

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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FREE



250 Years of Independence: Celebrations in Brunswick and Lovettsville

The year 2026 has been marred by war, rising prices, and a polarized country. At the same time, 2026 stands out as the year the United States of America reached a milestone existence of 250 years.

It was July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was signed and the U.S. was born. Despite our differences, in this semiquincentennial year, there are still things that bring us all together, especially on holidays.

Local people around the Brunswick and Lovettsville areas still look forward to the annual Independence Day celebrations when communities come together for picnics, music and fireworks.

Brunswick's 2026 Independence Day Celebration takes place a day earlier on Friday, July 3 (with a rain date of Sunday, July 5, for fireworks).

Sponsored by the City of Brunswick, the celebration be-



SHAROSH RAJASEKHER / UNSPLASH

gins at 5 p.m. at the Brunswick Municipal Pool, 99 Cummings Dr., with a pool party, food trucks, local vendors, and music by DJ Hub. Pool admission is free from 5 p.m. to closing.

The fireworks display begins at dark, about 9:00 p.m. and lasts 20–30 minutes. In past years, the city has put on a spectacular display, set off at the Brunswick Middle School complex on Cummings Drive. Many people view the fireworks from the school parking lots, but the show can be seen from many high points in town.

Brunswick is also creating a Community Time Capsule to preserve a snapshot of life in the city in 2026. The capsule will be sealed and opened on July 4, 2076.

Independence Day Celebration in Lovettsville happens on July 3 when Loudoun County Parks, Recreation & Community Services hosts festivities.

Lovettsville was selected as one of five locations in Loudoun County to host a celebration.

Kicking off the festivities is the Annual Hometown Parade starting at 5:30 p.m. The parade, sponsored by the Lovettsville Community Center Advisory Board, will begin at the Lovettsville Community Park and travel down Broad Way, turning onto S. Loudoun Street and ending at the Lovettsville Elementary School.

An Independence Day Pool Bash follows at the center's pool beginning at 6:30 at 57 E. Broad Way. Admission to the Pool Bash is \$5 per person.

Carnival games, inflatable obstacle course, DJ, face painting, food for purchase, and interactive historic displays will also be available at the Lovettsville Community Park starting at 6 p.m.

The free fireworks show begins at approximately 9:30 p.m. Rain date for the fireworks only is Monday, July 6, at 9:30 p.m. ■

Alternate BHS Sites Would All Take Athletic Fields

By MARK ROHNER

Architects and engineers are aiming to select a recommended site for the new Brunswick High School building and begin design work this month.

They are considering three alternative locations on the existing Brunswick High campus. The existing school will remain open during construction and be torn down after the replacement building opens. A big consideration is what to do about the existing athletic fields, because each site alternative would take up one or more of the fields.

The three alternatives

The site alternatives were unveiled at a public meeting at Brunswick High School on May 26. One alternative would locate the new school to face Point of Rocks Road, north of the existing facility, occupying part of the site



Brunswick High School

of the current football stadium. A second would leave the football stadium undisturbed and locate the new building east of the existing one, where the softball fields and tennis courts are now. The third option would be to build the new school on the

site of the existing baseball field, south of the current school building.

Frederick County schools didn't provide any information on cost differences between the alternatives. The county's long-

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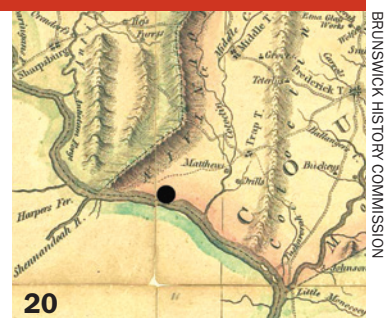
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Berlin (later Brunswick) and the Revolutionary War



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BRUNSWICK NEWS

In Loving Memory of Nelson Smith: Our Companion in Mayhem

By BOB WARD

Laughter, fun, and hard work are all wonderful memories we have of our friend, Nelson Smith. For over 50 years, he was in our lives as we all worked on several Brunswick Area Recreation Council (BARC) events together, such as Fright Night—A Walk on the Dark Side, Scottish First Footing, and Freezin' for a Reason.

Nelson possessed an incredible gift—he could do absolutely anything electrical. Over the years, he brought countless monsters and machines to life for Fright Night. He famously built an electric chair that actually walked across the floor, complete with smoke billowing around our phony convict. The crowd would scream, back up, and scramble to get away! With his intricate network of switches and lights, monsters came charging out of coffins, from underneath tables, and out of the darkest corners. He masterfully orchestrated fog machines, strobe lights, and howling sounds. Nobody could believe how spectacular BARC's Haunted Houses were, but that was just Nelson—our perpetual companion in mayhem.

At BARC's Scottish First Footing event, Nelson helped build and operate a train that descended from the roof of a building at Square Corner Park down to the pavilion. When the train arrived, it flipped the switch to light up a sign welcoming the New Year. With the



Bob Ward (in kilts) with Nelson Smith.

bagpipes playing Auld Lang Syne, the train whistle blowing, and the crowd cheering, it was always a truly magical way to ring in the new year.

Nelson was a phenomenal volunteer for so many groups around Brunswick, including BARC (Brunswick Area Recreation Council), Brunswick Junior Railroaders Football, BHS Band Boosters, Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Company 19, and many others.

One year, I asked for Nelson's help on a project, and he told me that his wife, Joan, wanted him to spend more time with his family. Naturally, I called Joan directly and asked if Nelson could "come out and play." She laughed so long and hard, but when she finally came up

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range capital improvement plan estimates the total cost of the project at \$134 million.

Mayor Nathan Brown said at that meeting that "Anything disturbed we want put back just as nice as what we have, whether that's the football field, the baseball field, tennis courts, whatever it is."

"It's not very often a new high school comes along and we want to make sure they do get it right," Brown said.

Athletic fields would eventually be replaced

Whatever athletic fields are taken for the new building site would be replaced on the current 77.7-acre campus, according to an email from Dorian Munoz, executive assistant in the Public Affairs Department of Frederick County Public Schools.

In the meantime, Railroaders' athletic events would be held at Brunswick city facilities or fields at Frederick County's Othello Park outside the city on Jefferson Pike. Those arrangements will be made before construction starts in summer 2028, Munoz said.

"We may have a disruption to one or more of the sports programs, but one of the things that we need to keep in mind is if it does impact them in the short term, in the long term we're going to have a better facility," Hope Bonanno, a BHS parent who chairs the Brunswick High School Rebuild Committee, said in an interview.

"Looking at the press box area for the high school right now -- it's not a great press box -- or the concession stand, it's not updated," she said. "So we may be out of that now and not have the ability to announce as we do right now or the ability to sell concessions as we do right now, but we're going to have a better facility in the long run."

Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2030, with the new school opening in August of that year. ■

Nelson Smith CONTINUED

for air, she said YES!

Nelson had a profound love for the Brunswick Ambulance Company and all the volunteers he worked alongside at Company 19. He can never be replaced, and he will forever be missed. He was deeply proud to be from Brunswick, and we were incredibly honored and proud to be his friends and adopted family.

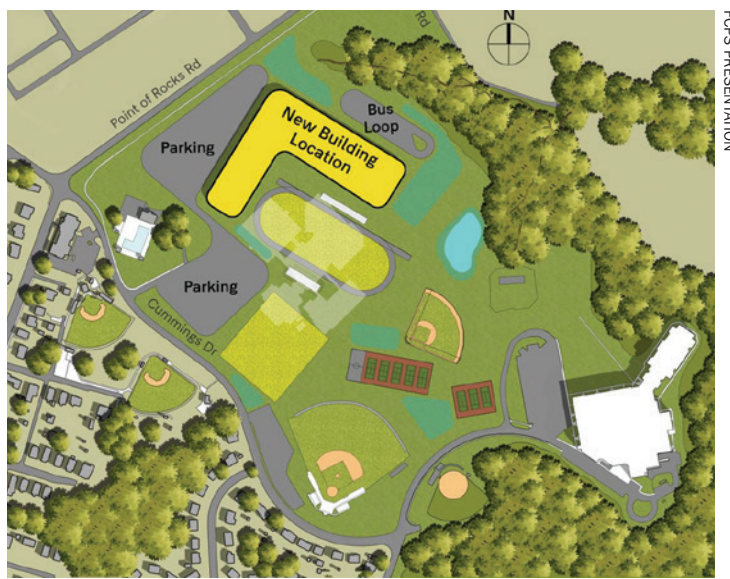
We will always remember all of our escapades, accomplishments, and the endless laughter we shared. We will keep Joan, Brandy, Scott, and his entire family warm in our hearts, filled with love.

Nelson, when I get lucky enough to make it to Heaven, be sure you've already asked if I can come in and play. Miss you, buddy! ■

Brunswick High School CONTINUED



Existing site



North of existing campus



East of existing campus



South of existing campus

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

P.O. Box 74; Brunswick, MD 21716

240-409-7476 (please leave a message)

Editor@BrunsNews.com

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Publisher: Ellis Burruss

Editor: Diane Ellis

ACE group (Advisors, Contributors, Editors):

Bill Cauley Julie Maynard

Jane Clifford Abbie Ricketts

Jean Doyle Mark Rohner

Laura Dvorak Jean Toleman

Julie Gourley

Design and layout: Patrice Gallagher, Gallagher Design, Frederick MD

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

Editor@BrunsNews.com

BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL

Mayor and Council
June 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

Our fair city keeps leading on many fronts within the county and state. This time, Brunswick will become the second Maryland city to become a “Just Serve” city. Frederick was the first and Takoma Park is the third.

The “Just Serve” program began in 2012 as a humanitarian offering of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It promotes volunteerism across the world by individuals, organizations and cities.

Rick Weldon, speaking as a Brunswick resident, said, “Idaho is the first ‘Just Serve’ state and Governor Moore wants Maryland to become the second which requires three ‘Just Serve’ cities. I think Middletown, Thurmont and New Market will join next. I’m proud to call Brunswick home...volunteerism is what this place is all about.”

FY27 budget public hearing

The public hearing for the FY27 city budget consisting of the general fund, the capital improvement project (CIP) fund, and the enterprise fund, was held just before the May 26 Mayor and Council meeting. As with many past public hearings, no citizens participated, to the mayor’s and council’s disappointment. The city continues to seek more and better ways of promoting public participation in city government activities.

The Council approved \$11,713,000 for the general fund (city operations), \$5,331,500 for the CIP fund (infrastructure and other physical improvements), and a combined \$9,429,900 for the enterprise fund (water and wastewater services funded largely through water and sewer bills).

Legislative action requests

At this year’s Maryland Municipal League conference, the city will ask MML to support two legislative action requests. One is to exempt the city from paying taxes on most municipal properties it owns, and from system benefit fees paid by Brunswick and other taxpayers. The city paid \$56,000 in FY25

and \$57,000 in FY26 property taxes from rental properties it owns (including cell phone towers and other equipment) and paid \$3,000 in taxes on system benefit fees. Exempting these income sources from taxes would free up funding to spend on city projects such as sidewalks and road paving.

The other legislative request would amend the Police Accountability Act to remove the requirement that disciplinary actions against police officers go to trial boards. The city believes that the trial board requirement should apply only to actions involving the public. Internal-only disciplinary actions (e.g. excessive tardiness) and minor infractions (problems between BPD officers) should be handled internally. Trial boards are expensive and time-consuming.

BPD public workshop

The Brunswick Police Department held a public workshop on June 2 to discuss its staffing, salary scale and retirement program. The force currently has 18 officer positions and two civilian positions but can only maintain 15-16 officers at any one time. This is largely related to relatively low salaries and the city’s pension program. Currently there are 14 officers in place, with two on long-term medical leave. Year-long average officer staffing in the past few years has been 15 in 2023, 17 in 2024, 15 in 2025, and 13 in 2026 (14 Jan-Feb, and 12 Mar-May.)

In terms of salaries, Brunswick ranks fourth in the county after Frederick City, the Sheriff’s office, and Mt. Airy. Only Thurmont pays less than Brunswick.

For many years, BPD has sought to join the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS), which has higher pension rates and allows full retirement at 25 years instead of Brunswick’s 30 years. Brunswick is the only law enforcement agency in the county not in LEOPS which is arguably the main reason for the difficulty in hiring and retaining police officers.

BPD’s plan to pay for the salary increases and LEOPS membership would keep all 18 officer positions on the books but keep

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FROM THE MAYOR’S DESK

Brunswick’s Water
Story:From Virginia Springs
to Yourtee Spring

When you turn on the tap in Brunswick, it is easy to take for granted where that water comes from and what it takes to deliver it every day. Our water system has a story that stretches back more than a century. It is a story of springs, rivers, historic agreements, aging infrastructure, difficult decisions, and steady work to rebuild for the future.

One of the most surprising parts of the story is that Brunswick’s system extends beyond Maryland. Even today, we serve a small number of customers in Virginia. This highlights how unique and far-reaching our system has been for generations.

Brunswick’s water system did not come together all at once. It was assembled over time through land purchases, rights-of-way, and agreements dating back to 1918-1919. Two major pieces of that history were the Virginia Springs system and Yourtee Spring. Both played an important role in shaping the public water system we rely on today.

Unusual Virginia history

The original Virginia Springs system flowed toward Brunswick and at one point crossed the Potomac River through a pipe connection. Those lines then intersected with the Yourtee Spring system near the C&O Canal and the railroad in Knoxville. Over time, the river crossing pipe failed and is no longer in service.

As a result, our Virginia customers today are effectively isolated from the rest of Brunswick’s system. They remain part of our service area, but are no longer connected the way they once were. It is a clear example of how the age and layout of this system create challenges that are not always visible.

Virginia Springs once supplied water to Brunswick and a limited number of residents in Loudoun County through Painter, Cool, and Stevens Springs. For many years, it served its purpose. By the early 1990s, however, the city faced a difficult reali-



ty. New treatment requirements, aging infrastructure, fluctuating water yield, and rising compliance costs made continued use increasingly difficult.

In 1993, Brunswick decided to discontinue Virginia Springs as a public water source and shift to the Potomac River. It was not an easy choice, but it was the right one for reliability, compliance, and long-term stability.

Yourtee Spring

While Virginia Springs became part of our past, Yourtee Spring remained part of our future. Records show that Brunswick’s use of Yourtee was formalized through a 1931 deed agreement that conveyed key parcels to the city. Yourtee has proven to be a more dependable historic spring source and it remains an active part of our water supply system.

Our water system has a story that stretches back more than a century... It was assembled over time through land purchases, rights-of-way, and agreements dating back to 1918-1919.

That history comes with complexity. Over the years, older deeds, rights-of-way, and service agreements created a patchwork of obligations that do not always align with a modern utility system. Some properties were promised limited free water. Others were guaranteed service at prevailing rates. Some agree-

ments included unique maintenance or service expectations.

As the system is modernized, we research these documents, review old deeds, and apply them fairly and consistently. It is detailed and sometimes difficult work, but it is an important part of responsible stewardship.

The physical layout of our system adds another layer of challenge. Much of our infrastructure runs miles outside city limits through steep terrain, narrow corridors, ravines, and remote areas difficult to access. Maintaining water infrastructure under those conditions is more complex and costly than a typical in-town system. Much of this infrastructure is decades old, and we are now seeing the effects of deferred maintenance. That is why careful planning and sustained investment are so important.

Complex system today

Today, Brunswick operates a small community drinking water system that is expected to be reclassified as a large community system in the near future. On average, we produce about 437,000 gallons per day from the Potomac River and another 127,000 gallons per day from Yourtee Spring.

We maintain approximately 48.5 miles of water main across our service area, including within Brunswick and in Frederick County, Washington County, and Virginia. That system serves 7 customers in Virginia, 20 in Washington County, and 166 customers outside city limits in Frederick County. For a city our size, that is a significant and complex system to manage.

System improvements

While the system has come a long way, we must continue improving. In 2022, the City constructed a new Yourtee Spring Water Filtration Plant to meet updated state requirements. In 2023, the first major phase of rehabilitation for the eight-mile Yourtee transmission line moved forward through a contract to reline key sections. This is an important first step in strengthening a critical part of our system.

We are also advancing a storage tank project at Yourtee to improve fire flow, stabilize pres-

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Brunswick Council Member Election Tuesday, August 4

The City of Brunswick will hold an election for three council member seats on Tuesday, August 4, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the City Park Building, 655 East Potomac Street. Absentee ballots will also be available from City Hall.

IMPORTANT DATES

- July 6 — 4:30 p.m.** Candidate Interest Packets due at City Hall
- July 14** Voter registration closes — register through Frederick County at frederickcountymd.gov/1648/Voter-Registration
- July 15** Absentee ballots available
- August 3** Deadline for drop-off of absentee ballots at City Hall
- August 4 — 12 noon** Mail-in absentee ballots must be received by City Hall
- August 4 — 8 p.m.** Preliminary election results released after tabulation
- August 5** Certified election results available

For election information and to download the Candidate Interest Packet, go to brunswickmd.gov/newsandannouncements.

BRUNSWICK NEWS

Mayor and Council June Update CONTINUED

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two positions vacant for now and use that salary money to increase the salary scale by 10%. This would cover the increase and leave some funds available to join LEOPS in FY28, just as income from the Vista Pointe and Springdale Summit developments starts entering city coffers, so there would be little or no impact on taxpayers.

BPD Chief Kevin Grunwell later reported that traffic cameras helped identify suspects in two recent downtown hit-and-run accidents. The suspects were able to work things out with the victims.

ADUs and dumpsters

The city drafted two new ordinances, one that would, for the first time, allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and another that would regulate multi-family residential dumpsters.

Accessory dwelling unit is defined as “a smaller secondary residential dwelling unit located on the same lot as a primary single family dwelling unit. An ADU is customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal use and independently habitable providing the basic requirements of sanitation, cooking, eating, and sleeping. An ADU may be detached from, attached to, or located within the primary dwelling.”

If the council approves the ordinance, there would be requirements for ADUs including water line size, conformance with county building codes, size and location limitations, parking re-

quirements, and use restrictions. There would be a fee structure of 50% of the main dwelling unit’s impact fee and a \$750 flat fee to cover water service upgrades (1” pipe, water meter, etc.) ADUs could not be used for any commercial purpose including short-term rentals and home-based businesses. Homeowner Associations must allow ADUs per the new state law.

Dumpster is defined as, “a front-loading or rear-loading metal refuse container designed for mechanical emptying by commercial waste collection vehicles with a watertight, leak-proof body and tight-fitting lid or cover for outdoor use.”

Multi-family residential and commercial dumpsters would have to be enclosed or screened, kept free of all refuse in and around the enclosure, and placed on a hard, level surface such as concrete or asphalt among other requirements. Temporary commercial dumpsters used at construction sites and homes, known as “roll off dumpsters,” are handled separately in the code of ordinances.

The council will vote on the two proposed ordinances at its next meeting on July 28.

“If I Were Mayor for a Day” semi-finalist recognition

Solomane Dialo, a nine-year-old fourth grader at Brunswick Elementary School, was a semi-finalist in the Maryland Municipal League’s annual “If I Were Mayor for a Day” contest. BES has a proud history of producing semi-finalists. This year, Dialo competed with 900 entrants.

Dialo envisioned such things as adding another day to the weekend, adding homeless centers, attracting more businesses so that homeless people could have jobs, having more sports fields/courts/bike trails, having more libraries, and asking people to be nice to each other regardless of how they themselves are treated.

With his family in the audience, Mayor Brown presented Dialo with a certificate and a city challenge coin.

Pride Month proclamation

Mayor Brown read the fifth annual Pride Month proclamation with representatives of the Frederick Center on hand. Executive Director Kris Fair thanked Brunswick for the declaration and for being so welcoming of the LGBTQ community. Mr. Fair also mentioned a number of Frederick Pride events throughout the month.

Equity and Inclusivity Task Force

The Equity and Inclusivity Task Force met with representatives of the NAACP and the county who provided useful information and ideas that the task force used in developing a

draft workplan. The workplan is built around four priorities: a) expand access to city services, programs and employment; b) build meaningful connections reflecting community diversity; c) promote understanding through community celebrations; and d) facilitate timely, two-way dialogue between residents and city government.

The task force asked the council to upgrade it to a standing commission so that its work could continue indefinitely. Some council members were skeptical of the need for a new commission but agreed that the task force should continue developing its workplan and approved \$5,000 toward research needs. When the plan is final, it will come back to the council for a vote.

Parks and paving update

Phases 1 and 2 of the long-awaited Sports Complex overhaul will be finished this fall. Phase 3, the skateboard park overhaul, will follow with the design phase beginning after July 1 and buildout expected next year.

The B&O Railroad Park is nearly finished. Stay tuned for an announcement about the grand opening coming soon. The city is exploring restoring the inside of the WB tower to look like it did when it was in use, perhaps including old equipment that was in use at the time.

Public Works Director John Gerstner reported that spring paving is done, and that the fall paving schedule will focus on the highest need streets.

In other news...

- Planning the **city time capsule** is still underway and will be announced soon. To avoid deterioration from burial, it will be put either in the Heritage Museum or City Hall and will be opened in 2046.

- An informal group of downtown business owners will host “**Downtown Drinks**” the last Friday of June, July, August, September and October in Square Corner Park in connection with the Main Street farmers market.

- The N. Maple Avenue sidewalk project Phase 1 and a new sidewalk installed on W. B Street from N. Maple Avenue downhill to the traffic circle will be finished by June 30. The design and engineering contract for Phase 2, from F Street to Souder Road, was awarded in June to BVF Engineering. That phase is now in two parts: 2A is F Street to J Street; 2B is from J Street to Souder Road.

- The city submitted a 28-page application to the federal transportation department for a “**Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant**” to support a pedestrian bridge over the train tracks. Extremely long CSX train blockages continue to frustrate people entering and exiting the towpath. There is no plan in sight for an auto bridge. ■

Mayor's Desk CONTINUED

Continued from page 3

sure, and increase overall capacity. These projects are not flashy, but they are exactly the types of investments that protect service, improve reliability, and prepare Brunswick for the future.

We have also focused on improvements that residents experience directly. Upgrades to our billing system, improved leak detection, and programs like SERV line protection have helped reduce unexpected high water bills and allow us to respond more quickly when problems occur. These efforts are essential to maintaining trust and ensuring that residents feel confident in how their system is managed.

Our water system also supports broader regional partnerships. Agreements involving Rosemont and Sandy Hook reflect the growing importance of long-term planning, infrastructure coordination, and capacity management. These are serious

responsibilities. They reinforce that Brunswick’s water system is about more than pipes and pumps. It is about stewardship, reliability, and the ability to meet today’s needs and tomorrow’s demands.

Ensuring reliable water service

As Mayor, I believe it is important not only to invest in infrastructure, but also to share the story behind it. Brunswick’s water system was not built overnight. It was shaped over generations, influenced by geography, and guided by decisions made long before many of us were here.

Today, we are the stewards of that system. That means honoring its history, facing its challenges directly, and making sound investments to ensure reliable water service for decades to come. ■

Nathan Brown

Brunswick Leads State in Rail Crossing Blockage Complaints

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

Brunswick is by some measures the fastest-growing city in Maryland. But the city is the state's uncontested leader in one other category: Brunswick by far outranks every other city in Maryland in the number of complaints about blocked railroad crossings.

Brunswick accounts for more than half of the 135 complaints about rail crossing blockages received by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) from the state of Maryland during the year ended June 18. Brunswick had 71 complaints. Baltimore, with dozens more rail crossings than Brunswick, was in second place with just 18 blockage complaints, according to the FRA's data base.

With summer comes an increase in visitors entering the Brunswick gateway of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, and the CSX rail crossings they must travel over to gain access get even busier with locals and visitors headed to the canal and the Potomac River for camping, fishing, bike riding, hiking, kayaking, swimming, bird watching and more.

Reports of inconvenience and danger

The FRA website (<https://www.fra.dot.gov/blocked-crossings/incidents>) provides



Brunswick emergency vehicles blocked by a train while responding to a personal injury on the C&O Canal towpath.

detailed information from individuals reporting blockage incidents. Many of the complaints involve campers and visitors trying to access the Brunswick Family Campground along the Potomac River. In April, one camper reported the "fourth time TODAY I've been blocked from getting to/from my RV in the campground. What happens if there's an emergency and no number to call?" Witnesses have

City officials have been unable to reach agreement with CSX to minimize safety hazards and crossing blockage times.

reported emergency vehicles blocked at the crossing, delaying the time taken to get to injured people on the towpath.

Reports of blockages lasting 30 minutes to as much as three hours are not uncommon — some resulting in lost wages or missed appointments. There was even one report of a woman in labor unable to get to the hospital because of the blocked crossing at Maple Avenue. Witnesses frequently report people risking death or injury by trying to climb between or under rail cars, or even handing their children through the cars.

There have been reports of full buses headed to the campground with kayakers having to cancel trips and outfitters having to refund trip fees because the crossing is blocked.

Charity event canceled due to blockages

In the first five months of the year, the Brunswick City police responded to 18 calls for trains blocking the crossing. One casualty of the long blockages is the 20-year-old charity event "Freezin' for a Reason." Crossing blockages have halted participants from getting to the campground and have resulted in reduced participation even with advance notice to CSX. Proceeds from the New Years Day event used to be awarded to local charities including the Brunswick Food Bank and Special Olympics.

No agreement from CSX

City officials have been unable to reach any agreement with CSX to minimize the safety hazards and crossing blockage times. City staff has been working on applications for funding to build a pedestrian bridge over the tracks. While this will help hikers and cyclists, it won't help those taking boats and trailers to the boat ramps and campers headed to the campground. Water and sewer plant workers will

continue to be blocked by trains.

The Canal Towns Partnership, an organization of 11 towns along the C&O Canal, recently sought assistance from federal officials regarding unsolved issues at not only Brunswick but also Harpers Ferry and Cumberland. Seeking guidance from the FRA, the organization was provided with information to assist in advocating for the affected towns.

A spokesman for the FRA said no federal regulations exist regarding railroad crossings, and local regulations are not enforceable. The Canal Towns Partnership has complained to the FRA about reports of poor communication by CSX with representatives of towns through which its tracks pass. FRA officials assured the partnership that CSX, under its new CEO Stephen Angel, is committed to improving communication with communities along its routes.

How you can help

The only entity that can change federal railroad regulations is Congress. The more evidence that is reported to them, the increased chance they will act on it. The FRA spokesman noted that documentation by photograph, video, screenshots, and records kept could help Brunswick make a case for increased regulation. Blockages can be reported to several entities:

Federal Railroad Administration: FRA collects data on blocked grade crossings and partners with railroads and local governments to reduce incidents. Report blocked grade crossings at FRA's website: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings/>.

Step-by-step CSX reporting (Blocked/ Rough Crossings): Go to CSX.com, select "Contact Us" under the "About Us" section. Select "property concerns" from the dropdown box. There is a section that reads "Rough Crossings" where there is a map showing the actual crossing you want addressed. Click on the location and then send the address. Once this is done you'll be asked to describe the concern (attachments such as pictures can be sent) and leave your contact information.

CSX — Personal/Property Claims: For claims of lost wages or damages due to blocked grade crossings, here is CSX's hyperlink: [Contact Us Personal/Property Claims - CSX.com](https://www.csx.com/Personal/Property-Claims)

CSX Emergency Notification: For any issue or incident on or near CSX tracks that risks the safety of any person, call the CSX Public Safety Coordination Center at 800-232-0144.

City of Brunswick: Report blocked crossings (same as FRA): <https://brunswickmd.gov/newsandannouncements>

Abbie Ricketts is Chairman of the Canal Towns Partnership. ■

Brunswick Post Office Says Goodbye to Moby

By **JEAN DOYLE**

Moby, whose full name is Mubashir Malik, has been the front desk clerk and main face of the Brunswick Post Office since 2007. He retired at the end of May, ending a 29-year career with the U.S. Postal Service.

Moby began his career as a substitute rural mail carrier in Jefferson and worked at the Braddock Post Office before coming to Brunswick as a clerk. Known by nearly everyone who uses the Brunswick Post Office, Moby always had a cheerful greeting and could answer just about any question for customers.

What he'll miss most

Moby said that he has met so many people from Brunswick and he has made so many friends over the years. This is what he is going to miss the most, all the wonderful connections he has made. He said, "Brunswick customers would come in and talk with me and tell me stories about their lives. It has made me feel so special."

In some instances, patrons of the post office have become close friends of the Maliks. Moby reported that there are two different couples who have become family friends and



come to his home every Thanksgiving to share his family's dinner. Another patron, originally from France, once gave Moby the watch off his wrist. Moby says, "He calls me when he is in France for visits, and he brings me back little treats from his home country." Moby hopes all these friendships will continue into his retirement.

Moby wanted to be sure to thank his co-workers. He said they are hardworking people. The carriers work long hours in extreme heat and cold. Work at the post office is very demanding, Moby said, and he regularly put in overtime hours. He reports that he never had a regular full weekend off until

his last two years. He said that he is really looking forward to enjoying the freedom he will have now.

Throughout his final day at the post office, Moby greeted patrons. His co-workers had a staff dinner for him after his last work day. In addition, Moby's wife, Carla, had an open house to celebrate his retirement at Beans in the Belfry on the following Saturday. Many friends, relatives, colleagues, as well as previously retired postal workers attended the celebration to wish him well.

Moby offered this advice, "Money isn't as important as good health. Retire while you can still enjoy your life!" ■

BRUNSWICK NEWS

IN MEMORY

Theresa Renee Hill

Theresa Renee Hill passed away on Friday, May 22, 2026, at Kline Hospice House in Mount Airy, Maryland after an 18 month battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 65.

Theresa lived a life marked by faith, service, education, and deep personal connection. Born in Frederick, Maryland, on February 21, 1961, she was the daughter of Wayne E. Hill and Jacquelyn (McIntosh) Ebersole. She graduated from Brunswick High School in 1979, earned a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from Tusculum College in 1983, and later received a Master's degree in Special Education from James Madison University.

She began her teaching career at North Frederick Middle School in Frederick, Maryland. In 1984, she moved to Winchester, Virginia, where she continued her work in education, teaching at Grafton School, Sherando High School 1995-2003 and 2019-2021, and Northwestern Works. Beyond the classroom, Theresa also cared for others in a more personal way, serving as a nanny for the Kraut family for four years and becoming a treasured influence in the lives of many Winchester families.

Faith was at the center of Theresa's life. She attended First United Methodist Church in Brunswick, Maryland, and later became a member of Crossroads Community Church in Winchester, Virginia. She loved the Lord and spent her adult life seeking ways to glorify Him through service, fellowship, and missions. Answering a call to missionary work, she studied in Hawaii. She did mission work through Dove International serving in the Philippines, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Nairobi, and several years at Sarah's Covenant Home in Ongole, India. She loved to travel, share God's love, and serve people wherever she went.

Theresa will also be remembered for the joy she brought to everyday life. If you knew her,



you knew her love for crafts, flowers, and gardening, as well as her radiant smile and endless stories from her latest adventures. Over the years, she created a wide and loving circle of family and friends that stretched from Brunswick, Maryland, around the world.

She is survived by her mother, Jacquelyn M. Ebersole; her stepfather, Clair Ebersole; her siblings, Jocelyn Crocker and husband Mark Crocker, Cheri Pentoney and husband Larry Pentoney, and Angela Cornelius and husband Thomas Cornelius; and her step-siblings, Linda Webber, Diane Farmer, husband Gene, Jerry Ebersole, wife Linda, Carrie Ebersole, and Mark Ebersole, wife Margo. She is also survived by thirteen nieces and nephews, eleven great-nephews, and one great-great-nephew. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her brother, Keith E. Hill and stepbrother, Brian Ebersole and BIL Mike Webber.

The family received friends from 1:00-4:00 pm and 5:00-9:00 pm on Monday, June 8, 2026 at Stauffer Funeral Homes, 1100 North Maple Avenue in Brunswick, Maryland. There was an open mic from 6:30-8pm for anyone to share memories and testimonies.

Memorial donations may be made to Crossroads Community Church at Crossroadswinchester.com.

Expressions of sympathy may be offered to the family at StaufferFuneralHome.com. ■

Happenings at the 50+ Community Centers

By JEAN DOYLE

Registration is still open for Summer Session activities. Register at 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 Street. Or mail your check and form to Frederick County Division of Aging and Independence, Attn: 50+Programs, 1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD 21702.

For free and virtual programs, register at VirtualSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.gov. Fitness classes begin the week of July 5.

Trips in July & August

Friday, July 24—The National Mall Your Way. Travel by charter bus to spend the day at the National Mall. Explore the Smithsonian and nearby museums and monuments on your own. Time: 8 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$35 per person, plus a cash tip for the bus driver and money for lunch. Leave from Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, July 10, at the eStore or at the Frederick or Brunswick Senior Centers.

Tuesday, August 4—Maryland Double Decker Bus Excursion. Join a private tour aboard a vintage London double-decker open top bus of historic downtown Frederick. After the bus trip enjoy a box supper at the Frederick Center. The bus tour is approximately 1 hour. The bus is not handicap accessible. Time: 4:30 p.m. to approximately 7 p.m. Cost: \$20 per person for upper deck seats, \$15 per person for lower deck. Bring cash tips for the driver and the tour guide. Box supper included. Leave from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Monday, July 20, at the eStore or at the Frederick or Brunswick Senior Centers.

Friday, August 7—Seneca Creek State Park. The park is in Gaithersburg and comprises 6,300 acres, extending 14 miles along Seneca Creek. Spend the day your way, rent a kayak, canoe or pedal boat, hike the many trails, enjoy the scenery. Time: 8:30 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$25 per person. Bring your lunch to eat in the park and bring money for boat rental. Leave from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, July 24, at the eStore or at the Frederick Senior Center.

Saturday, August 15—South Pacific at the Totem Pole Playhouse. Enjoy Rogers and Hammerstein's timeless Broadway masterpiece. The Totem Pole Playhouse is in Fayetteville, Pa. Time: noon to approximately 6 p.m. Cost: \$70 per person. Bring snacks for the ride home. Leave from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, July 17, at the eStore or at the Frederick Senior Center.

Seniors in the Park

Friday, July 31—Line Dance Hoedown! At the Emmitsburg 50+ Center, 300 South Seton Ave. Enjoy a fun afternoon of food, music and dancing. Enjoy a BBQ lunch followed by a beginner line dance lesson. Time: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost: \$15 per person, includes lunch. Register by Wednesday, July 22, at the eStore or at the Brunswick 50+ Center.

Special Events

Saturday, July 11—Living History Show: Betsy Ross and Benjamin Franklin. Celebrate America's Semiquincentennial. Doors open at 9 a.m. Catered brunch 9:30-10:30 a.m. Performance 11 a.m. Cost \$25 per person. Register by Wednesday, July 1 at the eStore of the Frederick Senior Center.

Thursday, July 2—Star-Spangled Sing-Along. Spend the day together indoors at the Brunswick City Park. Sponsored by the Brunswick 50+ Senior Center. Time 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost \$10 per person. Register by June 25 at the Brunswick Senior Center.

There are many more activities and events offered at the Brunswick 50+ Community Center, as well as virtual programs through the Division of Aging and Independence. Check out all the programs and events offered in the Summer 2026 Activity Guide. It is available on the Aging and Independence website. Or visit the Brunswick 50+ Community Center at 12 East A Street to pick up a schedule of events. ■

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The Story of Frances Axline: A Life Filled With Nice People

By JEAN TOLEMAN

In 1945, Frances and Meredith Axline, newly married, moved to Brunswick. That was over 80 years ago, when Brunswick was a boom town. One thing has remained constant over the past decades: Frances Jane Ayers Axline. She still owns the house on Walnut Street she and her husband bought over a half century ago, and she still sees the niceness in people. With her 99th birthday this month, Frances continues to radiate joy in life.

Frances was born in Weverton on July 19, 1927. Her mother was one of 13, and her father also came from a large family, so family gatherings were rowdy. Frances was the second of four girls and a brother. Two of her sisters still live close by.

When she was quite young, the family moved to Halltown, where her father got a job at the paper mill. (When Halltown Paperboard closed in 2022 it was the oldest continuously operating industry in West Virginia.) She went to school in Harpers Ferry until the 11th grade, when she met her future husband. "I should have graduated," Frances says. "Quitting school was the dumbest thing I ever did!"

She said the 1930s depression didn't affect her family much because they always had a few hogs, chickens and a garden. The house never had indoor plumbing. Halltown is along the railroad and she remem-



Frances Axline at age 17

bers running alongside passing trains. "The engineers would throw money at us kids, and we'd buy candy and popsicles." She went to church at Brunswick's First Baptist, recently closed. "I used to sit and look through those beautiful windows. I'm probably the oldest living member."

Dancing changed her life

In 1944 her life changed. "My aunt asked if I wanted to go with her to a dance at the Rainbow Room over by Berryville, Va., where Patsy Cline and other country legends sang. That's where I met Meredith." They both loved to dance and met again at the dance hall in Sandy Hook (currently Cross Trails Hostel) and the Brunswick

Moose Club. "One thing led to another and we got married on May 13, 1945."

Meredith Axline was from Lovettsville. He'd been in the army in the South Pacific during WWII, stationed on several islands. After contracting malaria, he was sent home, the disease impacting his health so much he was released from the military in 1944.

Moving to Brunswick

The young couple found a small apartment on Brunswick Street and started married life. After their son, Jerry, was born they moved to West Potomac, right under the bridge. "We watched that whole bridge being built," Frances said.

When their fourth child, Kent, arrived in 1955, they needed a bigger home and moved to 503 Walnut Street. They rented for 12 years then bought the house for \$3,000, with a monthly mortgage of \$25. By then the family had grown to seven. Once they owned it, renovations began. Chimneys were removed to make more room, plumbing updated and gardens planted.

"I was happiest when all the kids were home," she said. "I was at home until our youngest, Lisa, was three." But being a stay-at-home mom did not mean Frances stayed home. According to Kent, she was always volunteering at the school and with community organizations.

Walnut Street is right next to the railroad, but after growing up in Halltown Frances said, "I don't even hear the trains." She does not miss the old steam engines. "I had to take my washing down more than once when those engines went through. It's nice and clean now with diesel."

In the 1950s and 60s hobos still rode the trains. "They used to let men ride the boxcars," she recalled. "They'd sit there with their legs hanging out the side. The trains always slowed going through Brunswick. I'd get a knock on the door, and there'd be a stranger wondering if I could give them something to eat. I always said sure. I never turned anyone away. Somehow word got out."

Back then, Brunswick had everything, Frances said. A Lace Store, Kaplon's, doctors, Newberry's five & dime. There were neighborhood groceries. "It made me sick when everything started closing up," she said. Frances frequented the west end grocery owned by Margaret and Dewey Hickman. "They were so sweet. Back then you could run a tab. If you wanted something, you'd just get it. They had to move out west due to their daughter's health. She wrote me a letter and said, 'Frances, we had to leave in a hurry, but you still owe me a little bit of money.' I said, 'My gosh, how much?' And I sent it right to her."

Meredith Axline worked for Fairchild in Hagerstown after the war, then started at Fort Detrick as a chauffeur. "He'd come



Frances Axline with her son Kent

home and laugh, saying, 'You won't believe who I took to the city today — I had a whole car full of monkeys.' He ended his career at Dulles Airport in maintenance. In 1971 a heart attack forced Meredith into retirement. He died in 1974.

Joining the work force

Frances started working in the mid-1960s at the sewing factory on 5th Avenue. "Our two girls, Patsy and Judy, were going to graduate," she said, "and you know what that means." The factory moved to Frederick after seven years. Next she went to work at Everedy on East Street in Frederick where she worked the assembly line making pots, pans and skillets for four years until the company moved to Ohio. She retired at age 65 from the Hillside Hotel in Knoxville.

Asked about her biggest life-changing event, Frances said losing her children. Four have died. She expresses pride in all of them. Patsy was the first female lineperson Potomac Edison hired. "Patsy worked as a beautician for three years then said, 'This is not for me, I want an outside job.' She was a tall girl, six feet, and she learned every machine they had. One day my

neighbor said, 'This woman was up a pole working on the lights and I went out to talk to her, and my goodness, it was Patsy!'"

A life of volunteering

Many organizations have honored Frances for her volunteer work. She is the only living charter member of the Eagles. In 2024 at their 60th anniversary Frances was honored by the Auxiliary. She has also been honored by the Moose, the American Legion, and as a Brunswick Distinguished Citizen.

For Frances' 90th birthday her son rented a hall and invited 125 people. Kent said, "More people wanted to come, but I had to cut the list off at some point." Not many 90-year-olds can fill a hall with friends and family. It goes to show Frances has never met a stranger and sees the good in everyone. She has a strong faith in God and she likes "to take everything nice."

Frances moved to a long-term care facility last year. She still finds the good in everyone she meets and loves to share stories. While she describes herself as just a homemaker, she has given much to Brunswick over the years. Her love of people, home and community still shines bright. ■

BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT MAY 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	62	200	29	156
Maryland State SEROS	5	19	6	28
Warning Citations	262	565	112	419
Parking Citations	3	120	82	132

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Calls for Service	1,463	7,900	1,700	8,508
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	1	3
Robbery	0	0	0	0
Assault	5	34	4	24
Breaking & Entering	1	4	0	1
Theft	4	17	2	5
Auto Theft	0	0	0	0
Adult Arrests	7	34	7	36
Juvenile Arrests	2	2	1	4

OTHER INCIDENTS				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	42	11	39
Emergency Evaluations Mentally Ill/Suicidal Persons	7	60	5	33
Overdoses	0	6	1	5

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)

LOCAL NEWS

Election Results Set November Matchups

By MARK ROHNER AND
PAIGE TRENDELL

June's primary election sets up a battle in the fall over starkly different visions for growth and the role of government in Frederick County.

County Executive race

Jessica Fitzwater, a Democrat, will face a Republican opponent, former Frederick Mayor Jeff Holtzinger, who has been an advocate for managing the county's growth and refocusing county government on core responsibilities such as education, parks, and roads.

Fitzwater is emphasizing her record of expanding school funding, including securing money for a new Brunswick High School. Another of her priorities has been increased development of affordable housing.

Holtzinger defeated a primary opponent, Diane Fouché, who was a vocal opponent of further data center construction in the county. Holtzinger and Fouché both favored an effort to hold a public referendum on overturning the County Council's decision to expand a data center overlay zone near Adamstown.

Holtzinger won with 57 percent of the vote, to Fouché's 43 percent. Fitzwater didn't have primary opposition.

"Diane and I are very similar in our views about the changes needed at County Govern-

ment," Holtzinger said in an email after the primary results. "What the pretty evenly split vote says is that I should be looking to implement the changes that both Diane and I think are necessary to get the County Government going in the right direction."

He said he expects data center expansion to continue to be "a very significant if not substantial issue" in November.

Fitzwater supported expanding the overlay zone, which added to acreage available for data center development in the Adamstown area. She has defended her record by claiming her policies keep data centers off 99 percent of the county's land, while still allowing development that will generate hundreds of millions in new tax revenue.

County Council District 1

The battle over the proliferation of data centers extends to the County Council race, where the open seat representing District 1, which takes in the Brunswick area, will almost certainly be filled by a vocal opponent of the Council's decision to expand the data center overlay zone.

Brunswick's Louisa Conklin, who easily defeated two opponents, Jenn Alcorn and Eric Smothers, in the Democratic primary, has promised that if elected her first step would be to introduce legislation to reverse the Council's decision to

expand the overlay zone.

On the November ballot, she will face Republican Frank Hollewa of Adamstown, who is likewise opposed to the overlay zone expansion.

House of Delegates District 4

Most of the rural areas of Frederick County are in District 4 of the Maryland House of Delegates and are currently represented by three Republicans. Two incumbent Republicans, Jesse Pippy and April Fleming Miller, will be on the November ballot along with retired Frederick City police officer Jason Keckler.

On the Democratic side for House of Delegates, the top three primary winners who will be on the ballot are Jerry Donald of Middletown, Andrew Duck of Rosemont, and Alleria Stanley of Brunswick.

School Board — apples and oranges

The Frederick County Board of Education race will be a competition between apples and oranges in the fall. All four candidates from the "Apple Ballot" and all four candidates from the "Orange Ballot" made up the top eight candidates in the non-partisan primary and will advance to the general election.

The Apple Ballot candidates — Casey Day, Rae Gallagher, Dean Rose, and Chad King Wilson, Sr. — are endorsed by

the Frederick County Teachers Association and two other education labor unions.

Day recently completed her final year of teaching before retirement. Her most recent position was at Brunswick High School, where she was also an advisor for the robotics team. Day's priorities include creating equal access to courses and career pathways, strengthening support for students and including families and educators in board decision-making, her campaign website states.

Gallagher has been on the school board since 2022 and currently serves as vice president. During her time on the board, Gallagher has supported inclusive policies and community collaboration. She plans to advocate for increased investment in educators and staff, according to her campaign website.

Rose has served on the school board since 2022 as well. A State Farm insurance agent from Middletown, he says some of his priorities are inclusivity, college and career readiness, and fiscal responsibility. Rose wants to expand college and career programs such as career and technical education, early college, and dual enrollment.

Wilson is a 19-year educator and is currently serving an appointed term on the board until December 2026. He supports diversity in staffing and administration, funding for building improvements and inclusive policies such as Policy 443, according to his campaign website.

Policy 443 protects students' rights to use their preferred name and pronouns, states that instructors cannot tell parents if a student has changed their gender identity without student consent and allows students to use bathrooms that align with their gender identity.

All four Orange Ballot candidates oppose this policy, according to responses to a Better Maryland Schools questionnaire. The Orange Ballot is a self-identified conservative ballot consisting of Heather Fletcher, Shelley Potter, Geoffrey Seidel, and Tyler Walker.

Fletcher is a mother of three school-aged children. Her platform includes expanding career and technology programs, pro-

moting school choice, increasing fiscal responsibility to support teachers and supporting parental rights and school safety, her campaign website states.

Potter has more than 15 years of education experience in the United States and overseas. Some of Potter's priorities are academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, parental rights, and teacher retention.

Seidel is a registered nurse and community volunteer. He says he wants to support teachers to create better results in the classroom, strengthen trust with families, create safe schools and budget more responsibly.

Walker has over five years of education experience. A former teacher, he currently works as a sales manager and serves in the Maryland Army National Guard. Walker's platform includes supporting parental rights, school choice and fiscal responsibility.

Rerun in sheriff's race

The sheriff's race is a rerun of previous faceoffs between longtime incumbent Republican Sheriff Chuck Jenkins and Democrat Karl Bickel, a former Washington D.C. police officer who later served as the second in command at the Frederick County Sheriff's office.

This is Bickel's fourth time to challenge Jenkins. In 2022, Jenkins defeated Bickel by 2.8 percentage points, after beating him by 4 percentage points in 2018, and 26 points in 2014.

One of the clearest differences between the two is over so-called 287(g) agreements, which allow local law enforcement officers to collaborate with federal agents in enforcing U.S. immigration laws, for example by holding suspected illegal immigrants for federal ICE agents.

Maryland earlier this year banned such agreements in the state, over the objections of Jenkins and other county sheriffs in the state. Jenkins has called the ban unconstitutional and says it would tie the hands of local law enforcement trying to combat criminal gangs. Bickel says the state ban makes the question moot, but he has argued that the agreements undermine community trust in local law enforcement. ■

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Back to School Again

Families are stocking up on new clothes and school supplies. But before you run out to get tech for your school age children, consider these thoughts.

Don't rush

Know your school district and grade level rules for personal devices. Frederick County Schools standards are on their website.

- open <https://www.fcps.org>
- navigate to "Families & Students" (see details about Chromebooks here)
- then to "Student Code of Conduct"
- then search for "Acceptable Personal Mobile Device Guidelines."

Other schools likely have similar standards.

Computers

For primary grades it is unlikely anything more than a basic home computer or a school distributed Chromebook would be needed.

Beginning around fifth grade more flexibility of applications may be needed. The school may give students a Chromebook but keep it at school.

By the time students get to high school they may get a Chromebook to bring home but you should check on the ACT and SAT web sites for computer requirements to run practice tests, as the requirements vary significantly, and a Chromebook may not be sufficient. (A home-owned Chromebook cannot run the SAT practice test.)

For the college bound, the computer requirements will be given by the university and college. Especially for STEM courses, the university's generic computer may not be sufficient; check the specific college you will be entering. Remember the recommendations you see are a starting point. Before you buy anything think whether it can last four or more years. Storage is cheap and you should not have less than 1T. Don't forget backups and check your home insurance policy in case a device goes missing. The school store may have discounts and most retailers run educational discounts too.

Tablets

Tablets are terrific devices for taking notes and are superior to paper notebooks, but there is a cost factor and a learning curve. Software such as Apple's Notes, Microsoft's OneNote, GoodNotes and Notability give the student an array of ways to take notes and to use notes as learning aids. A laptop can double as a device for note taking and some have detachable screens to use as standalone tablets.

High school and college students might benefit from a tablet for note taking but it's unlikely to be useful before high school.

Other devices

I've not included phones, watches, etc. but in many cases your student is going to want this. My advice is to lock down whatever device you get and enable parental controls when you can.

Good luck in school next year.

Suggested computers and tablets

These have changed in a year and the scarcity of memory chips has made some more expensive. A good place to get a feel for choices is the New York Times' Wirecutter column. However, I don't like their low cost choices as they won't last four years.

Grades K to 5

Nothing that the school does not supply.
Phone not recommended.
Cost zero.

Grades 6 to 8

A school Chromebook that stays at school.
A basic phone and limit screen time.
A home desktop computer.
Cost zero to \$800.

Grades 9 to 12 — computer & phone

A school Chromebook they can take home.
A mid-level Android or Apple Phone.

Microsoft 13" laptop \$900 to \$1,500
for example:
Microsoft Surface, Dell XPS 13,



Asus Zenbook S 13/14
32G memory (Windows loves memory, more is always better)
cpu 8-10 core
1T storage
2T removable backup drive (strongly recommended) \$100
desktop monitor (optional) \$200
keyboard \$75
mouse \$35

OR

Apple Neo 13" laptop \$599 (can you believe this!)
8G memory
256G storage or upgrade to 512G for \$99 (MacOS loves storage)
1T removable backup drive (strongly recommended) \$100
desktop monitor (optional) \$200
keyboard \$125 for Apple
mouse \$100 for Apple
port extender (Anker, Belkin, avoid China knockoffs) \$75

Grades 9 to 12 — tablet (not strongly recommended)

Entry level and a pencil
Amazon Fire \$100
Microsoft Surface \$300
Apple iPad Air \$900 (hard to recommend at high school due to cost)

College — computer

The college recommendation is a starting point. Give yourself growing room for four years. Do not get Apple unless the college supports it.
Get more memory especially for Windows.
Get more storage, recommend 1T (for Apple, 2T)
1T removable backup drive (strongly recommended) \$100
Optional accessories for a laptop:
desktop monitor \$200 (can get real expensive for advanced design work)
keyboard \$125
mouse \$100
port extender for Apple (Anker, Belkin, avoid China knockoffs) \$75

ROSEMONT COMMISSIONERS APPROVE BUDGET

Speed control and park maintenance receive more funding

The Village of Rosemont Commission unanimously approved Burgess John Leach's budget proposal for fiscal year 2027 at its June 1 meeting.

The budget projects revenues of \$94,500 and expenditures of \$87,725, for a surplus of \$6,775.

There are two big changes from the current year's spending. \$6,000 is budgeted to purchase an electronic speed control sign, which will alert motorists when they are exceeding the 30 mph speed limit through the village. This sign will be rotated at three different locations on Petersville Road and Rosemont Drive and will record speed limit violations. It

is NOT a speed camera.

The village will continue to budget \$20,000 to pay the Frederick County Sheriff's Department for speed enforcement in the village. Burgess Leach said the electronic sign will help determine optimal times for speed enforcement.

The second change adds \$5,000 to pay for remodeling the playground at Merryland Park. The park belongs to the state, but the Village of Rosemont pays for maintenance such as mowing and mulching. The commission also agreed to explore funding sources for improvements to the park.

The next commission meeting is scheduled for October 19. ■

Sophia Smith is Essay Contest Winner

Congratulations to Sophia Smith, the first place winner at unit, district and department (state) levels for the American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism Essay contest.

This year's essay title was "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom." With winning at department level, her essay has advanced to the national level. The winner will be announced at the National American Legion Auxiliary's convention in August.

Congratulate this talented young lady the next time you see her! ■



SOPHIA SMITH

College — mid function tablet larger physical size is not necessarily better (13" seems to be sweet spot)
get a stylus or pencil
get an app for note taking \$50
Amazon Fire \$300 (weak choice)
Microsoft Surface \$800 (might be included in some laptops)
Apple A16 \$350 but upgrade to iPad Air \$800 would be better

(in some ways superior, but costly) ■

John the Computer Guy works in the IT industry. He has provided tech support to corporations and governments with large databases and individuals with Windows, Macs and iDevices.

If you have a computer question for him, email editor@BrunNews.com.

BHS Students of the Month: May 2026



Pictured from left to right: Principal Eric Schwarzenegger, Tessa Stuart (grade 10, visual & performing arts), Samuel Vaughan (grade 9, physical education), Da'Nya Harris (grade 11, English), James Eitemiller (grade 11, science), Sierra Eyster (grade 11, career and technical education), Aleena Perkins (grade 10, world languages), Emily Roelkey (grade 11, media/FCVS), and Mason Mills (grade 10, social studies). Not pictured: Janelle Razunguzwa (grade 10, math).



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OPINION

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Uncle Sam at 250

“Granddad, what did you call ‘the Good Old Days’ when you were living in them?” the child asked.

After a pause, granddad replies, “Well, youngster, we called those the ‘Hard Times.’”

In his book, *Leviathan* published in 1651, Thomas Hobbes described life in nature as “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” Those were the Good Old Days. Many things had improved by the time of the founding of the United States 125 years later, but life was still pretty nasty.

By today’s standards, life in 1776 was, indeed, the Hard Times. Consider life expectancy at birth: in 1776 it was about 38 years; today it’s twice that. A lot of that was a much higher infant mortality rate: about 35–45% vs. 0.54% today. (That means if you were born in 1776 there was a 1 in 3 chance that you would have died before the age of 1 year.)

Well, things are not perfect or even great in today’s world. There’s lots to complain about and we are constantly exposed to that complaining every day. But, as people celebrating the 250th anniversary of our country’s founding, there is plenty to be thankful for. The life expectancy at birth is just the tip of a vast mountain of improvements in our lives as individuals and as a society. From the June 6, 2026 *The Economist*: “But this is the best time in human history to be born, given record real incomes, high life expectancy and low rates of extreme poverty.”

A good way to celebrate our nation’s 250th could be to count the blessings we enjoy that our founders could not even dream of.

Another way to celebrate our nation’s birthday would be to re-appreciate the ideas that the founding fathers wrote in the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution, pledging ourselves to defend the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Winston Churchill, speaking in September of 1943 — the depths of WWII — said: “Tyranny is our foe. Whatever trapping or disguise it wears, whatever language it speaks, be it external or internal, we must forever be on our guard, ever mobilized, ever vigilant, always ready to spring at its throat.” ■

How to send a Letter to the Editor

Letters intended for publication should be emailed to editor@brunswicknews.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

Open Letter to Brunswick Cafes and Bakeries

I am very happy to live in a community with multiple wonderful local cafes and bakeries, each specializing in their own unique products and customer experience. With a new cafe open downtown (congrats and welcome!), I wanted to draw attention to what appears to be a mostly untapped source of weekday customers for all of these businesses – MARC train commuters.

The Brunswick MARC train station has an average weekday ridership of 185 people (based on MTA’s 2024 fiscal year data), split among six different trains that run from Brunswick towards D.C. every weekday morning. Half of these trains leave after 6:30 am (trains leave Brunswick at 4:50 am, 5:40 am, 6:08 am, 6:40 am, 7:07 am, and 7:45 am).

Almost every train commuter passes by at least one, if not two or three, of Brunswick’s cafes and bakeries on their way to the train station. Additionally, at least three of these businesses are within a three-minute walk from the station.

Unfortunately for us train commuters, most of these awesome local businesses don’t open until after the last MARC train has already left the station (and close before any trains come back). Notable exceptions to this are Maison, which opens at 7:00 am on Fridays, and Celeste which opens at 7:15 am Tuesday through Friday; although even these opening hours can likely only catch train commuters catching the very last train at 7:45 am.

While I truly enjoy visiting these businesses on the weekends, I doubt I’m the only train commuter that would love to grab a coffee to go, or a delicious pastry or breakfast sandwich from one of our local businesses on my hour plus commute towards D.C. during the week.

— Sarah Pease, Rosemont

A MARC commuter dreaming of coffee and breakfast on-the-go

Safe Streets for All

Last month, the News-Journal reported that I proposed an amendment to the Safe Streets for All multimodal plan to add a pedestrian path from 4th Avenue to Alley 35 (the alley between the Learning Tree and the Puerto Rico Distillery), while acknowledging that the steepness of the existing 4th Ave sidewalk might limit use. That climb might limit use by pedestrians coming up the hill from downtown—but the path will see plenty of use from people living in the roughly 250 homes on the hill along 4th, 5th, and 6th Avenues north of A Street.

Connecting 4th Ave to Alley 35 along D St would link the sidewalk on “High School Hill” (named for the original Brunswick High School on 4th Ave) to another planned path along 6th Ave to H St, where design has already begun on a sidewalk from 2nd Ave to Souder Road. That would make a corridor from A St to Souder that serves the sidewalk-scarce area along 4th, 5th, and 6th Aves and their side streets. Call it the High School Hill Corridor.

Building it would make a big difference, especially to the children who live there. It is within the walking radius for Brunswick Middle and High Schools, and those kids currently walk in the street. Elementary schoolers also walk to bus stops and some wait on the side of the street. Getting them on a path or sidewalk is safer for everyone.

The Safe Streets plan is only a plan. It will take time and budgetary commitment to make the corridor concrete (literally), but getting it on paper is the necessary first step. I thank my colleagues for passing the amendment. As the City makes rapid progress on Maple Avenue’s sidewalk, with East H Street in the pipeline, the future looks promising.

— John Caves, Brunswick

John Caves is a Brunswick City Council member.

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FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

As July arrives, we look forward to celebrating the Fourth of July, a tradition that brings our community together in honor of the nation's independence. This year is especially meaningful, as America marks its 250th anniversary. The milestone encourages us to reflect on our shared history, values, and the enduring spirit that unites us all. Let's take this opportunity to celebrate not only our county's progress, but also the promise of our nation in its next chapter.



County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

July is also recognized as Disability Pride Month, a time to celebrate the achievements, contributions and diversity of people with disabilities. To watch a recording of our annual Disability Pride celebration, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV or tune in to Comcast channel 1072 or 19.

We are proud of Frederick County's history and diversity, and we strive to create an inclusive, welcoming place for everyone to thrive in our community.

Pilot Pre-K Scholarship Program

Last month, Frederick County released the results of our Child Care Feasibility Study, outlining a clear and urgent need for expanded access to affordable, high quality child care.

The study identified persistent child care shortages throughout the county, with the most acute gaps in Thurmont, Walkersville, Middletown, and the Golden Mile area of Frederick.

The average Frederick County family spends nearly 19 percent of household income on child care, which is almost three times the federal affordability benchmark. ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) households face an even greater affordability gap.

To help bridge this gap, we are launching a new pilot Pre-K Scholarship Program to help families enroll their four-year-olds in a high-quality program of their choice. To be eligible, a family must make three to six times the federal poverty level. For example, a family of four would qualify if they earn between \$99,000 and \$198,000 a year. The parents' share of the child care costs would be capped at seven percent of their income.

In addition to the pilot scholarship program, the County

Our Child Care Feasibility Study outlines a clear and urgent need for expanded access to affordable, high quality child care.... throughout the county.

continues to expand the child care workforce. Frederick County Workforce Services has partnered with Child Care Choices to increase the number of licensed in-home child care providers.

Over the coming months, the County will begin implementing more recommendations of the study through a phased approach to ensure sustainable growth, operational feasibility and alignment with community needs.

To see the full results and recommendations of the study, and learn more about the pilot scholarship program, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ChildCare.

Seed to Harvest Exhibit Barn

The Frederick County Division of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Farm Museum Association of Frederick County, recently celebrated the official opening of the new Seed to Harvest Building at Rose Hill Manor Park.

The Seed to Harvest Exhibit Barn is the newest addition to Rose Hill Manor Park & Museums and creates a new space where visitors can explore Frederick County's rich agricultural heritage through exhibits, historic equipment, and educational experiences that connect

the past, present and future of farming.

Frederick County's agricultural heritage is the foundation of our community. The Seed to Harvest Barn honors our history and inspires visitors to connect with farming, ensuring our legacy continues to thrive for future generations.

Rose Hill serves as a living history site that preserves and interprets life from the 18th through mid-20th centuries. Visitors can explore the restored manor house, outbuildings and museum spaces. The manor also hosts seasonal events, living history demonstrations and special programs that bring the past to life.

Learn more at www.recreator.com/RoseHill.

FEED Grants

Families across Frederick County have increased access to nutritious meals, thanks to the awarding of \$500,000 in Food Equity and Emergency Distribution (FEED) Grants from the County.

Nineteen nonprofits received grants, including the Brunswick Ecumenical Assistance Committee on Needs (BEACON) and Seton Center in Emmitsburg, to help meet increased demand for food services.

These grants help ensure that no one in Frederick County goes hungry. The program directly supports nonprofits on the front lines, helping them expand food distribution, purchase equipment, and meet the growing demand for food assistance in our community.

The FEED Grant Program was launched last November and has been administered in partnership with The Commu-

nity Foundation of Frederick County. The initiative uses one-time funds to strengthen food distribution efforts. Eligible uses include buying food, obtaining essential supplies, and making capital investments in things such as refrigeration and storage equipment.

This was the second and final phase of the Frederick FEED Grant Program. An initial round of grants was awarded in January of this year.

Learn more at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FEED.

Coatsville Community Picnic

The Coatsville Community Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 9, at 1:00 p.m. at the Burkittsville Ruritan Club.

Folks who live in or have connections to Coatsville are invited to bring a dish and join neighbors in breaking bread and partaking in the picnic.

Anyone with questions is encouraged to call 240-344-5362.

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2:00 to 6:00pm

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FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

Summer Adventures for Boy Scouts

By SEBASTIAAN BURKE

May and June brought new activities for Boy Scout Troop 277, whether it was putting flags on graves or hanging 40 feet in the air at an adventure park.

On May 22, the boys volunteered to help place American flags on graves of veterans at Park Heights Cemetery. The flags were needed for the Memorial Day ceremony to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedom and rights of others. Even when it was raining, the troop got the job done to show respect and honor the fallen.

At the end of May, the troop

went to Tree Trekkers. At the adventure park, participants receive special climbing equipment and a course that familiarizes everybody with the equipment and its safe use. Then people are allowed to explore more than 250 obstacles available on campus. There are multiple trails ranging from beginner friendly to extremely advanced. This was a fun experience.

On June 4, the boys had a cook-off at Lions Merryland Park. The troop was divided into three teams, and each team picked the food they wanted to prepare. After gathering all the needed ingredients, the teams got to work. Adults at the cook-off acted as judges and tested

all the food. On the menu were tacos, spaghetti with cheese and quesadilla. The judges rated the three meals as very good. In scouting, knowing how to cook is essential. The Cooking Merit Badge is required for those who want to earn the Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. Only roughly 5 to 8% of scouts reach this rank.

A major upcoming event is a summer camp in July. The camp is called Sinoquipe and lasts six days. It requires each boy to complete a swimming test and a doctor's examination. During the camp, the scouts get to work on a large collection of merit badges, such as Rifle Shooting, Citizenship in the Nation, Fishing or Fly-fishing, and Pottery.

The troop is open to boys 11 to 18 years old who want to experience fun adventures and camping. The Boy Scouts welcomes and accepts new members. They meet at Lions Merryland Park. For information, contact Scoutmaster Anne Zumbach at zum50@hotmail.com or go to BeAScout.org. ■



James Best traverses one of the aerial trails at Tree Trekkers.

ANNE ZUMBACH

Jefferson Office of Frederick Primary Care to Close

The Jefferson office of Frederick Primary Care Associates will permanently close on August 28, 2026. Effective Monday, August 31, all providers will see patients at the FPCA Brunswick location at 610 Ninth Avenue.

All patients scheduled for August 31 and onward will be automatically changed to the Brunswick location. No action is required on behalf of patients.

In a press release, FPCA said, "your care remains our top priority. You can continue to see your current provider at the Brunswick location, where we offer expanded services and appointment availability."

Appointment scheduling and

questions regarding care should be directed to the main office at 301-834-7188. The FPCA patient portal can also be used to schedule online.

Frederick Primary Care Associates is building a new facility on Dutchman's Creek Drive in Brunswick Crossing. The new facility is expected to be considerably larger than its current building and is expected to offer expanded services.

The site plan for the new facility was approved by the Brunswick Planning Commission in June 2025 and construction is underway. An official opening date has not yet been announced. ■

Jefferson Carnival Returns This Summer

By PAIGE TRENDELL

The annual Jefferson Ruritan Carnival will take place July 20-25. There will be rides each night from 6 to 10 p.m., along with live music, games and food. The carnival is located on the Ruritan grounds at 4603B Lander Rd.

Entertainment schedule:

- July 20: Park Avenue
- July 21: Southern Exposure
- July 22: Billy & The Curley Brothers
- July 23: 5 by 5
- July 24: Brushfire
- July 25: Spinouts w/ Taylor Brown Elvis Show

A long-standing tradition, the Jefferson Ruritan Carnival started in 1957, just one year after the club's first regular meeting. For more information, visit the Jefferson Ruritan Club's Facebook page: facebook.com/TheJeffersonRuritan. ■

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at Brunswick Elementary School

Basketball Camp
by Overtime Grind (ages 6-14)
June 29 - July 2 & August 3-6

Monocacy Day Camp
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June 22 - August 7 (ages 6-12)

Skyhawks Volleyball Camp
July 27-31 (ages 6-14)

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Lovettsville Town News

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

Friday, July 3, Independence Day Celebration

The annual Independence Day Parade and Fireworks is Friday, July 3. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. near the Community Center on East Broad Way, turn down South Loudoun Street, and end at Lovettsville Elementary School.

At 6:30 p.m. is the Independence Day Pool Bash at Lovettsville Community Center, 57 E. Broad Way. Admission to the Pool Bash is \$5 per person.

At 9:30 p.m. fireworks go off at Lovettsville Community Park, 39550 Lovettsville Park Drive. The Rain Date for Fireworks Only is July 6. (See page 1 for more details.)

Summer on the Green

Save the date for Lovettsville's Summer on the Green on Friday, July 17, at the Walker



The 9U All Stars finished as District 16 runner up.

Pavilion for Christmas in July! Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets, friends and family, for a Lovettsville evening under the stars with a holiday sing-along and games, followed by the movie, *Elf*.

Liberty Tree Planted for 250th Anniversary

In commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, the Town of Lovettsville held a Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony on Thursday, May 14, to dedi-

cate the Liberty Tree and unveil a Commemorative Plaque.

The Liberty Tree is located to the east side of the parking lot at the Samuel A. Finz Municipal Complex at 6 E. Pennsylvania Avenue. Museum volunteer Tracy Gillespie dressed

in period dress and, true to history, handed out small pouches of tea made from liberty flowers.

Upper Loudoun Little League Baseball

The Majors Astros were the Upper Loudoun Little League Champions this year. The 9U All Stars finished as District 16 runner up.

Lovettsville to Lose Medical Office

Lovettsville family physician, Dr. Troy Mohler, has announced the closing of the Lovettsville location of the Leesburg-Sterling Family Practice. He and PA-C Kristen Salter will continue seeing patients in the group's Leesburg office. He is currently not accepting new patients.

He recently notified his patients, "It is with a very heavy heart that I write to inform you that I will be closing my medical practice in Lovettsville effective August 14, 2026 and

relocating to Leesburg Sterling Family Practice—Cornwall Street in Leesburg.

"As many of you know, this town is not only where I chose to practice medicine – it is the town where I grew up, where my roots are, and where I hoped to continue serving this community for many years to come. Caring for my neighbors, friends, classmates, and generations of local families has been one of the greatest privileges of my life.

"This decision has been incredibly difficult and was not made lightly. Unfortunately, despite every effort to keep the practice open, ongoing financial challenges and the increasing

costs of operating an independent medical office have made it impossible for me to continue providing care in a sustainable way. For the financial good of the practice as a whole, the decision was made to consolidate our practice from six offices to five. As Lovettsville's lease expires this year and we were unable to negotiate a satisfactory extension, the difficult decision was made to close the Lovettsville location.

"I understand this news may be disappointing and upsetting and I share those feelings deeply. My commitment to this community has always been personal as well as professional, which makes this transition

especially painful."

Many Lovettsville residents expressed regret and sadness at the coming loss of the only doctor's office in town and many have noted how well-liked Dr. Mohler is by his patients.

Lovettsville Businesses Win Big in Best of Loudoun Awards

The top winners are:

Creek's Edge Winery: Wedding Venue

Lovettsville Fire & Rescue Co 12: Fire Station

Safety First Driving School: Driving School

Stone Manor Boutique Inn: Bed & Breakfast/Country Inn

Train to Mumbai: Indian Restaurant

18 other local businesses were finalists or top five.

Lovettsville Historical Society

Sunday, July 12

**"Annual Seminar on the
American Revolution"**

All lectures are being held in-person at 2 p.m. at St. James United Church of Christ, 10 East Broad Way.

We are no longer live-streaming via Zoom.

Questions: events@LovettsvilleHistoricalSociety.org.

Mayor and Council Meeting

Thursday, July 9, 6:30 – 10 p.m.

Town Council Chambers
6 East Pennsylvania Avenue



The Majors Astros were the Upper Loudoun Little League Champions this year.

Lovettsville Oktoberfest Returns to its Roots in 2026

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

The Town of Lovettsville announced a renewed vision for the 30th annual Lovettsville Oktoberfest, returning the festival to its original roots and mission of celebrating the town's German heritage, supporting local businesses, highlighting civic organizations, and creating a community centered experience for residents and visitors.

As part of this renewed focus, the festival will move from the Town Green to the "Squirrel," Samuel A. Finz Municipal Complex, and the surrounding downtown streets, creating a more walkable and immer-

sive experience in the heart of Lovettsville's business district.

The new event footprint is designed to encourage attendees to explore downtown Lovettsville, visit local businesses, enjoy food and beverages from Town restaurants and civic organizations, and experience the community spirit that has made Lovettsville Oktoberfest a beloved annual tradition for generations.

"We are excited to reconnect Lovettsville Oktoberfest with the historic downtown and create stronger opportunities for our businesses, civic organizations, and community members to benefit from the event,"

**The 2026 Lovettsville
Oktoberfest will
take place Saturday,
September 26
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

said Mayor Christopher Hornbaker. "By bringing the festival into the center of town, we're creating a more authentic and connected experience that reflects the original purpose and current mission of Lovettsville Oktoberfest."

Festival attendees can look forward to:

- Traditional German themed entertainment
- German competitions including Stein Hauling, Stein Hoisting, and Lovettsville's famous Wiener Dog Races
- Family friendly games and activities
- Local artisans, makers and specialty vendors
- Food and beverages provided by civic organizations and town businesses

The town has also applied for a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) for the event, which allows attendees to responsibly enjoy alcoholic beverages purchased from participating businesses and

designated festival locations while exploring portions of the downtown festival area.

The town will continue to work closely with local businesses, civic organizations, public safety partners and community volunteers to ensure a safe, successful and memorable event.

Additional information regarding vendors, sponsorship opportunities, entertainment, volunteer opportunities, road closures and event activities will be released throughout the summer.

For updates and event information, visit www.lovettsville-oktoberfest.com. ■

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IN THE KITCHEN

A Semiquincentennial Picnic

By JEAN TOLEMAN

The day the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, troops rejoiced, parades marched, bonfires were lit, and muskets fired. It was a year later, in 1777 that the first organized July 4th was celebrated, with bells rung, cannons fired and fireworks. People gathered with drink and food consumed. Probably more drink back then than food, but there was still a BIG PICNIC!

If we could time travel back to 1776 and attend that first Fourth of July celebration, what would we have eaten? We would probably be pretty disgusted by the bland, humble fare, the way the food was stored and prepared. But no matter how humble, it kept our ancestors nourished and some of the dishes with simple beginnings we still include in our diets today. So let's take a trip back in time and maybe bring forward a recipe or two that we can include today in our 250th celebration of this nation.

What was in the larder?

While the monied founding fathers had a much more diverse and flavorful cuisine, the resources of the farmers, frontiersmen, and small town merchants who lived here in Frederick, Washington, and

Loudoun counties were very limited. The region was settled by English, German, and Dutch immigrants and was influenced by Native and African populations. The cuisine, like the people, was a melting pot and depended on what was available locally and seasonally. Indigenous foods, corn, squash, potatoes, beans, and native game were mixed with the traditional cooking styles that the Europeans brought with them.

Food preservation consisted of drying, salting, pickling, fermenting, and storing in root cellars. Some items were purchased, such as sugar, coffee and tea, but with the war and the blockades implemented by Britain, these items became very scarce and expensive.

In July, fresh produce from the garden and the woods would have been coming ripe. Corn, greens, berries, onions, and mushrooms were anxiously gathered and consumed. Some of last year's preserved pickles, jams, sauerkraut, and dried apples could also have been prepared. With luck, a few wilted potatoes and root vegetables may still have been in the root cellar and some hard cider and beer from the previous year's crop would also have been found. Cornmeal, some flour for a pie, jars of honey, molasses or sorghum

for sweetening dishes along with coarse salt and fresh herbs would brighten up flavors.

Where's the microwave?

Food was cooked in a fireplace over an open fire and embers. Cast-iron pots and warming boxes held the foods. Stews with meat and vegetables cooked together in large kettles were common and each region of the country had its own recipe. In the 1800's these stews started getting names, Brunswick Stew from Virginia and Georgia, Burgoo from Kentucky, New England Chowder. But in 1776, whatever was locally available would have gone into the kettle. It would have cooked all day and been served out onto trenchers, stale bread. The drink of the day? Water, while consumed, was not the popular drink because it was commonly contaminated. Everyone drank beer and hard cider, including children. Fruit tarts, pies, molasses, or ginger-cake would have provided the dessert.

At the first Fourth of July celebration, people would have gathered to share food, stories and have political discourse with probably some political satire thrown in. British tea and goods would not have been present.

How has the menu changed



JANOS VENCZAK / UNSPLASH

over time? Instead of a stew, our holiday staple has mutated into BBQ, hot dogs and hamburgers. Roasted corn on the cob could easily have been served

in 1776, just as it is today. Pickles, sauerkraut, and jelly have been replaced by coleslaw but pickles are still present.

Then	Today
Stew	BBQ
Roasted corn on cob	Corn on cob
Sauerkraut, Pickles	Coleslaw
Johnny cakes	Corn bread
Fruit tarts, Pies	Apple pie
Molasses cake	Molasses cookies
Hard cider	Soda
Beer	Beer

So as you celebrate this 250th Fourth of July, raise a toast to our ancestors. It was a world we can hardly imagine and yet our country, and our enjoyment of corn on the cob and apple pie still lives on. ■

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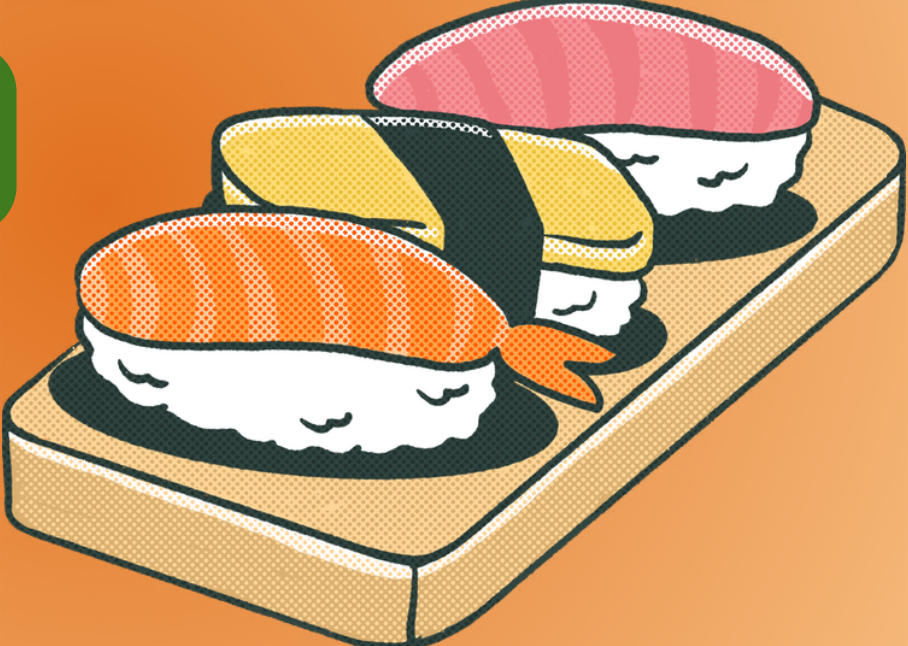
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DAY TRIPS FROM BRUNSWICK

Maryland's Revolutionary Heritage in Annapolis

By JOHN CAVES

Maryland does not have many Revolutionary War battlefields. But the Old Line State, so named for Maryland units' heroism during the war, was very much part of America's struggle for independence. A good place to reflect on that contribution is the state capital, Annapolis, where three of Maryland's four signers of the Declaration of Independence built homes that survive to this day and where the final act of the Revolution took place: George Washington's resignation of his commission to Congress at the end of the war.

The Paca House

The best-preserved of the signers' homes is William Paca's, located, ironically, on Prince George Street. Born into a wealthy family, Paca practiced law in Annapolis and was the first prominent Marylander to speak in favor of independence after the Stamp Act crisis of 1765. He built his home, a five-part Georgian mansion, in the same decade, known as the "Age of Elegance" in Annapolis for the buildings constructed then.

Today, Historic Annapolis maintains the Paca House and has meticulously restored it to its 18th century condition. Docents guide you through it room-by-room and tell you about the triumphs and tragedies of Paca and his family, as well as the stories of those who



The home of Declaration of Independence signer Charles Carroll.

were held in bondage in the household. Behind the house is an ornate garden, which is also open to visitors.

The house and garden are open from mid-March until December, with hours varying with the time of year; in summer, they open at 10 a.m. You can book a tour online for \$12 per person (\$7 for kids). Each tour takes an hour, and afterward visitors are free to tour the garden.

The Carroll House

Charles Carroll, another Maryland signer, was a man of distinctions. He was the wealthiest man in the colonies when the Declaration was signed; he

was the only Catholic signer; and he was the last surviving signer, passing away at age 95 when Andrew Jackson was president. He was one of the founders of the B&O Railroad, and in 1828 he laid the railroad's "first stone" as his last public act. Carroll also had the distinction of turning down a U.S. Senate seat in 1792 because he preferred to serve in Maryland's state senate—not something you see often today!

Carroll's Annapolis home, one of his many residences around the state, was later acquired by an order of monks and is now owned by next-door St. Mary's Parish. Interestingly, the cemetery there contains the grave of Saint Justin, a fourth-century Christian martyr whose bones made a roundabout journey from Rome to Maryland nearly 1,500 years after his death.

The Carroll home has not been restored, but it contains exhibits with information about Carroll's life and times. It is open from 12-4 p.m. on the first two weekends of each month between June and November, and volunteer docents are happy to give you a tour. To find it, go around the right side of St. Mary's from Duke of Gloucester Street and then through the church parking lot.

The Chase House

The third signer to build a home in Annapolis was Samuel Chase, a rabble-rouser who

stirred up independence sentiment while the Maryland legislature was wavering in June 1776. Later, his outspokenness got him into trouble when he was serving on the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1804, he was the first and only Supreme Court justice to be impeached, due to his partisan rhetoric from the bench. He was acquitted by the Senate.

Chase's home on Maryland Avenue is owned by the Chase Home foundation, which has supported women facing hardship since 1889. It does not offer regular tours of the house, so you will likely only see the exterior. Across the street, however, is the Hammond-Harwood House, a restored colonial home and museum of architecture and fine arts. It offers \$15 per-person hourly tours from 12-5 p.m. every day except Tuesdays.



The Chase-Lloyd House, once the home of Declaration of Independence signer Samuel Chase.

The State House

The last house you should visit is the State House. It was there that Maryland's General Assembly voted on June 28, 1776, to authorize their delegates to the Continental Congress to support independence. And it was there, on December 23, 1783, that Washington resigned his commission with a brief but moving speech, showing the world that he did not seek permanent power.

The State House is easily accessible from May to December, when the General Assembly is not in session. Go up the steps at the back, and you will have to go through a metal detector before being free to roam the hall. The Old Senate Chamber, where Washington addressed Congress, is set up as it was then. The original copy of Washing-



The Continental Flag flying from a home in Annapolis with the State House in the background.

ton's speech is in a glass case in the main hall.

Annapolis is an hour-and-a-half drive from Brunswick if traffic is not bad on I-70, MD 32, or I-695. Street parking can be tricky, but Annapolis has several garages within easy walking distance from the destinations mentioned here. Food options are plentiful, especially by the waterfront, and the city is very pedestrian-friendly. It has many other sights to see, but a visit to the three signers' homes and the State House is doable in a day without having to rush. ■



Inside the restored home of Declaration of Independence signer William Paca.

BNJ Travels



Paige Trendell completed a 114-kilometer pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain during the beginning of June.

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TRAVEL, ARTS, CULTURE

Burkittsville Preservation Association Completes Exterior Restoration of Shafer Farm

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

One mile east of Burkittsville, at the intersection of Gapland and Catholic Church roads, sits a large two-story brick house painted buttery yellow. Built around 1820, this significant Civil War structure is listed on the Maryland Registry of Historic Places. The Burkittsville Preservation Association (BPA), a local nonprofit dedicated to preserving the town and surrounding properties, took ownership of the long-vacant property in 2016 and began a massive restoration project. The organization recently celebrated the complete exterior restoration of the house, barn, and two small structures.

Longtime residents and visitors may remember the house's former owner, Mary Hamilton Shafer Motherway, who lived there most of her life. The structures fell into serious disrepair after her move to a nursing home and her death in 2004. The farm remained vacant for 20 years.



Crowd listens to a bluegrass band at the June 6 fundraiser.

Major General William B. Franklin used the farmhouse as the Union Army's headquarters during the Battle of Crampton's Gap. Thousands of soldiers of the Sixth Army Corps used the surrounding fields for camping and staging.

According to BPA president Paul Gilligan, Mrs. Motherway's nephew Shannon Shafer inherited the property from his aunt and passed it on to the association in 2016. Shafer did not live in the area and had no use for it. He thought his aunt would want it preserved.

Vandalism and deferred maintenance contributed to the farm's deterioration; its isolated location and vacancy made the property a target both inside and out. Windows were frequently broken, while interior features were destroyed or marred by graffiti.

The west-facing wall, on the verge of collapse, was one of the first repair projects the BPA completed. The foundation was repaired, and the collapsing section was painstakingly repaired using the original bricks, which were removed and relaid. The slate roof was too deteriorated to save and had to be replaced. As the BPA received grants over the years, additional restoration work was done on the windows, porch, meat house, and well house. The historic barn got a new roof and other restoration work. All the structures were painted. Contractors completed

the work along with volunteers who put in countless hours.

The Baltimore-based nonprofit Preservation Maryland provided technical assistance to stabilize the structure, develop a long-term sustainable use and care strategy for the property, and assist with grant writing, fundraising, and public awareness.

The BPA is restoring the Hamilton Willard Shafer Farm to become a historical attraction for the region. Once it meets period specifications, the farmhouse



Paul Gilligan, left, is president of the Burkittsville Preservation Association.

There's A New Game in Town



Lora Piercy Davis, Allison Wilder, Regula Munz, and Wendy Abramson Cary are in the Brunswick mahjong class.

By **TERRY JAMES**

American mahjong has found its way to Brunswick.

I have been playing both Chinese and American mahjong for more than 20 years. My love of mahjong has spread to friends and family, but I wanted to find a way to share that love with the people of Brunswick.

In May, I started teaching a class of basic mahjong, in space provided by the Brunswick Eagles Aerie 1136, to a group that expressed interest when I reached out on Facebook. My class started with 10 people who seemed to enjoy the challenges of the game. They laughed, they became frustrated, but they learned in that first

session. They quickly understood why I had said it would take at least four sessions to learn the basics. The game is more similar to bridge in intensity and focus than it is to any board game.

The day after the first class, eight more people expressed interest. After four weeks of basic lessons, everyone in the group is able to play a hand of mahjong successfully. Some take photos of their first win to mark the occasion. There is more to learn, but success is real for all.

American mahjong is fun, exciting, social, and possibly addictive. It is a game of tiles, patterns, focus, numbers, and strategy. The Chinese word mahjong

and post-bellum addition will house educational information related to the Burkittsville area's history during the Civil War. The organization also envisions the Shafer Farm as a meeting space, a venue for small events, and a cultural and educational resource for the surrounding communities. While the interior of the house is not renovated yet, the barn was open for touring.

On June 6, the BPA held a bluegrass festival fundraiser at the farm, with several bands performing. Festival goers brought their lawn chairs and sat under the large trees listening to the music echoing across the farm fields that still surround the five-acre property, the fields where soldiers camped more than 160 years ago. ■

ABBIE RICKETTS



This display board is in the barn.

Mrs. Motherway was well known in the community. Friends and neighbors recall she drove an old black 1940s-era car every Sunday to St. Mary's Catholic Church. She'd been a widow since 1937 and had lived in New York City and Panama. She returned home after World War II to live in the yellow house, which was her parents' home. The house is named for her father, Hamilton Willard Shafer, who purchased the property in the 1890s.

On September 14, 1862, Ma-



A band plays at the east side of house.

ABBIE RICKETTS

ABBIE RICKETTS

ABBIE RICKETTS

TERRY JAMES

Hantavirus

By DR. KATHY HEINSOHN, BCE

Hantavirus has been in the news recently. Although rare in occurrence, it is worth taking notice of, especially for those who camp, hike, or hunt and stay in cabins or cottages or deer stands that are vacant over the winter months.

There is no evidence that hantavirus has the potential to become a worldwide pandemic. The fact remains that it is a rare disease.

In over 20 years since the CDC began requiring surveillance and reporting of HPS (hanta pulmonary syndrome), there have been only 890 reported cases. Of those, 859 became full blown HPS (hanta pulmonary syndrome involving cardiopulmonary issues), and 31 patients showed only positive infection that was non-pulmonary and a mild illness. Of those 859 patients with HPS, 35 percent of infections were fatal. That fatality rate is concerning of course, and we should continue to invest in treatment research to improve that statistic.

Looking at the epidemiology of who gets HPS and where, facts show 94 percent of cases occur west of the Mississippi, primarily in the desert southwest areas of Arizona and New Mexico. The mean age of an infected individ-

ual is 39 years old, 62 percent are males; 75 percent are white, non-Latino/Hispanic.

Considering these facts, through 2023 it appears that white men over 39 who hunt, fish, hike, or stay in desert southwest areas are far more prone to be exposed than the average population. This doesn't mean the infection can't occur east of the Mississippi, in females, in younger or in older people of different races. It does. But rarely.

How are you exposed to hantavirus?

Hantavirus (Sin Nombre virus in North America and Andes virus in South America) particles are shed by rodents in their droppings, urine, and saliva.

Most exposure occurs when a person goes to clean up rodent excrement and inhales the particles (for instance in a hunting cabin or vacation home that has sat vacant all winter and incurred a rodent infestation). Rural, farming, and wooded areas where rodent habitat is greatest are more likely a potential exposure source. Human exposure can also be associated with a bite or scratch from a rodent.

In the western United States, the primary rodent associated with the virus is the deer mouse



A deer mouse

(*Peromyscus maniculatus*) and in the eastern United States, it is the white footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*). The Andes virus of South America is the only hanta virus strain ever associated with person-to-person transmission in close contact. That is the strain associated with the recent cruise line concern. (The cruise originated in Argentina.)

Should people avoid cruises?

Please do not be afraid to go on a cruise. All cruise ships, planes, and trains undergo regularly scheduled rotations of fumigation and pest management processes of eliminating potential rodent and other vermin. While the circumstances of the

recent cruise ship outbreak are not entirely clear, cruise ships, trains, and planes are safe. It is thought that a Dutch passenger who was an ornithologist went birding at a landfill in Argentina and was exposed to and likely inhaled rodent fecal viral particles there before he boarded the ship.

It can take up to eight weeks for exposure to these particles to manifest themselves as symptoms. Unfortunately, symptoms may initially mimic other illnesses like influenza (fever, chills, body aches, nausea, etc.) and may be misdiagnosed or go undiagnosed for a period when supportive care would be most beneficial. A blood test can reveal the hantavirus IgG anti-

body definitively for diagnosticians who are on the ball and suspect it. Although not zero, the risk of acquiring Hantavirus is incredibly low especially in the U.S.

Exposure can be eliminated by adopting effective rodent control measures including exclusion and sealing of areas conducive to rodent entry and activity, trapping, use of sealed trash receptacles, and storage of attractive foods in hard glass or airtight containers. Obviously, hiring a rodent pest professional is recommended as well.

Avoiding rodent waste and nests is paramount. When cleaning rodent waste it's critically important to wear gloves and an N95 mask. Wet down any dusty dry droppings with a weak ammonia solution prior to sweeping or cleaning up the excrement, as wetting the excrement prevents the particles from becoming aerosolized and potentially being breathed in. Bag and dispose of this waste immediately. In this manner you will protect yourself from any potential exposure. ■

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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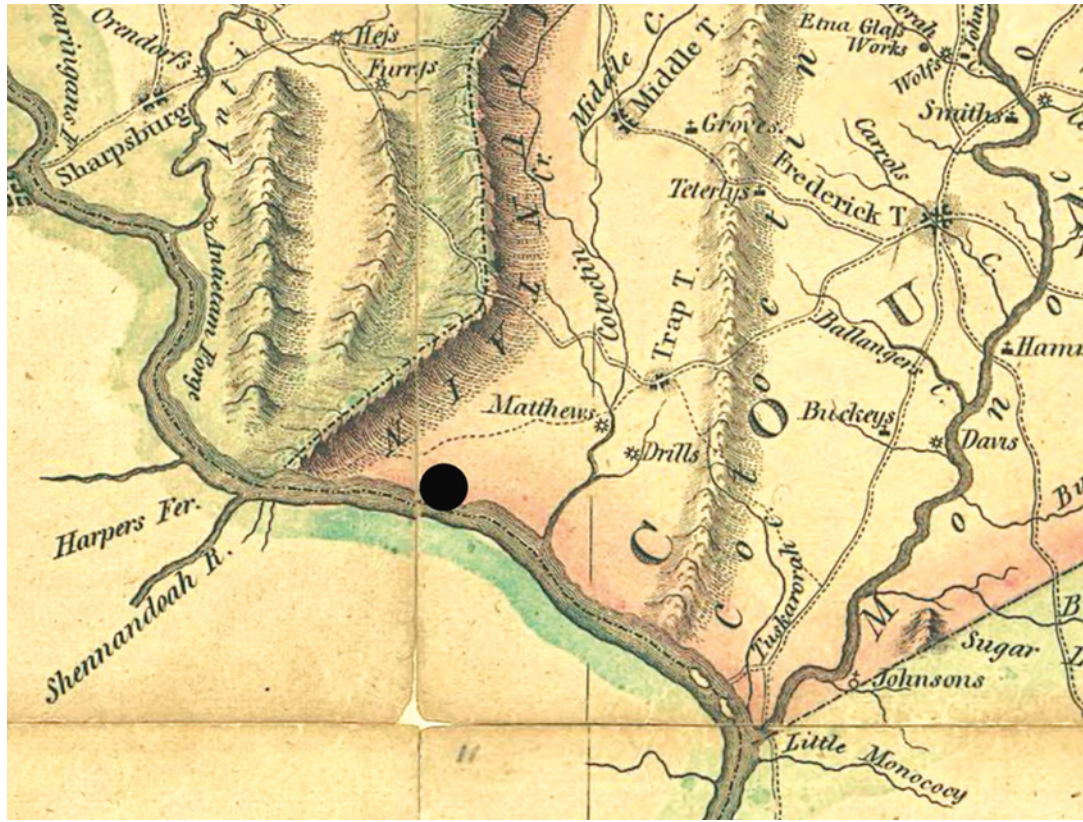
Berlin (later Brunswick) and the Revolutionary War

By WAYNE ALLGAIER

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence this year, it is interesting to reflect on what was going on here in Brunswick (previously Berlin) at that time. This could be a pretty short story, since Berlin didn't exist in 1776; it was not founded until 1787. But there was a lot going on around here leading up to and shortly following that historic year of 1776.

Land records record that on July 3, 1776, Clement Holliday purchased 201½ acres of land bordering on the upper Potomac River in Frederick County where Berlin (later Brunswick) would later be located. The following day, the colonies declared independence from Great Britain. Whatever plans Holliday had for this property, it was going to have to wait due to the war that ensued.

If you had stood that day where our downtown is now located, you would have been in the middle of undeveloped land, probably woods. Facing south towards the river, with



This 1795 map by Dennis Griffeth shows what this area looked like around the time Berlin (black dot) was platted. Note that the path from Trap Town (Jefferson) to Harpers Ferry was unimproved at that time.

the hills behind you, you would be standing beside a creek (today's Martin's Creek) which cut a 20-foot-deep gully through

where the railroad tracks are today as it found its way down to the Potomac River. Other than a possible ferry down at the river, you wouldn't have seen any signs of civilization. (See map.)

John Smith who was living in this area at that time.

Leonard Smith enters the picture

Captain John Smith was the son of Leonard Smith, a native of southern Maryland who had become interested in real estate in Frederick County. He had laid out the village of New Town (aka Trap Town — today's Jefferson) in 1774. The war, which started two years later, did not interfere with his business transactions. In 1780, he purchased Holliday's 201½ acres. It was on this property where his son John Smith entertained George Washington for breakfast five years later.

Whether Leonard Smith was at that breakfast, or whether they discussed the canal project, is not documented. But, according to Helen Smith Muse, a descendent living in Baltimore, "Leonard Smith had visions of the Potomac River becoming a navigable waterway to the Chesapeake Bay. Berlin would become a center of commerce, located at the juncture of the main road leading to the 'German Settlement' (now Lovettsville). Tradition tells us that Smith once talked about this vision with George Washington, who had a similar dream."

Two years after George Washington's visit, on January 1, 1787, Leonard Smith platted the town of Berlin, consisting of 92 quarter-acre lots, thus creating the foundation of what would eventually become the City of Brunswick.

George Washington's and Leonard Smith's dreams fulfilled

It wasn't until 1834, 40 years after Leonard Smith's death, that the C&O Canal and the B&O Railroad reached Berlin, fulfilling his dream of Berlin becoming an inland port. Farmers from the Middletown Valley, as well as those living across the river in Loudoun County, began bringing their products to Berlin for shipment to Georgetown by canal boat and by rail.

Wayne Allgaier is chairman of the Brunswick History Commission. ■

George Washington's visit

In order to appreciate the value of that seemingly remote property, one needs to be aware of George Washington's vision, as early as 1754, of making the Potomac River a major commercial route into the Ohio River Valley (where he would eventually possess tens of thousands of acres of land) by creating bypasses around various falls in the river. That dream was also put on hold in 1776 when he became commander in chief of the continental army.

At the conclusion of the war, George Washington resumed his interest in developing the Potomac River. In August of 1785, as president of the newly-chartered Patowmack Company, he took a trip up the river as far as Harpers Ferry to assess conditions. On the way back to Mount Vernon, he stopped by and had breakfast with Captain

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George Washington's Potomac River, looking west past Berlin, which would be located on the right bank.

WAYNE ALLGAIER

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

A Revolutionary Era Treat

Cookbooks didn't come about until the early 19th century, but this recipe in an 1830 cookbook could have been made in 1776.

Traditional Johnny Cakes

Ingredients

1 cup stone-ground cornmeal
3 teaspoons granulated sugar
½ teaspoon salt
2 ½ cups water
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
butter, oil or bacon grease for frying

Directions

1. Combine cornmeal, salt, sugar in a mixing bowl
2. Bring water to a boil in large saucepan. Gradually pour cornmeal mixture into the boiling water, whisking constantly. Turn off the heat and continue whisking until the mixture is smooth. Add butter and whisk until melted and incorporated. Let the batter rest for 15 minutes (this softens the grains to prevent a gritty texture as well as enables the consistency to thicken). Consistency should resemble that of mashed potatoes. If still too runny, let sit a bit longer.
3. Heat a cast iron or non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Add some butter, oil or bacon grease to the pan. Drop the batter in roughly ¼ cup scoops onto the frying pan about 3 inches apart. Let the cakes fry undisturbed for 6–12 minutes until the edges are browned (be patient). Once the edges are browned, add a bit more fat, then flip the cakes over and use a spatula to press down to a thickness of no more than ¼ inch so they can become nice and crispy. Continue to fry for several more minutes until the cakes are golden brown and crispy on the outside. Transfer the cakes to a wire rack placed on a baking sheet and put them in a warming oven to keep warm while you make another batch.
4. Serve hot with butter, maple syrup, or applesauce.

Makes twelve 3-inch Johnny cakes.

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Valley Register

Compiled by
Julie Maynard

July 2, 1926.

Fireworks at Braddock.

A display of fireworks is to be made at Braddock Heights on Monday evening, July 5, at 10 o'clock, or during an intermission at the dancing pavilion. This hour is after the display scheduled for Frederick and allows time for persons to get from Frederick to the Heights, so that they may witness both displays.

1,000 PERSONS ATTEND

MOUNTAIN-TOP SERVICES

The first of the tenth annual Sunset Services, on Sunday evening last, at 6 o'clock, at Crampton's Gap, between Gapland and Burkittsville, was attended by approximately 1,000 persons. Rev. H. C. Erdman, of Burkittsville, the speaker of the evening, took as his subject, "The Great I Am." Special music was under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo J. Sheats, Mr. Wm. Sheats and Mr. William Gorell, of Baltimore. More than 200 automobiles brought persons to the services.

Gapland, the home of George Alfred Townsend, will be opened on Saturday by H. Kendall King, formerly of Braddock Heights, and will be managed by Mr. King. The famous old estate lies on the crest of South Mountain, at Crampton's Pass, and was the scene of stirring events in the time of its owner, a well known author, war correspondent and newspaper man. It is expected that it will be visited by many tourists this year.

[From an editorial:] The question occurs to the sane, thinking man, "Why firecrackers and fireworks?" Are they necessary adjuncts to the proper celebration of our Independence anniversary, or is it merely one of the perversities of human nature which makes many of us feel that they are indispensable? Certainly it is the latter. In the Southwest and in Mexico they shoot fireworks at Christmas. We laugh at the idea. And they laugh because we shoot them on the Fourth of July. ...

First Apples and Peaches.

"The Register" extends thanks to Mr. D. D. Mullendore, of Gapland, for the first basket of peaches and apples picked from his orchard there. They were small, but [nicely] formed, and for this early in the season present indications of a fine crop later on. Mr. Mullendore has a large orchard at Gapland, where he and his sons are in business.

July 9, 1926.

Harvest Nearly Over in Valley

Binders, as a general thing, have ceased their hum throughout the Middletown Valley, for during the past week, any number of the farmers have finished the cutting of their wheat. In a number of cases, hauling in has been started, and in several rare instances, some few have even completed this work.

The wheat crop, according to a number of the farmers, will be a bumper crop. In several sections wheat was beat down to some extent by late heavy rains, but as a whole, the crop did not suffer nearly so much as in other years.

About all that reminds the town citizens of the wheat crop are the myriads of harvest bugs that have made life miserable for two weeks. If a good wheat crop depends on the amount of harvest bugs around, what a bumper crop we sure would have!

COUNTY LEAGUE SEASON OPENS

Middletown failed to stage their opening game on Saturday last, with Emmitsburg as the at-

traction, owing to the sudden death of the wife of the manager of the Emmitsburg club.

While the locals were idle, two surprises were taking place in the circuit. Brunswick, on their home grounds, handed Woodsboro, the last year champions, a 7 to 6 defeat, being forced to go into ten innings to get the verdict over the veteran "Peggy" Smith, Woodsboro hurler, who seems to have a last "hit the skids." ...

Valley Men Get Contract.

A contract has been awarded to Poffinberger and Mouse, of Myersville, by the Maryland State Roads Commission, for the laying of one mile of concrete on the State highway, between Brunswick and Knoxville. The Myersville firm bid \$22,117.

Old Time Potato Bugs.

Mr. Clyde Wachtell, of Myersville, last Monday picked about half a dish-pan full of long, thin, black bugs, called old time potato bugs by the older residents. These bugs have been playing havoc with potatoes in that section, and some persons claim almost their entire crop has been ruined. [This kind of blister beetle was the main potato pest before Colorado potato beetles showed up.]

Sheep Wrecks Auto.

Sometime on Tuesday afternoon, an automobile driven by a Mr. Magaha, of near Burkittsville, crashed into a sheep owned by Mr. George Arnold, and which had strayed from a field onto the concrete road, between Middletown and Burkittsville. The sheep was killed and it is said the automobile was badly damaged.

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To Hold Examinations For Jefferson Postmastership.

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced an examination to be held at the Frederick post-office, on July 28, for the purpose of filling a contemplated vacancy in the position of fourth-class postmaster at Jefferson, this valley. The office paid \$716 to the present postmaster during the past fiscal year.

July 16, 1926.

Fire Wrecks Residence on Kepler Farm Near Petersville Family makes Narrow Escape.

Fire of an undetermined origin, discovered shortly after 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning last, by Mr. Kepler, completely destroyed the 10-room brick resident on the late Vincent Kepler farm, on the road leading from Petersville to Burkittsville, and tenanted by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Kepler. Mr. and Mrs. Kepler, their three children, and a hired hand, all sleeping in the house at the time, made a very narrow escape with their lives and were unable to save anything.

According to the Keplers, they had built a small wood fire in the kitchen stove in the afternoon and had had supper about 4 o'clock. When supper had been prepared, the fire was left to burn itself out and was entirely extinguished when the family retired.

Mr. Kepler is said to have been up about 12 o'clock, and there was no sign of fire at that time.

Waking suddenly about 2 o'clock, Mr. Kepler discovered the house in flames, the blaze having already reached their bedroom. The others were aroused quickly and all escaped from the front of the building. Another frame building, adjoining the brick residence, was also totally destroyed.

Word was sent to the Brunswick Fire Department and the engine immediately responded, their assistance saving the barn, wagon shed and chicken house.

Positive proof that some of the meanest thieves in the world reside in our valley is shown by the fact that several persons in an automobile endeavored to make away with one of Mr. Kepler's pigs while the fire was at its height. Hearing the continued squealing of one of the pigs, Mr. Kepler hurried to the spot from which the noise was coming and discovered several men endeavoring to put one of his pigs into an automobile. Seeing his approach, the men dropped the pig, climbed into their machine and dashed off.

Nothing was saved from the building, which is a total loss, only sections of the brick walls and the chimneys standing. The buildings and contents, according to reports, were partially insured.

Loses First Home Game

Celebrating the opening of the County League season here, the Middletown County League baseball team went down to defeat for the third straight time before the onslaught of the Brunswick club, last Saturday, the final score 14 to 8. Wilhide started on the mound for the locals, but was forced to give way in the middle of the game in favor of Harold Remsberg, who hurled good ball in the closing innings. Six Middletown errors, while Brunswick was playing a flawless game, was the cause of the local defeat.

Hurt While Raising Barn.

Arthur Guyton, son of Wm S. Guyton, of near Burkittsville, while assisting in the raising of a barn on Thursday, suffered a badly cut nose and lip when a jack slipped and he received a blow in the face. Dr. R. V. Hauver put eight stitches in the wound.

Horses Die From Heat.

The intense heat of Friday last proved very disastrous to a number of valley farmers, who lost horses on that day while harvesting, the horses, unable to stand the heat, dropping over dead. Among those who lost animals in this manner were Mr. Ira Ifert, Mr. Oscar Gaver, Mr. Guy Waters and Mr. Willie Wiles. It is rumored that several other farmers suffered the same loss...

July 23, 1926.

In the Grip of a Real Heat Wave

The valley has been in the grip of some of the hottest weather of the year. Not just hot, but extremely hot, and every one seems to be suffering from its effects. On Wednesday afternoon, shortly after 2 o'clock, thermometers along Main street registered a fraction over the hundred degree mark, with no cooling weather in sight.

Garden crops are suffering from the extremely hot weather, and plants are curling up from the heat. The youngsters of the community are enjoying themselves more than anyone else and almost every afternoon groups of them may be sighted trudging their way toward the different streams in this section, where they may dip into the cooling waters.

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SPORTS

Fighting Back: Nationals win Fogle, Quedeweit Tournaments

By BILL CAULEY

For much of the regular season, Brunswick Railroaders Little League's Nationals found themselves in the underdog role.

The Nationals couldn't seem to break the stranglehold of the Orioles, finishing second in the regular-season standings. It ended up being a test of the team's resolve. It was time for the Nationals to make one last push in the post-season.

By finishing runner up in the league, the Nationals earned a spot in the Dave Fogle Memorial Classic, held at Frederick National Little League. That's when the test began.

The march back begins

The Nationals began their march back by winning the Fogle Classic, defeating Montgomery County Lower, 13-6. That win gave the Nationals an at-large bid to the Gregg Quedeweit Memorial Tournament of Champions at Thurmont Little League's Leisner Field.

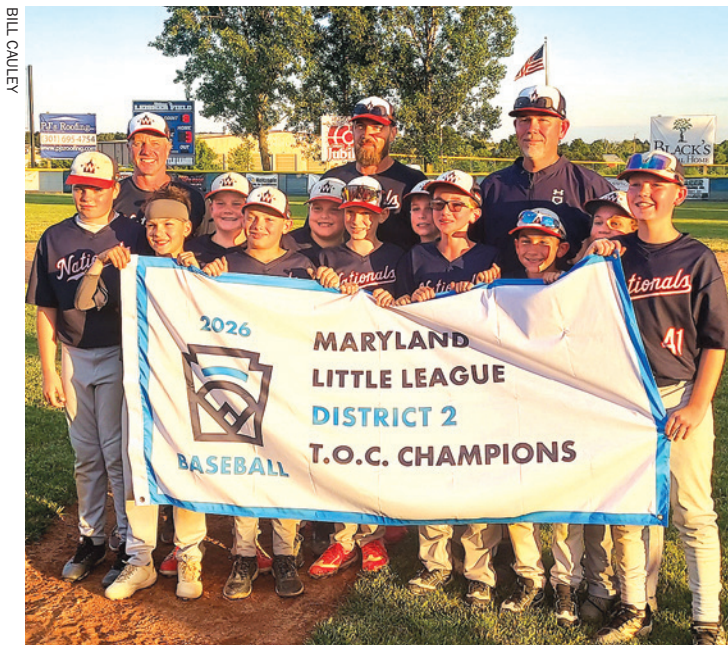
Staying its course, the Nationals defeated Frederick's Bucks, 11-4; the Four County Little League's Pirates, 17-7 and the Montgomery County Upper's Orioles, 5-0. On the other side of the bracket, the Orioles defeated Mountain Valley's Space Cowboys, 16-6 and Thurmont's Vipers, 6-3, setting up an all-Brunswick Quedeweit championship game on Monday, June 15.

The title game lived up to its hype, a down-to-the wire battle. This time, the Nationals prevailed over the Orioles, 4-3, scoring two runs in the top of the sixth inning to overtake the Orioles and earn the championship flag.

"Everyone battled and battled and battled," Nationals' manager Jonathan Purks said. "Confidence and courage. That's what got us through these last two tournaments."

The Nationals trailed the Orioles, 3-2, heading into the top of the sixth. Tsuna Pate waited out a 3-2 pitch and drew a leadoff walk in the sixth. Brayden Mobley grounded out to first base, which moved Pate to second.

James Kraus hit his pitch count limit for the game and



Brunswick Nationals win District 2 Tournament of Champions on June 15.

was relieved by Parker Rhodes on the mound. Brenden McGann singled up the middle, Pate advanced to third.

Coop Daugherty was walked intentionally to load the bases, creating a force play situation at any base. Brantley Mobley hit a grounder to short, which scored Pate. McGann scored on an error and the Nationals led, 4-3.

McGann, who relieved starter Daugherty in the fifth, retired three of four Orioles' batters in the bottom of the sixth, earning the win in relief.

The game featured a classic pitchers' duel between the Nationals' Daugherty and the Orioles' Kraus. Both pitchers reached their pitch count limits of 85 before being relieved.

Daugherty was able to make it through 4 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings, giving up three hits with six strikeouts, three walks and two earned runs. Kraus pitched into the sixth before he ran out of pitches. Kraus struck out 10 with two walks during his stint on the mound.

"Coop probably pitched the best game I've seen all season," Purks said. "He shut them down, shut them down, shut them down. Then, Brenden came on and did a good job of relief."

Brantley Mobley had two hits for the Nationals. Jesse Purks had a double. Cole Changuris had two hits for the Orioles.

"Credit to the Nationals, they

played a great game," Orioles' manager Cory Rhodes said. "It was back-and-forth basically the whole time. We know these guys. We've grown up with them. We love these kids. The Nationals had to battle to get to this point. It was great to see them come out on top, it was even better to see the tournament of champions' flag come back to Brunswick." ■

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL: Rough Start for Post 96

By BILL CAULEY

It wasn't exactly the start manager Danny Renn envisioned for this year's Brunswick American Legion Baseball season.

After some impressive showings in non-Western Maryland District games, Post 96 has struggled. Brunswick lost two of its first three district games to Boonsboro's Clopper-Michael Post 10 squad.

Brunswick (2-3) won the first game in the three-game series, 4-2, Tuesday, June 16 at Boonsboro. The Patriots defeated Post 96 by scores of 9-2 and 6-2 over the next two games, taking the series three games to two. Brunswick and Boonsboro will not face each other again this season.

"We just could not get the big hits when we needed them," Renn said after Brunswick's 6-2 loss to Boonsboro at home on Thursday, June 18. "Boonsboro is a good hitting team, but we had two situations recently where we had two outs on them and gave up runs."

During the loss to Boonsboro on June 18, Brunswick had two

outs on the Patriots in the top of the first inning when Boonsboro plated three runs on four hits. Landon Yates had a two-run single and Parker DeBaugh singled in a run.

Tyler Barrick slammed a lead-off home run over the fence in right field for the Patriots in the third. He also singled in a run in the fourth. The Patriots got their final run on an error in the fifth.

The best Post 96 could do were single runs in the third and fourth. The run in the third scored on an error, the run in the fourth was by way of a sacrifice bunt to third base by Jack Wilt.

"We had runners on base but we couldn't get them in," Renn said. "Of course, I knew Tyler's ball was gone the moment he hit it."

DeBaugh pitched a complete-game three-hitter for Boonsboro, allowing one earned run with four strikeouts. Connor Carrillo took the loss on the mound for Brunswick.

Barrick led all hitters with three hits, including his homer. DeBaugh had two hits with two RBI's for Boonsboro. Justin Ricketts and Jackson Renn each had an RBI for Brunswick. ■



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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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ALL ABOARD BRUNSWICK

JULY 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.**Brunswick Independence Day Celebration**July 3, 5-8 pm
Fireworks start around 9 pm
Brunswick Municipal Pool
99 Cummings Drive**Lovettsville Independence Day Celebration**July 3, starting at 5:30 pm
Lovettsville Community Center and Lovettsville Community Park
Fireworks at 9:30 pm**Burkittsville Walking Tour**July 4, 10-11 am
Tour begins at 3 E Main St
Free will donations benefit the South Mountain Heritage Society**Intro to Clothing Construction: Box Shirt**July 7 and 14, 7-8 pm
Messy Bee Studio
23 W. Potomac St
brunswickmdartevents.org/classes**Collage Workshop**July 8, 7-9 pm
Messy Bee Studio
23 W. Potomac St
brunswickmdartevents.org/classes**"Christmas in July" Sale**July 10 and 11, 8 am-2 pm
Grace Episcopal Church
114 E. A St**Open Mic w/Jacob Rockwell**July 15, starting at 5:30 pm
Smoketown Brewing
223 W. Potomac St.**Lovettsville's Summer on the Green Movie & Concert Series**July 17 at 7 pm
11 Spring Farm Dr.
Holiday Sing-Along & Elf the Movie**Pilates and Pints**July 18, 11 am-noon
Smoketown Brewing
223 W. Potomac St**Jefferson Carnival**July 20-25, 6-10 pm
Jefferson Ruritan Center
4603B Lander Rd
jeffersonruritan.org/carnival/**Potomac Pickin' Party - Bluegrass!**July 28, 2-6 pm
Smoketown Brewing
223 W. Potomac St**RECURRING****Connect & Create**SECOND SATURDAYS,
1-3 pm
Smoketown Brewing**Games Club of Maryland**THIRD SATURDAYS,
12:30-7 pm
Smoketown Brewing**Worship Service**SUNDAYS, 9 am
Jefferson United Methodist Church
3882 Jefferson Pike**Worship Service**SUNDAYS, 9:30 am
New Hope United Methodist Church
7 S. Maryland Ave,
brunswickumc.com**Shuffleboard & Cornhole**TUESDAYS, 4:30-6 pm, \$2
Parks & Recreation Building
Brunswick Elementary School**Valley Quilters all ages/levels**FIRST WEDNESDAYS,
6:30 pmSt. Paul Lutheran Church,
Jefferson
Peggy at valleyquiltersTLC@gmail.com**Music Bingo**Second and fourth
WEDNESDAYS, 7-9 pm
Smoketown Brewing
223 W. Potomac St**Trivia Night**THURSDAYS, 6-8 PM
Smoketown Brewing
223 W. Potomac St**Food Truck Friday**FRIDAYS, 4-8 pm
Brunswick Crossing Pool
1000 Potomac View Pkwy**Brunswick Main Street Farmers Market**Second and last FRIDAYS,
4-7 pm
Martins Creek Municipal Parking Lot
100 E. Potomac St**SAVE THE DATE****Quartermania**August 8, 2-6 pm
Brunswick City Park Building
655 E. Potomac St
Benefits Brunswick Ambulance & Rescue Auxiliary**Petersville Ruritan Club Summer Fish Fry**August 15, 3-6 pm
3816 Petersville Road**Brunswick Community Festival**August 28 and 29
4-9 pm
Burkittsville Ruritan Club
500 E Main St.
Burkittsville**CHECK THIS OUT!****July events at local libraries****Brunswick Library 915 N. Maple Avenue**

Closed July 3 and 4 for Independence Day

ADULTS (18+)**Adult Adaptive Program: Chair One Fitness**

July 10, 11 am-noon

Tropical Toucan Bird Acrylic Painting

July 12, 2-4 pm

Adult Adaptive Program: Let's Get Moving

July 14, 2-3 pm

Home Buying/Selling & Estate Planning for Seniors

July 15, 2-3 pm

Adult Caregiver Program: Preparing a Letter of Intent

July 19, 2-3 pm

Memory Cafe

July 24, 11:30 am-1 pm

American Revolution and the Fate of the World

July 26, 2-3 pm

Spanish Sip and Speak

July 27, 6-7 pm

One Up gamesJuly 31, 2-4:30 pm
Families, ages 8+**TEENS (grades 6-12)****Teen Time: Wavelength Game Night**

July 2, 6-7 pm

Teen Time: Gummy Shark Diorama

July 9, 6-7 pm

Teen Time: Biotech presents a DNA Whodunit

July 16, 1 pm-2:30 pm

Teen Time: Art Supply Swap

July 23, 6-7 pm

Teen Time: Hide-A-Painting

July 30, 6-7 pm

TWEENS (grades 3-8)**Tween Time: Weaving**

July 2, 6-7 pm

CHILDREN (grades K-5)**Summer Explorers: Maryland Opera**

July 7, 4:30-5:30 pm

Story Explorers

July 13, 1-2 pm

Summer Explorers: Science Spectacular with Eric Energy

July 14, 4:30-5:30 pm

Read to a Dog

July 25, 10:30-11:30 am

Summer Explorers: All About Voting!

July 28, 4:30-5:30 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

Evening StorytimeFIRST WEDNESDAYS,
6:30-7 pm, ages 0-5**Preschool Storytime**

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

Musical Storytime

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

Conversation Class for English Language Learners

SATURDAYS, 10:30 am-noon

Brunswick Arts Council MeetingSECOND SATURDAYS
10 am-noon**Summer Lunch Program**(ages 0-18)
12:15-1 pm
Free lunch for children and teens every weekday from June 22 to Aug. 13 (not available July 3)**Edward F. Fry Memorial Library 1635 Ballenger Creek Pike, Point of Rocks**

Closed July 3 and 4 for Independence Day

Offsite at Rocky Point Creamery (all ages)July 1, 3-4 pm
Reading at the library followed by an optional farm tour**Maryland Opera: The Adventures of Papageno (all ages)**

July 7, 2-2:30 pm

Summertime Bracelet Bash (twens and teens)

July 8, 5:30-6:30 pm

Aromatherapy to Beat the Heat (teens and adults)

July 11, 11 am-12:30 pm

Visual Journals: Creating Images with Words (tween and teens)

July 15, 5:30-7:30 pm

Drop-in Wednesdays: Building Challenges (all ages)

July 22, 5:15-6:15 pm

No-Sew Gnome Club! (twens and teens)

July 25, 11 am-12:30 pm

Offsite at Rocky Point Creamery (all ages)July 29, 3-4 pm
Reading at the library followed by an optional farm tour**Visual Journals: Creating Images with Words (tween and teens)**

July 29, 5:30-7:30 pm

Lena Butler Takes Home State Tennis Silver

By LEE ZUMBACH

Brunswick tennis has seen numerous boys and girls qualify for the state tennis tournament over the last 30 years, and several place high, but it was 1999 when the last female singles player made the prestigious trip to state. Gretchen Unger was the last to do that. It is a challenging task to make state in tennis. A player needs to place 1st or 2nd in the region.

This season, BHS Junior, Lena Butler, dominated play in the 1A West Regional, winning her three matches in convincing fashion as she did not drop a set. By winning the region, Lena qualified for the state meet in Columbia. The tournament committee seeded her 2nd out of the eight players from around the state.

Like all spring sports, tennis was impacted by the prolonged May rain. Instead of playing up to two matches on Friday, May 22, then maybe the final on Saturday, May 23, the entire tournament (three matches) had to be played in one day, Memorial Day, May 25. Normally two or three matches are played in a school week. On top of that, some of Lena's play was inside and some outside, not something players normally do.



BHS Junior, Lena Butler, poses with her silver medal after placing 2nd in the Maryland State Tennis Singles Tournament on June 1 in Columbia, Maryland. She is surrounded by the Brunswick High Tennis coaches, Josh McDonald, Lee Zumbach and Larry Collins. This is the highest finish in school history by a female Brunswick singles player at the state level.

Lena had a strong performance in round 1 with a 6-2, 6-0 win over a player from Perryville. Later in the day she won in the semifinals 7-5, 6-0 over Liberty #1. Lena played some of her best tennis of the season in winning the first two rounds. Then nine hours after she left Brunswick she faced off against a

strong player from Century. That young lady had the good fortune of getting a forfeit win in her first round opponent, so she was physically and mentally fresh for the match with Lena, who had to play over three hours of tennis to get to the final.

The Century player was the perfect example of control and

steadiness as she capitalized on Lena's energy drain and played an extremely steady final match with a 6-0, 6-1 win to capture the gold medal with Lena getting the silver.

Lena's silver medal represented many years of hard work, dedication and commitment. She has been playing both in and out of season since 6th grade. Lena is the epitome of grace, competitive attitude and loyalty to her team and sport. She has been the cornerstone of Brunswick girls' tennis for the past three years, leading Brunswick to two league titles and this year a close 2nd in the league as the girls have compiled an amazing 38 & 6 win-loss record since Lena joined the team as a freshman.

Lena finished the season with a 19 & 4 match record, first team CMC, 3rd in the county, regional champion and now silver medal winner in the state as the 2nd ranked female player in the state out of over 30 #1 singles 1A players in Maryland. Her hard work, great team attitude and talent have brought Brunswick tennis and school much respect.

Lena has one more year ahead and maybe another great run for the gold at state. Brunswick can be proud of Lena, and both the boys and girls tennis teams. ■

RUNNING NOTES

High School Cross Country Information Meeting

The coaches of the fall cross country high school running program will hold a "meet the coach/move up night" for boys and girls coming into high school as 9th grade students. The meeting is on Wednesday, July 8, at 7 p.m. Meet at the main entrance door outside the high school. This is a chance to meet the coaches and get information about how to join cross country in the fall. ■

SPORTS

BHS State Track Meet



These 5 girls combined to win the 4x400 and place 3rd on both the 4x200 and 4x100.

By ANNE ZUMBACH

The BHS boys and girls track teams finished the season on a high note at the state meet at Morgan State University. Out of 50 1A schools, the girls team finished 2nd, just 3 points out of first place, while the boys team finished 9th.

Despite rainy conditions, the two-day meet started with the boys 4X800 relay of Asher Adelman, Adam Parde, Simon McGillivray, and Kassey Tetteh taking 2nd place. This was followed by preliminaries in which Faith Doue qualified in the 100 and Faith and Morgan Bilbrey qualified in the 200.

In the 3200, Asher Adelman finished 5th in 9:48, just missing the school record, while Simon McGillivray finished 10th. The day ended with the 4X200 relay of Sergia Nyambi, Leah Smallwood, Faith Doue, and Morgan Bilbrey taking 3rd.

In the field events, Madison George finished 10th in the discus while Thomas O’Leary cleared 13’ in pole vault to take 5th place and Kierstyn Upperque and Hailey Tyler cleared 8’6” to place 6th and 8th.

Weather disrupts Day 2

Due to weather conditions, Day 2 events were moved to Memorial Day for the first time in memory. In the 100 dash finals, Faith finished 5th. In the boys 1600, Asher and Simon finished 5th and 9th in 4:29 and 4:37 respectively. In the girls 400, Morgan and Faith took 3rd and 4th in 59.16 and 59.77, respectively.

In the 300 hurdles, Sergia took 2nd (45.48) and Leah took 5th (48.27). In the 200, Faith and Morgan finished in 5th and 7th in 26.36 and 26.65 respectively. Kate Virgilio ran the 800 in 2:24 to take 6th place while Kassey and Adam ran outstanding times but didn’t place.

In the 4X100 relay, Eden Briggs, Brenton Johnson, Cameron Hayes and Tyler Mashburn took 6th in 44.10. The girls relay of Sergia, Leah, Faith and Morgan took 3rd in 50.42. The final running event of the meet is always the 4X400. The boys relay of Tyler, Adam, Kassey, and Josiah Nunez finished 3rd in 3:28, missing the school record by 1.25 seconds. The girls relay of Sergia, Faith, Morgan and Kate won the event in a new school record time of 4:04.

In the field events, Sergia took 2nd in the high jump, clearing 5’2” while Abigail Ashley took 6th in the triple jump in 33’8.75”.

School records

During the season, five school records were set. Topping the list were relays. The elusive 4X200 relay of 1:46.6 was set in 1983. This year, Sergia, Morgan, Faith and Leah ran 1:45.44 at the regional meet to set a new school record. The same 4 girls

also set a new 4X100 record of 49.44, breaking the 2022 record. The 4X400 relay of Sergia, Morgan, Faith and Kate ran 4:04.20 to break the school record set last spring. Sergia broke the school record in the 300 Hurdles as she ran 45.48 to break Chris Shortz’s record of 46.67 set in 2003.

Many athletes moved into the top five all-time Brunswick performances. Among the girls, Faith was 2nd in the 100, Morgan 2nd in the 200 and 400, behind Rachel McCallum and Sergia 2nd in the high jump. Moving into 3rd place were Faith in the 400 and Kate in the 800 while Faith was 4th in the 200, Kierstyn and Hailey were 4th in the pole vault, Abigail 4th in triple jump and Madison George 4th in discus.

Among boys, the 4X100 of Eden Briggs, Brenton Johnson, Cameron Hayes and Tyler Mashburn set a school record of 43.92. The previous



These BHS boys took second place in the 4x800 relay.



Kai Mansell presents a plaque to cross country coach Anne Zumbach. The plaque was given to Kai’s great grandfather, Delphey Gaither, in 1966 by the boys cross country team upon winning the state championship.

record was in 2016. The 4X800 of Adam, Asher, Simon, and Kassey moved into 2nd place, missing the school record by 1 second. Asher moved into 3rd place in the 3200 and 4th place in the 1600. The 4X400 relay of Tyler, Adam, Kassey and Josiah recorded the 3rd best time in Brunswick history, missing the school record by 1.25 seconds. Thomas O’Leary finished with the 3rd highest vault. In the 800, Kassey moved into 4th place, Adam into 6th and Asher in 10th. Simon moved up to 7th in the 1600 and 3200.

According to the coaches, with so many underclassmen, it will be exciting to see what records might fall next spring! ■

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