Michelle Payton, Director of Outreach of Pulling for Veterans, receive a donation from Bob Brown (center) of Brunswick Masonic Lodge #191 in 2025.

Yoga In Jefferson

Wednesday Evenings
Saturday Mornings



For details
please see



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BHS FALL SPORTS

Football team struggling

By BILL CAULEY

This was not the start to the season second-year Brunswick High School football coach Nicholas Rhodes envisioned when practice started in August.

Rhodes, a former assistant at Boonsboro, was hoping the Railroaders would get better results in their first two games. Instead, Brunswick has been struggling, giving up big plays against opponents and failing to cash in on scoring opportunities.

Through three games, the Railroaders are 0-3. Brunswick played its first two games on the road, losing at Williamsport in the season-opener on Friday, Sept. 4, 16-7, then dropping a 44-14 decision the following Thursday at Tuscarora.

Brunswick had its home-opener with traditional rival Boonsboro on Friday, Sept. 18. The Railroaders played a tight game in the early goings, answering a Warriors' first-quarter with a touchdown of their own in the second quarter, eventually knotting the



PAOLO ALDRIGHETTI / UNSPLASH

score at 7.

Beyond that, the game belonged to Boonsboro, which scored 28 unanswered points for a lopsided, 42-7 win. While things haven't looked good for Brunswick at the start of the season, Rhodes said following the loss at Tuscarora, he is seeing progress.

"I think we're headed in the right direction," Rhodes said. "But there are things we have to work on."

Among the things Brunswick needs to work on is being able to sustain drives and not give

up needless penalties. In the home loss to Boonsboro, the Railroaders were assessed seven penalties for 55 yards. Six of those penalties were in the first half.

An illegal block in the back and a pair of holding penalties nullified some significant gains for Brunswick. Throw in four five-yard penalties, which included a delay of game call, two encroachments and a false start violation, and the ability to sustain any meaningful drives were hampered.

The Railroaders did have

203 yards in total offense, 112 rushing yards and 91 passing. Quarterback Cole Hoffman had Brunswick's lone touchdown on a 17-yard run two minutes into the second quarter. Colin Arnold kicked the extra point.

Cole Hoffman and Cole Renn shared leading rusher honors for the Railroaders against Boonsboro. Hoffman rushed for 36 yards on 13 carries. Renn had seven rushes for 36 yards. Hoffman completed 7 of 15 passes with one interception.

For its first three games, Brunswick has scored 28 points

but has given up 102. The Railroaders' defense has looked good for the most part, but gave up five long pass plays in the Boonsboro game.

There is still a lot of football left this season. Limiting penalties and not giving up a lot of big-yardage plays will be the keys to turning things around for Brunswick over the remainder of the season.

Flag Football

The Railroaders have a new coach in Eric Budd. Brunswick won its first game on Wednesday, Sept. 9, defeating Tuscarora, 8-0. Through that same time frame, the Railroaders are 1-2.

Field Hockey

Brunswick won its first game of the year on Friday, Sept. 11, defeating Thomas Johnson, 1-0. The lone goal of the match was scored by the Railroaders' Lauryn Ronk. Emme Miller had the assist.

Three days later, Brunswick shut out St. James School, 2-0. Ava Bonanno and Miller each had a goal. Abbey Perry had two assists. ■

The Greater Brunswick Area

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Email admin@gbacc.net with any questions or email
GBACC President abbiericketts@comcast.net



SPORTS PHOTOS

Have you taken a great photo of an athlete during a game in one of Brunswick's sports leagues?

The Brunswick News-Journal wants to share it with readers.

Please email your high-resolution photos to:
BCauley99@comcast.net

Please identify individuals in the photo, the team, the game date, and the name of the photographer.



Potomac Street Mile Winners Announced



The top finishers for Brunswick Main Street's Milton Frech Jr. Memorial Potomac Street Mile run held on August 29 are:

Top male: Griffen Adelman from BHS won the overall best time in 4:53

Runner-up male: Rickey Riley from BHS in 5:16

Top female: Raylan Grossnickle, an 8th grade PVYA Cross Country runner, in 6:29

Runner-up female: Clairra Mullen, a 9th grade runner from BHS, in 7:57

Top over 18 male: Amos Desjardins in 5:49
Top over 18 female: Sabrina Eason, in 10:59

Top 12 and under male: Sebastiaan Burke in 7:03
Top 12 and under female: Alondra Perez in 9:43
Both run for PVYA Cross Country.

ETCETERA

SIXTEEN MILES OUT / UNSPLASH



Ode to a Cat

By JEAN TOLEMAN

At 8:45 a.m. on August 15, Tuffy died. She had been the perfect cat for this family. She picked us and had more than lived her nine lives.

Cancer took her. She was gently put to sleep while her “Mom” held her. She will be buried in her favorite spot in the yard where she can sit in the shade and watch the world for all eternity. Tuffy helped raise our boys, train the dog, and entertain a prairie dog. She was loved by all who knew her. Her loud “yeohling” in the morning, balling us out for one thing or another will be a treasured remembrance. Her purrs of affection, her visits to the neighbors, all will be sorely missed.

Tuffy came to our house 14 summers ago with several kittens in tow. The boys were at the age to want pets and they wanted to adopt the whole gang. We kept Tuffy and two of her kittens. The others were taken to new homes. We had Tuffy spayed, gave her all the needed shots, and thought we were settling down to a life with cats.

In the fall, just as it was getting cold, Tuffy and the kittens disappeared. It was almost as if they had never been here, except for the vet bills proving they had. She had stayed just long enough that when she left, we missed her welcomes and her hugs. We had no idea where she would have gone or why and the fact that the kittens were gone was even stranger.

Life returned to normal, winter came and January was as cold and blustery as ever. One January day, Tuffy appeared on our doorstep. She was alone and her tail, which had been a normal tail when she left, looked like it had been scraped clean with nothing to it but bone — a dead, black stick. She was as loving as ever and seemed happy to be back, but where had she been? What happened to her tail? Where were her kittens? Looking in her eyes, I said, “If we take you and have your tail cut off, you will be our cat forever, no more running off after we invest our time and money on you!” She looked at me and said “meow.”

And she kept her meow. She has been with us ever since. She accepted two dogs and a prairie dog into the household. She accepted all the love from children. She came and went as she pleased, but never further than the neighbors. She loved being outside on summer nights and being inside snuggled upstairs in winter. She would let us know exactly how much attention she wanted and would only take that much, then move on to lounge in the shade of the locust tree or sleep in the bushes in the cool front yard.

Tuffy, with your beautiful green eyes, grey and white fur, and little pink nose, we will miss your meow, your rubbing against our legs, the kneading of your claws, and your gifts of dead voles and even a squirrel at our front door. We will miss you and remember you always. You were the only cat for us, and you knew it. Thank you. ■

SPAM

Is your email box or message list full of offers for roofing, auto warranty coverage, and political ads? There’s little you can do about political ads, as they are exempt from most provider-implemented controls, but you can control the other noise and get rid of some of the junk.

Start with the carriers. For email, that could be Google (gmail), Microsoft (outlook.com), Yahoo, Apple, and internet providers (cox.net, comcast.net, etc.).

For text messages, these travel via the big three mobile phone carriers: Verizon, AT&T, or T-Mobile.

Rules for email

- 1. Don’t open it if you are not expecting it.
- 2. Mark it as spam and block it using your email client, if you can, without opening it.
- 3. If you opened it, then do the same as step 2. By opening it, you confirmed that your email is a good target. The bad guys will sell this information.
- 4. Check your internet provider for blocking options, which might vary from none to a reasonable amount of spam blocking.
- 5. Use filtering tools in your email (works best on the computer). Both Google and Microsoft are good at this, but check your email provider for what they offer.
- 6. If you pay for Apple iCloud+ you can use the “Hide My Email” feature. With other carriers you can create alternative email names you use for purchases and “registration” required sites. If they require you to give your email it is likely they sell your email. Keep extra email accounts around and save your main account for the important stuff (family, friends, financial accounts, medical accounts, etc). This is more to manage, but it can drastically cut your email spam.



7. Just in case, check your spam filter on a regular basis to make sure you are not accidentally trashing valid emails. I make it a rule to check and empty my spam folder every Monday so I can start the week feeling like I don’t have any spam.

Rules for messages

- 1. Don’t open it. Just delete it. If you open it, you just verified the number is valid.
- 2. Don’t give away your phone number. This can be hard, but

- 3. If you have a landline number (it need not be active) use that instead, unless it’s going to be verified. (Many sites don’t verify, but they can’t send messages to your landline!)
- 4. Check your carrier’s site for suggestions on how to handle message spam. Some offer filters on their end, but it’s hit or miss.

These tips can help reduce your spam and unwanted messages. If nothing else, do your research and check your internet provider, email provider, and telephone provider and find out if they offer helpful tools. Good luck. ■

John the Computer Guy works in the IT industry. He has provided tech support to corporations and governments with large databas-



WES HICKS / UNSPLASH

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Breast Cancer: What you need to know

By ISABELLA MAXEY,
FREDERICK HEALTH

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Whether you are considering your own risk, supporting a loved one or navigating a breast cancer diagnosis, knowing the symptoms and options for care can help you take the next step with confidence.

What is breast cancer?

Breast cancer occurs when cells in the breast begin to grow uncontrollably, forming a tumor. A tumor is considered cancerous when abnormal cells invade surrounding breast tissue or have the potential to spread to other parts of the body. There are several different types of breast cancer, and each diagnosis is unique.

Am I at risk?

Breast cancer can affect anyone; in the United States, about one in eight women will develop breast cancer during their lifetime, while breast cancer is much less common in men. Age is a significant risk factor, with risk increasing as we get older. Many people think of breast cancer primarily as an inherited disease, but only about 5%–10% of breast cancers are believed to result from genetic mutations passed from parent to child. That is why understanding individual risk and staying current with recommended screenings is important. Some breast cancer risk factors cannot be changed, including getting older, having certain inherited genetic mutations, or having a personal or family history of breast cancer. Lifestyle factors may be associated with increased risk such as smoking, drinking excessive alcohol, being physically inactive, and being overweight or obese.

Having one or more risk factors does not mean you will develop breast cancer, just as having no known risk factors does not mean you cannot develop the disease.

What are the symptoms?

Breast cancer does not always cause symptoms, which is another reason why routine screening is so important. However, knowing what changes to look for can help you recognize when you should speak to your primary care provider.

Possible symptoms include:

- Breast or nipple pain
- A new lump or swelling in the breast or underarm
- Skin irritation, dimpling or changes in the appearance of the breast
- Redness, scaling or thickening of the nipple or breast skin
- Nipple discharge that is not breast milk



NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

to skip recommended mammograms. Be familiar with your breasts, and report any new or unusual changes to your healthcare provider. Advanced breast imaging helps detect breast cancer early and accurately. 3-D mammography provides a more detailed view of breast tissue than traditional 2-D mammography. By capturing multiple images of the breast, this technology helps providers identify abnormalities that may be difficult to detect with conventional imaging. Breast MRI may be recommended, particularly for patients at increased risk for breast cancer. MRI can be highly sensitive but does not typically replace routine mammography. A healthcare provider can help determine whether additional imaging is appropriate.

- A nipple that turns inward or changes in appearance
- Changes in the size or shape of a breast

Many of these symptoms can also be caused by noncancerous conditions. However, you should speak with a healthcare provider about any new or unusual changes.

How is breast cancer treated?

No two breast cancer diagnoses are exactly alike. Treatment depends on factors including the type and stage of cancer, its specific characteristics, and the needs and preferences of each

patient. It is often treated with a combination of therapies such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation or immunotherapy.

Detecting breast cancer

Routine screening is an important tool for early detection. When breast cancer is found at an earlier stage, there may be more treatment options and a greater opportunity for successful treatment. The American College of Radiology and the Society of Breast Imaging recommend annual screening mammograms beginning at age 40 for women at average risk. Risk increases with age, so it is important not

Resources for support

A breast cancer diagnosis or concerns about risk can feel overwhelming. But you are not alone. If you are concerned about breast cancer, have noticed changes in your breasts or have a personal or family history of the disease, talk with your primary care provider about your risk and recommended screening options. They help connect you with care, resources, and support. Frederick Health’s Breast Center provides care for both cancerous and noncancerous breast conditions. The team includes breast surgeons, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, high-risk specialists, and dedicated nurse navigators. ■

LEARN MORE

- What:** Frederick Health’s 20th Annual Breast Cancer Symposium
- When:** Oct. 14, 5 to 7:30 p.m.
- Where:** Frederick Health Village
- Register:** FrederickHealth.org/BreastSymposium
- The symposium offers an opportunity to learn more about breast cancer, advancements in care and resources for patients and families.
- For more information about breast cancer and care options available at Frederick Health, visit FrederickHealth.org/BreastCancer or call 240-215-1447.



Rooted in Service

Brunswick has always been a community built by people who work hard and look out for one another. From its railroad roots and historic downtown to the Potomac River, C&O Canal and families who commute each day on the MARC line, this city has an identity all its own.

As Frederick County grows, Brunswick deserves leadership that understands what is at stake. Growth should create opportunity—not come at the expense of our water, infrastructure, affordability, or the character that generations of residents have built here. After twenty years of service in the United States Army, I know leadership begins with listening, showing up and being accountable to the people you serve. I’m running to bring that commitment to Annapolis and make sure Brunswick has a strong voice in the decisions shaping its future. I don’t just want Brunswick to grow. I want Brunswick to thrive—and remain a place its residents are proud to call home.

Protecting Brunswick’s Future

- RESPONSIBLE GROWTH & ENERGY**
Large-scale development must pay its fair share. Families should not be left carrying the cost of new demands on our power grid and infrastructure.
- PROTECTING OUR WATER**
The Potomac and our local water resources are vital to Brunswick. I will support responsible water planning and strong protections as our region grows.
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
I will support workforce housing, first-time homebuyer opportunities, and solutions that help longtime residents and seniors remain in the communities they helped build.
- INVESTING IN BRUNSWICK**
Brunswick deserves continued investment in MARC service, infrastructure, downtown businesses, and the resources working families rely on.

Alleria Stanley for Maryland House of Delegates • District 4
Tested Leadership. Real Accountability. Alleria4statedelegate.org



By Authority: Citizens for Alleria, Elizabeth Meier, Treasurer.



Valley Craft Network Studio Tour

45th Year

Always The Weekend Before Thanksgiving

November 21 & 22, 202610 am - 5 pm



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

15 Artisans
13 Studios

www.vcntour.com

Follow us on facebook & Instagram





COMBAT VETERAN

A Lifetime of Service

Soldier

- Three deployments to Bosnia
- One tour on the ground in Iraq

Problem Solver

- Fixed Intel data flow for joint forces
- Secured approval for counter IED tools

Innovator

- Presented JCTD which got cultural advisors for deploying units
- Cut satellite development & integration time from 10 years to 2 ½ years

What Andrew Duck can do for the 4th District

Listen

- Leaders need to listen to voter input
- Gather information before legislating

Address Affordability

- Affordable Housing
- Maryland MEDICARE for All
- Control electricity rates

Data Center Sanity

- Make data centers follow the rules
- No corporate donations



www.Duck4Delegate.org

Paid for by Friends of Andrew Duck, Mike Reid, Treasurer

ALL ABOARD BRUNSWICK

OCTOBER COMMUNITY GUIDE FOR ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, EVENTS, ETC.

To have your event listed in next month’s newspaper, email events by the 15th of this month to info@BrunsNews.com.

Jim Cupino Project
Plays Blues

October 3, 7–9 pm
Beans in the Belfry
122 W. Potomac St.

Brunswick Railroad Days

October 3 & 4
10 am–5 pm
Downtown Brunswick

Lovettsville Community
Yard Sale

October 3, 8 am–12 noon
Game Club
16 S. Berlin Pike

Old Time Music Open Jam

October 4 & October 18,
1–6 pm
Beans in the Belfry
122 W. Potomac St.

National Jousting
Tournament

October 10, all-day,
breakfast starts at 8 am
Petersville Ruritan Club
3816 Petersville Rd.

Connect and Create

October 10, 1–3 pm
Smoketown Brewery
223 W. Potomac St.

Blue Grass Open Jam

October 11 & October 25
Beans in the Belfry
122 W. Potomac St.

Goat Treat Day

October 17, 10 am–2 pm
Caprikorn Farms
20311 Townsend Rd.,
Gapland

Paranormal Investigation

October 17, 6–10 pm
Brunswick Heritage
Museum
40 W. Potomac St.

Apple Dumpling Sale

Brunswick Volunteer
Ambulance & Rescue
Auxiliary
October 17, order by
October 10 at 301–471–
7007
200 W. Potomac St.

Model Railroad
Extravaganza

October 23 & 24
9:30 am–5 pm
Lovettsville Library
12 N. Light St.

Bingo for Breast Cancer

October 24
11 am–4:30 pm
Jefferson Ruritan Club
4603–B Lander Road

Valley Elementary
Fall Fest

October 24, 2–6 pm
Games, food,
haunted hallway
Sponsored by Valley PTA

Halloween Party

October 24, 6–8 pm
Live DJ, costume contest,
carnival, trunk or treat
Downtown E. Potomac
St. area

Home School Event:
Fun and Educational
Experience

October 30, 2–4 pm
Brunswick Heritage
Museum
40 W. Potomac St.

Brunswick Live!

October 30, 4 pm–9 pm
Downtown Brunswick

Megan Jean & KTB
Halloween Party

October 30, 7–10 pm
Smoketown Brewery
223 W. Potomac St.

Crafters Market and
Pursuing our Dreams
Food Truck

October 31, 10 am–2 pm
Petersville Ruritan
3816 Petersville Rd.

Spooky Mane All Treats
No Tricks

October 31, 6:30–9:30
Silver Mane Stables
4240 Jefferson Pike,
Jefferson

RECURRING

Valley Quilters all ages/
levels

First WEDNESDAYS,
6:30 pm
St. Paul Lutheran
Church, Jefferson
Peggy at
[valleyquiltersTLC@
gmail.com](mailto:valleyquiltersTLC@gmail.com)

Music Bingo

First and third
WEDNESDAYS, 7–9 pm
Smoketown Brewing
223 W. Potomac St.

Open Mic w/ Jacob
Rockwell

Third WEDNESDAYS,
starting at 5:30 pm
Smoketown Brewing

Trivia Night

THURSDAYS, 6–8 pm
Smoketown Brewing

Brunswick Main Street
Farmers Market

Second and last
FRIDAYS, 4–7 pm
Martin’s Creek Parking
Lot
100 E. Potomac St.

Connect & Create

Second SATURDAYS,
1–3 pm
Smoketown Brewing

Games Club of Maryland

Third SATURDAYS,
12:30–7 pm
Smoketown Brewing

Books & Brews Book
Club

Third SUNDAYS
4–6 pm
Smoketown Brewing

SAVE THE DATE

Brunswick Business Expo

Greater Brunswick Area
Chamber of Commerce
November 5, 5–8 pm
Brunswick Volunteer
Fire Dept.
1500 Volunteer Dr.

Brunswick Veterans Day
Parade

November 8
Downtown Brunswick

Veterans Challenge
5 K Run

November 14, 8:30 am
Square Park Corner,
Brunswick

JFK Run Day Breakfast

November 21, 6–10 am
or until sold out
Brownsville Church
of the Brethren
1911 Rohrersville Rd.

LOCAL WORSHIP
SERVICES & EVENTS

St Paul Lutheran Church

SUNDAYS, 8:30 am
3864 Jefferson Pike

Jefferson United
Methodist Church

SUNDAYS, 9 am
3882 Jefferson Pike

Grace Fellowship Church

SUNDAYS
9 am, 10:45 am
131 9th Ave.

New Hope United
Methodist Church

SUNDAYS, 9:30 am
7 S. Maryland Ave.

Bethany Lutheran Church

SUNDAYS, 9:45 am
109 1st Ave.

Jefferson United Church
of Christ

SUNDAYS, 10:45 am
3837 Jefferson Pike

Grace Episcopal Church

SUNDAYS, 11 am
114 E. A St.

CHECK THIS OUT!

October events
at local libraries

Brunswick Library
915 N. Maple Avenue

ADULTS (18+)

Conversation Class
for English Language
Learners

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
10:30 am–12 pm

Adult Adaptive Program:
Let’s Get Moving

October 6, 1–2 pm

Family Acting Workshop

October 1, 2–4 pm

Supernatural
Investigation with
Chesapeake Paranormal

October 8, 2–3 pm

Introduction to Tarot
Cards

October 28, 6–7:30 pm

Adult Adaptive Program:
Nocturnal Animals

October 30, 11 am–12 pm

TEENS (grades 6–12)

Teen Time: Make Your
Own Puzzle (ages 11–18)

October 1, 6–7 pm

Teen Time: Frakentoy

(ages 11–18)
October 8, 6:00–7:00 pm

Babysitting 101 with the
University of Maryland
Extension 4H (ages 13–18)

October 14, 21, 28,
5:30–7:30 pm

Teen Time: Edible Slime

(ages13–18)
October 15, 6–7 pm

Make a Mask

(ages11–18)
October 22, 6–7 pm

Teen Time: Hand Sewing
Basics (ages 11–18)

October 29, 6–7 pm

Teen D & D Oneshot –

The Pumpkin King
(ages 11–18)
October 31, 2–4 pm

TWEENS
(grades 3–8)

Tween Time: Minecraft

October 1, 6–7 pm

CHILDREN
(grades K–5)

Elementary Explorers:
World Architect Day

(ages 5–10)
October 6, 4:30–5:30 pm

Elementary Explorers:
Art Exploration

(ages 5–10)
October 13,
4:30–5:30 pm

Elementary Explorers:
Rabbits in the Library

(ages 5–10)
October 20, 4:30–5:30 pm

Read to a Dog

(ages 5–10)
October 24
10:30–11:30 am

Story Explorers:

(ages 5–10)
October 26, 1–2 pm

RECURRING

Baby Storytime

MONDAYS, 10:30–11:30
am, ages 0–24 months
with caregiver

Toddler Storytime

TUESDAYS, 10:30–11
am, ages 2–3 with
caregiver

Preschool Storytime

WEDNESDAYS,
10:30–11 am, ages 3–5
with caregiver

School Skills

WEDNESDAYS,
11:15–11:45 am, ages 3–5
with caregiver

Evening Storytime

FIRST WEDNESDAYS,
6:30–7 pm, ages 0–5

Musical Storytime

THURSDAYS, 10:30–11
am, ages 0–5 with
caregiver

Conversation Class
for English Language
Learners

SATURDAYS, 10:30 am–
noon

Out & About: Special
Offsite Programs

Storytime at the
Brunswick Fire Station

October 9
10:30–11:30 am
1500 Volunteer Drive

Family Nature Walk on
the C&O Canal

October 17, 10–11 am
Meet at the Brunswick
boat ramp

Edward F. Fry
Memorial Library
1635 Ballenger Creek
Pike, Point of Rocks

Seed Saving with

Master Gardener Megan
Rice (Teens, Adults)
October 3, 10–11 am

New: Teen Library Council

(ages 11–18)
October 7, 5:30–6:30 pm

Drop-in Wednesdays:

Build a Cardboard Fort
with Chompsaw (all ages)
October 14, 5:15–6:45 pm

No-Sew Gnome Club

(ages 8+)
October 17, 11 am–2:30 pm

Yoga for School-Age Kids

(Elementary)
October 19, 11 am–noon

Drop-in Saturday: Doodle

Art (All ages)

September 30
5:30–6:30 pm

Hallowed History: A River
Runs Through It (ages 8+)

October 31, 11 am–12 pm

RECURRING

Musical Storytime

(ages 0–5)
TUESDAYS, 11–11:30 am

Play and Learn (ages 0–5)

TUESDAYS
11:30 am–noon

Lovettsville Library
12 N. Light St.

Lovettsville, Va.

Permaculture Gardening
for Everyone

October 3, 1–2 pm

Hoa Hoa Hoa Twilight
Celebration

October 10, 2–4 pm

Pokemon Palooza

(Elementary Age)
October 17, 2–3 pm

Pine Snake Miniatures

(Middle School–Adults)
October 26, 6:30–8 pm

Civic Open House

(Ages 5–Adult)
October 29, 1–4 pm

Orient Express Escape
Room

(Middle School–Adult)
October 31, 2–4 pm

RECURRING

Messy Monday

Mondays, 10 am–noon
Creative art and play.
All ages with caregiver.

Family Storytime

Tuesdays and
Wednesdays, 10 am
Interactive stories and
movement.
Ages 5 and under with
caregiver.

Teen Takeover

Wednesdays, 5–8 pm
Free-time hangout with
gaming, crafts, movies,
other activities.

Drop-In Mahjong

Thursdays, 5:30–7 pm
Play American Mahjong
with friendly folks happy
to teach newcomers.

Little Artists

Fridays, 10 am–noon
Explore a variety of art
styles and crafts geared
for different ages and
abilities that encourage
developmental skill
building.

Meet Goats at Caprikorn Farm

Caprikorn Farms invites families, friends and goat lovers of all ages to Goat Treat Day on Saturday, October 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Meet friendly dairy goats and enjoy a little hands-on farm fun. Each visitor will receive a free bag of goat treats to feed the goats, while supplies last.

This is an opportunity to spend a fall day in the country, get up close with the goats, and see where the fresh goat milk used in Caprikorn Farms’ products comes from.

Caprikorn Farm is located at 20311 Townsend Road, Gapland. Admission is free.



JUST THE FACTS

FACT: August 2023, 168 diesel generators at the Adamstown data center fail state inspection.

FACT: January 9, 2024 Senator Folden accepts money from data center developer Quantum Loophole.



Entity Name : Folden, William Citizens for
Filing Period Name : 01/10/2024 Annual

Entity Number : 01010125
Report Due Date : 01/17/2024

1/09/2024	Quantum Loophole 1621 Lakeview Drive, Sebring, Florida 33870	\$2,000.00
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FACT: January 22, 2024 Senator Folden co-sponsors a bill to let data centers diesel generators bypass state inspection.

FACT: May 2024 the bill passes and Adamstown data center moves forward.

FACT: September 2026, 400 diesel generators are on the Adamstown data center site.

YOUR VOICE YOUR VOTE

Lara
Westdorp
STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 4



- First time candidate
- Accepted NO money from the data centers
- 25+ years in public service safeguarding taxpayer funds
- Endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters and Sierra Club
- Offered 10+ solutions to mitigate community damage by Data Centers

"Together we can make the government work with and for the People"