BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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94th Annual Brunswick Veterans Day Parade Nov. 8

One of Oldest Veterans Day Events in the Nation

As America continues to celebrate its 250th anniversary, the City of Brunswick puts its history and patriotism on display as it hosts the 94th annual Brunswick Veterans Day Parade. One of the oldest Veterans Day celebrations in the country, the parade will take place on Sunday, Nov. 8.

Festivities get underway with an opening ceremony beginning at 1 p.m. and the parade starting at 2 p.m. along Potomac Street. The event is one of three officially sanctioned Veterans Day regional sites in Maryland, as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Colonel Katherine A. Leidenberg, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Detrick commander, will serve as the master of ceremonies. Two songs will also be performed by the Brunswick Elementary School Chorus, under the direction of Jonathan Cook. Corporal Wilbur "Jack" Myers, a 103 year old World War II Veteran who was part of the Battle of The Bulge, is also expected to return to this year's event.

There are approximately 95 parade entries, ranging from marching bands to veterans and military groups. Numerous fire trucks, antique vehicles, and youth and community organizations are also participating. Cash prizes will be awarded in various parade categories.

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JEFF THORNE PHOTOGRAPHY



Brunswick American Legion's entry in the 2025 parade.

Nov. 3 Election to Decide Major County Races

By MARK ROHNER



ELEMENT 5 DIGITAL / UNSPLASH

Data centers have occupied center stage in campaigning ahead of the Nov. 3 election to decide who will run Frederick County government and what approach officials will take to manage the industry's rapid growth.

The incumbent county executive, Democrat Jessica Fitzwater, has spent heavily to defend her record on data center development against a challenge from former Frederick Mayor Jeff Holtzinger, a Republican.

According to their most recent campaign finance reports, filed October 23, Fitzwater has a significant fundraising advantage over Holtzinger. Fitzwater reported raising more than $767,000, compared with Holtzinger's $45,565. Fitzwater reported spending $581,496 to Holtzinger's $38,634.

Their differences over the major issue of the campaign have been largely a matter of who was first to call for putting the brakes on data center expansion, and who has the better approach to oversight of the industry.

Fitzwater touts her administration's record in creating a Critical Digital Infrastructure zone limiting data center development to less than 1 percent of the county's total area. But she has come under fire from data center opponents for her support of a map designating 2,500 acres for the new zone. The map recommended by the county's Planning Commission would have confined the zone to about 1,600 acres near Adamstown, centered around the Quantum Frederick data center campus now under construction.

After the June 23 primary election, which was widely viewed as a referendum on data center development, Fitzwater announced a pause on data center applications through Dec. 31. She later extended the pause until July 1.

Fitzwater has said the data centers currently under construction were approved before she was elected in 2022. She said she "will fight to further limit data center development" and contends that Holtzinger's record includes statements sympathetic to data center developers.

Holtzinger has said he is against expansion beyond currently approved projects and has raised concerns about the load new centers will place on public infrastructure.

County Council candidates

County Council candidates from both parties have mostly expressed strong opposition to expanded data center devel-

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Brunswick Railroad Days 2026

JESSICA OTT



Brunswick Railroad Days 2026 expanded along East Potomac Street. Mayor Nathan Brown called the weekend "a huge success."

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**********ECRWSS****

Local
Postal Customer

PRSRT STD
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U.S. POSTAGE
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BRUNSWICK NEWS

November 3 Election CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

opment. That's after a primary contest in which County Council President Brad Young, who supported expanding the CDI zone, was defeated.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the data center debate played a significant role in the primary process, and I am anticipating it will again in the general," Rick Weldon, president of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, told Maryland Matters after the primary election.

In the race for two at-large Council seats, Democratic incumbent Renee Knapp, who also voted in favor of expanding the CDI zone, has emphasized strengthening operational standards for data centers and deterring additional data center development.

Democratic candidate Tiffany Grant and Republican candidates Jack Felton and Diane Fouché have all said they oppose further data center expansion. So have both candidates — Democrat Louisa Conklin and Republican Frank Hollewa — running for the Council seat from District 1, which includes the Brunswick and Adamstown areas.

Sheriff's race

Among other high-profile races in the county, Republican incumbent Sheriff Chuck Jenkins is facing a fourth challenge from Democrat Karl Bickel, a former Frederick County sheriff's deputy and former U.S. Justice Department official.

Bickel, who lost to Jenkins by 2.8 percentage points in 2022, has criticized the incumbent sheriff's support for so-called 287g agreements allowing local law enforcement to partner with federal immigration authorities. Jenkins was among leaders of an effort by Maryland sheriffs to stop legislation outlawing the agreements in the state.

Board of Education

A contest of particular concern for many Brunswick residents is the race for four seats on the Frederick County Board of Education. The current board is considering a recommendation to build a new Brunswick High School on the present site of the school's baseball field, which is cherished in the Brunswick community. The recommendation has triggered intense opposition from supporters of Brunswick baseball.

The board is slated to consider the recommended site on Nov. 18, before the newly elected board members are sworn in. On the Nov. 3 ballot are three incumbent board members, Board President Dean Rose, Vice President Rae Gallagher and Board member Chad Wilson. The three incumbents, along with candidate Casey Day, are running on the "Apple Ballot," a slate of candidates endorsed by the Frederick County Teachers Association and two other education labor unions.

They are opposed by four conservative candidates running on the "Orange Ballot." They are Heather Fletcher, Shelley Potter, Geoffrey Seidel and Tyler Walker.

You can read about the board candidates' views on a new BHS in the October issue of the Brunswick News-Journal at brunsnews.com.

Election Day Voting

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Residents of older Brunswick city neighborhoods will vote at Brunswick Middle School, 301 Cummings Drive. Residents of the surrounding area, including New Addition, most of Brunswick Crossing, Galyn Manor, Rosemont, and Knoxville, will vote at Faith Baptist Church, 2212 Jefferson Pike. ■

Blocked Railroad Crossings Update

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

Brunswick logged more than 50 complaints of blockages at the city's two railroad crossings on Maple Avenue during the period Sept. 16–Oct. 15.

Many of these involved stopped trains and blockages lasting an hour or more, according to data on complaints compiled by the Federal Railroad Administration. On seven different days, there were reports of emergency vehicles unable to cross the tracks. All of these involved blockages caused by stationary trains.

There were also numerous reports of pedestrians and bicyclists risking their lives by climbing over, under, or between stopped rail cars.

For the year thus far, the FRA has logged almost 200 complaints about blockages at the Brunswick crossings.

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

	Blockages 9/16/26–10/15/26	Duration: 16–30 mins	Duration: 31–60 mins	Duration: 60 mins or more	Blockages YTD	Notes
Maple Ave. (South)	37	1	10	26	140	First responders unable to cross tracks on Sept. 24, 28, Oct. 6, 7, 12, 13
Maple Ave. (North)	13	0	2	11	51	First responders unable to cross tracks on Sept. 30, Oct. 6, 7, 12, 13.

Veterans Day Parade CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

Chip Jewell, the retired chief of Frederick's County's Division of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, will again serve as the emcee for the parade. Parade coordinator Shuan Butcher said, "As part of America's 250th birthday, we will have a number of new entries in this year's parade. We made a concentrated effort to bring in more bands and more patriotic units to commemorate this historic milestone."

Keynote Speaker and Parade Grand Marshal

This year's opening ceremony keynote speaker and parade grand marshal is Colonel Edward "Ed" Rothstein (U.S. Army, Ret.) who serves as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families. Rothstein served 30 years in the U.S. Army, both on active duty and Army Reserves, beginning in the Chemical Corps before transitioning to Military Intelligence.

Rothstein held senior intelligence roles at the Pentagon and the National Security Agency, where he oversaw a generational change in using NSA resources to counter the IED threat in Iraq. His overseas deployments included combat and intelligence operations in Iraq and Afghanistan with U.S. and coalition forces, where he earned recognition for his strategic leadership and commitment to mission readiness. In 2011, Rothstein was appointed Garrison Commander of Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, where he led more than 227,000 personnel across five states.

Following his military retirement in 2014, Rothstein founded ERA Advisory, a service-disabled veteran-owned consulting firm. He continued serving his community, including as Executive Director of the BWI Business Partnership, President and CEO of the Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corporation, and later as a two-term Carroll County Commissioner, where he worked to advance economic development, public health, and veteran support initiatives.

Reception at American Legion

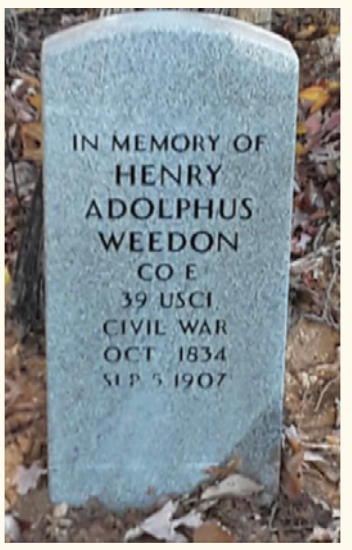
After the parade, people are encouraged to attend a reception at American Legion Post 96 at 18 S. Maple Avenue. Food and beverages will be provided at no charge. This year's event is supported by the Frederick County U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. ■

Henry A. Weedon Memorial Installed

After more than a century, Henry Adolphus Weedon was recognized for his Civil War service with a cenotaph tombstone at the Sunnyside New Life Community Church cemetery located on Mountville Road near Jefferson.

Private Henry Weedon served in the Civil War with Company E of the 39th Regiment, U.S Colored Troops (USCT) – Infantry, which was organized at Baltimore in March 1864. The regiment saw action in Virginia and North Carolina, the Second Battle of Petersburg, and the Battle of the Crater. The Regiment was mustered out December 4, 1865.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provided the monument and it was installed by Sam of Samco Electric Service, Brunswick.



Marker recently installed at Sunnyside Church cemetery for Henry Weedon, a Civil War veteran of the 39th U.S. Colored Infantry.

Information provided by Jefferson historian Joe Wilson, Jr.

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BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL

Mayor and Council October 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

Mayor Nathan Brown reported that Railroad Days was a huge success. In fact, it was so successful that the new satellite parking at Brunswick Elementary School filled up completely. Next year, the city will add Brunswick High's lot for additional satellite parking.

Utility Billing Termination Update

The city has made a few changes related to terminating residential and commercial water and sewer service. Some 300-500 residents do not pay their bills after the second notice, triggering these changes. Mayor Brown details the changes in his column on page 3.

Inclement Weather Update

A new ordinance on inclement weather emergencies provides more detail on residential and commercial responsibilities, particularly during declared snow emergencies.

The ordinance combines and replaces two previous ordinances and gives the city more flexibility in managing parking and snow removal; for example, snow emergency routes can now be moved around town as the emergency requires. It also uses levels of parking restrictions based on the amount of snowfall:

- Level 1, up to 4 inches
- Level 2, 4 to12 inches
- Level 3, over 12 inches or a National Weather Service blizzard warning.

The ordinance prohibits parking in alleys and the ends of dead-end streets during declared inclement weather emergencies. If the city must tow a car, the owner incurs the expense of retrieving it.

Rivers & Rails Marathon

Horizun Events will hold running events in Brunswick on Nov. 14, featuring a full marathon, a half-marathon, and a Veteran's Challenge 5k. The mayor and council approved Brunswick hosting the Veterans Challenge 5k. This race is entirely within the city, winding through historic neighborhoods and passing a series of veterans memorials.

For more information, see the article on page 24. For a video of the course and race signup information see: horizunevents.com/rivers-rails-marathon/.

City Pool Improvements

The city has received a $110,000 Program Open Space grant for long-needed improvements at the city pool. The winning bid was higher than the grant amount by $58,400, which the city will cover.

This first round includes acid-washing and resurfacing the pool's interior, replacing coping tiles and racing tiles, replacing tanks, and other functional improvements. Two broken lines in the baby pool will be fixed.

Fixing/replacing the decking will happen next spring, and overhauling the pool house, which will cost several hundred thousand dollars, will happen when funding becomes available.

New Legislative Sessions

The mayor and council will start holding "legislative sessions" whenever new ordinances are coming up in order to save time at mayor and council meetings.

A lot of time in those meetings is spent on council member questions, comments and edits. The new sessions are expected to shorten the main mayor and council meetings, while easing pressure on council members to speed through their concerns.

Legislative sessions will be on an as-needed basis and will be open to the public in person and via the live stream.

Finance and Utility Commission

Mayor Brown and city staff are rethinking the workings of the Finance and Utility Commission. As with other boards, commissions and committees, the volunteer members do not always understand their role and whether they are adding value.

The mayor introduced a few options: overhauling the commission, making it an ad-hoc body that would meet only during the budget cycle, combining commission meetings with mayor and council meetings once per month, or ending the commission.

Council members Caves, Sandusky and Bonanno spoke in favor of keeping the Finance and Utility Commission, with Caves suggesting the membership should be former commissioners or council members who understand the issues and know what questions to ask, and Bonanno suggesting that the mayor and city staff think about what they want out of the commission. Mayor Brown said that already-budgeted items will be taken out of the commission's responsibility.



JULIE GOURLEY

Dan Roe (left) was sworn in by Mayor Brown on Oct. 13 for another three-year term on the Brunswick Planning Commission. Roe served as chair during his previous term.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Utility shut-off notices are changing:

What Brunswick customers need to know



The City bills for water, sewer, and trash services quarterly in January, April, July, and October. Each bill covers usage for the prior three-month period. Bills are mailed the first week of the month with payment due the 10th of the following month. Accounts not paid by this due date are included in the City's collection and termination process, which is a multi-step process.

Each quarter around 700–800 accounts remain unpaid after the 30-day due date has come and gone. Second notices are generated to those accounts and residents are given another 10 days to pay. After this deadline, Public Works crews hand-deliver 48-hour termination paper notices to roughly 300 homes with past-due accounts, and in some quarters as many as 500. That takes many hours of staff time away from other important tasks. Paper notices on a door can also blow away, get missed, or arrive when the homeowner is out of town.

What the law says

The City billing and termination process is governed by the Maryland COMAR Environmental Article Section 9-724 and its own Code of Ordinances which state: "If the current bill is outstanding thirty (30) days after the billing date, the City Administrator or designee will give the property owner a ten (10)-day written notice that payment must be made or the water service will be disconnected. If after ten (10) days the bill remains unpaid, the Director will be instructed to terminate (turn off) the water service.

Each quarter around 700–800 accounts remain unpaid after the 30-day due date has come and gone.

For years, the City has gone beyond the minimum requirements to give customers additional opportunities to resolve past-due utility balances before service termination. As customer communication options have improved and the current process has become increasingly time-intensive, the City is modernizing its approach. Starting with the October billing cycle, the City is updating the utility termination process.

What Is Changing

Water and sewer bills will still be mailed quarterly (unless you have signed up for e-billing), and payment is still due within 30 days. What changes is what happens if a bill goes unpaid:

1. Second & FINAL notice with a firm date. If your bill is still unpaid 30 days after the original billing date, you will receive another notice in the mail, as you do today. The new notice will state the exact date your service will be shut off if the balance is not paid. This notice now acts as the Final Notice.

2. Electronic notice instead of a door tag. If the final bill remains unpaid, the City will send word of termination details by email, text, and phone call to the contact information on your utility account. Customers who have no phone number or email address on file will still receive a paper termination notice on their door. The new approach uses technology the City already has to get the message to you, wherever you are.

3. Reminder one day before. A final automated reminder will go out the day before the shut-off date.

4. Notice on shut-off day. If service is disconnected, Public Works will leave a notice on the door explaining how to have service restored.

Before any shut-off, staff will

Continued on page 4

Department Reports

Brunswick Police reported three juvenile arrests (not two as shown in the statistics through Sept. 28), and the rape of a minor. Mobile Crisis Teams in the Frederick Police Department that have mental health and other medical professionals help the Brunswick police with mental health cases. Other teams help with repeating problems, such as two Brunswick brothers who keep running away from home due to problems in the home.

Public Works received a FEMA grant to clean up and improve the drainage pond between the Brunswick Shopping Center and Brunswick House senior apartments.

Planning and Zoning reported that Ordinance 623 on dumpsters appears to be working as code enforcement is seeing more and more locked dumpsters. Businesses have 90 days from the ordinance's effective date to come into compliance. Code enforcement has also received calls and complaints about roosters in backyard flocks. The office was quite busy in the downtown area in the run-up to Railroad Days.

Utilities continues exploring potential sites for city water wells to supplement the Potomac River and Yourtee Spring supplies. Cyber security improvements are ongoing following the AI hack into Frederick County water systems—including Brunswick's—over the summer. The new water reservoir (tank) on Souder Road is ready to be built but for USDA-required paperwork tied to the $1 million grant.

Administration reported that the audio for the Oct. 13 mayor and council meeting cut out in the middle of the Citizen's Forum portion of the meeting and the video cut out at the Sept. 22 meeting. The Sports Complex is finished and the press box is expected to be finished by the end of October or early November. The city hopes to receive a state DHCD grant for public restrooms around town, especially near the Towpath (in cooperation with the National Park Service). ■

BRUNSWICK NEWS

Special Election Coming in January

No Consensus on Open Council Seat Applicants

By JULIE GOURLEY

Five Brunswick citizens put their names forward for the open city council seat formerly held by Daniel Yochelson.

The recently amended city charter prescribes the process for filling vacant city council seats for which there are no candidates.

Two options

There are two options: the city may hold a special election; or the city may advertise the vacancy for a prescribed period during which interested citizens submit applications to determine eligibility, the city council interviews eligible candidates at an open meeting, the council selects a candidate by unanimous agreement, and the candidate is appointed by the mayor at the next mayor and council meeting.

The city council could not reach unanimous agreement on any of the five candidates at their workshop on Oct. 5; thus, the city will now hold a special election on January 12, 2027, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the City Park Building.

Candidate filing packets available

Candidate filing packets are available at City Hall or by downloading from the city website, brunswickmd.gov. The deadline to file as a candidate is Dec. 14 at 4:30 p.m.

For more information on the election and how to become a candidate, contact Director of Administration Carrie Myers at cmyers@brunswickmd.gov or call 301-834-7500. ■

From the Mayor CONTINUED

Continued from page 3

continue to review the list of past-due accounts manually. Accounts with an active payment plan or a pending ServLine claim are removed from the list.

This is the same approach Frederick County uses for its water customers. It also follows Maryland's guidelines for municipal utilities, which call for at least one past-due notice and a termination notice at least 14 days before service is shut off.

What you should do now

The most important step is to **make sure the City has your current phone number and email address** on your utility account. If we don't have them, we can't reach you before a shut-off date. Please contact the City Utility Billing office to check or update your information. You may have already received a mailing from the City about this; you will also see reminders on the City website and social media.

Please remember, you may make intermittent payments on your utility account at any point throughout the billing cycle, even if you have no current balance. Payments will be automatically applied to the next bill. If you are having trouble paying, please call us **before** your shut-off date. Under City Code, a payment plan can only be started before service is shut off. Once service is disconnected, the full balance plus a reconnection fee must be paid before water is turned back on. The reconnection fee is $100 for a first shut-off, $135 for a second, and $170 for a third within 12 months. The City also routinely works with several local organizations who assist residents facing termination with utility payments. We are happy to provide that list of resources to any resident who contacts us.

Working together

These changes reflect what Brunswick values: reliable public services, clear communication, and careful stewardship of the City's resources. Electronic notices also give our staff a clear record of every message sent, which helps them answer your questions accurately. Most of all, we want every household to have plenty of warning and every chance to stay current.

If you have questions about your account or the new process, or to verify and update your contact information, please contact **City Utility Billing at 301-834-7500 or CityHall@Brunswick-MD.gov,** or stop by **City Hall at 1 West Potomac Street** during business hours. Thank you for helping us keep Brunswick's water flowing. ■

Nathan Brown

Board of Education Hears Brunswick Concerns over School Site



ELLIS BURRUSS

Board of Education members Chad King Wilson, Karen Yoho, and Rae Gallegher at the Brunswick High School Listening Session on Oct. 14.

By ELLIS BURRUSS

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, seven members of the Frederick County Board of Education (BoE) held a listening session at Brunswick High School in their continuing attempt to understand the concerns of local residents about the planned location of a new high school for Brunswick.

The 30 attendees were divided into two groups with three school board members in one group and four in the other. The primary concern raised once again by residents was the planned destruction of the existing baseball field and the resulting disruption of lives of students and the community as a whole.

When the current high school and baseball field were built in the 1960s, many people felt that the new field was just a "bare-bones" replacement for the previous E.W. Scheer Stadium. During the following decades, community contributions of funds and labor added significantly to the current value of the baseball field, also informally known as Lee Merriman Memorial Park. Concerns were raised during the listening session that Brunswick would again need to build out a bare-bones replacement field.

Athletics play an important role

Brunswick Mayor Nathan Brown observed at the listening session that athletics are not just entertainment, but also play an important role in subsequent careers for some students by enabling college attendance through scholarships. Baseball has been a central component of the Brunswick community for much of its history.

The staff of Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) has presented three possible plans for the project, of which building the new high school on the current baseball field would be the least expensive.

FCPS updated its "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet for the high school replacement project on Oct. 14 (see FCPS.org). The issue of traffic safety was addressed by adding these updates:

- Separate bus access and bus parking via Frazer Road, which will reduce traffic on Cummings Drive.
- A dedicated emergency connection between the parking and bus loops to allow an alternate egress to Point of Rocks Road via the bus loop and Frazer Road.
- The existing main parking lot will remain both during and after construction, enabling it to continue serving the community pool and athletic fields across Cummings Drive, in addition to the High School.

Presentations from FCPS at Nov. 18 BOE meeting

The BOE is scheduled to hear presentations from FCPS about these plans at their Nov. 18 meeting and may vote to accept one of the recommendations at that meeting.

In its Oct. 14 FAQ update, FCPS said that their design team is currently developing a conceptual (schematic) building design and site plans to submit to the Board of Education on Nov. 18. They went on to note that the current project schedule assumes that Schematic Design (SD) is approved by the BOE on Nov. 18 and subsequently submitted to the State by Nov. 30.

FCPS emphasized "the November 2026 SD milestone is necessary to stay on track for subsequent required State and regulatory submissions, including Design Documents in June 2027 and Construction Documents in February 2028. Missing these milestone dates would potentially jeopardize the ability to begin construction in summer 2028 and open the school in 2030." ■



Jefferson Ruritan Club

Country Butchering

Sat. Dec. 5, 2026

To place advance (Pork) orders before Wed. Nov. 25th call (301) 473-7986 or (301) 834-6165

Pick-up orders Sat. Dec. 5th, 8 am to noon

All You Can Eat Country Breakfast

Saturday Dec. 5th

7 am to 10:30 am

4603B Lander Road Jefferson, MD 21755

Farmers Market Moves Indoors for Winter

The Brunswick Pop-Up! Market will be held upstairs at the Steadman-Keenan American Legion, 18 S. Maple Ave., starting on Dec. 11 from 4 to 7 p.m. It will continue monthly on Jan. 8, Feb. 12 and March 12, before returning outdoors in April.

DIANE ELLIS



The Pop-Up Market! brings together a changing selection of local farmers, growers, food producers, artisans and small businesses for an evening of local shopping. Visitors are encouraged to make an evening of it by shopping the market, visiting downtown businesses, and enjoying dinner at one of Brunswick's locally-owned restaurants.

The market is a joint effort of Brunswick Main Street and Mid-Maryland Farm Market. In addition to sponsoring and managing local farmers markets, Mid-Maryland Farm Market provides online ordering, local delivery, market pickup, and other ways to shop from local producers throughout the year. For more information, visit midmdfarmmarket.com. ■

Pets Receive Blessing at Annual Ceremony

By DR. KATHY HEINSOHN

KATHY HEINSOHN



Bella, a husky mix, with her mistress, Valerie Ramos, being blessed by Pastor Terrance Lively.

On a drizzly Sunday afternoon, 16 dogs, 4 cats and 18 humans came for the annual pet blessing at the Brunswick City Dog Park. Performed by Bethany Lutheran Church, in coordination with South Mountain Shared Ministry, the Oct. 4 event began with a brief service.

Pastor Terrance Lively of Bethany Lutheran Church (109 1st Ave.) then greeted pets individually. As he blessed each pet or their toys, he pronounced them created of God and reaffirmed their importance to the emotional, physical and spiritual support of their families. He reaffirmed the responsibility of each pet parent to care for this blessing with which God has entrusted them. Each pet then received a purple heart emblem for their collars that had the words "I'm blessed" engraved in white lettering.

A picnic table displayed free items for pets, including collapsible water bowls, food can toppers, balls, treats, doggie poop bag holders, and leashes (many of these items were donated by Hoof and Paw Veterinary Services in Purcellville, Va.). For the humans, there were "dog tags" with engraved messages of God's love for them, as well as prayer and devotional booklets.

The first Sunday in October commemorates St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. On this day, many congregations welcome animals and their stewards for a blessing. Some churches perform this inside during worship services and others perform it outside. The South Mountain Shared Ministry Council decided to do theirs outside in a location where pedestrians and their pets could drop by as they visited Railroad Days in Brunswick.

A pet blessing is planned again for next year. If your pet is a bit shy of humans or other canines, special arrangements for a personal blessing can be accommodated.

For the pet blessing or other pastoral concerns, contact Pastor Terrance Lively at Terrance.lively@gmail.com or phone him at 205-657-3347. ■



The Girl behind Kim Weddle Park

DIANE ELLIS



A new sign in Kim Weddle Park honors a little girl, her Radio Flyer wagon, and the community's wish to keep her memory alive. From left: Haiden Rodgers, Linda Weddle, Jackie Weddle and Noah Hinkel.

By DIANE ELLIS

A new sign was unveiled in Kim Weddle Park on Saturday, Oct. 10 to remember a little girl whose tragic story gripped the Brunswick community more than 50 years ago.

Kim Weddle was born in 1966, the daughter of Linda and Jim Weddle. Shortly after her birth, Kim was diagnosed with biliary atresia, an absence of working bile ducts in the liver. She was given nine months to live, but a liver transplant became possible in 1968 at Children's Hospital in Boston.

The Brunswick community came together to support the family and help with significant costs beyond what was covered by insurance. Local stores and organizations put out donation boxes, a local merchant got the March of Dimes to pay for the family's air fare to Boston, and Brunswick radio station WTRI broadcast an appeal for funds, according to stories in the Brunswick Citizen newspaper at the time. In all, Linda Weddle said over $16,000 was raised.

Ten days after the operation, the family was told that it was not a success. Despite the odds, the little girl lived until the age of 6, passing away in 1972. Her name lived on.

In 1983, a city park on Maple Avenue was dedicated in her memory. Over the years, the city continued to bring new life to the park with children's play equipment and other improvements. The city has now added a new sign that was designed to express Kim's love of riding in her Radio Flyer wagon. The back of the sign provides her history and family photographs.

Mayor Nathan Brown spoke at the sign unveiling, recalling how he had played in this very park when he was a child. He said the sign is important to "educate and inform citizens and so kids who play here in the future will know why this is called Kim Weddle Park."

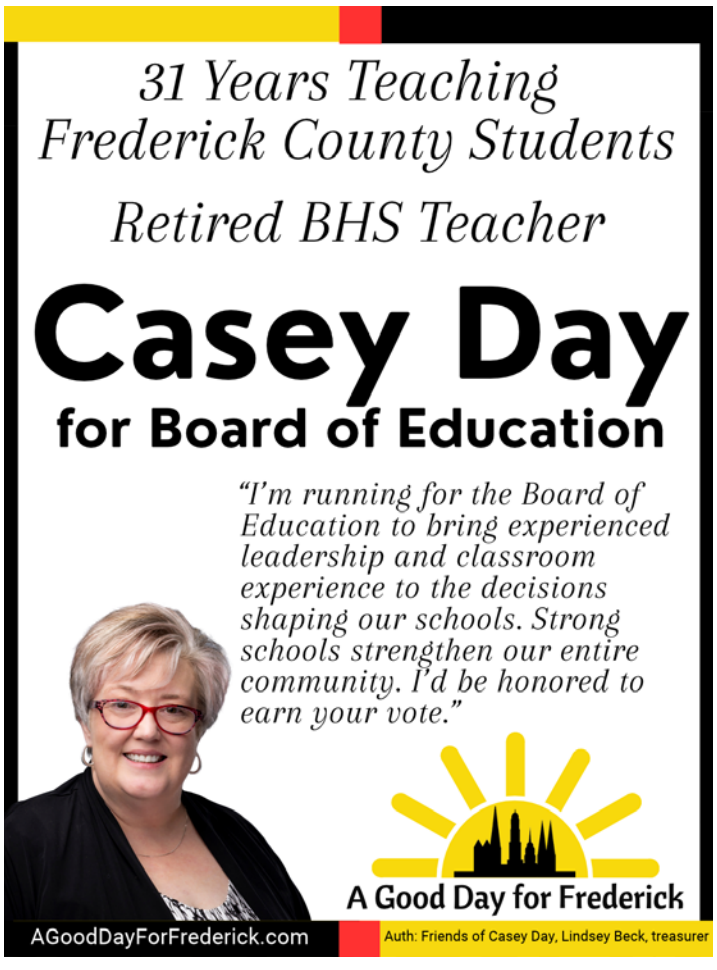
Linda Weddle and members of her family were at the unveiling and thanked all those who came out. Jenny Diaz, manager of the Brunswick Library, which looks out onto the park, spoke briefly about the importance of stories like Kim's to a community, saying "stories connect people."

COURTESY OF LINDA WEDDLE



Kim Weddle at age 3.

Richard Foote, Dan Roe and Rosanne Roe came to represent Brunswick Crossing's "Team Weddle," which has cared for the park for the past dozen years. Through the city's Adopt-A-Park program, volunteers have mulched planted areas, established a butterfly garden, planted trees, and helped maintain the grounds. ■



BRUNSWICK NEWS

Citizens Honored at Banquet

STEVEN ALLGAIER



L to R: FRONT ROW: Doris Barger, Brandon Bowens (grandson of Lillie Morris), Kimberly Miller (granddaughter of Frank Strakonsky, Jr.), Mary Lou Green (whose husband Gene was also honored), Bob Dozier, Angie Armstrong. BACK ROW: Police Chief Kevin Grunwell (representing former Chief Tommy Thompson), Dick Goodrich, Dan Roe, Roger Dawson, and Dan McLane (great-great grandson of William W. Wenner).

By WAYNE ALLGAIER

183 people gathered at the Brunswick Eagles Club on Sunday, Sept. 27, to honor 12 individuals who were selected as Brunswick's 2026 Distinguished Citizens, an honor conferred on those who have made significant contributions to the community. This is an annual tradition that was started 50 years ago. This year's Distinguished Citizens (or their representatives) are pictured here. ■

Jon Sands: A Familiar Face at Brunswick Post Office Retires

ELLIS BURRUSS



Jon Sands retires from the Post Office.

By ELLIS BURRUSS

Before joining the U.S. Postal Service as a rural carrier in Adamstown in October 2016, Jon Sands had his own business: Hard Surface Consulting.

He served on the NWFA (National Wood Flooring Association) — the committee that sets standards for the installation of wood floors. He also helped write installation instructions and training programs for four other flooring manufactures.

He was assigned to the Burkittsville Post Office in 2017 and then to Brunswick in the summer of 2018 where he became Acting Postmaster and then Supervisor in 2019.

In retirement, Jon and his wife Nancy are going to do some traveling and camping. Also known as "Mr. Fixit" he plans to spend time in his workshop repairing broken wood furniture. ■

Jefferson Ruritan Club
Country Breakfast & Butchering
Sat. Dec. 5, 2026; 7 am to 10:30 am
Adults $14, Children 6-10 yrs. $7; under 6 Free
Pancakes, Eggs, Biscuits, Sausage, Bacon, Fried Country Ham, Pudding, Hominy, Sausage Gravy, Coffee, Milk & Juice
Pick-up Meat orders Dec. 5th, 8 am to 12 noon.
4603B Lander Road Jefferson, MD 21755

Brunswick 50+ Community Center Happenings

By JEAN DOYLE

The Fall Session began the first week of October. Registration is still open. To register for activities with a fee visit the eStore at: https://frederickcountymd-gov.3dcart-stores.com and pay by credit card. To pay by check, made out to Frederick County Treasurer, drop off at Brunswick 50+ Community center, 12 East A 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.

Trips in November and early December

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

Saturday, Nov. 28 — Merry Tuba Christmas Concert. Kick off the holiday season with regional Tuba and Euphonium players performing Christman carols at the Weinberg Center in Frederick. 11:15 a.m. to approximately 2 p.m. Cost is canned food or a cash donation at the door. Meet at the Weinberg or $2 optional transportation from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, Nov. 13, at the estore or at your local Senior Center.

Wednesday, Dec. 2 — Maryland Double Decker Bus Excursion. Go on a private tour through downtown Frederick and enjoy the holiday lights. Note that the bus is not accessible. There is a large step to get on the bus and the stairs leading to the upper deck are steep. The tour is approximately 60 minutes, and there is no bathroom on the bus. 4:45 p.m. to approximately 7 p.m. $20 per person for upper deck seats (no roof) and $15 per person for lower deck (enclosed with windows) seats. Box supper is included to eat after the ride at the Frederick Senior Center. Leave from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, Nov. 20 at the estore or at your local Senior Center.

Tuesday, Dec. 8 — Winter Light Festival at Senecca Creek State Park. Take the 3.5 mile drive through Senecca Park featuring over 450 illuminated displays and beautifully lit trees. You will be staying on the buses along the route. 4:40 to approximately 8 p.m. Cost is $20 per person. Bring a snack for the ride. Leave from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, Nov. 20.

Monday, Dec.14 — Garden of Lights at Brookside Gardens. Garden of Lights is an outdoor light display enjoyed by walking through the one-half mile exhibit of twinkling lights and displays adorning the flowerbeds. Brookside Gardens is a 50-acre horticulture gem in Wheaton, Md. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. 4:15 to approximately 8:30 p.m. $25 per person. Hot drinks and light refreshment are available for purchase. Leave from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, Nov. 20 at the estore or at your local Senior Center.

Seniors in the Park

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

Special Events at the Brunswick 50+ Community Center

Tuesday, Nov. 3 — Blood Pressure Checks and Safety Presentations. Presented by Frederick County Fire and Rescue the first Tuesday of each month. This month's presentation is Cooking Safety. 11:00 a.m. Free, Drop in.

Thursday, Nov. 5 — Flu Vaccine Clinic. Health Department offers no cost flu vaccines. No appointments or insurance necessary. 1–3 p.m.

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

Thursday, Nov. 12—Monthly Dinner Dance at the Brunswick Eagles. 2–5 p.m. $20 per person. Paid reservation needed one week in advance. Call 301-834-8115.

Wednesday, Nov. 18 — Intake Clinic with Legal Aid. Complete an intake for a follow up appointment with an attorney from Legal Aid to address any questions about civil legal issues. Free, drop-in 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Wednesday, Nov. 18—Simple Wills. Come learn about simple wills with a presentation by Legal Aid. 1-1:30 p.m. Free, pre-register at 301-834-8115.

Tuesday, Nov. 24 — Thanksgiving Luncheon. Menu is fruit cocktail, turkey breast cutlet, gravy, bread stuffing, green beans, cranberry sauce, pie. Voluntary contribution for the meal is appreciated -- $6.49. Please reserve one week in advance at 301-834-8115.

Tuesday, Nov. 24 — Book Club Holiday Tea Party at Beans in the Belfrey. Enjoy a beautiful tea service. There will be a gift exchange and a book discussion of "March" by Geraldine Brooks. Hosted by the Brunswick Senior Center. Cost is $40 per person. Register by Monday, Nov. 23 at 301-834-8115.

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

November is National Caregiver Month. Many presentations and activities are planned. Go to wwwFrederickCountyMD.gov/DAI to see the offerings. ■

CITY OF BRUNSWICK PARKS AND RECREATION

CITY OF BRUNSWICK MARYLAND

94TH ANNUAL BRUNSWICK

VETERANS DAY PARADE

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 8, 2026



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED.
CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICA.

DOWNTOWN BRUNSWICK

OPENING CEREMONY: 1PM | PARADE STARTS: 2PM

WWW.BRUNSWICKMD.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS



BRUNSWICK NEWS

Potomac River Interiors is Closing

Liquidation of inventory starts Nov. 11

By DIANE ELLIS



DIANE ELLIS

Potomac River Interiors, a home goods and specialty gift store that opened in the renovated Newberry building in 2024, will close at the end of this year.

Owner Lisa Tumbarello said, "We're closing for several reasons, chief among them family, health, and new business opportunities."

The store at 30 W. Potomac Street will begin liquidating inventory on Nov. 11 with everything 15% off. Discounts will increase during the following weeks leading up to Christmas. Tumbarello suggests that customers "shop early for gifts" because inventory might not last.

"I LOVE retail," Tumbarello said in an email, "but for now, I need to step back and reevaluate my brand and where I'd like to take things creatively in the future. The brand 'Potomac River Interiors' is not going away -- we are only closing the brick-and-mortar shop. My true passion is in finding and selling vintage art and furniture. We'll be redoing our website in 2027 and moving the vintage pieces online."

Sunday, December 20, will be the last day to shop before Christmas. Tumbarello added, "I will likely be open on December 26th/27th for a "last call" 75% off of whatever is left and for pickup of big fixture pieces.

Store hours from Nov. 4 to Dec. 20 are Wednesday through Sunday, 10-5. On Friday, Nov. 27 they will stay open until 7 p.m. for Brunswick LIVE. On Saturday, Dec. 5, they will stay open until 7 p.m. for Hometown Holidays.

"I love Brunswick," Tumbarello said, "and am deeply saddened to close this chapter of my life and business. I want nothing but the best for this town. Thank you to everyone who has made purchases over the past 2.5 years; I am so grateful!"

For up-to-date information on her business, sign up for email at www.potomacriverinteriors.com or follow Instagram @Potomac_River_Interiors. ■

Fine Crafts Gallery Opens Downtown

By JEAN TOLEMAN


DIANE ELLIS

Gallery owner Jayme Marshall with fabric collages by Lee Foran.

Gilded Dragonfly Gallery has opened at 27 W. Potomac Street in Brunswick. The recently renovated space is now filled with jewelry, glass, pottery, woodcraft and fiber art.

Jayme Marshall, metalsmith, moved her studio from Burkittsville and is opening the new gallery to other local fine crafts artisans. Marshall works in fine and sterling silver, gemstones, and glass. She says her inspirations come from mythological imagery and symbolism incorporating flowing lines and delicate shapes.

The gallery had a light opening on the weekend of Railroad Days and a grand opening on October 24. "I have really felt welcomed by the local community," Marshall said. "People love walking through the studio and watching the work in progress, and I get to share ideas." The gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday with extended hours over the holidays.

Marshall has been creating jewelry for over 30 years, though for much of the time it was a hobby. While she majored in fine arts in college, after her daughter was born her interest veered toward teaching.

"I soon realized though, that teachers really never have a break," she said. She went back to school, majoring in behavioral health, and worked in local and state government in Florida. Then her family moved to Northern Virginia where she worked for the federal government in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, an agency that was closed down under the current administration. Luckily for her, she had taken the offered buyout before the April 1st firings occurred.

This rapid change in life turned her back toward her "hobby" which had gradually come to occupy much of her home. She then opened a work studio at 2 W. Main St. in Burkittsville, but as she became involved with the Valley Craft Network and people wanted to visit, she saw a need for a space more welcoming to the public.

Encouraged by the new gallery scene in downtown Brunswick, Marshall learned about 27 W. Potomac St. being for rent, which was located in the same block as Lockhouse Gallery and Messy Bee Studio. The space seemed just right. It has an amazingly high ceiling with the original ornate tin tiles and beautiful big windows that make it feel airy and light. Here she has space for a work studio and a gallery. To learn more, see gildeddragonflygallery.com. ■

Need Help Paying Heating or Energy Bills?

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Call

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to see if you qualify and to apply.

You do not need a Turn-Off Notice or to be off-service to apply.

Office of Home Energy Programs
Your Home Energy Partner

FREDERICK
HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

Readers' Poll: Mixed Feelings!

THERE'S STILL TIME TO WEIGH IN

What should we call them? There are almost 20 different kinds of Personal Electric Transportation, from e-bikes to seated scooters to hoverboards or kick scooters.

Let's call them PEVs

We can't call them PETs because that would cause more confusion. We are going to call them PEVs (Personal Electric Vehicles) which might distinguish them from electric cars.

We received a number of thoughtful responses to our poll on Personal Electric Vehicles (PEVs). See the letter to the Editor on page 10. Others ran the gamut from "let the kids have fun" to "ban them all". With such a wide spectrum of reactions, we decided to let the poll run another month.



JON TYSON / UNSPLASH

There's still time to give us your opinion!

If you haven't yet voiced your opinion, please go to the poll on our website, www.BrunsNews.com or scan this QR code to go directly to the poll. We'll have a full report next month. ■

BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

CALLS FOR SERVICE			
Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
1,660	13,854	1,946	15,392

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Maryland State Citations	38	325	40	309
Maryland State SEROS	1	27	5	56
Warning Citations	158	822	130	870
Parking Citations	22	203	77	369

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	1	1	1	4
Robbery	0	0	0	1
Assault	3	56	6	42
Breaking & Entering	0	6	0	2
Theft	1	29	7	36
Auto Theft	0	0	0	0
Adult Arrests	10	67	4	60
Juvenile Arrests	2	4	0	4

OTHER INCIDENTS				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	81	7	69
Emergency Evaluations Mentally Ill/Suicidal Persons	12	88	5	79
Overdoses	1	11	2	10

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)

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OPINION

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

More to Learn about Valley Link

Even though many people – including elected officials – have changed their opinions about data centers, the work is still going on and the infrastructure to power them is still being constructed.

That includes Valley Link, the 260 miles of 765 Kilovolt (kV) power line from the Amos coal-burning power plant in Winfield, W. Va. to supply electricity to data centers in Loudoun County, Va. and Frederick County, Md.

The project is expected to cost 1.9 billion dollars (that's $1,900,000,000.00), part of which is appearing on your monthly electric bill. The Brunswick News-Journal published an article on this in our August edition (www.brunsnews.com/2026-issues).

On Thursday, Nov. 19, Valley Link will hold another open house at the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company to provide details about the project including updated potential routes. There will be a similar event the previous Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Lovettsville Game Protective Association building. Both events will be from 4–7 p.m.

The decision about this power line project was made several years ago and — as noted — even though many people have learned more about the impacts of data centers and have come to oppose them, projects that were previously decided on are continuing to progress.

Visit the open house, learn about the project and how it will affect our community.

After all, you will be footing the bill. ■

How to send a Letter to the Editor

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



LETTERS

A schedule for blocked crossings should be available

I am writing this today as a Brunswick citizen of over 37 years. I recently had family visit from California and I suggested the campground as a wonderful place to stay to take advantage of the cabins.

After making the reservation I read the article about trains blocking access to the campground so that people staying there might not be able to pass through into town to take advantage of our restaurants and visiting with me. The most disturbing was that there was no schedule for when these trains will block the crossing into Town.

My family needed to catch a train out of Baltimore on Sunday and we needed to know that a train would not be blocking them in. Luckily after persistence the campground did refund their deposit and they booked someplace else.

The idea of having a schedule seems to be a wonderful compromise between the railroad and the city until the blockage is stopped.

— Jan Faulkner, Brunswick

How do we build streets that work for everyone?

I'd like to push back on the framing of the Readers' Poll from last issue. Before we reach for more local ordinances, I think we should ask a different question: how do we build streets that work for everyone?

The prompt raised a scary image — a senior knocked over by a kid on a scooter going 20 mph. But speed isn't unique to motors. A regular bike can easily hit 20 mph on some of Brunswick's hills. Honestly, I worry more about cars going 40 mph. The real issue isn't the device. It's that our streets don't give bikes or scooters anywhere safe to be that isn't in the path of a car or a pedestrian.

Brunswick is under four square miles. It's a town built for walking and biking, not one where every trip needs a car. The 2023 Master Plan already gets this: Goal 5 calls for destinations "accessible by multiple modes of transportation, including car trips and transit, bike routes, and walking paths that are efficient, safe, and well-maintained," and Goal 4 calls for trails and bike routes that "promote an active lifestyle for residents of all abilities." E-bikes and scooters are exactly the kind of mobility this plan wants to encourage.

And this vision is for everyone. Think about what it would mean for kids to be able to bike to school, the library, or a friend's house without needing a parent to drive them. It gets them outside and moving instead of stuck on a screen. I would love to know my own sons could safely bike across town on their own, without having to dodge cars on a shoulder or pedestrians on a sidewalk.

If there are genuine safety laws worth adopting, like helmet requirements for minors, that's a reasonable, narrow conversation. But that's a far cry from broad new restrictions on how and where people can ride, and it's not actually the thing that would make our streets safer.

What would help is protected bike lanes. If Brunswick is serious about the goals in the master plan, that's where the energy should go — not writing new rules for e-bikes, but finally building the infrastructure that lets kids, commuters, and recreational riders share the road safely.

— Shannon Sheridan, Rosemont

Protecting Brunswick's water, character, and seat at the table

Brunswick's unique community spirit shined during Railroad Days. Our town cherishes a heritage built on grit, labor, and mutual respect, but southwestern Frederick County now stands at a decisive crossroads. The choices we make in Annapolis regarding regional growth, energy demand, and municipal support will shape Brunswick for the next 50 years.

After 20 years in the U.S. Army repairing Apache helicopters in Afghanistan and leading medical teams, I chose Brunswick as my permanent home. Military service taught me servant leadership: listening carefully, doing the unglamorous groundwork, and delivering measurable results for everyone, regardless of party affiliation.

Currently, District 4's exclusively minority-caucus delegation leaves our community without a seat at the primary negotiating table under Maryland's Democratic supermajority. Protesting legislation after majority leaders draft it will not protect our water, fix our roads, or fund our classrooms. Electing a pragmatic, independent voice into the governing majority ensures our district directly shapes state policy and secures vital capital investments.

Our most urgent fight centers on regional data center expansion. If multinational tech conglomerates want to operate here, they must be good neighbors. We cannot allow speculative industrial developments to overdraw our local aquifers or disrupt the Potomac River's ecology. Maryland must mandate independent hydrological assessments, water-free closed-loop cooling, and developer-funded renewable microgrids so household ratepayers never subsidize corporate power bills.

Responsible growth also requires dedicated state infrastructure investments to upgrade water networks, repave roads, and support volunteer first responders. The state must also fully fund its share of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future so our public schools thrive without overburdening local property taxpayers.

Decisions are made by those who show up. Rather than letting outside corporate developers dictate our terms, we must make our voices heard in Annapolis. This November, I respectfully ask for your partnership, your active participation, and your vote.

— Alleria Stanley, Brunswick

Alleria Stanley is a Democrat running for the Maryland House of Delegates, District 4.

FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

As November begins, we look forward to spending time with friends, family and neighbors during the holiday season. This month we also honor the men and women who have served our nation on Veterans Day, celebrated on Nov. 11.

The Brunswick Veterans Day Parade remains one of the oldest and largest Veterans Day parades in the country and is one of Frederick County's most cherished traditions. This special event brings together residents from Frederick County and beyond to recognize and celebrate the dedication and sacrifice of our service members and veterans.

I encourage everyone to attend this year's parade on Sunday, Nov. 8, to honor our veterans and support our community. The opening ceremony starts at 1 p.m., and the parade begins at 2 p.m.

Our veterans' actions remind us of what we can accomplish collectively. Working together, we can build a strong, vibrant and welcoming community for all.

County program pays landowners to grow new forests

Frederick County's reforestation program, Creek ReLeaf, is accepting applications until Dec. 31. County landowners with two or more acres of open or underused land may be able to turn that land into permanent forest while receiving up to $9,000 per acre and five years of professional maintenance at no cost.

Since 2017, the Creek ReLeaf program has helped plant more than 650 acres of native trees across Frederick County.

The program works with eligible landowners to establish permanent forests. The County pays for trees, coordinates the planting, and cares for the young forest during its critical first five years. Landowners retain ownership of their property and may continue to use it.

If you are interested in the program, I encourage you to attend an open house to meet County staff and learn more. The open houses will be:

- **Thursday, Nov. 5, 5:30–7:30 p.m.** at the Thurmont Regional Library, 76 East Moser Road, Thurmont
- **Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.** at the University of Maryland Extension Services building, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick
- **Tuesday, Dec. 8, 5:30–7:30 p.m.** at the Walkersville Library, 2 South Glade Road, Walkersville

You can learn more and apply at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/CreekReLeaf.

Farm2Food program



County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

The Office of Agriculture is bringing the Farm2Food Accelerator Program to Frederick County in January 2027. The 12-week program, presented by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, will help farmers and food businesses develop and expand value-added food and beverage products made with locally sourced agricultural ingredients.

Farm2Food will give local farmers the tools, knowledge and connections they need to turn great ideas into successful products. By creating more opportunities for value-added agriculture, we are strengthening farm businesses and supporting the future of agriculture.

Farm2Food connects participants with food industry experts from across the country while providing practical training on product development, food safety, marketing, pricing and sales. Frederick County will host Farm2Food's first county-based cohort, giving participants access to national expertise while building connections with other local agricultural businesses.

Learn more about the program online at www.F2FAccelerator.org.

50+ Community Centers expand lunch services

Frederick County 50+ Community Centers are now serving meals two days every week. These lunches give older adults a nutritious meal where they can meet friends and stay connected, while promoting good health and continued independence.

Lunches are offered at the Brunswick, Emmitsburg, Frederick, and Urbana 50+ Community Centers. Adults aged 60 and older, spouses, caregivers, and dependent disabled adult children are eligible to participate. A voluntary contribution of $6 is accepted but not required.

Reservations should be made at least three business days in advance. Same-day reservations are allowed if space is available. For questions or to make a reservation, call the center where you want to attend.

LUNCH SCHEDULE:

- **Brunswick Center:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12 East A St., 301-834-8115.
- **Emmitsburg Center:** Mondays and Thursdays, 300 South Seton Ave, 301-600-6350.
- **Frederick Center:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1440 Taney Ave., 301-600-3525.
- **Urbana Center:** Mondays and Thursdays, 9020 Amelung St., 301-600-7020. ■

We need a reporter to cover local schools!

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

Join us! Volunteer and work at your own pace.

Email us: Editor@BrunsNews.com if interested.



Smoketown BREWING Smoketown BREWING Smoketown BREWING Smoketown BREWING Smoketown BREWING

Fall / Winter Upstairs

The Few

Nov 14th

Hyper local rock/dance band at the Marathon after-party

tickets & info

Doc Marten & the Flannels

Nov 27th

Black Hole Friday with the regions best grunge band

Winter Art Market

Dec 5th

Brunswick Arts Council's annual curated art market

Brunswick's own concert venue UP STAIRS @ Smoketown

223 W Potomac Street, Brunswick, MD www.UpstairsAtSmoketown.com

FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

Is This the Year You Take the River Plunge?

Freezin for a Reason is coming

SHIRLEY WARD



The annual Potomac River plunge is on New Years Day and benefits local charitable organizations.

By LEE ZUMBACH

The 21st annual Freezin for a Reason event happens on New Years Day 2027. The event gives people a fun way to provide support for local charitable organizations. Now is the time to start getting pledges.

Three local organizations benefit from this event. The **Brunswick Area Food Bank** helps families who are suffering from the high cost of groceries. **BEACON** helps when people can't afford to pay their rent or utility bills or have a family emergency. The **Frederick County Special Olympics** supports youth and adults with intellectual challenges by providing a healthy sports program. All funds donated stay here in Frederick County and the Brunswick area to help people in greatest need.

You can help. Make a pledge to support a person going into the river or you yourself can collect pledges and take the plunge. The river plunge takes place at the Brunswick Family Campground, 1 mile east of Brunswick on the C & O Canal. The actual plunge is at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 1, 2027.

If you choose to participate in the plunge, a pledge sheet can be found at BARCMD.com or call event director, Lee Zumbach at 301-834-8045. If you make or collect pledges in excess of $40 and pre-register by Dec. 10, you will get a fun Freezin T-Shirt. Light packaged snacks and drinks will be provided. A changing area will be set up for use after the plunge. You can also pre-register by e-mail zum50@hotmail.com. ■

BHS Students of the Month: September 2026

CARLEE POOLE



Left to right: Principal Eric Schwarzenegger, Allen Lopez Nataren, Sophia Fisher, Anna Barron, Sam Berkeym, Logan Smith, Wyatt Guyton, Callie-Kendall Humphries, Tessa Warner, Emma Rivero

Jefferson Office of Frederick Primary Care to Reopen

After closing its Jefferson office at the end of August, Frederick Primary Care Associates recently announced that "we have heard your feedback" and are reopening the Jefferson office on Nov. 2.

The Jefferson facility is located at 4014 Mountville Road. Appointment scheduling and questions about care should still be directed to the main office in Brunswick at 301-834-7188 or visit the FPCA patient portal to schedule online.

FPCA announced that they will be adding two new providers in the beginning of 2027. ■

Rosemont Audit Shows Surplus

The Village of Rosemont ended fiscal 2026 with a surplus of almost $118,000, according to an audit submitted to the village commission on Oct. 19.

The surplus, due to an unexpected increase in shared income taxes from the state of Maryland, resulted in a 29 percent increase in the village's fund balance for the fiscal year ended June 30, to $531,000, the audit showed.

During the fiscal year, the village took in revenues of $187,000 and spent $69,000.

The agenda for the next commission meeting, scheduled for March 22, will include presentation of the burgess's proposed budget for fiscal 2028 and nominations for the election of a burgess and four commissioners on June 1.

Rosemont is an independent municipality of about 270 residents located just north of Brunswick. ■



STORIES FROM A MOUNTAIN CEMETERY:

The Strange Case of Martha Rose

By AARON LENNOX

A week-long heat wave had just broken as Albert Lucas made his way through the woods atop South Mountain near the War Correspondents Arch at Gapland, just outside Burkittsville. The cool mountain air should have been a welcome relief, yet Albert hardly noticed. He had been searching in the late-summer heat for several days, looking for his brother-in-law, Navy veteran Daniel Rose.

The year was 1939. Daniel, a Black man about 50 years old, had recently returned from the Pacific coast, where he had reportedly spent several years serving in the Navy. He hadn't been home long before he abruptly disappeared. Daniel had been missing for nearly two weeks, and while he had sometimes left the community for days at a time, this time seemed different. When Daniel had left before, he always stopped at Albert's house to say goodbye to Albert and his wife Charlotte, Daniel's sister. This time he said goodbye to no one. He simply vanished.

As Albert made his way through the lonely woods that afternoon, something caught his attention. Buzzards were circling above an isolated spot in the trees. He hurried toward them and soon discovered what had drawn them there. The birds had begun tearing into a shallow grave. It was barely three inches deep, covered with dirt, rocks and bushes that were apparently piled over it in an attempt to hide what was underneath. As he moved closer, Albert could see the partly decomposed body of his dear friend and brother-in-law Daniel Rose.

The sheriff's office was notified, and soon officers were making their way up the mountain. The "two terrible cuts" on the back of Daniel's head led investigators to believe he had been struck with an axe. Even more disturbing, they found a chain with a hook on the end nearby. It appeared Daniel had been dragged through the woods before being buried. The skin had been torn from his back and arms.

The shallow grave was about a mile and a half north of Burkittsville near the top of the mountain. Authorities believed Daniel had probably been killed or badly injured somewhere closer to home, then dragged into the mountains and buried. Daniel's wife, Martha Rose, was taken in for questioning. She claimed she had no idea where her husband was, other than confirming he had been missing since August 31.

No stranger to the justice system

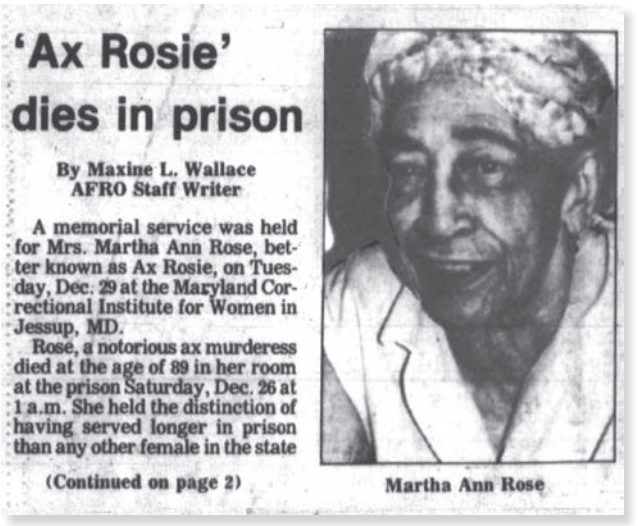
Martha Rose wasn't a stranger to the Maryland justice system. In fact, when authorities first contacted her, they recognized her immediately. Six years earlier, Martha (then known by her maiden name Martha Brown) had been living with Charles E. Lucas, a 54-year-old Burkittsville man for whom she kept house. In May 1933, Lucas was attacked with a hatchet and suffered wounds serious enough to send him to the hospital, where he died of his injuries. Martha was indicted for murder. The jury ultimately found her guilty of manslaughter. She was sentenced to seven years in the Maryland penitentiary, served five, and was released on parole in 1938.

It's impossible to overlook the unsettling connection between these two cases. Charles E. Lucas was Albert's brother. Albert's wife, Charlotte, was Daniel Rose's sister. Six years earlier, Martha had taken the life of Albert's brother. Now, less than a year after she walked out of prison, she was again at the center of a killing involving Albert's family. This time, it was the brother of Albert's wife who lay in that shallow grave on South Mountain.

Martha eventually confessed. She took investigators to the mountain and identified the axe she had used. According to her account, Daniel had been cutting down a locust tree when she struck him in the head. She said the body was left where it fell until the following day, when she and two young men returned. They dragged Daniel through the woods with a chain, dug a shallow grave with a pick and shovel, and buried him. Martha also admitted taking $1.37 from her husband's pockets.

She implicated Mark H. Johnson and Whitfield O. Johnson in the disposal of the body. Mark later admitted helping bury Daniel, though he denied having any part in the killing. The two young men eventually faced their own legal troubles over the case.

As for motive, authorities came up with nothing that made sense. Newspapers reported that investigators suspected marital problems and possibly affairs, but there was never a clear explanation for why Martha killed her husband. Whatever the reason, she was now facing her second murder indictment in seven years. Martha pleaded not guilty.


'Ax Rosie' dies in prison

By Maxine L. Wallace
AFRO Staff Writer

A memorial service was held for Mrs. Martha Ann Rose, better known as Ax Rosie, on Tuesday, Dec. 29 at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women in Jessup, MD.

Rose, a notorious ax murderess died at the age of 89 in her room at the prison Saturday, Dec. 26 at 1 a.m. She held the distinction of having served longer in prison than any other female in the state

(Continued on page 2)

Martha Ann Rose

Sentenced to hang

The trial eventually ended with a conviction for first-degree murder, and Martha Rose was sentenced to hang. Her attorney, E. Austin James, appealed the case, arguing, among other things, that Martha's constitutional rights had been violated because she waived a jury trial and allowed the case to be decided by the court. The challenge failed, and the death sentence was upheld.

Martha was sent to the state penitentiary in Baltimore, becoming the first woman ever to occupy a cell on Maryland's death row. Her execution was scheduled for May 17, 1940.

But while Martha sat in the death house waiting to find out if she would actually be led to the gallows, she reportedly joked and laughed constantly, and her attorney said she seemed oblivious to the fate awaiting her, treating the place more like a hotel where she was spending a vacation.

Martha's biggest concern during this time wasn't about the gallows, but about the quality of crochet needles. Prison rules prohibited her from having steel needles because of their possible use in a suicide attempt. She complained the bone needles she was given were too coarse for the fine work she wanted to do.

Artistic genius

Walter Quenstedt, the former warden of the House of Correction where Martha had served her earlier sentence, described her as a highly emotional "artistic genius." Her exquisite crochet work had reportedly been exhibited at the Pratt Library and in stores in New York and Baltimore. Quenstedt believed Martha suffered from recurrent "homicidal mania."

It is difficult to reconcile these two sides of Martha Rose. The same hands capable of creating delicate beauty were also capable of horrific and fatal brutality. Somewhere between these two extremes was a woman the people around her struggled to understand.

Her attorney argued she was mentally irresponsible, and ministers, relatives and delegations from the Black community joined the fight to save her life. Petitions were presented to Governor Herbert O'Conor asking that her sentence be commuted. The governor initially refused.

A mental examination by the State Commissioner of Mental Hygiene found Martha sane, and O'Conor signed a death warrant for her execution. But Martha's attorney kept fighting. A second mental examination was ordered, this time by two more psychiatrists. Their conclusion changed the course of Martha Rose's life.

They described her as a "constitutional psychopath" and said she was unable to control her impulses. Governor O'Conor commuted Martha's death sentence to life imprisonment, describing her as "a dangerous individual" and a menace when at liberty. He said psychiatrists believed she could not control her impulses and would never improve enough to be safely released.

After eight months in the death house, Martha was transferred to the House of Correction where she spent nearly half a century working as a seamstress in the prison. At age 89, she died of cervical cancer on December 26, 1987, at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup. She is buried at Epiphany Episcopal Church in Odenton.

Mountain cemetery holds the truth

Charles Lucas and Daniel Rose were laid to rest almost side by side at Ceres Bethel A.M.E. Cemetery, all but a stone's throw from where Daniel's body was found 87 years ago on September 12, 1939, with only the grave of Allen Gross between them. Allen died on September 11, 1926, thirteen years before the events that would ultimately bring Charles and Daniel to rest on either side of him.

I don't yet know whether Allen Gross was related to either the Lucas or Rose families. But it's hard not to notice the strange way these three graves came together, or the coincidence of Allen's September 11 death date with the events that would unfold around Daniel thirteen years later.

Ceres Bethel A.M.E. Church has been abandoned for decades. Its doors have long since closed, its congregation is gone, and the old building has slowly weathered away on the mountainside. But around it the cemetery continues on, with new graves appearing among those that have endured more than a century of Maryland winters. Charles Lucas and Daniel Rose are part of that landscape now, along with countless others whose stories have faded with time.

For years, this lonely mountain cemetery held the truth of what happened to these men and the strange story of the woman responsible for their deaths, the "artistic genius" Martha Rose. ■

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LOCAL NEWS

Two Classic Diners

JEAN TOLEMAN



Penny's Diner at 620 Souder Road in Brunswick is open 24/7.

By JEAN TOLEMAN

Diners are American icons. Originally housed in converted railroad dining cars, the buildings were later prefabricated, often with stainless steel exteriors. Frequently located in cities near factories, they provided manual laborers with a good place for lunch.

Classic diners have a casual atmosphere offering American cuisine in large portions. Most have a counter where guests can sit on stools and watch the cook, thick coffee cups with continuous refills and extended hours. The most important pieces of equipment? The coffee pot and the grill.

Two restaurants in our area call themselves diners.

The Lovettsville Diner

The Lovettsville Diner, owned by daughter and mother Shannon and Betty McDavid, has been in business for five years. The building at 2 N. Berlin Pike in Lovettsville was the home of Bonnie's Restaurant for over 30 years. The diner offers American cuisine, thick coffee cups and large portions. Breakfast is served all day with sausage and gravy, made in house, always available.

Betty and Shannon McDavid have been in the restaurant business for over 40 and 24 years, respectively. After the COVID pandemic, Betty was looking for something new. Bonnie's was closing, and Betty approached Fred and Ann George, owners of the building, about renting it, but they had already leased it to someone else. That business was short lived, however, and with the Georges' help, the McDavids became the new faces in town. Their place has a true local diner vibe.

"We have so many weekly patrons," Shannon said. "On Wednesdays we get three groups that come in every week."

Betty said of the regulars, "If we don't know their names, we know what they order."

The staff includes two cooks, Brian and AJ, each with over 30 years of experience. The McDavids hire high school kids on weekends to help and have been working with a culinary expert to update their menu.

What do people like the most? "The kids love our pancakes, especially when we add chocolate chips," Betty said. "And our sausage and gravy is a big seller and so are our grits."

The diner sells no alcohol, and no TV pulls guests' attention away from the food and friendly atmosphere. Because it's the only place in town that serves breakfast, a lot of tourists come in, especially on the weekends when people are heading over to Brunswick to enjoy the C&O Canal and the river.

Penny's Diner

Penny's Diner on Souder Road in Brunswick has the look of a stainless steel railroad car. This is appropriate as the diner and neighboring Travel Lodge motel are associated with the railroad. Federal law requires railroad companies to provide workers with places to get food and lodging near their worksites. The motel reserves 20 of its 25 rooms for the railroad, and Penny's is open 24/7 in true diner style.

Penny's is a chain with 28 locations across 15 states. Only two are in the mid-Atlantic, in Brunswick and in Low Moore, Virginia.

The Brunswick Penny's maintains a friendly atmosphere with long-term staff members who know their customers. Dawn Penny (she says she was destined to work there) manages the diner. She seems able to multitask cheerfully and with ease.

This is the place to come for a true diner experience. Sit in a booth or at the counter as the cook prepares your order on the big flat top grill. Many menu items are made in house, including the bread, meatloaf, chili and burgers, using as many fresh ingredients as possible. A popular menu item is the Breakfast Classic which includes eggs, choice of meat, hash browns and toast or pancakes.

A frequent customer, Bill, said he eats breakfast at Penny's about four days a week. When asked why, he said, "It's obvious — it's the aroma, the food's good and they are like family."

Want to try a diner Thanksgiving? The Lovettsville Diner will host its Annual Friends and Family Thanksgiving meal Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (or whenever they sell out). You can come in to eat or order carry-out; call the diner at 540-822-5285. Penny's will prepare a special Thanksgiving meal to order in individual or family sizes; call 240-772-9099. ■

Boy Scouts Selling Wreaths and Collecting Food

By ANNE ZUMBACH

Fall is a busy time for the Brunswick Boy Scout Troop 277. Two of the scouts are working on Eagle Projects—one at the Frederick County 4H Center and one at Kirkwood Park in Hancock.

Holiday greenery orders

As a fundraiser, the scouts are taking orders for holiday greenery—wreaths, sprays and centerpieces, as well as White House ornaments. Items will be delivered just after Thanksgiving. To order, email zum50@hotmail.com (put "Scouts" in the subject line).

Court of Honor

The troop had their fall Court of Honor in October. Six boys earned 29 merit badges since June; they were: James Best, Sebastiaan Burke, Nicholas Cronkite, Kyle McGann, Hutch Nerheim, and Julian O'Toole. In addition, three boys advanced a rank.

The troop's newest member, Henry Cowan, earned the Scout rank. Sebastiaan Burke earned Tenderfoot and Julian O'Toole earned First Class. Each boy was presented a badge to wear on their uniform and they in turn presented a rank pin to their parent.

Food drive

The troop is planning a food drive on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 11–3 p.m. at the Weis Shopping Center. All food collected will be donated to the Brunswick Food Bank. The troop accepts non-perishable foods of all kinds — peanut butter, cereal, mac-n-cheese, instant foods, and more.

Other activities

The scouts had a games table at Railroad Days. While little money was raised, the scouts had fun and worked on their communication skills with festival visitors.

Recently the boys had a weekend campout in Hancock. They made the menus, cooked the food and slept in tents they pitched. It rained the first night and the temperature dropped to the low 30s the second night, but they had fun.

Trunk or Treat was another activity the troop participated in. After decorating the trunk of a car, the scouts handed out lollipops and stickers to over 700 kids.

The scouts will be marching in the upcoming Brunswick Veteran's Day Parade on Nov. 8 and they will be helping at the aid station in Weverton for the JFK 50 Miler.

Troop 277 is open to boys 11 to 18 years and offers not only outdoor experiences but also opportunities to develop leadership and communication skills. For more information go to BeAScout.org or email zum50@hotmail.com (put "Scouts" in the subject line). ■

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Lovettsville Town News

By ABBIE RICKETTS

Upcoming Events

Lovettsville Veterans Day Ceremony
Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m.
Lovettsville Veterans Memorial, 1 Town Square

15th Annual Catoctin Holiday Art Tour
Nov. 14 & 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
20 artists at 9 studios with works in glass, wood, jewelry, fiber, metalwork, painting, pottery, photography, sculpture and more
https://catoctinart.com/

Lovettsville Wintertainment-fest & Tree Lighting Ceremony
Friday, Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m.

Lovettsville Cocoa Crawl
Saturday, Dec. 5, 12 p.m.

Lovettsville Elections on Nov. 3

Polling Locations
West — Lovettsville Community Center, 57 E. Broad Way
East — Lovettsville Elementary School, 49 S. Loudoun St.

Candidates for Lovettsville Mayor
Christina Grace
Christopher Hornbaker (incumbent)

Candidates for Lovettsville Town Council (3 seats open)
Robert R. Hill Jr.
Megan E. Cox
Jared T. McCrory
Paul Richard Pico

For more information about Loudoun County elections visit www.loudoun.gov/200/Catoctin-District

Town Calendar

Tuesday, Nov. 3
Election Day/administrative offices closed

Wednesday, Nov. 11
Town administrative offices closed

Thursday, Nov. 12
Town Council open forum, 5–6 p.m
Town Council Chambers
6 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

Thursday, Nov. 12
Town Council meeting
6:30–10 p.m.
Town Council Chambers
6 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

Wednesday, Nov. 25
Town administrative offices closing at noon

Thursday, Nov. 26
Town administrative offices closed

Friday, Nov. 27
Town administrative offices closed

Valley Link Valley North Project

Open House meeting at the Lovettsville Game Protective Association on Nov. 12 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Lovettsville Mayor Christopher Hornbaker stated in the Lovettsville Weekly newsletter: "The Town of Lovettsville met with Loudoun County staff and Valley Link representatives on Monday, October 12th to review the revised study segments. As we stated during this meeting, how the proposed lines are installed is as important as where they are installed. We join in the sentiment of our colleagues in Loudoun and neighboring counties — that the Valley Link North team must work with PJM to rethink how these lines will be installed if they are to truly listen to stakeholders and mitigate impacts to our community. The Town of Lovettsville and the Coalition of Loudoun Towns (COLT) will continue to actively engage in the effort to make alternatives such as underground HVDC a reality. We request that anyone that gets a letter, showed up at the last open house, or is interested in protecting Western Loudoun County do the same."

Lovettsville Historical Society Lecture Series

Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m.

"New Discoveries on the Civil War Winter Encampment"
with Eric Hillebrand

St. James United Church of Christ
10 East Broad Way
Lovettsville

Lovettsville

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Our True National Bird

By JEAN TOLEMAN



Benjamin Franklin did not really want the turkey to be the national bird. In a letter to his daughter, he called the turkey "a respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America ... He is besides, a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage." His thoughts on the Eagle: "a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly. . . [he] is too lazy to fish for himself."

Many historians think Franklin was joking when he wrote that, since he was on the committee that came up with the national seal, but this committee had neither turkey nor eagle on the proposed seal. It wasn't until 1782 that William Barton, a Philadelphia lawyer, suggested an eagle be on the seal, and thus the eagle became our national bird.

The most popular bird

While not the "national bird," the turkey is a very popular bird this time of year. Around 87% of Americans eat turkey with their Thanksgiving meal, according to a 2025 survey by the National Turkey Federation. Was turkey part of the first Thanksgiving meals? Probably not. Being in Plymouth, and sharing the meal with the Wampanoag people, records indicate the Pilgrims ate venison, fish and shellfish, corn and vegetables. The fowl that were consumed were ducks or waterfowl.

By 1789, when George Washington declared a one-time National Day of Thanks, turkey was part of many people's diets. It is estimated that more than 10 million wild turkeys roamed the country before European settlement, but by 1789 they were almost extinct, according to Elan Abrell, a cultural anthropologist.

Like many of our traditions, it wasn't until access to books and magazines became more common that the turkey became the staple and symbol of the Thanksgiving meal. Sarah Josephs Hale, a writer and editor in the mid-19th century, became known as "the mother of Thanksgiving."

She wrote a book, Northwood, that had an entire chapter on how, as a child, she had celebrated Thanksgiving in New England. Here she made turkey the symbolic feature of the Thanksgiving meal. She was also editor of the popular "Godey's Lady's Book" and used it as a platform to promote a national Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanksgiving becomes a national holiday

By 1854, over 30 states and U.S. territories celebrated Thanksgiving. President Abraham Lincoln made it an official national holiday in 1863, a time during the Civil War when it was questionable whether the nation would hold together.

Like Coca Cola's Santa Claus, Hale's Turkey continues to influence our behavior. The USDA estimates that more than 46 million turkeys will be consumed this Thanksgiving Day. Whether you are one of the people roasting the beautiful bird or have another holiday meal tradition, give generous thanks to the turkey. If not the "national bird," it is definitely the most popular bird. ■

Holiday Food Safety

By CHRISTINA FRITZ



JASON BRISCOE / UNSPLASH

This holiday season, food safety should be top of mind as we gather with family and friends to enjoy our favorite dishes. From preparation through serving, food safety is essential to help keep the celebration enjoyable and prevent foodborne illness.

Start with a Clean Kitchen

It is good practice to wash your hands with soap and water before cooking and after handling raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs to remove any potentially harmful bacteria. Similarly, clean countertops and any food preparation surfaces before, during and after preparing food to ensure cleanliness.

Keep Food Separate

Raw foods must be cooked prior to consumption. Ready to eat foods do not need to be cooked to be safe to consume. Use separate cutting boards, utensils and serving dishes for raw and ready to eat foods to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. Rinse fruits and vegetables with water before eating or using in a recipe. Raw meats do not need to be rinsed under water before cooking.

Use a Food Thermometer

A food thermometer takes the guesswork out of determining whether raw food is fully cooked and safe to consume. Check the internal temperature in the thickest part, not touching bone. All portions must reach the recommended temperature: turkey and other poultry, 165°F; ground beef and pork, 160°F; ham cooked from raw, 145°F; pork chops and roasts, 145°F; beef steaks and roasts, 145°F.

Serve Food Safely

Provide a separate utensil for each dish. Add spoons for dips and spreads; use tongs for charcuterie and meats. Keep napkins and plates readily available. Transfer chips and pretzels from large bags into serving bowls, offering pre-portioned appetizers or desserts when practical, and pre-slicing meats to make serving easier.

The 2 Hour Rule

Refrigerate perishable foods within two hours of setting them out because bacteria can multiply quickly when food remains at room temperature for longer periods. If food is to be left out, keep hot foods above 140°F using a slow cooker or a chafing dish with Sterno. Keep cold foods below 40°F by placing serving dishes over bowls of ice or using smaller dishes that can be replaced often. When in doubt, throw it out.

Accommodate Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

Clearly labelling foods with common allergens may help guests with food allergies or dietary restrictions feel more comfortable. Let guests with allergies serve themselves first to reduce the potential of cross-contact of foods. Allergen-free foods and those that accommodate a specific dietary requirement should always be on separate platters and have their own utensils. For example, do not place gluten-free cookies on the same platter as cookies that contain gluten.

With some preparation and attention to cleanliness, internal temperature of food, and serving practices, you can help prevent foodborne illness while keeping the focus on good food and company.

For holiday recipe inspiration, visit weismarkets.com/recipes. ■

Christina Fritz, MS, RDN, LDN is Retail Dietitian at Weis Markets in Brunswick.

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GARDENS

In Praise of Ugly Coats and Frumpy Hats

By MARIANNE WILLBURN



RYAN ZECK / UNSPLASH

It's November and the annual undressing of the trees is at an end in my part of the world. With the exception of a few late season dazzlers here and there, naked bark is now what's 'in' for the season.

Though many in the Northern hemisphere will turn their heads from this sight and spend the next few months muttering under their breaths in various languages, there is much for the gardener to experience out there. But you won't appreciate it unless you are warm.

It is simply impossible to reflect upon the serenity of a quiet pond or the fragile resilience of a snowdrop when you are grinding your teeth in desperation. If you are serious about accompanying your garden throughout the winter, get serious about the clothes you need. This means all of the ugly, bulky items that your mother made you wear when she could still hold you down and dress you.

And I do mean, hold you down, because those who hit their tween and teen years in the last two decades of an increasingly indoor life have rarely been trained to deal with cold with warm clothes. Younger gardeners are thus particularly disadvantaged in adulthood.

When you wait for the bus in a heated car, and run into a school that forgot what recess was, only to return to a neighborhood where the house with the fastest wifi is the best place to hang, a few minutes of gritting one's teeth between destinations sporting 'autumn casual' is how you deal with winter — not with a brother's warm hand-me-down coat or a hair-flattening woolen hat. In adulthood it instinctively makes sense to avoid those moments, but you'll be missing out on so much.

Earmuffs, flannelled jeans, long underwear and thick zippered vests under thicker coats should top your list of necessities, and the thrift stores are filled with options if money is tight (says this lifetime-thrifter).

Hats are mandatory and should never be thin enough to accommodate 45-minute hairstyles. And prepare yourself to gain two inches around body parts that don't need to gain two inches.

By all means, take advantage of the many new fabrics out there that make scratchy sweaters and sweaty socks a thing of the past, but don't kid yourself into thinking you're going to be beautiful and warm.

Sure, there are thousands of Instagram influencers daintily experiencing winter in matching knit tights and sweater vests with turned up collars, but if they actually go hiking in that get-up in January, you'll be stepping over their stiff pretty carcasses on the trail.

Warming outerwear is transformative. It stops us from miserably looking inward and pulls our chins up and our eyes out. Suddenly we see the silver bellies of Canadian geese flying majestically towards some poor landscaper's pond. Now we notice how the winter light catches the ghostly bark of the sycamore, and why we need to cut it down before it flattens the garage in a windstorm.

We notice the birds more, and that the bees died over Christmas. That there are buds forming on the hellebores and buds freezing off the camellias. In short, we notice life. Apart from the bees.

Life is different in the winter. It's quiet, sometimes camouflaged, and always surprising. Winter skies sport some of the best and brightest cloud formations of the year. With the loss of leaves, new vistas open up along favorite walking routes... putting the view from your treadmill to shame.

New Thoreaus are born upon these rambles — new Muirs and Whitmans and Frosts. And let me assure you, Robert Frost wasn't wearing a light hoodie and sweatpants when he stopped his horse upon a snowy winter's evening and watched his neighbor's woods fill up with snow. He certainly wasn't wearing 'cute and cozy' knit tights.

That is to say, as far as we know.

For less poetic souls, there are scores of winter projects that can keep idle hands from restlessly reaching for remote controls — all made possible and pleasant with layers of fleece and flannel. These jobs keep us active, engaged and alive during the months when there is always something distracting and no doubt fattening going on inside.

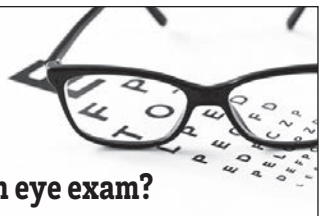
A little bit of hibernation is a good thing in the winter, but there's no sense in completely shutting down. And eschewing warm, functional clothes for fashionable winter wear will quell any enthusiasm you might have mustered the moment you open the door.

Get up. Get dressed. Get out there. ■

Marianne is the co-host of The Garden Mixer Podcast and a contributing editor at GardenRant.com. She writes from her home in Lovettsville.

SIGN IN A BRUNSWICK ALLEY





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DAY TRIPS FROM BRUNSWICK

Sky Meadows State Park

By JOHN CAVES

In the Brunswick area, we are fortunate that we can easily hop up onto South Mountain for a scenic stroll or picnic. But ours is far from the only part of the Blue Ridge with great parks and views. It's worth considering taking an hour's drive to visit Sky Meadows State Park in Virginia, which offers something that is a bit different than the usual Appalachian walk in the woods and more like what its name suggests: wide meadows and a big sky.



Park visitors taking in the view from the Piedmont Overlook.

The park is situated on the edge of the Blue Ridge near Paris, Virginia (alas, no Eiffel Tower there). The visitor center is on the site of the old Mount Bleak Farm, whose occupants were firsthand witnesses to the Civil War.

Its owner, Abner Settle, watched Stonewall Jackson's brigade camp there on the way to the First Battle of Bull Run in 1861. His son, Thomas Settle, was a doctor in the Confederate army who had earlier been the physician called in to check John Brown's pulse and declare him legally dead after his hanging in 1859.

More than a century later, local conservationists fended off a plan to convert the area into a golf course and instead got it incorporated into a state park, with its adjacent land owned by private foundations dedicated to preserving the surrounding scenery. Now nearly 2,000 acres of meadows and woodlands are available to the public for hiking, picnicking, and stargazing.



Your faithful correspondent.

Trails and Meadows

Sky Meadows has 22 miles of trails, some of which allow for horseback riding and mountain biking. Most take you in and out of the trees to emerge onto meadows on the side of the ridge, where there are several overlooks with sweeping views of the Crooked Run Valley. The Appalachian Trail also runs along the ridgeline and is accessible from the park's trail network.

Park rangers recommend a roughly five-mile loop from the park office (a white building just up the road from the visitor center) down the Boston Mill Road Trail, up the South Ridge Trail, across the AT, and down the Ambassador Whitehouse and Piedmont Overlook trails. Following that route brings you to some of the most scenic overlooks in the park near the end of your hike.

Dark Sky Park

Sky Meadows is also designated as an International Dark Sky Park and, as you might imagine, has excellent views of the night sky when the weather is clear.

The park teams up with the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club to offer monthly stargazing programs, which include a Junior Astronomer program for kids. The next two are on Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 from 5-8 p.m.

Directions

To get to the park, take VA Route 287 (Berlin Turnpike) from Brunswick to Purcellville, then go west on VA Route 7 for about nine miles before turning left onto VA Route 601 (Blue Ridge Mountain Road). Route 601 ends in a T-intersection with U.S. Route 50, which you'll turn left on to go east for about a mile before turning right onto U.S. Route 17. The main park entrance is on Edmonds Lane, which is roughly a mile down the road and on the right.

The main part of the park and most trails are accessible from the visitor center on Edmonds Lane, but you can also go fishing at Turner Pond off Route 17 before the main entrance. On the opposite side of the road is the Lost Mountain area, where you can find the park's bridle trails as well as its migratory duck pond. There is also a family picnic area with play stations for kids if you take a right at the fork after the park's main entrance.

There is a $10 per vehicle admission fee for Sky Meadows. The main parking lot is by the visitor center. It fills up quickly when there is decent weather, but don't despair¬—the park provides ample overflow parking in the grass nearby.

If you are planning to spend most of the day there, it is best to bring a picnic lunch; unlike its French namesake, Paris, VA, does not offer much by way of food service. If you are going just for a morning or an afternoon, though, there are plentiful options for lunch or dinner in Purcellville, which is roughly halfway between Brunswick and the park. ■

Photos by John Caves except the one of him, taken by his father, also named John Caves.



If you look carefully, you might spot some woodland wildlife inside the park.

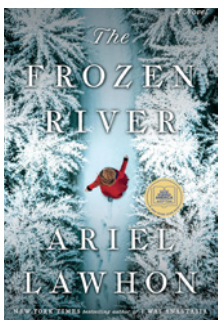


A sign capturing the sentiment of many visitors toward the scenic entrance of the park.

OFF THE SHELF

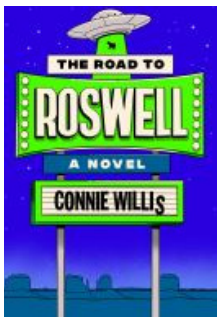
Each month, Brunswick Library staff recommend a few titles they love and think you might, too.

The Frozen River
by Ariel Lawhon



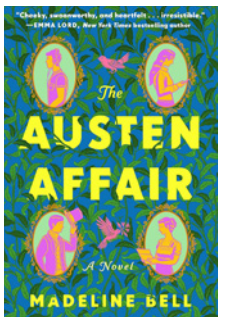
The Frozen River is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. Recommended by Sarah.

The Road to Roswell
by Connie Willis



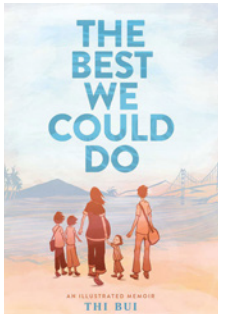
A delightful novel about alien invasions, conspiracies, and the incredibly silly things people are willing to believe — some of which may actually be true — from the Nebula and Hugo award-winning author of Blackout and All Clear. Recommended by Susan.

Austen Affair
by Madeline Bell



This delightful homage to Jane Austen combines humor, romance, and historical adventure. When actors filming Northanger Abbey are unexpectedly transported to the Regency era, they find themselves navigating a world far different from the one they expected. Charming, witty, and full of Austen-inspired fun, it's an entertaining read for fans of both historical fiction and Jane Austen. Recommended by Gale.

The Best We Could Do
by Thi Bui



A visually stunning and emotionally hard-hitting memoir retelling the story of the author's family and their emigration from Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Thi Bui's striking brush-and-ink illustrations vividly depict her memories of the experience and bring her poetic prose to life. Recommended by Noa. ■

ENVIRONMENT & SCIENCE

Using AI for Your Benefit



In previous columns I have talked about AI from the perspective of what it is. This column is directed at how you can use it. (AI had no part in writing this column.)

You can interact with AI in several ways, but the two most common are:

1. Interactive chat in your browser or in an app; a "chatbot"

2. Using a helper such as Alexa or Siri in a "smart" device

In using AI conversationally, you "chat" with the program via spoken or written dialog. You need to think of your work with AI as a dialog and interact in such a way that you get it to do work for you. This is not like Google search! The two most common online chatbots are Chatgpt and Claude. If you type one of those names in your browser you can start a conversation but may have to create a free account. Unlike searches, your conversation(s) will be saved and you can resume them where you left off.

Here are some tasks that AI has done for me:

1. Detailed planning for a vacation including transportation between cities, sites to see, and restaurants to try. I created a detailed five-day plan using AI. I requested flights with detailed requirements for time of day and relative cost.

2. Created a whimsical large format birthday photo collage using images from my computer plus AI created images.

3. Writing simple letters of thanks for gifts.

4. Searching for ticket information for musicals in New York City, for a specific date range, age appropriate for some children, and at a reasonable cost, including how and where to get the best pricing.

5. Hypothetical financial analysis without revealing anything specific such as accounts or names involved.

6. Research into a medical condition without revealing any details of why I was looking at this and for whom it might be.

7. Enhancing photos to sharpen images, remove background distractions, and improve contrast with the main subject.

8. Writing a computer program to do a specific job on my Apple computer but not letting AI access my computer nor run the job.

9. Creating sample web pages to document a vacation trip.

These are a few samples of how I've used AI recently. I find that I am expanding my use and I still do not have a paid account. I jump between Chatgpt and Claude when it wants me to upgrade.

Watch out when using AI.

1. There is no privacy. Anything you provide to the chatbot is going to be out of your control. You can ask the bot to not store what you say but it may ignore you and lie. Do not trust AI.

2. Frequently AI will generate gibberish, referred to in the AI world as hallucinations. Whatever AI does for you needs to be verified by you independently. Do not trust AI. For me, it suggested non-existent flights in my vacation planning!

Good luck and have fun. ■

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

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

Got Creepy Crawlies in Your Chimney? Here's how can you keep them out

By DR. KATHY HEINSOHN

Chimneys are an often-overlooked way a variety of pests can get into your home. If your fireplace damper is open and if no chimney cap is on top of the stack to exclude critters, even more pests may enter.

Who might take this route down your chimney? Larger mammals that can enter easily include squirrels (both ground and flying), raccoons, possums, skunks, bats, mice and rats. They come inside to overwinter and nest and rear young when it is getting colder outside.



In addition, birds can fly in and build nests in the spring. All year long, smaller arthropods such spiders, centipedes, silverfish and other insects may enter. Stinging pests like wasps and bees often end up in a chimney, usually in summer or fall. Unfortunately, ectoparasites like bat bugs, fleas, lice, ticks and mites can come in attached to mammals and birds.

In summer and fall months, various moths can enter your living area through the chimney. This is common for the native Indianmeal moths that naturally occur in fields, orchards, and backyard fruit and nut tree plantings. But various other stored product moths can also enter to infest items in your pantry.

You may not have thought about the fact that some rodents and birds (such as the acorn woodpecker) will cache acorns, seeds and nuts in a chimney. These caches can become a fire hazard but also draw various secondary pests into your home.

If homeowners (and even pest control technicians) overuse moth lure traps improperly, the lures can attract moths from miles away outside since male moth antennae are so sensitive. Moths can detect one female sex pheromone lure molecule from over 50 miles away! Read the label on the moth trap and place only one trap for the square footage recommended.

If an animal or its young should happen to die in your chimney, then flies and dermestid (carpet beetles) may come in and take hold.

Ancillary to, but certainly related to, the chimney is firewood brought inside and stacked on the hearth. This wood can bring inside various wood-boring beetles as well as crickets, spiders, centipedes and ants.

So be smart this fall and winter as you use your fireplace and chimney! Be sure to get your chimney cleaned by sweeps, then capped to prevent pest entry. And keep your damper closed when it is not in use. Inspect logs thoroughly before bringing them inside the home.

Stay warm and enjoy a pest-free chimney and hearth. ■

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.

Wild Potomac Receives Award from County Sustainability Commission

Local environmental group Wild Potomac received an award from the Frederick County Sustainability Commission at a ceremony on October 15 (see https://frederickcountymd.gov/7806/Frederick-County-Sustainability-Awards for a list of all the winners).

The group's Executive Director and Board Secretary, Neil Gormley and Hannah Debelius, both Brunswick residents, attended the ceremony at the Arc in Frederick to accept the award. The Sustainability Award recognizes Wild Potomac as a green leader for connecting watershed restoration with community education and stewardship.

Wild Potomac organizes restoration projects and volunteer events throughout the Potomac River watershed. In Brunswick they've spearheaded native-plant pollinator gardens at Maison Bakery, Smoketown Brewing, and in the pocket park across from Beans in the Belfry, and they organize quarterly volunteer days in the new food forest behind the Brunswick food bank.

This fall Wild Potomac is focusing on helping people make cooking oil from foraged hickory nuts, through a project they call Hickory Rooted. More information and a list of upcoming events is available on their website, wildpotomac.org. ■



Neil Gormley, Executive Director of Wild Potomac

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

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



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

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

Cold or Flu? How to Protect Yourself This Season

By ISABELLA MAXEY, FREDERICK HEALTH

Colder weather brings a seasonal spike in respiratory illnesses such as the common cold and influenza. Because cold and flu may feel similar at first, knowing what to watch for and when to seek care can help you recover more quickly and reduce the risk of spreading illness to others.



Symptoms and complications

Cold and flu symptoms can overlap, including a sore throat, a stuffy nose and a cough. One key difference is that flu symptoms often come quickly and can feel more intense than a typical cold.

The flu and the common cold are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. While the surest way to know whether you have the flu is to take a flu test, symptoms can also offer clues. Flu symptoms usually develop quickly, often one to four days after exposure to the virus. Cold symptoms are usually more gradual and are less likely to include fever, chills, severe body aches, intense weakness and headaches, which are more common with the flu.

Dr. Marsha Shaw, an internal medicine and primary care provider at Frederick Health, warns that the flu can be deadly for anyone, regardless of age or general health.

"While some people who catch the flu can recover within two weeks," she said, "others can develop serious health problems, such as pneumonia or bacterial infections that can lead to hospitalization."

If you have conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or diabetes, or you have a history of heart conditions or are 65 or older, you may be at higher risk for complications from the flu.

While most flu symptoms are similar in adults and children, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea are more common in children. Young children under age 5, especially those under age 2, and children with certain underlying health conditions are at increased risk for flu-related complications, which is why prevention and early care are especially important.

Prevention

You can take some simple steps to help prevent colds and flu.

Getting a flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and loved ones. It's recommended that everyone six months of age and older get a flu vaccine every season, with rare exceptions. You can schedule an appointment with your primary care provider, and vaccines are also available at Frederick Health Urgent Care locations in Emmitsburg, Frederick, Urbana and Brunswick.

One key difference is that flu symptoms often come quickly and can feel more intense than a typical cold.

You can also prevent the flu by practicing good hygiene and healthy behaviors: Washing your hands regularly, staying hydrated and eating healthy foods that contain vitamin C can help boost your immune system against the flu.

"People underestimate how many germs can get on your hands," Dr. Shaw said. "Wash your hands often under warm water with soap for a full 20 seconds."

In a crowded indoor space, wearing a mask can help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses, especially during periods of high illness activity.

"Preventing the spread works both ways," Dr. Shaw said. "If you are feeling early symptoms of cold or flu, avoid crowded places and limit contact with people who may be at higher risk, including children, older adults and people with certain medical conditions."

Get care

If you start to feel sick, choosing the right level of care based on your symptoms can help you save time and feel better faster.

Your primary care provider is your first stop for personalized advice, medication management and support based on your health history. They can give you a flu shot and help you understand how underlying conditions may affect your risk during respiratory illness season.

If your condition worsens or you have an illness or injury that can't wait and your primary care provider is not available, you can schedule a virtual visit. A virtual visit can help you get timely care from home while reducing the risk of spreading illness.

If it's not an emergency but you would like to be seen in person, you can visit Frederick Health Urgent Care. Schedule a virtual visit or learn more at frederickhealth.org/UrgentCare.

Call 911 or visit the nearest emergency room for symptoms such as severe difficulty breathing, chest pain or other urgent warning signs listed at www.frederickhealth.org/EmergencyCare. The emergency department at Frederick Health Hospital is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Whether it's the cold or the flu, small steps can make a big difference. Getting your flu shot, practicing healthy habits and understanding where to go for the right care can help you and your loved ones stay healthier this respiratory illness season. ■

Frederick County Teams Up to Tame Lithium-Ion Batteries

Fires caused by damaged or faulty lithium-ion batteries are becoming more common. These batteries can be dangerous in homes, workplaces and the waste stream. To combat this growing hazard and in recognition of Fire Prevention Month and National Recycling Month in November, the Divisions of Fire and Rescue Services and Solid Waste and Recycling are teaming up to help people become Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) Battery Tamers.

The partnership will provide information and resources on safer ways to handle and dispose of lithium-ion batteries, including:

- Special events to dispose of lithium-ion batteries.
- Introduction of the "Battery Brigade," a team of specially trained hazardous material handlers and educators.
- Free, appointment-based curbside pickup of lithium-ion batteries and small electronics such as cell phones, laptops and tablets.
- Social media posts and educational content about proper battery disposal, safe handling tips, and when to call 9-1-1 if a battery is hot or showing other signs of danger.
- Special storage kits to safely store batteries until they can be dropped off at proper disposal locations.

To determine if a battery is lithium-ion, check the label for terms like "Lithium," "Li-ion," or "LiPo."

To learn more or sign up for curbside lithium-ion pick up, visit FrederickCountyMd.gov/BeALionTamer and follow the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services (@FCDFRS) and the Division of Solid Waste and Recycling (@FrederickReycles) on Facebook and Instagram. ■

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LOCAL HISTORY

From Bucket Brigades to Modern Technology, Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company Continues to Serve

By SEBASTIAAN BURKE

The Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company is an essential part of the community. Known as Company 5, it is a pillar of Brunswick's success, having served the community for more than 100 years. The company provides fire protection, emergency response, and mutual aid. It provides general support to the community and hosts a large number of public events.

It all started circa 1890 when the area still used citizen bucket brigades. One water company listed, "…also for fire protection…" as one of its uses. Soon four "reel houses" were built around town. Each reel house contained a gravity-powered hose reel (long hose mounted on wheels).

By 1897, Brunswick established its first proper fire protection unit, including a Howe Hand Pumper, Hook and Ladder Wagon, Wirt, and Knox Heavy Hose Cart.

Official fire company formed and firehouse built

On May 10, 1910, the official Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company was formed and 71 days later joined the Maryland State Firemen's Association, becoming Frederick County's first official fire company outside of Frederick City.

In 1910, a firehouse was built under the supervision of Lorenzo S. Gardner across from the Imperial Theater on West Potomac Street. That year, when a 40 by 80 ft. B&O warehouse caught fire, the company handled the fire very well, being praised by the local newspaper for "splendid work." Four years later, the fire company placed third in a Hook and Ladder race at a convention in Westminster. In June 1917, the company was incorporated as a non-profit corporation.

First fire engine: the 1922 American LaFrance Pumper

The fire company ordered its first motorized apparatus, a 1922 American LaFrance 750-gallon-per-minute pumper equipped with 2½-inch hose. It cost $12,500 and was delivered in 1923.

In February 1928, Brunswick donated a building on North Delaware Avenue to use as a new firehouse. Two years later the company purchased a new Model HT Howe-Ford AA with chemical pumping from Rosemont Motors. In 1936 the company responded to over 100 fire calls.

In 1939 the fire company purchased a blue 1938 Ford-Howe pumper with a booster tank and 1,000 feet of hose. The truck was used for out-of-town fires and difficult country roads.

By 1945, John Howard became the company's first black firefighter, an important milestone during an era when many fire companies remained segregated.

Sonny Cannon and the firehouse on West Potomac

In November 1947, Harvey E. "Sonny" Cannon led the effort to construct a new firehouse and auditorium on West Potomac Street (where Smoketown Brewing is now located), mostly through volunteer labor, at an estimated cost of $25,000. The station included an auditorium that later hosted nationally known musical performers.

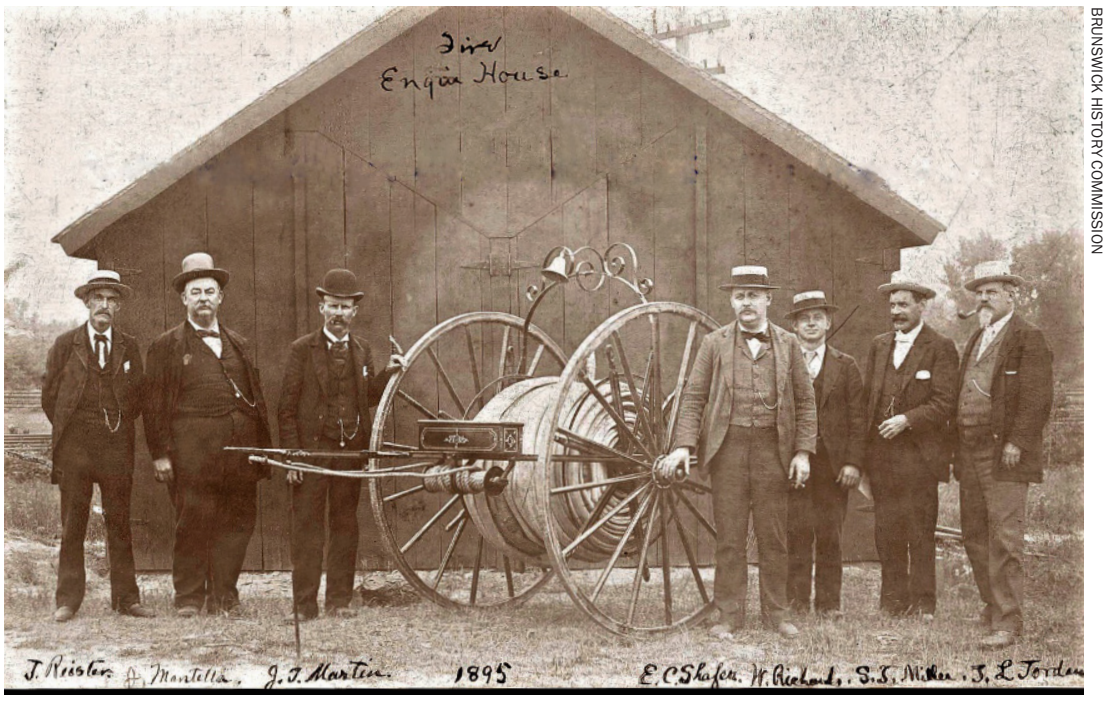
Cannon joined the company in 1927. He played a pivotal role not only for the fire company but also for Brunswick. He served for over 50 years and was chief for 38 years. After his death in 1987, he was added to the Maryland State Firemen's Association Hall of Fame. Two years later, a plaque honoring him was installed on the front of the firehouse he had promoted nearly 40 years earlier (this plaque was later moved to the new fire station in Brunswick Crossing).

Local ambulance service begins

In 1950 Brunswick's first privately operated ambulance was kept at the fire company, marking the beginning of local ambulance service. The service later became a separate organization known as Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue and Company 19. Three years later, a new American LaFrance Class-A pumper was put into service.

Radio communications begin

On November 3, 1954, radios were installed in the fire engines, and Frederick County established Central Fire and Rescue Communications to dispatch all fire calls.



BRUNSWICK HISTORY COMMISSION

One of Brunswick's "reel houses" in 1895 was located at the bottom of 1st Avenue on the south side of Potomac Street. Left to right: J. Reister, J. Mantella, John T. Martin (Mayor), Edward C. Shafer, W. Richards, S. T. Miller, John L. Jordan.

In June 1956, the company purchased a Chevrolet four-door cab fire engine from Litten Chevrolet. The pumper was put in service on February 6, 1957, using funds raised by the community. In May 1958, the company sold its Ford fire engine to Pleasant Valley Fire Company. In 1961, a new base station radio was installed at the firehouse for $1,365, improving the department's communication. Four years later, bells were connected to additional engineers' homes (apparatus drivers and operators), allowing the firehouse to alert them about fires.

Brunswick Mill burns to the ground

In 1969, the company sold its first fire engine, the 1922 American LaFrance, to Leonard King for $1,000. In 1972, a major fire near the C&O Canal destroyed the old Brunswick Mill, burning it to the ground.

Two years later the company received a 1973 GMC Oren pumper with a 750-gallon tank and 750 gallon-per-minute (GPM) pump, putting it in service as Engine 51. When hydrants were available, firefighters would use them as the water source rather than relying on the water in the engine's tank. The 750 GPM was the pump's maximum rated capacity and would not necessarily be used at that rate.

A 1973 Chevrolet van was also put into service as Squad 5 to carry extra equipment to emergencies.

Historic B&O YMCA burns

In 1978, the company received a 4x4 Army Jeep from Civil Defense and converted it into Brush 55. It had a 250 GPM pump and was used to reach fires that typical fire engines can't.

Two years later, a fire heavily damaged the historic wooden Baltimore & Ohio Railroad YMCA. Although the large building did not burn down completely, it was later demolished. A year later, a new Ford Class-A pumper was put in service, equipped with a Caterpillar diesel engine, 1,000 GPM pump, and a deluge gun.

Aerial ladder truck purchased

In 1982, the company purchased a 1960 Pirsch 100-foot aerial ladder truck. The truck was put in service as Truck 5, and a $35,000 metal building was built at the carnival grounds to store it.

In 1984, a new 1984 International tanker was purchased for $60,000. It was put in service as Tanker 5. It carried 1,800 gallons of water and had a 500 GPM pump. The company sold its 1953 American LaFrance and its 1956 Chevrolet Engine 52. In 1988, the company ordered a new Class "A" Pierce Dash pumper. The same year a 1971 Seagrave 100-foot aerial ladder truck from Middle River Volunteer Fire Company was purchased to replace Truck 5 (1960 Pirsch 100-foot aerial ladder truck), which had been damaged in an accident.

In 1989, the company purchased a 1979 Chevrolet Malibu from the Brunswick Police Department and put it in service as the chief's vehicle. A year later, the company paid $18,000 for a 1978 Pierce Dodge 4x4 mini pumper with a 400 GPM pump and put it in service as Brush 56. In 1999, the company purchased a new Ford Explorer to use as the chief's vehicle.

First fire engine restored

In 2004, the company repurchased from Leonard King the first fire engine (1922 American LaFrance) for $20,000 and began a complete restoration led by Wade Watson and a restoration committee.



BRUNSWICK HISTORY COMMISSION

Brunswick's first fire engine, the 1922 American LaFrance 750-gallon-per-minute pumper. Shown are William C. Nuse, Chief, and Chester Cooper, driver, in front of the Peoples National Bank in 1923.

Continued on page 23



WENDELL STEWART.

The fire station at 223 W. Potomac St. in 2000.

New fire station built on Volunteer Drive

On June 8, 2010, Congressman Roscoe Bartlett announced a $2,431,161 federal grant for the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department to improve the fire station and safety of firefighters, residents, and businesses in Brunswick and southern Frederick County. A groundbreaking for the new fire station at 1500 Volunteer Drive took place on April 5, 2011. Construction was completed in 2012.

Also in 2010, the company sold its 1984 International 1,800-gallon tanker. A 2010 Mack 3,000-gallon Tanker 5 was put in service the same year. The tanker carried two 2,100-gallon portable folding tanks and additional firefighting equipment. The company also put a 2010 Chevrolet Suburban into service as its new chief's vehicle. The previous 1999 Ford Explorer was reassigned as a first responder vehicle. In 2016, a new Dodge 4x4 2500 utility truck was added to the fleet.

Paid firefighters arrive from county

A year later, the company received three county-paid firefighters stationed at its firehouse. This marked the end of more than a century of 100% volunteer service.

In 2025, a new Ford F-550 4WD Brush 55, equipped with a 300-gallon water tank, 250 GPM pump, and upgraded wheels and tires was purchased. In 2026, a new Ford F-250 4x4 was added as a new chief's vehicle.

A grateful community

For more than a century, the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company has served the community, evolving from bucket brigades to modern technology and fast, powerful fire engines. Its history is fascinating, rich, and full of care and helpfulness. An entire book could be written about its history. The community is grateful to the firefighters who dedicate their time to protecting and saving lives. ■

Sebastiaan Burke is 12 years old and a student at Brunswick Middle School. He researched and wrote this article based primarily on "History of the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company," a PowerPoint presentation by Jim Dixon, past president of the fire company. Dr. Wayne Allgaier of the Brunswick History Commission assisted in reviewing this article.

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

100 Years Ago from *The Valley Register*

Compiled by Julie Maynard

October 15, 1926.

Brunswick Ball Players Feted at Barbecue.

2500 Persons Attend Celebration In Honor of Winning County League Pennant By Railroaders.

It is estimated that at least 2,500 persons were in Brunswick on Tuesday last to attend the old-time barbecue and ox roast at the Brunswick City Park, the occasion being observed as a general holiday in the railroad town because of the celebration arranged in connection with the winning of the Frederick County League championship by the Brunswick baseball club.

Among the guests of honor entertained was M. J. Thompson, editor of the Emmitsburg Chronicle and president of the Frederick Count League, and representatives from each of the other five towns of the circuit. Baseball players and representatives from nearby towns, and adjoining towns in Virginia and West Virginia, also participated in the big event.

An expert from St. Thomas, Pa., secured for the occasion several weeks ago, directed the ox roast. A specially selected beef was prepared and placed in a big oven the night before. About 2.30 o'clock on Tuesday, the animal was carved and served. Bread, rolls, and other "trimmings" were also served.

President Thompson stated he was delighted with the success of the day and added the Brunswick boys "did themselves proud."

Pastor Tendered Farewell Visit

A number of the members of Mt. Zion Lutheran congregation of the Jefferson charge gathered at the parsonage in Jefferson on Tuesday evening of last week. The gathering was planned as a visit with the pastor, Rev. R. L. Lang and his family. Rev. Mr. Lang has resigned as pastor and will remove to Middletown, Pa., next Tuesday, Oct. 19.

The evening was spent in singing favorite songs, playing games, and the enjoyment of good friendship. Delightful refs were served by the ladies. With much feeling all united in singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," before leaving for their homes. Those present were [Shaff, Roberts, Baker, Culler, etc.]

October 29, 1926.

Brunswick Child Lost at Fair

Master James Edward Gletner, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James D. Gletner, of Brunswick, got lost in the big crowd at the Frederick Fair Thursday afternoon of last week. The child was found by Mrs. John Danner, of Frederick, on the main "midway" and taken to the grandstand. Several hours later he was restored to his mother.

November 5, 1926.

When Grandma was a girl, she wore enough clothes to keep a dozen modern girls warm for two or three hard winters.

A verdict was rendered for the defendant, Randolph Rixey, of West Virginia, in the suit of the Potomac Edison Co., of Frederick, against him, the suit growing out of attachment proceedings brought on by an auto collision near Brunswick, in June.

Perhaps the great number of railroad wrecks lately are due to the scarcity of red petticoats to wave at engineers. —Kansas City Star.

Beginning Nov. 1, Mr. Charles England, of Rising Sun, Md., took over the duties of tester for the Frederick County Cow Testing Association… Cow testing work gives the dairyman an accurate record on each individual cow in his herd. Such records are of great value in weeding out the "boarders" in a herd.

November 12, 1926.

Whenever the devil feels the need of a good, hearty laugh he goes to a cemetery and reads the tombstone inscriptions.

Burkittsville Postoffice and Store Burglarized

The combined postoffice and general store, conducted by Irving Magaha, postmaster, at Burkittsville, was entered and robbed on Tuesday night last, the robbers securing $100 in cash from the postoffice funds and a wrist watch out of a show case in the store. No stamps or anything else have been missed. It is thought probable that the same thieves are responsible for this job who entered and robbed the Model Garage, in Middletown, on the same night.

19 Cars Derailed.

Nineteen loaded cars were damaged and hundreds of tons of coal scattered along the tracks last Friday morning, when two eastbound B. & O. trains were wrecked in a rear-end collision at Hood's Mills. Although traffic over an adjoining siding was established about three hours after the wreck, the main line was not opened until evening. Two wrecking crews, one from Brunswick, were dispatched to the scene. Hundreds of tons of coal in wrecked and damaged cars were dumped along the tracks in an effort to hasten the repair work. This fuel will be salvaged later.

Houdini Dies in Detroit.

Harry Houdini, one of the world's greatest magicians, who mystified and entertained thousands here and in Europe, died in Detroit, where he was taken to a hospital suffering from acute peritonitis. … He was buried in New York in the bronze, air-tight "mystery" coffin which he used so many times in his stunts on the stage. …

November 19, 1926.

Heavy Rainfall Sends All County Streams On Rampages.

A veritable cloudburst swept over the State on Monday night last, during which time 3 and one-half inches of water fell and streams left their banks, inundated roads and farm lands and flooded homes for miles around.

… Upon arising Tuesday morning people gazed out their windows upon a veritable sea of water. The ground, already soaked, refused to receive any more water, and lakes covered level land everywhere. Gutters and ditches ran level full and the smallest of tributaries became raging streams, impossible of being crossed. ... During the early morning hours, streams left their banks one by one and spread out over all the surrounding territory. Fences and roads soon disappeared beneath the waters and autoists found their cars marooned on the higher places, unable to cross the floods. Fields of corn were only evidenced by the tops of shocks protruding above the waters, and many shocks were carried away … The Potomac river, while enormously swollen, did little damage and carried its water well. The Monocacy, however, went on a rampage and terrified Frederick Valley farmers along its banks. …

… The B. & O. Railroad sustained serious damage to its tracks and roadbed in and about Weverton, and train service over the line had to be stopped.

Three Autos Collide In Jefferson

Considerable excitement prevailed in Jefferson Sunday night last, about 9 o'clock, when three automobiles came together in a crash in front of the residence of C. R. Horine. While no one was injured, two of the machines, considerably damaged, were towed to the Corun garage for repairs. The third car was slightly damaged.

A Willys-Knight car, owned by a Mr. Watts, Brunswick, and a Chevrolet machine, carrying a West Virginia license, were passing through town in the same direction A Jewett car, owned by a Mr. Forrest, Brunswick, was parked near the Horine residence. The West Virginia machine, it was said, in attempting to pass around the Watts car, ran into the parked machine, causing all three cars to come together. One wheel was broken and the axle and steering rod bent on the West Virginia car; a wheel broken, axle bent and other damage done to the Watts car, and minor damages were caused to the Forrest machine. The crash attracted a large crowd.

Sedan Damaged By Truck.

The Studebaker sedan of T. E. Cost, Brunswick, was badly damaged on the State road between Brunswick and Petersville when a truck used by the contracting firm of Bester & Long, building the brick schoolhouse road, backed into the former machine at the bridge at the Bartlett place.

Upon Beds of Sickness.

Miss Helen McDade, of Broad Run, is confined to her bed with a severe case of diphtheria, which she contracted while nursing a case in Lovettsville, Va.

Chautauqua Coming Again

Chautauqua days are coming to Burkittsville again. The ever popular entertainers of the Swarthmore circuit will be in town from November 26 to 28, and will give six delightful programs there. … Season tickets are on sale and much enthusiasm is being manifest among residents of the southern end of the valley, all of whom look forward each year to the coming of these popular artists. The program… Closing Day, Saturday, Nov. 27— Afternoon, Junior Chautauqua Pageant; popular lecture, Chautauqua Superintendent; Night, Oriental Pageant, Julius Caesar Nayphe.

Kills Strange Bird.

An unusual bird, thought to be a cross between a white owl and a hawk, was shot Monday by A. R. Klein, Braddock, at Saw Mill Bottom … It was a large white bird, with wings flecked with gray. It measured 57 inches from the tip of one wing to the other, each wing being nearly 30 inches in length. It was different from any bird ever seen in that locality.

Store Robbed

Sometime Tuesday or early Wednesday, thieves gained admittance to the general store of Wm. B. Wenner, Brunswick, through an unlocked window, and escaped with cash totaling about $125. This latest robbery is the seventh perpetrated in Brunswick within less than four weeks.

November 26, 1926.

Delightful weather, clear and not too cool, prevailed Thanksgiving, making the day an ideal holiday. No real winter has been felt to date, and although plenty of rain has been the order of things, no snow, except light flurries of a few minutes' duration, has yet to put in an appearance.

Taffy Party.

The Royal Neighbors and friends, were delightfully entertained at a taffy party at the home of Mr. and Mrs Emmert Rudy, Braddock Heights, last Friday night. Music and dancing and games were indulged in, after which cake, potato chips and coffee were served. The evening was greatly enjoyed by all.

SPORTS

No Cash Policy for BHS Sports

By JEAN TOLEMAN

If you attend a sporting event at Frederick County Public Schools, be prepared to bring cash to pay for your ticket. This year, the school system has implemented a "credit card only" policy for all paid sporting events.

While credit cards or the Gofan digital ticketing payment system was encouraged last year for football, basketball and lacrosse games, fans could still pay with cash. Not so this year. All sports now require the Gofan payment system, and no cash boxes are at the ticket booths. This has caused problems, according to some.

It was a perfect night for the first home football game in September between Brunswick and Boonsboro. Observing the fans as they approached the ticketing booth, most had their phones in hand ready to pull up their prepaid tickets or scan the bar code. Others were pulling out wallets searching for credit cards. A few asked, "Do you take cash?" The response being no, frowning faces resulted and a few guests were allowed in for free if it looked like the no cash response was going to cause a problem.



JEAN TOLEMAN

This sign was still up at BHS for the first home football game of the season. But due to no cash payment, tickets are now $7 and $3.

Higher prices

Only one person questioned the increased price of the ticket. With the Gofan system, ticket prices are now 50% more for students, having gone up from $2 to $3 to cover the ticketing service.

None of this additional dollar is going to the school or athletics. Kevin Kendro, FCPS Supervisor of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, wrote in response to questions, that the Gofan service fees are lower than with other ticketing providers and covers all credit card fees rather than passing them along to the schools.

The Gofan website says they are being used at over 7,500 schools and 41 state associations. Frederick County is now using them exclusively and it is the same system that the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association uses for postseason play and all of their cashless state semifinal and state championship contests. Gofan also connects with the live-streaming service NFHS Network which is available for all FCPS stadium, gymnasium and auditorium events, according to Kendro.

Why the change?

The FCPS Facebook page explains the decision to go cashless was made to "avoid long lines, for the ease of accounting, to allow school staff to be able to better prepare for athletics events due to seeing live updates of tickets sales, reducing safety concerns associated with large sums of cash being collected at the gate, fraud prevention, contactless payment and entry, and providing our spectators with a better overall experience."

While no long lines occurred by the ticket booth on game night, there were several people who had difficulty retrieving their online tickets. Backups did occur by the iPads with only two available. Kendro wrote that reducing cash is best practice and the verifiable record that is created is needed for transparency and to decrease discrepancies.

Fewer and fewer people question the decreased use of cash and the monitoring of individual credit records. For some, the increase in ticket prices is a burden. "Many families are already financially strapped," an anonymous patron voiced. "Sports are expensive; this is just an added burden."

For many, the benefits of the Gofan ticketing system outweigh the negatives, but others feel a cash option should always be available. As stated by a fan, "Cash is the legal tender of the United States." ■

National Jousting Championship



KRISTEN MCDANIEL

Brad Enfield, national pro class champion, on the Palomino QH Shiner at the National Jousting Championship at Farmer's Picnic Woods, Petersville, on Oct. 10.

Mahjong Tournament to Benefit Brunswick Library

The Brunswick Friends of the Library will host a mahjong tournament at Celeste Café, 1 S. Maple Avenue, on Dec. 6 from 2–6 p.m.

The fundraiser is a novice-level event, with the pace of play slower than standard tournaments. Players of all levels are welcome. The $80 registration fee includes eight games, a raffle ticket, two beverage tickets, and snacks throughout the play.

Celeste will provide on-theme cocktails, coffee drinks and a variety of delicious treats. Several downtown businesses are providing door prizes. Cash prizes will be awarded to tournament winners. Registration is through the FOLBrunswick Facebook page, or email FOLBrunswick@gmail.com.



All proceeds from the event will benefit the Brunswick Library. ■

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BHS FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Soccer teams impressive; football? not so good

By BILL CAULEY



WESLEY TINGEY / UNSPLASH

Fall sports seasons at Brunswick High School always have their share of ups and downs.

Boys and girls soccer is taking center stage at the moment. Both teams have winning records.

Football, unfortunately, is another story. The Railroaders were winless (0-6) through games of Oct. 9. Little relief is in sight until the end of the regular season schedule, when Brunswick plays another struggling team, Catoctin.

Field hockey and flag football continue to improve. Boys cross country has a runner among the top six in the county. Volleyball remains winless, but that learning process continues.

Boys Soccer

Through 13 matches, Brunswick is 7–5–1. Matthew Garcia is the top scorer for the team, with seven goals and 11 assists for 21 points. In computing soccer statistics, a player receives two points for a goal, one point for an assist.

Garcia's efforts have put him at the top of the county scoring list as of Oct. 15. In fourth place is the Railroaders' Charlie Uppercue, who has nine goals (18 points). Gabe Cabrera is ranked sixth (eight goals, one assist, 17 points). Rounding out the list of top scorers for Brunswick is Peter Opoku (four goals, six assists, 14 points).

Alex Tully is the third-ranked goalkeeper in the county with a 0.75 goals against average mark. That statistic is based on the number of goals allowed over the 80 minutes in a soccer match and the actual number of minutes a keeper plays during the season, sort of the way a pitcher's earned run average is computed in baseball.

Eli Nuse, the other Brunswick keeper, has a 1.25 GAA.

Girls Soccer

Brunswick is 6–5 on the season. The Railroaders have a young team that continues to make progress.

Katie Hargett is ranked fifth in the county with eight goals and five assists (21 points). Morgan Bilbrey has scored five goals with three assists (13 points). Teammate Tatum Smith has five goals with one assist (11 points).

Football

Wyatt Hoffman is the ninth-ranked rusher in the county, with 317 yards on 70 carries (4.5 average) and three touchdowns. Quarterback Cole Hoffman has completed 29 of 74 passes for 285 yards and two touchdowns. C.J. Beaucage has nine pass receptions for 103 yards for Brunswick.

Field Hockey

At 4–5, the Railroaders continue to make great strides. Emme Miller had scored three goals with four assists (10 points). Goalie Emeline Marra has a 1.95 GAA for Brunswick.

Flag Football

Brunswick was 2–6 through games of Oct. 14. Clara Nichols completed 129 of 244 passes for 1,010 yards and six touchdowns. Bella Sindler is the fourth-ranked receiver in the county with 45 catches for 224 yards and a touchdown.

Sienna Russo has 26 catches for 272 yards and a touchdown. Lena Campbell has 25 catches for 80 yards and a touchdown for the Railroaders, with 24 flag pulls and one interception.

Cross Country

Griffen Adelman is ranked sixth in the county with a top time of 16 minutes, 28.4 miles (3.1 mile course). One can expect him to do well in the post-season. ■



Brunswick to Host Inaugural Rivers & Rails Marathon and Veterans 5K

Downtown Brunswick will host the inaugural Rivers & Rails Marathon, Half Marathon, and Veterans Challenge 5K on Saturday, Nov. 14. The event is expected to bring hundreds of athletes, families and spectators into the city.

Veterans Challenge 5K

Leading the event is the Veterans Challenge 5K, a 3.1-mile road race taking place entirely within Brunswick. Timed just days after Veterans Day, the race honors those who have served in the military. The route weaves through the city's historic streets, taking runners past Brunswick's military tank and veterans memorials, supported along the way by American Legion Post 96.

With roughly 486 feet of elevation gain, the Veterans Challenge 5K is poised to be one of the toughest road 5Ks in the region. Competitive runners can chase inaugural titles and serious bragging rights on the steep inclines. However, the event is equally designed for the broader community. Walkers, beginners and families are encouraged to join. There is no cutoff time, and every finisher receives a medal.

Marathon and Half Marathon

For runners seeking a bigger test, the event offers a Half Marathon (13.1 miles) or Full Marathon (26.2 miles). Starting and finishing in downtown Brunswick, these longer routes cross two states and two rivers.

Designed by 50-state marathon finisher Mike Buscher, the Boston-qualifying marathon course follows the C&O Canal towpath into West Virginia, crossing both the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers while passing through historic Harpers Ferry and Bolivar.

Organized by Horizun Events in partnership with Brunswick Main Street, a portion of the event proceeds will support downtown revitalization. Learn more and register for the races at horizunevents.com/rivers-rails-marathon/. ■

SPORTS PHOTOS

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

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

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

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



Brunswick is Studying a Community Makerspace.
What Would You Build?

A $5,000 state grant, matched dollar for dollar by two Brunswick residents, is paying for a year of asking the right questions before anyone signs a lease.

By Nick and Amy Carroll, Brunswick Arts Council

Walk into a makerspace on a Saturday morning and you will find a woodshop, a few 3D printers, maybe a laser cutter, a kiln, a sewing corner, and a dozen people who mostly did not know each other a year ago.

One of them is showing a teenager how to use a table saw. Somebody is fixing a lamp. Somebody else is cutting a sign for a shop, because the tool to do it well costs more than the job pays. A couple of kids are gluing at a back table.

A makerspace is a shared workshop, run something like a library with tools in it, where a community pools equipment and people help each other use it. Most run on a modest membership plus classes and open nights. No tools or experience are required. Learning a first skill, getting help with a repair, or passing on what you already know are all reasons to come.

Brunswick does not have a makerspace. Neither does Knoxville, the rest of southern Frederick County, or our neighbors across the river in Lovettsville and Harpers Ferry. The closest is Frederick Makerspace, a good one, but 20 minutes up the road. For a family with kids and a work schedule, that drive is usually the difference between going and not going.

The Brunswick Arts Council has been awarded a state grant to find out whether this end of the county could support a makerspace of its own.

What it could mean here

Brunswick has been a town of people who fix things and build things since its earliest days. What has changed is that the tools for doing that work well have gotten more specialized and expensive. A laser cutter, a decent kiln, a CNC router, a 3D printer that holds a tolerance: each of these is a few thousand dollars and a learning curve, and almost nobody buys one for a hobby.

So, the woodworker in Knoxville who wants to add engraving to her work drives to Frederick or lets it go. The kid at Brunswick High with a science fair project, or a business idea, builds it on a screen instead of a bench. The appliance that quits goes to the landfill because nobody within reach has the part, the tool, and a free afternoon all at once.

A makerspace changes the math on all three. It gives the person with a trade a place to keep their hands in it and teach someone younger. It gives someone between jobs a way into fabrication, printing, or electronics work without enrolling in a program first. It gives a small business a place to prototype a product instead of sending the job out of town. It gives everybody a place to do repairs: bring the broken thing, find somebody who has fixed one before, and fix it together.

Because of where Brunswick sits, a makerspace here would serve more than Brunswick. The study covers the rest of southern Frederick County, Lovettsville and Harpers Ferry.

Why the state is paying for this

In 2022 the Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program and gave it to TEDCO, the state's technology development corporation, to run, with at least $1 million a year behind it through 2028.

The law describes a makerspace as a community space for "educational opportunities for personal growth, workforce training, and early-stage business ventures." It has been compared to how this country built public libraries: a network, one town at a time, in places that decided they wanted one.

The grants go to local governments and nonprofits, every dollar has to be matched, and the state will not pay to operate a space past its first three years. After that it has to stand on its own. Four cycles in, TEDCO has funded 69 makerspace projects in nearly every region of the state, Frederick Makerspace among them in 2025.

The Brunswick Arts Council's feasibility study is one of this year's awards: $5,000 from the state, matched by $5,000 from us.

Why we put our own money in

The state money came with a condition: every grant dollar has to be matched in cash. We made that $5,000 match because we previously lived near a makerspace, and what stayed with us was not the equipment. It was watching people change their minds about what they were capable of.

We saw people pick up skills they had no other way to learn, and for some of them it turned into paid work. We saw neighbors who had nothing else in common end up in the same room every week because they shared a bench. We saw a steady stream of broken things get fixed instead of replaced.

That is the part we want for Brunswick, and it is the part you cannot buy. You can only make the room for it. We put our own money in first so the Arts Council can ask the community this question without asking the community to pay for the asking.

What the study does, and does not do

This is a study, not a building. Over the next 12 months the Arts Council will survey the community, run a handful of small focus groups, and sit down with the city government, library, schools, and local employers. We will walk through several buildings in town and score them on things that make or break a workshop: ventilation for a kiln and a woodshop, electrical service, accessibility, parking and rent.

We will price an equipment list sized to what people say they would actually use. And we will build a five-year budget that is honest about what it costs to keep the doors open, then test it against the money coming in, because a makerspace that closes in year two could be worse than none at all.

At the end there will be a report, delivered to TEDCO and published for the community in plain language. If the numbers work, that report is what the Arts Council takes back to TEDCO in 2027 to request a much larger grant to open the doors, and to the County, the City, potential members, and private donors who may wish to contribute the rest. If the numbers do not work, we will say so. Either way we will have spent $10,000 learning it instead of several hundred thousand.

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Questions: brunswickmdartscouncil@gmail.com

Who is behind it

The Brunswick Arts Council is a volunteer-run nonprofit that started in 2024. You may know us from the free monthly classes at the Brunswick Library, the paint nights, or the Brunswick Art Market. At every event somebody asks where they can do this kind of work the rest of the month, and so far we have not had a good answer. This study is how we get one, with the City of Brunswick, the library, Brunswick Main Street, and the schools as potential partners.

What we need from you

What would make a shared workshop useful to you, and what would keep you from using it? Whether you have a project in mind, a skill to share, or have never picked up a tool, we want to hear from you.

The survey takes about five minutes and does not need an account. It asks what you want to learn, make, or repair, when you would come, what you could afford, and what concerns we ought to address. Your answers decide what belongs in the space, when it should be open, what it should cost, and whether there is enough interest to go forward at all. You do not have to like the idea to help us make a better decision.

Our goal is to hear from at least 300 people, and we would rather hear your doubts than guess.

Take the survey (see box above) and then tell a neighbor. ■

Nick Carroll was the Brunswick Arts Council's first Treasurer and leads the feasibility study. Amy Carroll is the Council's Secretary.

Please join us on December 12, 2026 for our Annual Luminary

between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm at the

Park Heights Cemetery
(710 East H Street, Brunswick, Md)
and

The Old Berlin Cemetery
(West B Street and North Delaware Avenue, Brunswick, Md)

Both cemeteries will be illuminated with candlelight to remember those at rest

Walk (please bring a flashlight) or Drive Through/By

Please plan accordingly as the Park Heights Cemetery Driveway will be closed to vehicular traffic from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm for setup.

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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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NOVEMBER 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**.

Old Time Music Open Jam
November 1 & 15, 1–6 pm
Beans in the Belfry
122 W. Potomac St.

Game Day Sundays
All Day Watch Football
November 1, 8,15, 22
Smoketown Brewing
223 W. Potomac St.

Thanksgiving Pies Fundraiser
November 1–15
Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Auxiliary
To order call 301–471–7007

The Dirty Middle
November 6
6–9 pm
Live Music
Smoketown Brewing

Jim Cupino Project Plays Blues
November 6
7–9 pm
Beans in the Belfry

Boy Scouts Food Drive
November 7, 11 am–3 pm
Weis Shopping Center
Benefits Brunswick Food Bank

Brunswick Veterans Day Parade
November 8
Opening ceremony 1 pm
Parade starts 2 pm
East & West Potomac Street

Blue Grass Open Jam
November 8 & 22
Beans in the Belfry

Veterans Challenge 5 K Run
November 14
8:30 am
Square Park Corner
Brunswick

River & Rails Marathon
November 14
Downtown Brunswick

Poets in the City
Writing Prompts and Walk with Poet Adelle Walters
November 14
10 am–2 pm
Celeste, 1 S. Maple Ave.

Catoctin Holiday Art Tour
November 14 & 15
10 am–5 pm
www.catoctinart.com

Sausage & Pork Chop Sale
November 19
(orders due Nov. 9)
Petersville Ruritan Club
3816 Petersville Rd.
Call 240–277–8716
to place order

2 of the Four
November 20, 6–9 pm
Live music
Smoketown Brewing

Petersville Ruritan Breakfast
November 21, 6:30–10 am
3816 Petersville Rd.

JFK 64th Annual 50 Mile Run
November 21
Starts 6:30 a.m. in Boonsboro
Runs on C& O Canal towpath

JFK Run Day Breakfast
November 21, 6–10 am
or until sold out
Brownsville Church of the Brethren
1911 Rohrersville Road

Valley Craft Network Studio Tour
November 21 & 22
10 am–5 pm

Potomac Pickin Party, Bluegrass
November 22
2–6 pm
Smoketown Brewing

Christmas Bingo
November 27
Doors open at 4 pm
Dinner served at 4:30
Bingo starts at 6
Brunswick Volunteer Fire Hall

Brunswick Live!
November 27, 4–9 pm
Downtown Brunswick

Paranormal Investigation
November 28, 6–10 pm
Brunswick Heritage Museum
40 W. Potomac St.

Jazz Quintet: Todd Marcus and Virginia MacDonald
November 28, at 4 pm
Benefits Heartly House/ Free Will offering
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1914 Ballenger Creek Pike
Point of Rocks

RECURRING

Valley Quilters
all ages/levels
FIRST WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 pm
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jefferson
Peggy at valleyquiltersTLC@gmail.com

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

Open Mic w/ Jacob Rockwell
Third WEDNESDAYS, starting at 5:30 pm
Smoketown Brewing

Trivia Night
THURSDAYS, 6–8 pm
Smoketown Brewing

Connect & Create
Second SATURDAYS
1–3 pm
Brunswick Arts Council
Smoketown Brewing

Games Club of Maryland
Third SATURDAYS
12:30–7 pm
Smoketown Brewing

Games Club of Maryland
Third SATURDAYS
1–6 pm
Beans in the Belfry

Books & Brews Book Club
Third SUNDAYS
4–6 pm
Smoketown Brewing

SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Marketplace and Santa's Workshop
December 5
12–5 pm
Martin's Creek Parking Lot

Holiday Events Downtown Brunswick
December 5
Santa Train Rides 1 and 3 pm
Parade 4 pm
Tree Lighting 6 pm

Fundraiser and Craft Fair
December 5, 1–3 pm
Grace Episcopal Church
114 East A St.

Jingle Bell Run & Santa Stroll
December 5, 2:30–3:30 pm
Brunswick Area Recreation Council
Benefits the Food Bank
Square Park Corner Park

Freezin for a Reason
January 1, 1 pm
Brunswick Family Campground

LOCAL WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

St. Paul Lutheran Church
SUNDAYS, 8:30 am
3864 Jefferson Pike

Jefferson United Methodist Church
SUNDAYS, 9 am
3882 Jefferson Pike

Grace Fellowship Church
SUNDAYS, 9 am, 10:45 am
131 9th Ave.

New Hope United Methodist Church
SUNDAYS, 9:30 am
7 S. Maryland Ave.

Bethany Lutheran Church
SUNDAYS, 9:45 am
109 1st Ave.

Jefferson United Church of Christ
SUNDAYS, 10:45 am
3837 Jefferson Pike

Grace Episcopal Church
SUNDAYS, 11 am
114 East A Street

CHECK THIS OUT!

November events at local libraries

Brunswick Library
915 N. Maple Avenue

ADULTS (18+)

Conversation Class for English Language Learners
November 7,14,21,28 10:30 am–12 pm

Adult Adaptive Program: Let's Get Moving
November 3, 1–2 pm

The Viking Age
November 1, 2–3 pm

Adult Adaptive Program: Chair One Fitness
November 13, 11a.m.–12 noon

Painting with Michelle
November 15, 2–4 pm

Frederick County Workforce Services' Mobile Career Center
November 17, 12:30–3 pm

Memory Café
November 20, 11:30–1 pm

Puzzle Swap
November 22, 1–3 pm

TEENS (grades 6–12)

Teen Time: Tech Dissection
(ages 11–18)
November 5, 6–7 pm

Teen Time: No Kitchen No Problem
November 12, 6–7 pm

Teen Time: Dino–Mation
(ages11–18)
November 19, 6–7 pm

TWEENS
(grades 3–8)

Tween Time: All About Me College
November 5, 6–7 pm

ELEMENTARY
(grades K–5)

Elementary Explorers: Escape Outer Space
November 3, 4:30–5:30 pm

Elementary Explorers: World Science Day
November 10, 4:30–5:30 pm

Elementary Explorers: Build a Raft
November 17, 4:30–5:30 pm

Elementary Explorers: LEGO Build
November 24, 4:30–5:30 pm

R.E.A.D. with Wags for Hope
November 28,
10:30–11:30 am

PRESCHOOL

Train Storytime at the Railroad Square Park
November 6, 10:30–11:30 am (ages 3–5)

RECURRING

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

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

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

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

Evening Storytime
FIRST WEDNESDAYS, 6:30–7 pm, ages 0–5

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

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

Teen Library Council
(ages 11–18)
Earn Service Hours
November 4, 5:30–6:30 pm

Drop–in Saturday (all ages)
November 7, 11–12:30 pm

No–Sew Gnome Club
(ages 8+)
November 14, 11 am–2:30 pm

Drop–in Wednesdays
(all ages)
November 18, 5:15–6:45 pm

RECURRING

Musical Storytime
(ages 0–5)
TUESDAYS, 11–11:30 am

Play and Learn (ages 0–5)
TUESDAYS
11:30 am–noon

Lovettsville Library
12 N. Light St. Lovettsville, Va.

Autumn Pet–Themed Reading Challenge
November 2, All day
Elementary, Birth – age 5
Read stories and win prizes

Bilingual Storytime / Hora de cuentos bilingüe
November 5, 10–11 a.m.
Birth – age 5
Join in for a Spanish/ English storytime. / Acompañaros para una hora de cuentos bilingüe en inglés y español.

DIY Resin Jewelry Making
November 7, 1–3 pm
High School, Adult

Live Music: Guitarist Brian Slaymaker
November 7, 2–3:30 pm
High school, adult

Agatha Christy Mystery Walk Events and Exhibits
November 9–21, All Day
High School, Adults

Adult Book Club
November 16, 1–2 pm

Conversational German (Adult)
November 17, 2–3:15 pm

Pre–K Skill Builders
November 19, 10–11 am
Birth–age 5

Live Music: Pianist Caleb Nei
November 21, 1–2:30 pm
Middle School, High School, Adult

Homeschool Enrichment Science
November 24, 3–4 pm
Middle School, Elementary

Baby & Toddler Playdate
November 25, 9:30–12 pm
Birth–age 5

RECURRING

Messy Monday
MONDAYS, 10 am–noon
Create art, play with sensory toys and have fun. All ages with caregiver.

Family Storytime
TUESDAYS and WEDNESDAYS, 10 am
Interactive stories and movement. Ages 5 and under with caregiver.

Teen Takeover
WEDNESDAYS, 5–8 pm
Bring friends and take over the library for free–time hangout with gaming, crafts, movies and more.

Drop–In Mahjong
THURSDAYS, 5:30–7 pm
Play American Mahjong with friendly folks who are happy to teach newcomers.

Little Artists
FRIDAYS, 10 am–noon
Variety of art styles and crafts for different ages and abilities.