

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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FREE

Bonanno Wins Special Election for City Council

DIANE ELLIS



Jerry and Hope Bonanno at the city park building on election night, January 20, after Jerry wins the special election for Brunswick City Council.

By DIANE ELLIS

On one of the coldest election days in Brunswick history, voters gave Jerry Bonanno the most votes in the January 20 special election to win a seat on the Brunswick City Council. Bonanno received 261 votes while his only competitor, Carleah Summers, won 205 votes.

For a city used to holding Council elections in the heat of August, it was only 16 degrees outside when the polls opened at the Brunswick City Park building at 8 a.m., and it never rose above freezing that day. Despite the cold, 467 people turned out to vote (one provisional ballot was disallowed). In the 2024 election that included a full slate of candidates for mayor and six council seats, 855 people voted.

Candidates Bonanno and Summers spent the day greeting voters outside the park building. When the polls closed at 8 p.m., about a dozen people gathered to hear Chief Election Judge Karl Musser announce the results.

Bonanno, with his wife Hope by his side, thanked Carleah Summers for running, and he thanked everybody for showing up to vote. "It's really encouraging," he said, "I can't wait to get started."

Mayor Nathan Brown posted on Facebook, "Local elections matter, and it's because of engaged candidates and informed voters that our city continues to move forward. Thank you to everyone who participated and made their voice heard."

Bonanno would be sworn into office at the next meeting of the Mayor and Council. His term runs until August 2028.

He fills the Council seat vacated by Angel White.

A special election was necessary after the City Council was unable to reach unanimous agreement on a candidate appointment at their November 4 meeting. ■

Small Church Makes Big Difference

When members of Bethany Lutheran Church found out that Brunswick Elementary School needed money to help fund school lunches for children whose families could not afford lunch, they went into action. Bethany's group of hard-working women and their supportive community raised nearly \$1,779 by hosting a church bazaar with a soup and sandwich sale. Every penny raised was donated to the Brunswick Elementary School lunch program.

At the start of the 2025–2026 school year, the school placed a notice in this newspaper and elsewhere asking for donations to the lunch program. The money would help many students who cannot afford lunch every day. Although the school makes sure every child gets a lunch even when they don't have the money, the school has to somehow pay these lunch debts.

The story does not end here. Bethany Lutheran Church contacted the Lead School Counselor, Kathleen Klecan, at Brunswick Elementary School and asked what else the school needed. Klecan, who was named the 2020 Maryland School Counselor of the Year,

By PATRICE GALLAGHER

Legislation designating a County data center overlay zone and map have finally passed in Frederick County after months of consideration throughout 2025.

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater's administration introduced the overlay zone bill in May, and by the end of August the County Council passed the legislation — the Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone — to control where data centers can be built in the County.

Overlay zone map

After the CDI Overlay Zone was passed, the County Planning Department proposed a map to designate more precisely which properties can be developed for data centers in the near-term. The Planning Department's map covered about 2,566 acres in the

Data Center Map Passed by Frederick County Council

Referendum Effort to Overturn It Has Begun



FREDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Data centers in Ashburn, Loudoun County, Virginia

Adamstown area surrounding the 1,585-acre Eastalco/Quantum Frederick data center site that is already being developed for data centers.

The first step in the process after the Planning Department made their recommendation was consideration of their 2,566-acre map by the County Planning Commission, a body of citizens who make decisions on certain land-use questions, or make recommendations to the County Council when a final decision must be made by the Council. The overlay zone and map were such issues.

After hours of testimony from the public and delibera-

tions amongst themselves, the Planning Commission voted to recommend that the County Council keep the new overlay zone map to the 1,585 acres that had already been approved for data center development at Eastalco. The Commission's intent was to give the County a basis to judge the benefits and costs of data centers before allowing more to be built.

The County Council decides

The County Council took up the CDI Overlay Zone map during several workshops and

Continued on page 2



Missy Hash, Cafeteria Manager at Brunswick Elementary School, holds a donation check from Bethany Lutheran Church.

knew exactly what was needed.

The Church Council quickly authorized and funded the need for winter coats. The weather was turning colder, and the church acted to purchase 23 coats that the school requested for children of various sizes. This met their current need.

Church member Gene Farmer stated, "This is what can happen when the community and hard-working members of Bethany set out to make a difference in our town. We give special thanks to the community for coming out to support the church bazaar. When we work together, great things can be accomplished." ■

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Museum Mural tells story of African-Americans in railroading



MADELINE BUTLER

PLUS: TAKE OUR READERS' POLL, STREAM RESTORATION, COUNTY BUDGET MEETING, GARDENING, TRAIN JOURNEYS, ORAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION, THE BRUNSWICK Y, RECYCLING, AND MORE

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BRUNSWICK NEWS

Data Centers/Referendum CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

hearings in November and December, culminating in 7 hours of public testimony offered on Dec. 16 and 17. The great majority of testimony was against allowing more acreage for data centers in Frederick County, beyond the 1,585 acres at Eastalco.

The Council held their final votes on the CDI Overlay map on December 23. The Council voted 5 to 2 to add an additional 49 acres to the Planning Dept. staff's map. Council Member McKay offered an amendment to use the recommendation of the Planning Commission for the map (i.e. 1,585 acres) but his amendment was voted down, 5 to 2. On the final vote for the 2,615-acre CDI Overlay map, the vote was again 5 to 2, with Council Members Donald and McKay voting against, and Young, Knapp, Keegan-Ayer, Carter and Duckett in favor.

Now that the vote on the overlay map is final, residents who remain opposed have mounted an effort to allow the voters to vote on the 2,615-acre map.

CDI Overlay Zone map continues to generate controversy

Large crowds attended most of the workshops and hearings held by the Planning Commission and the County Council; many who attended and testified are Adamstown area residents. A few speakers cited projections by the County and

by the Maryland Tech Council that data centers will bring tax revenue and jobs to the area, particularly during the construction period.

But Adamstown farmers and homeowners, and other County residents expressed great concern over loss of property value, constant noise from the data centers' equipment, truck traffic during construction, well contamination, viewshed destruction, and environmental degradation from increased emissions and very high demands for water.

Other speakers cited the uncertainty around data centers as investments, and whether the need for them may plummet if newer technology takes their place. In addition, as has been shown across the nation, data centers require tremendous amounts of power, particularly due to the growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and this often means new trans-

Each municipality in the County has its own zoning rules, so data center developers can seek to build within any of the various municipalities.

mission lines, like the controversial Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) must be built to provide the power.

Many speakers advised the County to hold on further data center growth until the State of Maryland completes its data center study, which is tasked to provide an unbiased picture of the actual costs and benefits of data centers.

A referendum to overturn the Council's map

Now that the vote on the CDI Overlay map is final, residents of the County who remain opposed to the map have mounted an effort to allow the voters of Frederick County to vote on the 2,615-acre map.

A new group, the Frederick County Data Center Referendum Committee (FCDCRC), has formed to organize volunteers to collect the approximately 15,000 signatures needed to put a referendum on the ballot in November.

The group will attempt to gather 18,000 signatures to assure there are 15,000 accepted by the Board of Elections.

The signatures will need to be gathered by mid-March, and volunteers will be trained to properly gather the signatures. Elizabeth Bauer, Board Chair of the nonprofit, Envision Frederick County, is convener of the group and questions can be sent to: fc.dc.referendum@gmail.com.

A legal opinion from the County attorney, and a counter-opinion

The County attorney has expressed the opinion that the referendum can not be held to overturn a zoning law, but the FCDCRC disagrees and has provided this statement on the matter:

"The County Council and the County Executive are clients of the County Attorney. When the Council sought the applicability of the referendum process, the County Attorney, Bryon Black, provided an opinion. That is all it is, an opinion. We, the FC-DC Referendum Committee respectfully disagree with Mr. Black's opinion.

Ultimately the issue may be decided by a judicial opinion. In his opinion, Mr. Black acknowledged that the outcome of such litigation cannot be guaranteed. And the day in court to decide whether the residents of Frederick County have a voice will never happen unless we collect signatures to put this on the ballot."

Data centers in individual municipalities

Data center growth in Frederick County is not completely controlled by the overlay zone legislation passed by the County Council in December. Each municipality in the County has its own zoning rules, so data center developers can seek to build within any of the various municipalities. The City of Frederick is currently considering an amendment to its Land Management Code, proposed by a private party, to allow for data centers to be built within City limits. ■



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YOUR OPINION PLEASE!

What do you think of the Brunswick News-Journal?

Our January issue was printed by the *Frederick News Post*. We switched printers to improve our print quality. The physical size of the paper is a little smaller: 10.5" X 16," which is down from 11.25" X 17".

What do you think about the content, writing and layout?

How about the physical quality of the paper: Do you find it easy to read? Do you think the color photos look better in recent issues?

Please take our online poll, which will be open from February 1st to 15th.

Please use our website form at <https://www.brunnews.com/your-thoughts>. You can use this QR code to go there on your mobile phone.



BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL

Mayor and Council
January Update

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

By JULIE GOURLEY

Once again, the city's finances got a gold star. The city's auditor, DeLeon & Stang of Frederick, presented its findings to the mayor and council, noting that the few misstatements and material deficiencies were minor and did not affect the financials.

New BHS progressing

On January 13, Mayor Brown was informed that the new Brunswick High School building that many have been pressing for was approved and jumped the line to become the next school project in the cue. County officials have budgeted for a 2030 opening.

During the citizen's forum, the mayor thanked Hope Bonanno for leading the long and intensive lobbying effort and all the concerned citizens for putting in so much time and effort. He said, "Your lobbying did the trick!"

Another busy citizens' forum

During the January 13 citizens' forum, several residents spoke about issues related to the "Brunswick Forward" comprehensive plan, the January 20 election, and the new BHS building.

Eric Harteis, owner of Bridgeway Bikes, asked about the status of revitalization pursuant to the "Brunswick Forward" comprehensive plan. He asked specifically about the trail network, the downtown sidewalk plan, whether bike lanes could be added to wider streets with a demonstration project at the top of North Maple Avenue, and whether the plan's Community Hubs could incorporate bicycle infrastructure (e.g. parking).

David Meeske, a fellow bicycle enthusiast, asked whether bicycle parking could be at City Hall and other places around town, adding that doing so would be in keeping with the comprehensive plan's vision to make Brunswick more bikeable and walkable.

Jerry Bonanno reminded citizens to vote on January 20 for the open seat on the City Council, for which he and Carleah

Summers are the candidates. He also spoke of his ideas for Brunswick that he would like to pursue if elected.

Hope Bonanno, who led the BHS building effort, thanked all Brunswick residents who helped with lobbying the county and state. She said, "We next want to press for an earlier completion date. Supporters of one of the new elementary school buildings succeeded in getting an earlier date and it saved money, so if an elementary school can do it, a high school can too."

City-wide vacant property update

Planning and Zoning Director Bruce Dell reported that there are 18 vacant commercial properties in the city. Six downtown properties are in their fourth year since the required registration with the city. This means they will incur increased taxes (two times the standard rate) beginning July 1 per the Vacant Property Ordinance.

The worst offender is the owner of the Cincotta building on West Potomac Street. Brunswick Property Partners II LLC, the absentee owner, did not do the required registration in December 2022.

Sports Complex update

Assistant City Administrator Jeremy Mose reported that the Sports Complex overhaul is underway, and the park is now closed to the public, including the skateboard park and River's Edge trailhead. The renovation is expected to be completed by this Fall.

Speed enforcement activity update

Brunswick Police Captain Andy Crone reported that BPD is considering buying speed cameras. One camera would cost \$28,800/year with a \$12 lookup fee per violation.

After conducting a survey at three locations – Souder Road, MD 464, and Central Avenue – BPD determined that only Souder Road would warrant a camera given that 12 mph over the posted speed limit triggers a citation. The manufacturer estimates that the camera

Understanding the City's Role in Economic Development

Economic development is one of the topics I hear about most as mayor, whether at community meetings, through emails, or in everyday conversations around town. Residents care deeply about the future of Brunswick, and that passion often comes with ideas. We need a new restaurant. We need a bowling alley. We need an arcade or more things for families to do. At the same time, I also hear concerns that we have too many of a certain type of business.

These conversations matter, and they come from a shared desire to see Brunswick thrive. They also highlight a common misunderstanding about the role local government plays in economic development.

The truth is, the City of Brunswick cannot make a specific business open, close or locate here. We cannot require a restaurant, entertainment venue, or retailer to invest in our city. Likewise, we cannot prevent a lawful business from opening if it meets zoning and regulatory requirements. These decisions are driven by private investment, meaning entrepreneurs and business owners evaluate market demand, financial risk, and broader economic conditions.

Setting zoning and land use policies

What the city does control is the framework in which private decisions are made. One of our most important tools is zoning and land use policy. Through zoning, we determine what types of uses are allowed in different areas of the city, such as commercial, residential, industrial, or mixed use, and how those areas develop over time. These policies apply across Brunswick, not just in one area, and are designed to encourage balanced growth while protecting neighborhoods and quality of life.

Brunswick is currently in the midst of a comprehensive zoning rewrite. There have already been multiple public workshops

would trigger a 50-90% decline in speeding violations. Councilman Andy St. John commented that speed cameras should be considered a last resort for problematic speeding areas.

BPD acquired a "speed survey box" to deploy at various areas. The box attaches to signs or light poles and conducts surveys for up to seven days. It has been used at multiple locations throughout the city to direct patrol officers to those areas during times when violations are highest. The box is deployed by citizen complaints, officer observations, or to research various areas to see if there are un-

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



and community feedback meetings, with more scheduled in the months ahead. This process is helping to shape the future of Brunswick. The City Council will soon begin reviewing a draft zoning document through a series of public meetings, leading to eventual adoption. Public participation is critical to this effort and will directly influence how the city evolves.

Zoning, however, does not guarantee outcomes. Even when zoning allows for a desired use, a private investor still has to decide that Brunswick is the right place for their money. That decision is influenced by many factors beyond city control, including construction costs, competition from surrounding communities, consumer habits and workforce availability.

Creating conditions for a healthy economy

Beyond zoning, the city plays an active role in creating conditions that support long term economic health. Brunswick now has a dedicated Community Development team, something that did not previously exist here. This team consists of three full time staff members whose responsibilities are intentionally spread across several critical areas.

Their work includes pursuing and administering grants, supporting Brunswick Main Street, coordinating economic development activities, overseeing parks and recreation initiatives, and planning and managing community events. This structure allows the city to be more proactive, organized and strategic in how we support community development.

The city supports and nudges private investment through a grant program that has been administered by the City and Brunswick Main Street for several years called Building Blocks. Rather than investing in a specific business concept, Building Blocks focuses on improving physical structures. By helping property owners upgrade façades, building systems, and overall functionality, the city develops suitable, flexible spaces where a variety of businesses can succeed over time.

Grants and community development efforts are essential and often work behind the scenes. They help fund infrastructure improvements, enhance public spaces, support events that bring people together, and create amenities that make Brunswick more attractive to residents, visitors and potential investors. These efforts are not about choosing specific businesses but about strengthening the overall environment so businesses can succeed.

Economic development is not about a single project, a single business type, or a single area of town. It is about the overall health of the community, including housing, infrastructure, parks, events, public safety, and how all of those pieces work together. A strong city creates conditions where private investment wants to happen.

I understand the frustration that comes with wanting more options or different kinds of businesses, and I share the desire to see Brunswick continue to grow in thoughtful and sustainable ways. At the same time, it is important to be honest about the limits of government authority and the reality that private investment must ultimately lead the way.

The City of Brunswick will continue to plan responsibly, pursue funding opportunities, invest in our community, and advocate for Brunswick as a place worthy of investing. Economic development works best when government sets the foundation and the private sector builds upon it, together shaping a future that reflects the needs and values of our entire community. ■

Nathan Brown

known speeding problems.

In other news...

- The train station renovation began on January 22. The building is closed to the public during the renovation, but train passengers needing to buy tickets can access the building for only that purpose.

- Frederick Primary Care Associates recently went to closing on its Brunswick Crossing property and hopes to break ground in the Spring. Water and sewer line preparations are underway now.

- Utilities Director Matt Campbell reported that the new

chemical being used to correct tuberculation problems in pipes has caused no problems or complaints so far. The pipes are not yet fully coated.

- Campbell also reported that there is much less water loss across the city. He cited citizen water conservation, leak fixes, and the new reservoir as possible reasons for the good news.

- Administration Director Carrie Myers reminded the public that they can go to the website (brunswickmd.gov) to change from credit card payments to the new Express Bill Pay program. This would save the city money in credit card fees. ■

BRUNSWICK NEWS

The True Meaning of Valentine's Day

By ROSE ELFREY

Most people look at Valentine's Day as a 'love' holiday of sorts. They send cards, flowers and gifts to loved ones. Valentine's Day celebrates various kinds of love — familial (love for our family), romantic (love for our spouse or sweetheart) and platonic (love for friends, such as children exchanging valentines in school).

However, Valentine's Day actually commemorates the February 14 death of Saint Valentine. He was a priest in the 3rd century during the reign of the Roman emperor Claudius II, also known as Claudius the Cruel. Claudius banned marriages for all young men, as he thought they would be more willing to fight in his wars if they were single. Valentine defied the emperor's order and married couples in secret, leading to his execution on February 14 around A.D. 270.

After his death, Valentine was named a saint. Pope Gelasius later established February



C.M. Bloomers, a florist shop in the Brunswick Shopping Center, is decorated for Valentine's Day.

14 as a feast day to honor St. Valentine.

So, this was the beginning of Valentine's Day, established to honor the saint, and then popularized as a romantic holiday around the 14th century by writer and poet Geoffrey Chaucer, who linked the day to romantic love and birds' mating seasons in his poem, *A Parliament of Fowls*.

Valentine's Day in Brunswick

Today, Valentine's Day is for everyone who wants to express their love in a special way. In Brunswick, local florist C.M. Bloomers helps people celebrate this day of love.

According to Chris Spielman, owner of C.M. Bloomers, Valentine's Day is their busiest day of the year. They start planning in December, preparing

and arranging the shop, and the week before, they order the flowers. Spielman says that red roses are still the most popular flower for Valentine's Day.

C.M. Bloomers is located in the Brunswick Shopping Center. They have a variety of gifts and a large selection of flowers. Spielman says that flower availability has become an issue, so it's important to order early. "We prepare for the walk-in customers with a nice selection to choose from in store, but it is always best to schedule flowers for delivery a few days in advance."

Their hours are extended on Valentine's Day, which is a Saturday, from 9-5, so they can accommodate last-minute shoppers, but don't wait too long to order those flowers.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone! ■



Mary Elizabeth Bowie: A Life of Community Service

By ABBIE RICKETTS

Well-known long time Brunswick resident Mary Elizabeth Bowie passed away on December 14, 2025, at the age of 66. Known for her kindness and gentle mannerisms, she had a long history of community service.



MARY ELIZABETH BOWIE

Service to the community

Among her many activities, she served as the first Black member of the Brunswick City Council, elected in a special election in June 2009 and re-elected in 2010, serving until 2014. She was a valued liaison to the Brunswick Main Street program during her time as a council member and was a leader in the former Kids Club-house after-school program. Mary Elizabeth also served as a Trustee of the Community Foundation of Frederick County. She worked at the Frederick Community Center as an administrator for many years and worked at Frederick City Hall under Mayor Ronald Young.

A mother and grandmother

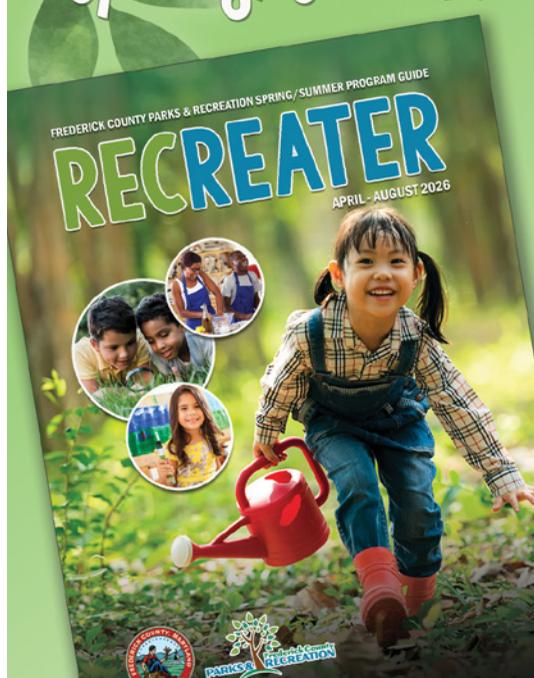
A mother of five children and grandmother of eight, she raised her family in Brunswick and had to endure the passing of her adult son, Eugene Franklin, in 2021. She was of deep faith and was a devoted member of her church, Thomas Tabernacle Holiness Church of God.

Mary Elizabeth's sister, Annette Bowie-Ballard said, "Mary had a way of leaving people better than she found them, and I am no exception. She taught me the importance of standing firm, loving deeply, and serving others without needing recognition. Her life spoke loudly through her actions — through her compassion, her willingness to help, and her commitment to her community and family."

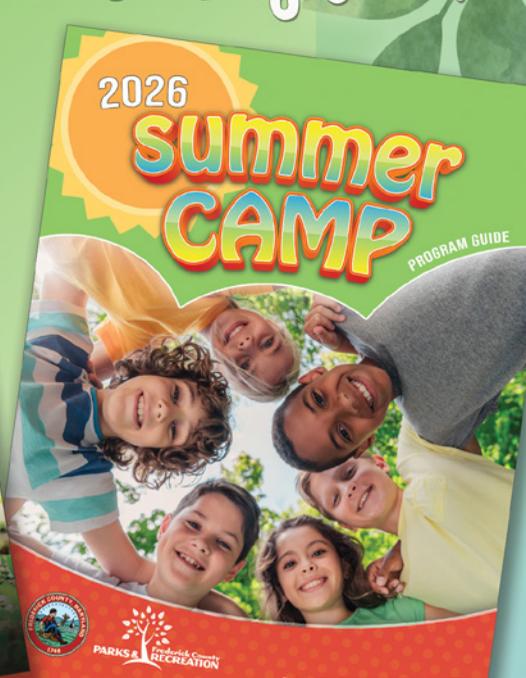
Former Brunswick Mayor Jeff Snoots said this about Mary Elizabeth, "MB, that is what I called her, was a gentle, sweet kind lady. I'll always remember our good times when we served together on the city council. MB was a friend and truly wonderful lady. I will miss her."

Continued on page 8

Spring/Summer Fun Coming Soon!



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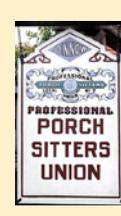
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What is Going on with the East Wenner Branch Stream Restoration?

BY JANE CLIFFORD

Driving along Souder Road or Second Avenue in Brunswick, it's hard to miss: a large construction site stretching half a mile along a stream bed. Where dense woods once buffered backyards from nearby roads and businesses, there is now exposed soil, rock, orange safety fencing, and heavy equipment. For some residents with properties abutting the site, the change feels disruptive and unsettling. One property owner described the area as looking like a "war zone," and worries about wildlife displacement, noise and light pollution, and how long the work seems to be taking.

While those concerns are real, the East Wenner Branch Stream Restoration Project is on schedule and within scope, according to the City of Brunswick. The project is designed to deliver long-term benefits that outweigh the temporary disruption, including improvements to water quality, flood resilience, and ecological health that will last for years to come.

The project

Engineered by Clark Azar & Associates and constructed by Resource Restoration Group, the project focuses on restoring roughly 2,770 feet of degraded stream corridor on city-owned land within the Manchester Village Green Area. While the stream may appear small or even dry at times, its condition plays an important role in local and regional water quality. Years of erosion have left sections of the stream with steep, unstable banks and exposed bedrock, allowing sediment and pollutants to wash downstream to the Potomac River during heavy rainstorms.

To address this, the project will reshape eroding stream banks into gentler, stable slopes and install rock sills, pools, and engineered rock formations to slow water, stabilize the channel, and provide habitat for fish and insects. Over time, this work will significantly reduce the amount of sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus flowing into the Potomac.

Residents' concerns

For residents living adjacent



The Wenner Branch Stream Restoration project in early January 2026. The construction site spreads a half mile along the stream bed.

to the stream, the most visible change has been tree removal. Invasive species, including the destructive lanternfly, the Tree of Heaven, are being cleared, along with other vegetation in areas where in-stream work is required. For some homeowners, this has eliminated a long-standing visual and sound buffer. Bright lights from nearby commercial properties are now visible, and long-hidden debris including rusted oil tanks and trash are now in view.

Other nearby residents echoed those concerns, saying the loss of trees has ruined backyard views, eliminated privacy, and forced some households to install blackout curtains to block newly exposed commercial lighting.

"These woods were our buffer," said one resident, who wishes to remain anonymous. "Even in winter, when the trees were bare, they still blocked the lights and noise. Now everything is exposed." Her husband also expressed concerns, noting that wildlife including deer, raccoons, opossums, and feral cats that once used the area as a travel corridor are now confused by the netting and, on

at least one occasion, became trapped. Both said they and their neighbors have received conflicting information at different points about the project's timeline, scope of work, and which trees would be removed.

Other residents also cited a lack of communication from the city early on, remarking that notice of an April public meeting was posted on-site rather than delivered to homes, which they felt limited attendance and

opportunities to raise questions and concerns.

The City responds

Abby Hall, GIS & ENV Program Manager at City Hall, acknowledged that restoration work is inherently disruptive in the short term, but said crews onsite are habitat restoration specialists who make efforts to relocate any wildlife encountered to safety. Hall noted that wildlife typically migrate away during disturbances but return once habitat is reestablished. She said City Hall has not received reports of animals in distress, but residents can call the city if an animal needs assistance.

Despite some permitting delays, Hall said the project is proceeding according to schedule. While early project documents referenced a Dec. 31 deadline for in-stream work, that date was eliminated during the pre-bid process, before a contractor was selected and after bidders flagged the original schedule as unrealistic. The deadline to finish all work including in-stream, stabilization, and planting is Aug. 31, 2026; however, their goal is to finish in-stream work by March 1. Seasonal pauses are also required statewide from March 1 through June 15 on all streams to protect fish spawning, as enforced by the Md. Dept. of the Environment.

Tree loss, while distressing for nearby residents, will not be permanent. The city expressed

early on that tree preservation is a priority. Around 188 trees are slated for removal, including 11 specimen trees that would not likely survive the project's impacts. To offset this, 191 native trees will be planted once conditions allow, likely in spring 2026. While young trees take years to mature and fill out, they will help stabilize banks, filter runoff, and support wildlife over the long term.

Beyond local benefits, the project is an exciting milestone for Brunswick. It is the city's first stream restoration and its largest restoration project to date under the Watershed Implementation Plan. Funded through a \$1.6 million federal infrastructure grant, the work will also help the city meet its stormwater management requirements.

For neighbors frustrated by the noise, the visual impact, or the waiting, the city encourages residents to follow updates through its online story map (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f1338d2dbb76439e8de2ac965b12f94f>) and to report issues such as distressed wildlife or debris removal needs directly to Public Works. The city plans to apply lessons from this work to inform future stream renovation projects, and that includes engagement with the community. The Brunswick News Journal will continue to monitor the project and report an update on the stream restoration this spring. ■



Concrete culverts are an essential aspect of in-stream water management, allowing for drainage and preventing flooding.



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BRUNSWICK NEWS

Accident on Christmas Eve



A pickup truck experienced a brake failure on Christmas Eve and crashed into the side of the house at North Maple Avenue and East C Street. No one was hurt. The house's brick exterior sustained minor damage.

BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2025

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Maryland State Citations	26	414	9	195
Maryland State SEROS	6	86	7	69
Warning Citations	105	1,184	42	866
Parking Citations	38	538	3	61

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Calls for Service	1,935	20,368	1,020	10,546
Homicide	0	0	0	1
Rape	1	6	0	2
Robbery	0	2	0	1
Assault	7	58	6	82
Breaking & Entering	0	4	1	9
Theft	7	51	4	42
Auto Theft	0	0	0	2
Adult Arrests	8	82	6	92
Juvenile Arrests	1	5	0	25

OTHER INCIDENTS				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Motor Vehicle Accidents	15	108	4	147
Emergency Evaluations Mentally Ill/Suicidal Persons	9	108	11	90
Overdoses	1	12	0	10

YTD = year to date PY = previous year N/D = no data
 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)

Happenings at the 50+ Community Centers

By JEAN DOYLE

The winter session at the 50+ Community Center started in January and continues through March. Registration is still open.

To pay online visit the eStore at <https://frederickcountymd-gov.3dcartstores.com>. Once on the website, locate 50+ Community Programs. Then click on the program you want and add it to your shopping cart.

To pay by check, make checks to "Frederick County Treasurer" and drop off at the Brunswick 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 Ave., Frederick, MD 21702.

For the free programs, register at VirtualSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Trips

Friday, Feb. 27 — Historic H.P. Rawlings Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. Five greenhouses and a half-acre garden featuring plants from tropical, desert and Mediterranean regions. The Conservatory is one of Baltimore's most important architectural treasures. Time: 9:30 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$30 per person, bring money for lunch. Leave from Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, Feb. 13 at any Senior Center, or online at the eStore.

Sunday, March 8 — Toby's Dinner Theater: Rock of Ages. Set on the Sunset Strip, a "city boy" and a "small town girl" fall in love to the greatest hits of the 1980s. Rock of Ages takes you back to the time of big bands and big guitar solos. Time: 9:30 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$105 per person. Buffet lunch is included. Leave from Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, Feb. 20 at any Community Center, or online at the eStore.

Special Events at Brunswick 50+ Center

Tuesday, Feb. 3—Blood Pressure Checks and Safety Presentation: Heart Healthy Month. Time: 11 a.m., free, drop-in.

Thursday, Feb. 12—Monthly Dinner Dance. Held at the Brunswick Eagles, hosted by the Brunswick 50+ Center. Time: 2–5 p.m. Dancing at 2:00 and Dinner at 4:00. Cost: \$17 per person. Paid reservation due one week in advance. Call 301-834-8115 for information.

Friday, Feb. 13—Valentine's Day Lunch. At 12 noon, menu is roast beef, mashed potatoes, Harvard beets, roll, pie. To reserve a meal, contact the Senior Center at least one week in advance, 301-834-8115. Voluntary contribution (\$6) toward the cost of the meal.

Wednesday, Feb. 18—Lunch Out with Friends at Chef Lin, 12 noon. Reserve transportation from the center, or meet at the restaurant. Pre-register, check at the center for more details, 301-834-8115.

Tuesday, Feb. 24—Weis Nutritional Talk: Improve Cholesterol. At Brunswick Center and virtual. 1 p.m., free, pre-register.

Thursday, March 5—Bingo Fun at Eagles. Free bingo followed by lunch. Time: 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Cost for lunch \$10. Register by Feb. 26 at 301-834-8115.

Virtual Programs Highlights

Healthy Mind Series, presented by Frederick County Health Dept.

Monday, Feb. 9—Focus on the unique challenges seniors face that increase their risk for depression and suicide. Highlight protective factors, foster resilience and hope. Virtual/Hybrid registration preferred at VirtualSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Winter Fitness Programs at Brunswick Center

Line Dancing — Mondays 10–11 a.m., fee, pre-register.

Strength and Stretch — 9–10 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday, fee, pre-register.

Free Exercise Programs at Brunswick Center

Pickleball — Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m., at the Brunswick Tennis and Pickleball Courts, free, drop-in.

Walking Group — Mondays at 8:30 a.m. at Othello Park. Meet near the restrooms for an easy stroll with others, free, drop-in.

Don't forget all the many and varied ongoing activities offered by the Brunswick 50+ Community Center. Call 301-834-8115 or stop by at 12 East A Street for information. ■



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County Executive Fitzwater Holds Budget Listening Session in Brunswick

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

On January 21, County Executive Jessica Fitzwater hosted a Budget Listening Session for FY27 at Brunswick Elementary School. Joining her were County Council members Renee Knapp, Jerry Donald and Brad Young. About 30 people were in attendance. The purpose of the session was to explain to the public how the county budget is developed and to give people an opportunity to voice their concerns and ask for funding for certain areas.

In her opening remarks, Fitzwater said the budget was still early in development and more sessions in different areas of the county will be held. The sessions are open to all. She mentioned the continuing growth

of large corporations such as Astra Zeneca and others in the county. Fitzwater said she will continue to use a conservative budget that must reflect the priorities of the community.

Three segments of spending

The county budget consists of three segments of spending. Funding mandated by law makes up 53% of the budget and includes education and other state and federal mandated programs. Other mandated functions required by law is 24% of the budget. The remaining 23% can be used for discretionary funding which is determined in part through citizen input.

The current fiscal year 2026 budget is divided with education receiving 49%, public safe-

ty 20%, other county departments 17%, and the remainder to other services.

Fitzwater said that federal and state impacts to the county budget include a state budget shortfall, loss of 25,000 federal jobs statewide, end of dedicated Blueprint funds by FY28, changes to federal funding, and mandated obligations. Looking ahead, the economy is growing, she said; there is conservative budgeting, no new taxes, and a focus on core responsibilities and quality of life.

Eight speakers stepped up, including two new candidates for County Council District 1, Jenn Alcorn and Howard Hollewa. Several speakers raised concerns about data centers in Adamstown, including air monitoring and the effects of

diesel generators on Carroll Manor Elementary School, which could be just 900 feet from a proposed data center. Another speaker called for funding for fire company training for responding to fire and emergencies at data centers.

Other concerns raised were a shortage of staffing at Brunswick Elementary School. One speaker from Brunswick wants Livable Frederick phased out, a sheriff salary increase, and rezoning of western Frederick County, splitting District 1 in half. Several speakers mentioned a need for better senior services in Middletown and Brunswick, including Brunswick Mayor Nathan Brown who advocated for a new senior center. A Brunswick High School teacher spoke about out-



County Executive Jessica Fitzwater with Mayor Nathan Brown at the Budget Listening Session

dated textbooks and the funding insecurity of teaching positions. Mayor Brown thanked the County Executive for providing funding for longer term Brunswick businesses. Brunswick Council member John Caves was also in attendance.

Comments can still be submitted online at FrederickCountyMD.gov/BudgetFY27. In March there will be a public meeting at Winchester Hall after all budget comments have been gathered. ■

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LOCAL NEWS

IN MEMORY

Jobe Oliver Breeden, Jr.

Jobe "Joe" Oliver Breeden Jr., 87, of Rohrersville, MD, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown, Md. Joe was born on November 5, 1938 to Jobe O. Breeden Sr. and Lela C. (Simons) Breeden Willard in Brunswick, where he was raised. He attended Brunswick High School and graduated with the class of 1958.

Joe worked at Cage's Willards Motors, at construction for LJ Keller, and as a railroad fireman in 1959. Joe was drafted into the army (1962-1964) and was stationed in Germany. After serving in the army, his patriotism carried on. He then worked for the railroad from 1964-66, NIH in Germantown doing HVAC work, and returned back to the C&O/B&O Railroad (CSX) for 34 years, retiring in 2000.

Joe leaves behind his wife of 58 years, Elizabeth (Betty Lou); daughters, Terri Hollingshead, and Toni Wetzel (Rob); and son, Jody Breeden (Shelley); son-in-law, Kenny Linton; grandchildren Hope Routzahn (Jayme), Heather Wysong (Ross), Katie Deatrich (Tyler), Ryan Wetzel



JOBE BREEDEN

(Amanda), Cody Linton (Tori), Sara Breeden, and Joey Breeden. He loved spending time with his great-grandchildren, Anthony Hoffman, Jay Routzahn, Trevor and Trent Deatrich, Dylan, Harley and Emory Wysong, Aliyah and Grayson Linton, and many nieces and nephews who were dear to his heart.

Joe was a member of the Eagles Club in Brunswick. He loved spending time at Charles Town Race Track where he owned some race horses. He also liked spending time hunting with his buddies and enjoyed getting together with his railroad friends regularly for

a country breakfast. He loved reminiscing about the olden days, and attended annual Nifty Fifty get-togethers. He coached his son's baseball team for many years in Brunswick, and could be seen supporting his grandchildren at their baseball and softball games, and also helped his son, Jody, coach his grandson at South Mountain Little League.

Besides his parents, Joe was predeceased by his siblings, Lorraine Layman, John Breeden, Betty Smith, Drucilla Lake, and Robert Breeden.

There was a memorial service at Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church, 134 S. Main St., Boonsboro, Md. on Friday, January 16 at 1 p.m. A light lunch was served following the service at the church. There will be a private graveside interment at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Joe's memory to support the Brunswick or South County Little League organizations: Brunswick Railroaders Little League, P.O. Box 98, Jefferson, MD 21755, or South County Little League, P.O. Box 31, Boonsboro, MD 21713. ■

Mary Elizabeth Bowie CONTINUED

Continued from page 4

A Sister's Memories of Mary Elizabeth Bowie

Annette Bowie-Ballard, had these heartfelt comments to share:

My sister Mary Elizabeth Bowie's passing left a deep space in my heart, but she also left me with something far greater — a beautiful and lasting impression of who she was and how she lived. Even in her final days, Mary showed strength, grace, and unwavering faith. She carried herself with dignity, never losing sight of who she was or what she believed in. Watching her transition reminded me of her lifelong devotion to God, her deep love for family, and her quiet resilience.

Mary's passing was not just an ending, but a reminder of a life well lived. She left this world having made a difference, having loved and been loved, and having left an imprint on my heart that will never fade. I carry her memory with pride, gratitude, and love, and I carry forward what she taught me about kindness, compassion, and what it truly means to live a good life.

My oldest sister, Mary Elizabeth Bowie — lovingly known as "Cookie" — passed away, but not without leaving a wonderful and lasting impression on her sisters and brothers. As the youngest, only five years apart from her, I was especially close to her during my childhood, teen years, and into

adulthood. I would not let her out of my sight, and if she tried to leave without me, I would cry. She would feel sad, turn around, and take me with her.

I remember how she would dress both herself and me, fixing our hair with ribbons and barrettes. Our mother trusted her completely — allowing Mary to pick out our clothes and guide us — and she would always tell us, "Keep yourself nice and pretty because you're representing the family, unless you're outside playing."

Mary was like a mother to me — the best big sister any baby sister could ever want. She taught me about life, about raising my child, about giving myself to God, and about what it means to live with purpose. She showed me the importance of kindness, compassion, and always helping others. Her love, guidance, and example will live on through me and the values I carry every day.

When my sister Mary passed, she left behind more than memories — she left a permanent impression on my heart. In her final days, her strength, her faith, and her quiet dignity spoke louder than words ever could. Even as her body grew tired, her spirit remained full and grounded in God. Mary showed me that grace is not only how you live, but also how you leave. She may have departed this world, but the way she lived — and the way she left it — will forever guide me. ■

**Love, your Baby sister
Annette "Nettie" Bowie-Ballard**

IN MEMORY

Kevin A. Myers

Kevin A. Myers, 56, of Brunswick, Maryland, passed from this life on Saturday, December 20, 2025 at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Born on June 21, 1969, in Charles Town, W.V., he was the son of Edwin A. Myers and the late Linda L. (Staubs) Myers.

Kevin graduated from Brunswick High School class of 1987, and the Police Academy in 1999.

He was employed with the Brunswick Police Department from May 1999 to November 14, 2005. He then worked for the Frederick City Police Department from November 2005 until his retirement on June 18, 2021.

He was a Life member of the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company that he joined June 1, 1986, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

In addition to his father, he is survived by his son, Kirby A.



KEVIN MYERS

Myers (Ashley); daughter, Kerrigan A. Myers; granddaughter, Ella A. Myers; sister, Crystal Myers; niece, Kelsey Myers; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Kevin, also known to his childhood friends as "Yogi," was active in baseball and foot-

ball. As an adult he continued his love of baseball, playing softball in several adult men's leagues. Kevin especially looked forward to the annual Fire vs. Police game at Keys Stadium. Kevin was a connoisseur of all good food... and bad. He never met a buffet or seafood restaurant he didn't love. Kevin loved to travel especially to Ocean City and Lancaster, Pa.

Kevin is remembered by many friends as well as his brothers and sisters of his Fire and Police families.

Kevin was predeceased by his mother, Linda Myers; maternal grandparents, Vernon D. and Hazel E. Staubs; and paternal grandparents, Harold E.

Myers and Elmer and Isadora M. Myers Biller.

The family received friends from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Monday, December 29 at Stauffer Funeral Homes, P.A., 1100 North Maple Ave. in Brunswick.

A celebration of Kevin's life journey took place on Tuesday, December 30 from the funeral home chapel with Rev. Tim May officiating. A reception followed after funeral services at the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company. Interment was private.

Please consider signing up to be an organ donor.

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

We need a Brunswick education reporter!

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Menu to include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee, orange juice, and tea.

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Rotary Clubs of Frederick County to Host Community Peace Forum

The seven Rotary Clubs of Frederick County, in partnership with the Maryland Chapter of Braver Angels and the MOSAIC Center at Frederick Community College, will host a community Peace Forum titled "Courageous Conversations: Speak Your Peace" on Tuesday, February 24, from 7-9 p.m. in the Cougar Café of the Student Center at Frederick Community College.

What is the Peace Forum?

The Peace Forum is designed as an interactive experience that invites participants to explore how listening and communication practices can foster understanding across differences. The program will encourage attendees to engage in meaningful dialogue, practice civil discourse skills, and discover tools that can strengthen relationships within families, workplaces, neighborhoods and the broader community.

Held during Rotary International's World Peace and Understanding Month, the event aligns with Rotary's long-standing

mission to advance international goodwill and create the conditions for peace through service, education and cross-cultural connection.

The event aligns with Rotary's long-standing mission to advance international goodwill and create the conditions for peace.

"Rotary believes that peace begins with how we treat one another," said organizers of the collaborative initiative. "This forum focuses on the everyday actions — listening with intention and speaking with respect — that allow trust to grow and empathy to flourish. We are honored to partner with Braver Angels and the FCC MOSAIC Center to bring this experience to our community."

Braver Angels, a nonprof-

it dedicated to depolarizing American communities, will help guide participants through structured conversation techniques that encourage curiosity, reflection and understanding, especially across political, cultural and ideological divides. The MOSAIC Center will provide an inclusive learning environment that underscores the college's commitment to dialogue and belonging.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact smoketownrotaryclub@gmail.com.

Smoketown Rotary

Brunswick's Smoketown Rotary Club meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the American Legion and the third Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Smoketown Brewery. The club welcomes new members. If you enjoy giving back to the community, helping with environmental and charitable causes, then stop by a meeting and learn more. For more information contact smoketownrotaryclub@gmail.com. ■

Are you looking for a new printer?

Unless you have a need for high quality printing and large format printing, deciding on a printer used to be simple. You decided on laser or dot matrix and color or black and white. That was pretty much it.

But the printer folks figured out they could make more money selling ink than printers. If this seems familiar, think about razor blades and the razor handle. Yes, it's the same approach to making money and it's why printer prices have come down in the last few years. Buy my printer once, but buy my supplies for the rest of its life!

You still have the basic questions to answer, but now you have to consider what it will cost including those cartridge or toner supplies. Manufacturers have forced you to use their supplies. It is still possible to use off-brand supplies, but manufacturers have made this nearly impossible. If you try avoiding the manufacturer supplies, you risk turning your printer into a brick. (Search for "my printer is a brick" to read real-life stories of this.)

Printers now have more features

Most printers today are wireless so your phone and tablet can get to the printer. Additional options like fax, scanning, and auto feed are available but add to the cost.

Color is a matter of choice. If you rarely do color printing, then many stores, such as shippers and office supply stores, will do color printing for a very reasonable price. Color will add about \$50 to the price of a printer, but color will add much more for the cartridges or toner. A set of Brother color toners is about \$300 and a set of HP ink



jet cartridges is around \$125. Just one purchase can easily equal the cost of the printer.

Laser printers give a faster print speed and can handle a heavier load of printing, but cost more. Surprisingly, if you want to print photos, an inkjet usually gives a better image than laser.

Calculating the cost

To calculate a real cost, look not only at the upfront cost of the printer, but what it costs to print per page. First consider how much you print — the duty cycle of the printer. Most printers have specifications for the number of pages you can print each month. You can estimate your own volume based on your past paper purchases. Then determine the cost per page of the ink by dividing its price by the number of pages it yields. Multiple the per page ink cost by the average number of pages you print every month and you will begin to see what you can expect to spend over the life of the printer.

Once you narrow the printer selection based on your feature list, cost of supplies, and your usage, it will be easier to decide what to buy.

Good luck in your search and try to print only when you really need to. ■

John the Computer Guy works in the IT industry. He has provided tech support to major corporations and governments with large databases as well as individuals with Windows, Macs and iDevices. If you have a computer question for him, email editor@BrunswickNews.com.

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a NEW person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a GIFT from God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18



In your old life, your old ways, you lived for yourself - for what brought you temporary pleasure and comfort. I love you too much to let you continue in worldly ways. You are mine, you are loved, and I want the best for you today and every day I have gifted you life! Seek Me and you will find purpose, power and peace.

Come experience my immense love for you!

~ God

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OPINION

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

**The November 2026 Elections
Will they be fair and honest?**

Frederick County's elections have always been fair, but it will be up to us — the citizens, the voters — to keep them that way. Much of the business on Election Day is accomplished by citizens who help set up polling places, sign voters in when they arrive, point them to the proper stations, ensure proper ballot submission, and answer questions. Then, at night when the polls close, they pack up the voting machines and make certain that nothing has been tampered with.

Citizens who sign up to work at polling places will get training in the months preceding the primaries and the general election in November. Once trained, they will have the title of "Election Judge." They will be expected to stay on their jobs from poll opening to closing, usually 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. plus a few additional hours to set up and pack up.

It doesn't matter what one's political leanings are — any registered voter can become an Election Judge. Any registered voter who wants to be sure that the elections are run in a fair and honest fashion should become an election judge. The only thing that matters is a desire to see that the elections are run in a fair and honest manner.

Election Judges are also paid for their work — up to \$250 per day. To sign up to become an election judge, see the Frederick County Board of Elections website at FrederickCountyMD.gov/Vote.

The Brunswick News-Journal will provide information about candidates and election events in articles and candidate advertising. We welcome your letters to the editor about the elections this year. We will focus primarily on contests in Frederick and Loudoun Counties. ■

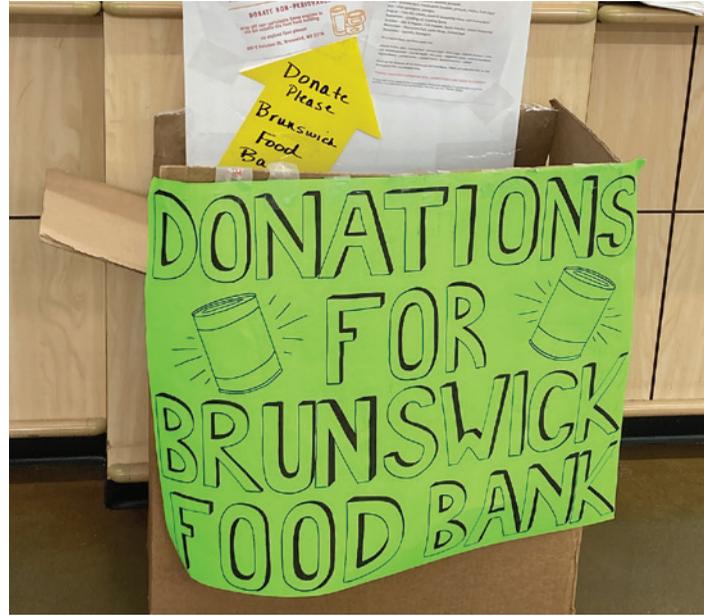
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lovettsville's New Traffic Pattern

I own Back Street Brews in Lovettsville. The new traffic pattern is awful for my business, but besides that it is inconvenient for the town and fixes a non-problem. The only time those streets had an issue with traffic or speed was when there was a detour that caused everyone to use it. There was never a problem and now it goes in the direction toward town, so it forces everyone onto Broad Way.

I had lots of regular customers tell me they were going to stop in, but didn't for reasons of timing and inconvenience. It's just the dumbest thing you've ever seen. Both one-way streets coming off Broad Way go in the same direction! You get dizzy driving through Lovettsville! That's my opinion.

— Maureen Morris
Lovettsville



A collection box for Food Bank donations was set up at the customer service counter in the Brunswick Weis Market in early January, possibly in response to community concern over the corporation not allowing Brunswick Boy Scouts to hold a food drive at the store in Brunswick Crossing.

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.



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Walk In Lab Services

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Sheila Tetreault, DO



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Heather Jones, CRNP

FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February may be a short month, but it is filled with meaning. It invites us to reconnect, collaborate and raise awareness for important causes like Black History Month and heart health.

2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Black History Month and celebrates “A Century of Black History Commemorations.” Join our celebration on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 5:30 p.m. at Winchester Hall in Frederick. This annual event is always powerful, with dance, song and meaningful messages. If you can’t attend, you can stream it live from FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGtv.

February is also American Heart Month, dedicated to raising awareness about heart disease and emphasizes making cardiovascular health a priority. Small lifestyle changes can lead to a healthier future for everyone.

Governor Moore Announces \$28 Million in School Construction Funding for Frederick

Last month, Governor Wes Moore visited Frederick High School to announce \$28 million in school construction funding for Frederick County Public Schools as part of his Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposal.

Meeting the needs of our students takes investment and collaboration at all levels of government. Governor Moore has been a steadfast partner in meeting the needs of students in Frederick County and beyond.

Because of our consistent investment in school construction and strong partnership with FCPS, we are building schools faster than any other jurisdiction. This saves taxpayers dollars and brings relief to overcrowded classrooms and aging schools.

The news about FCPS funding was part of Governor Moore's announcement of a historic \$10.2 billion investment in Maryland's K-12 education. This proposal helps ensure that local school systems will have the resources they need to meet the standards set by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Together, through collaborative efforts and sustainable investments, we are continuing to create an education system that prioritizes students and prepares them for the future.

Enhancing Transparency and Public Engagement

Frederick County recently launched a new dashboard to give you a clear view of progress being made on key initiatives identified during the transition process. The interactive Transition Priorities Implementation Dashboard reflects my commitment to transparency, accountability and data-driven governance.

The dashboard lets you see



County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

exactly how we're delivering on the priorities our community cares about most. It's not just about tracking progress; it's about building trust and fostering collaboration the Frederick County way.

The Transition Priorities Implementation Dashboard provides updates in areas such as economic development, housing, transportation, public safety, public health, sustainability and government innovation.

The dashboard is designed to be intuitive, accessible and mobile-friendly, allowing you to explore progress at a glance or to dive deeper into specific initiatives.

Frederick County recently launched a new dashboard to give you a clear view of progress being made on key initiatives identified during the transition process.

The Transition Priorities Dashboard is part of a broader effort to strengthen public engagement and ensure County government remains aligned with community needs. Check it out at FrederickCountyMD.gov/TransitionDashboard.

Community Benefits Listening Sessions on Data Centers

This month, I am holding two listening sessions where you are invited to share ideas about ways data center developers could invest in our community to bring benefits to the people who live here.

The County will negotiate Community Benefits Agreements with data center industry officials. These agreements will include investments the industry will make in our community.

The purpose of the listening sessions is for you to share your ideas on community benefits before the negotiations begin. This will ensure our final agreement reflects the needs and interests of those who call Frederick County home.

These sessions will take place:

• **Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m.** at Winchester Hall, 12 East Church St., Frederick.

• **Thursday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 p.m.** at St. Joseph on Carrollton Manor, 5843 Manor Woods Road, Frederick.

We have made data centers the most heavily regulated industry in Frederick County, and we cut the number of acres available for data center development in half. We learned the lessons of Loudoun County and regulated the industry before the first data center even came online, and we restricted development to an area with infrastructure needed to support these projects.

With the Council's work behind us, we can move forward with an open and transparent process for hearing directly from residents about the investments from the industry they want to see.

I encourage everyone to attend one of the meetings to learn more and provide input. To sign up to speak at one of the meetings or to submit comments online, visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/Community-Benefits.

County Budget

Thank you to everyone who attended the budget town hall meetings last month. These were productive meetings, and I appreciated hearing your priorities for the County's upcoming budget.

If you did not get a chance to attend a meeting, you can watch the video recordings in the FCG TV archives at FrederickCountyMD.gov/Budget-FY27. To learn more about the budget process and next steps, please visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/Budget.

Agriculture Innovation Grants

Last month, Frederick County announced over \$100,000 in grant awards as part of the October 2025 cycle. Five agricultural businesses were selected to receive funding for projects through this competitive grant program.

The Agriculture Innovation Grant Program helps local farmers and agri-businesses innovate, expand, adapt and thrive. By investing in forward-thinking projects, we are strengthening our agricultural economy and ensuring a sustainable future for generations.

Congratulations to this cycle's recipients:

- Bradley and Herbert L. Damazo, Knoxville
- DeFeo Family Farm, LLC, Middletown
- Maryland Solar Grazing Solutions LLC, Thurmont
- Pleasant Hill Produce, LLC, Walkersville
- Six Wicket Vineyards, Myersville ■

FROM CONGRESSWOMAN
APRIL MCCLAIN DELANEY

Congresswoman April McClain Delaney

As winter settles over Brunswick, I trust that you and your families are safe and warm. While the news cycle remains as charged as it was last year, as the nation approaches our 250th birthday, I look forward to coming together to refocus and rediscover the values that have long connected us as Americans.

These are challenging times. I must begin by addressing the unlawful assaults that are happening across the nation. Dangerous immigration enforcement reached a boiling point last month when 37-year-old Renee Good was killed at the hands of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent — a shooting that sparked intense controversy and protests nationwide.

I recently traveled to Minnesota for a Congressional field hearing to hear from victims, advocates, and local leaders who described the horror of ICE's assault in the Twin Cities. I was jarred at what I heard — vans set up as checkpoints stopping passersby to demand “papers,” the profiled detentions of Black, Brown and Asian individuals (many of whom with legal status), the dragging of a pregnant woman through the street, an elderly woman with asylum status seized from her car while young children sat in the backseat, the shackling and detention of observers who merely honked horns or blew whistles, and detention holding pens of 20–30 people forced to stand for hours without food, water or bathrooms.

No to ICE detention facility in Hagerstown

I also witnessed the incredible courage, spirit and resilience of Minnesotans in the face of cruelty at the hands of our own government. It's a reminder that we in Maryland must continue to show up, speak out and defend our neighbors.

In our state, we've seen ICE's high-profile assaults — from discriminatory enforcement and illegal deportations of individuals like Kilmar Abrego Garcia last year, to recent news reports of a planned detention facility in Hagerstown in a warehouse completely unsuitable for human habitation. Peo-

ple are not packages, and I am leading efforts with Governor Moore and Maryland's Congressional Delegation to push back. I was proud that Senator Chris Van Hollen joined me in Hagerstown to protest.

Action in Congress

I agree with what I've heard from so many of you — we need to turn down the temperature, promote peace and restore safety and well-being in our communities. We need our immigration laws enforced transparently, fairly, humanely and consistent with American values.

That is why I'm cosponsoring legislation to strengthen transparency and due process in immigration enforcement, like banning ICE from using face masks or hiding their identities. I've also called for the impeachment of Homeland Secretary Kristi Noem to hold her accountable for ICE's lawless actions. I also voted against the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill as our country should not fund an agency that terrorizes communities through undue violence and repeatedly ignores individual and constitutional rights.

If you or a loved one needs help regarding immigration or interacting with law enforcement or ICE agents, my office launched a “Know Your Rights” resource on our website. It is critical that we understand our rights and defend ourselves and our neighbors. My team and I are here to help you. We take your privacy seriously, including on immigration matters or issues with other federal agencies. Call us at (202) 225-2721, write to us, or stop by and see us on Capitol Hill or at our district office in downtown Frederick. ■

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LOCAL NEWS

State Legislative News

By MARK ROHNER

For the second year in a row, the Maryland General Assembly has gathered in Annapolis facing a state budget deficit of more than \$1 billion.

Lawmakers convened the new session on January 14, looking to balance a budget with a \$1.5 billion deficit, five times what was projected at the end of the last legislative session. Gov. Wes Moore, a Democrat, has pledged not to increase taxes to address the shortfall, which will likely require deep spending cuts. Moore has said his upcoming budget will propose less general fund spending than the \$27 billion budgeted for the current fiscal year.

To resolve last year's projected \$3.3 billion deficit, lawmakers enacted a combination of budget cuts and tax and fee increases. Subsequently, Moore announced a buyout offer for state workers and a government-wide hiring freeze. Yet deficits are projected to balloon from next year's \$1.5 billion to more than \$3 billion in each of the four years following.

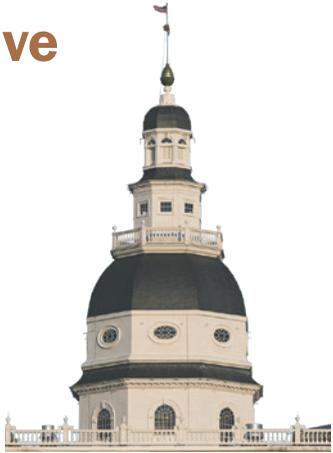
Republicans will push for deeper spending cuts and are talking about forming a new committee to investigate what they say may be fraud or mismanagement of state tax dollars. Their concern is over recent fiscal audits by the state that turned up overpayments, unauthorized charges and other problems with state-run projects.

"We're at a point now where we've misplaced or misappropriated or fraudulently lost money in the billions of dollars. It's insane," said Frederick County Del. Jesse Pippy, R-District 4.

Here are some bills introduced by Frederick County lawmakers in the current session of the General Assembly:

Sen. William Folden (R-District 4)

SB27 would provide an exception for active and retired law enforcement officers from the seven-day waiting period for purchasing a firearm. Del. Pippy is sponsoring this legislation in the House.



SB44 would make public employees who commit certain crimes in the performance of their duties subject to forfeiture of their state retirement benefits.

Sen. Karen Lewis Young (D-District 3)

SB170 would create a task force to study new formulas for allocating state education funds. Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater requested the legislation, saying the current formula doesn't take enrollment growth into account, to the disadvantage of fast-growing counties like Frederick.

SB189 would require cities and towns to install grates over storm drain inlets greater than 12 inches in diameter. The measure is known as Mason's Law, named for Mason Kearns, 13, who lost his life in a flood last July when he was sucked into an uncovered storm drain in Mt. Airy.

SB224 would allow county governments to tax different classes of commercial property at different rates. Maryland municipalities currently have this authority, but counties don't. This legislation was also requested by County Executive Fitzwater.

Sen. Lewis-Young has also said she plans to sponsor legislation allowing counties to tax data center equipment as personal property. The Frederick County Council, which requested the legislation, estimates it could generate between \$69 million and \$74 million annually. Construction is underway on a 72-megawatt data center that will eventually consist of four multi-story buildings, part of a 2,100-acre data center park being developed near Adamstown. ■

Nancy Spannaus: A Life of Service and Education

By EDWARD SPANNAUS

Many in our community knew Nancy Spannaus, but few knew of the struggle she faced while promoting the ideals of the American Revolution in recent years.

My beloved wife of 57 years, Nancy passed away on January 16, after a battle with cancer that spanned over a decade, and included fighting a rare and aggressive form of the disease for the past two years.

Nancy's work centered on U.S. history, emphasizing the country's economic development in general, and Alexander Hamilton in particular. She studied this field since the 1970s and co-authored a book of writings, *The Political Economy of the American Revolution*, in 1977. Upon retirement from a career as a journalist and editor ten years ago, she established the blog AmericanSystemNow.com, which now contains more than 600 articles on the history and principles of the American System of Economics. Beyond her historical work, Nancy helped local families through her management of the Western Loudoun Food Pantry in Lovettsville.

In 2019 she published *Hamilton Versus Wall Street*, and in 2023, she published *Defeating*



NANCY SPANNAUS

Slavery: Hamilton's American System Showed the Way. In early 2025, she published *From Subject to Citizen: What Americans Need to Know about Their Revolution*.

In recent years, many readers knew Nancy through her book events at Frederick County libraries, including Brunswick; her lectures with the Lovettsville Historical Society; and teaching at Frederick Community College. During the last two years in particular, Nancy continued to press ahead, courageously, with research, writing, and speaking related to the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

Nancy served on the Loudoun County 250 Committee, while I serve on the Frederick County

U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. Her local activities over the last two years included exhibiting at the American 250 History Fairs in Carroll Creek Park, giving a talk on "Alexander Hamilton: Father of our Economic Independence," for the SAR 250 Speakers Series, and speaking at a symposium on Lafayette's 1824 visit to Frederick. She also participated in Museums by Candlelight in December 2024 and 2025.

Few of those seeing Nancy at these public events knew she had been diagnosed with an incurable cancer in early 2024, or that she was in increasing pain. Those who knew the truth could only admire her bravery and fortitude in pushing forward to spread the ideas she fervently believed needed to be understood today.

Even though Nancy is no longer with us, I and many of her friends and colleagues are pledged to continue her efforts, to help Americans understand the actual principles on which this nation was founded.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Nancy Spannaus is being held on Saturday, January 31, at 11:00 a.m., at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Lovettsville. ■

Grassroots Civic Organization — Indivisible Middletown — Celebrates First Year

Indivisible of Middletown, Maryland is celebrating its first year fostering civic involvement in the local community. The group includes members from Middletown as well as neighboring areas of Burkittsville, Jefferson and Brunswick. It operates as part of a nationwide movement dedicated to non-partisan activism and promoting the freedoms that Americans have cherished for nearly 250 years.

Over the past year the group hosted a series of public forums

addressing important issues. Highlights included "Voices of Veterans" and "Common Ground Conversations on Food Insecurity." In addition to these educational efforts, the group organized rallies in support of freedom and democracy and has announced plans to continue such events in 2026.

The organization's mission statement is: "Indivisible Middletown, a grassroots group, champions democracy through education, engagement, and collective action. We uphold

the values of inclusion, fairness, and truth while working to elect progressive leaders and rebuild our democracy."

All are welcome to attend meetings which are generally held on Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Middletown Library. Join the group or just come to listen.

For more information contact IndivisibleMtown@gmail.com or find Indivisible Middletown MD on Bluesky, Facebook or Instagram. ■

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Email us: Editor@BrunNews.com if interested.



Lovettsville Town News

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

Beserkle on the Squirkle

Nearly 60 participants came out to participate in Beserkle on the Squirkle on New Year's Day. The event features a 5K fun run/walk around the town square. Lovettsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue helped participants stretch, warm up, and get ready before the main event. Weis Markets donated donuts and Back Street Brews supplied hot coffee.

Best of Loudoun Contest

The first round of voting begins February 20–March 3 to support favorite local businesses, organizations, people and attractions. For more details about the Best of Loudoun contest, visit: https://www.loudountimes.com/special/best_of_loudoun/

New Daycare Center

Lovettsville Little Learners, a new daycare center in Lovettsville, is now enrolling. The cen-

ter is officially state licensed and is located at 2 East Broad Way. Interested families are encouraged to schedule a tour to learn more and see the space firsthand.

Schedule here: <https://calendly.com/lovettsvillelittlelearners/30min>

Email: lovettsvillelittlelearners@gmail.com

Learn German

Among its many events and activities, the Lovettsville Public Library offers classes in

conversational German. The first class for February is in the library meeting room on Tuesday, February 3, from 2:00–3:15 p.m. Visit <https://loudoun.libnet.info/events> for more information about library events.

Upcoming Mayor and Council Meetings

Thurs, Feb. 12, 2026
6:30–10 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 26, 2026
6:30–10 p.m. ■

Lovettsville Game Club Activities

Blood Drive

Saturday, February 14

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

16 S. Berlin Pike

Lovettsville

https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/35530



Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources

Boater Safety – Registration Open

Sunday, February 22

9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

16 S. Berlin Pike, Lovettsville

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/232581>

Hit and Run – Trading Card Show

Saturday, February 28

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

16 S. Berlin Pike, Lovettsville

50 tables of trading cards of all types! Open to the public

LGPA Sweet Heart Dance

Saturday, February 14

7 p.m. – 11 p.m.

16 S. Berlin Pike, Lovettsville

Music by "Jumptown" ■

Lovettsville Union Cemetery

P.O. Box 146,
12930 Lutheran Church Rd.
Lovettsville, VA 20180
lovettsvilleunioncemetery.org

NOTICE

Lot Holders' Annual Meeting

March 2, 2026 6:00 PM
To Be Held At
New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
12942 Lutheran Church Rd
Lovettsville, VA 20180

Snow date: March 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM

George Washington's Dream
The Potomac Company – Making the Potomac River Navigable

A Free Public Lecture
Sponsored by
Lovettsville Historical Society

Before the C&O Canal, before the B&O Railroad, between 1785 and 1828, over 200,000 tons of freight, mostly grain, was shipped down the Potomac River to Georgetown and out to a hungry world. This was the accomplishment of George Washington's Potomac Company, established in 1785 to "get the rocks out of the way" and allow for in-river navigation of the Potomac River.

The Lovettsville Historical Society presents this lecture on Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. at St. James United Church of Christ, 10 East Broad Way, Lovettsville.

This lecture will allow you to see the Potomac River system through the eyes of our first president. It will review the technologies used to "open up" the Potomac, revealing the successes and failures of the project.

Perhaps most interesting, it will explore the 200-year-old ruins the project left behind for us to admire, such as the Great Falls canal.

The speaker is Paul Kreingold, Conservation Director of the Loudoun County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, Virginia Master Naturalist and author of Potomac Marble: The History of the Search for the Ideal Stone. For more on Kreingold, see www.PotomacRocks.com.

For more information, call 703-727-9758. ■

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IN THE KITCHEN

Smile — Good Health Starts in the Mouth

By JEAN TOLEMAN

Want to improve your health this year? Start with your mouth, an open gateway from the outside world into the gastrointestinal tract and lungs. Whatever is in the mouth and whatever the condition of the mouth is affects overall health. Fortunately, unlike other parts of our bodies that may be easy to forget about, our mouth is right there in the middle of our faces. Smile! Smell! Taste! Whatever is going on in the mouth is obvious.

Oral health includes the condition of teeth, gums and the oral-facial system. Tooth decay (cavities) and (periodontal) gum disease are the two most common causes of tooth loss. According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 34 million school hours and 92 million work hours are lost each year due to unplanned or emergency dental care.

How the condition of the mouth affects health

Germs in the mouth, if not kept under control, can cause health issues throughout the body. Research has shown a connection between cardiovascular disease and oral health. Inflammation and infections in the mouth have been linked to clogged arteries and stroke.

Periodontitis (gum disease) has been linked to premature birth and low birth weight.

Germs in the mouth can also move into the lungs, increasing the risk of pneumonia and other respiratory diseases.

A rare condition, Endocarditis, an infection of the inner lining of the heart chambers, has been connected to germs moving from other parts of the body, including the mouth, spreading via the blood and attaching to areas in the heart. If mouth care can help prevent any of these, why wouldn't one grab a brush.

Conditions that affect mouth health

Preexisting medical conditions can affect the status of our mouths. Diabetes decreases the body's ability to fight infections and thus increases the risk of gum disease. People with HIV/AIDS have increased incidence of mouth sores and mucosal lesions. Some cancers have been linked to gum disease, and persons with Alzheimer's disease experience a decline in oral health.

Some medications can cause a dry mouth. Decreased saliva also increases the risk of tooth and gum disease.

Diet

Sugar and acidic foods and beverages in the diet have been shown to negatively impact oral health. Frequent snacking keeps the mouth swimming in carbohydrates that feed all the germs in a mouth, creating the environment to rot teeth.



SHALEY COHEN / UNSPLASH

Keeping the mouth well hydrated will help wash away the germs and their byproducts that can damage teeth.

Easy practices to keep the mouth in top shape

Grab that "soft" toothbrush and try to brush twice a day for two minutes at a time. Dr. Laura Kaler at Jefferson Family Dentistry recommends an "extra" soft brush.

Floss: Flossing between the teeth gets where the brush can't reach and helps remove plaque. It also lowers the risk of gingivitis (bleeding gums)

and inflammation. There are lots of tools that allow us to reach between the teeth from string to flossers to a water flosser which takes it a step further by keeping things "extra clean," according to the Cleveland Clinic. Children can be taught how to floss and make it a part of their evening tooth care routine as soon as they have at least two adjacent teeth. According to Dr. Kaler, it's those back teeth that don't have a space between them that are most at risk of developing cavities in small children. As with brushing, children need

help with flossing, but they will reap the benefits.

Fluoride: While there has long been a debate about whether fluoride should be put in drinking water, the benefits of fluoride in reducing cavities is well documented. Fluoride strengthens and protects the tooth's surface. Since Brunswick does not add fluoride to its water, make sure to use a toothpaste with fluoride. Teenagers are most at risk of developing cavities on the surface of their primary teeth. Fluoride sealants help lower the risk of this, Dr. Kaler said.

Calcium: Including good sources of calcium in the diet provides the minerals needed to keep bones, teeth and gums strong. Sources of calcium include dairy products, leafy greens, nuts and seeds. Fortified foods, cereals, orange juice and tofu also contain calcium.

So, if you're buying fancy exercise clothes and spending hours at the gym, consider another way to make your whole body healthier and happier. Grab your "extra soft" toothbrush, some fluoridated toothpaste and floss. Spend two minutes twice a day taking care of your mouth. Then SMILE to show off those beautiful teeth! ■

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

Dietary Fats

By CHRISTINA FRITZ

Let's put heart health first this February as we celebrate American Heart Month. Did you know that heart disease is the leading cause of death in America? The type of fat we eat can impact our heart health!

Saturated Fats

Saturated fats tend to be solid at room temperature and occur naturally in many foods including beef tallow and other animal fats, bacon and butter.

Coconut oil is a plant-based source of saturated fat. One tablespoon of coconut oil contains 12 grams of saturated fat

out of the 14 grams of total fat. Another type of fat found in coconut oil, which helped it gain popularity, is called medium chain triglycerides (MCTs). As MCTs are digested, they are more likely to be used as fuel and less likely to be stored in the body. While this may seem beneficial, the majority of fat

that is found in coconut oil is saturated, not the MCTs, which may raise cholesterol levels. As with many foods, coconut oil should be used in moderation.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend keeping saturated fat intake to less than 10% of total daily calories. The American Heart Association recommends a saturated fat intake of less than 6% of total calories.

Unsaturated Fats

There are two main types of unsaturated fats – monounsaturated and polyunsaturated — and both are great for your heart. These occur naturally in many foods including plant-based liquid oils such as olive and canola oil, fatty fish, nuts, seeds, and avocados.

A general goal for unsaturated fat intake is 20-35% of total daily calories, as they have many potential heart health benefits including lowering the risk for heart disease. Even replacing saturated fats with unsaturated fats may have positive effects on heart health. Sauté vegetables in olive oil instead of butter, choose leaner cuts of meat such as chicken breast over chicken thigh, or spread avocado on a sandwich instead of a creamy dressing.

Trans Fats

Trans fats can be artificially created in an industrial process that makes liquid vegetable oils more solid. These are called "partially hydrogenated oils" and should no longer be added to foods; however, you may see "hydrogenated oils" in an ingredients list which is considered a saturated fat. Trans fats may raise LDL cholesterol, or the "bad" cholesterol, and lower HDL cholesterol, or the "good" cholesterol.

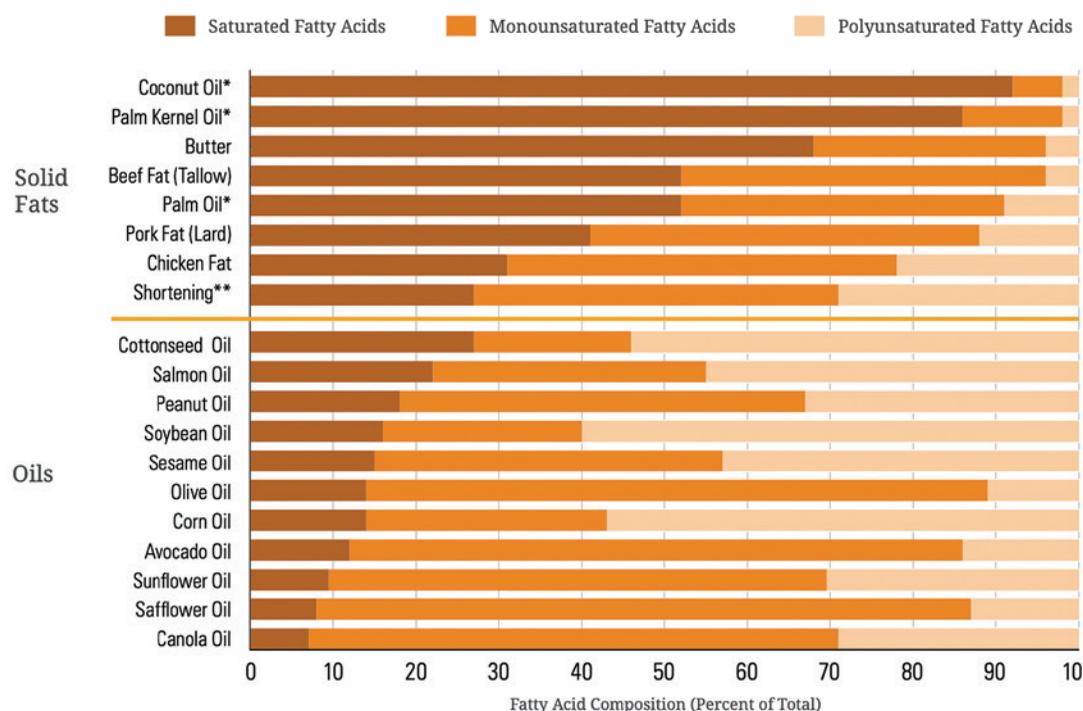
According to the American Heart Association, eating trans fats may increase the risk for developing heart disease and type 2 diabetes. To reduce trans fats, limit fried foods and baked goods such as donuts and cakes.

Choose unsaturated fats when possible. Cook with olive oil and canola oil, snack on nuts and seeds, and enjoy salmon as a protein source for a meal. Saturated fats can be enjoyed but should be limited to stay within recommended guidelines.

Schedule a free nutrition consultation to learn more about dietary fats and heart health. ■

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

Fatty Acid Profiles of Common Fats & Oils



A New Year, A New Deer Free Garden

BY MARIANNE WILLBURN

Winter is decidedly joyful this year. After 12½ years battling deer in my garden, and watching hundreds of dreams literally nipped in the bud, we finally installed a deer fence. From the moment the last gate was set, I've begun to dream of possibilities again as I fall asleep at night.

Big dreams involve things like yew hedging, or cage-free hydrangea in garden beds. Little dreams are as simple as Ammi majus running randomly through perennial pockets in summer, or self-seeded hosta keeping down the stilt grass in a bed I don't have time to weed.

Dreams and deer don't mix

Dreaming hasn't been happening for some time — which is inconvenient when you're a garden writer, for it's in the experimenting and the doing that the best writing originates. Apart from fevered periods of excitement brought on by conferences and symposia that temporarily made me forget about my circumstances, the bloom has been off the rose for some time. I've focused on hardscaping instead.

What were my circumstances? We've had a problem since we arrived, but we shifted into "petting zoo" territory about six years ago. Rampant development in my county means that deer pressure has grown beyond our ability to solve it with a rifle.

In addition, I'm not 30 anymore. I'm not even 50 anymore. And I manage a large property with less than 80 hours a year of hired help. That means that every hole dug and every

tree caged and every perennial selected, prayed over, and sprayed, represents a hell of a lot of effort — mostly mine. When that effort is negated in the space of 24 hours — over and over again — it's hard to keep gardening.

What's truly 'deer proof'?

Even the most practical gardener will soon find that a plant that is touted as "deer proof" in a book or online, may not be deer proof for you. In addition, deer populations change, and a plant left untouched for years, can suddenly appear on the menu. Faced with an ever-contracting palette, I found myself stagnating — choosing plants that made me yawn, and weren't my first, second or even third choice.

After years of this you realize you're no longer planting for the joy of it. You're playing defense and it's boring as hell. So why do it?

That's the question I asked myself last winter when the deer broke the latch on a small enclosure that protects my vegetables and a few choice things, and they ate those few choice things. Choice, slow-growing things. And I thought, "I seriously can't do this anymore."

Light in the darkness

And then I met Sandy Schaller. Sandy is a horticulturist at Wave Hill Garden in New York, and has battled deer on her own property for 20 years.

She and her husband had put in a deer fence the year before, and the excitement and pure joy radiating out of her eyes as she related the change in her garden was intoxicating.

Sandy's story hit me at probably my lowest and most re-



MARIANNE WILLBURN

ceptive point. Plant friends had talked to me about deer fences before, but I'd dismissed the idea as expensive and/or impossible to implement well. The idea didn't excite my husband, who was more excited about replacing our fourteen-year-old car, or our 1970's-era bathroom, than he was by sinking that money into deer barriers (though he had grown tired of hearing the profanity coming from the garden in the early morning).

"I get it now."

It was fellow GardenRant writers who helped him change his mind. After an autumn vacation to England to visit friends, we snuck across the Welsh border to visit Anne Wareham and Charles Hawes in their garden, The Veddw.

Anne and Charles garden in somewhat similar circumstances to us, in that they are tucked into a valley surrounded by woodland — and all the creatures of that woodland. In recent years, deer have become a serious problem.

My husband had never visited an amateur garden on that level before — The Veddw was featured by the RHS in 2025 as one of the UK's top 100 gardens. He was able to see not only what dreams can achieve without deer to dash them, but could talk to Charles at leisure about gates and fences and barriers — both professional and slap-dash.

Over drinks and dinners, he listened to the story of this 40-year garden made by two ordinary people, and was inspired by it. The morning we got back

on the road he turned to me and said, "I get it now. This is what you do. Let's do it."

Is it worth it?

Deer fences aren't for everyone. There are HOAs to consider and views to preserve and monies to save, and a whole host of things that co-host Leslie Harris and I talked about on a recent deer-focused episode of The Garden Mixer; but I do know that my plant friends who have installed one do not regret it — they only regret waiting as long as they did.

For us, it is not a question of regret — the resources simply weren't available 12 years ago to put towards a fence, and it is a sizeable investment. But it's sobering to take a walk around the property and list out the big-ticket items like trees and shrubs that have been killed, maimed or stunted over the years. Those were investments too.

Fencing doesn't erase all challenges. I'll still be battling the voles and squirrels and rabbits that outrun my terriers — and there's always disease and weather to contend with. I'm still one person on a large property after all.

But witnessing a traffic jam of deer form on the other side of the fence (where their trail once led down to what's left of my azaleas) was a beautiful sight this morning. I may even learn to enjoy watching them again. ■

Marianne is an author and podcaster at The Garden Mixer and GardenRant.com. She gardens from her home in Lovettsville.



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Museum Mural Tells a Story of African-American Railroad Workers

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

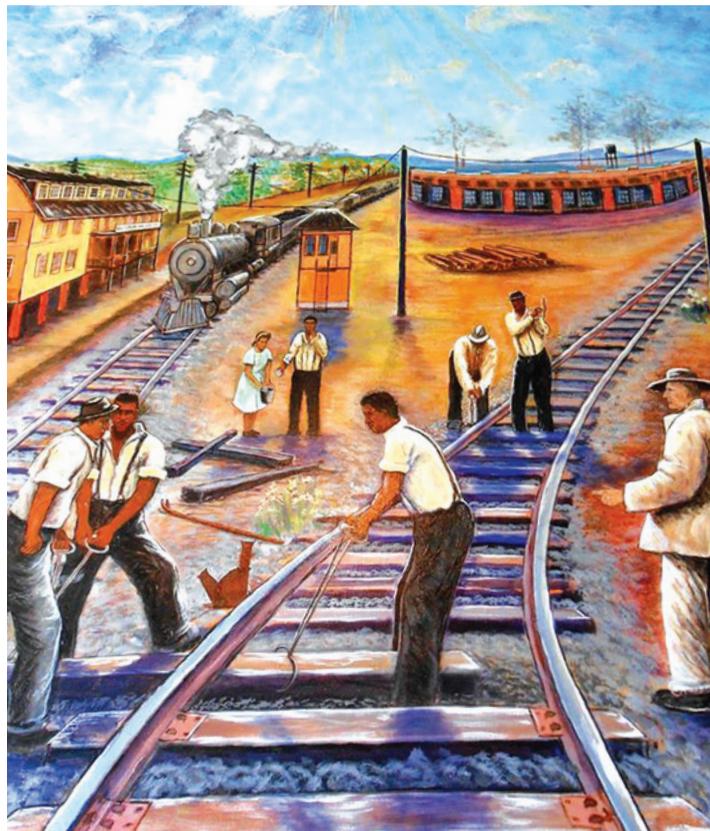
Early African-American railroad workers who laid and maintained track were known as “Gandy Dancers.” Other immigrant groups were also among the workers.

Deriving their name from the Chicago-based Gandy Manufacturing Company, maker of railroad tools, their rhythmic bluesy chants and call-and-response songs helped synchronize hard manual labor, making the work safer, more bearable and mind soothing through the sound of the cadenced songs. A lead caller would sing out and the others responded in unison while pulling a piece of track or positioning a railroad tie. The work was hard and the leaders were motivators keeping the men going.

Gandy dancers worked from the 1800s and some into the 1970s before heavy machinery took over their tasks. Section Gangs, as they were also called, were working all over the country laying and maintaining track. There were local crews working in Brunswick. The railroad was the place to work if one wanted to get ahead making decent pay.

John Randolph Cooper

The late John Randolph Cooper of Petersburg once worked for the B&O Railroad and was a spike driver. He was said to have a chant used to lead the men laying track. Being a caller was a prestigious position. In fact, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) honored two men from Alabama in 1996



Carl Butler's mural at the Brunswick Heritage Museum shows African Americans working to build the railroad.

as National Heritage Fellows for their years of preserving the songs of the railroad as callers of the Gandy Dancers. The NEA stated in a story about the awards that “The songs of gandy dancers were in the tradition of work songs used in the fields of the South during slavery. And like these field songs, the railroad songs are a close cousin to the blues.”

The Gandy Dancers eventually received recognition in Brunswick. In 1996, when the late Lee Smith was President, the Brunswick Railroad Museum (now the Brunswick

Heritage Museum) formed a committee to curate African-American history for a new exhibit. The late Luther Holland of Coatsville, a committee member, suggested engaging an artist to paint African-Americans working on the railroad. A local artist was chosen who had a strong family history with the railroad.

Painting African-American history

Carl Butler was the artist commissioned to paint the mural. Museum Curator Eleanor Milligan shared with him old photos of structures that existed in the rail yard to use as references. Depicting local African-American track workers as they position railroad ties in the rail yard in Brunswick, the large colorful mural was completed in 1997 and remains on display today at the museum. Well-known local historian Madeleine Butler, Carl's mother, served on the committee and contributed much of the history in this article.

Carl Butler's grandfather was George Butler, who was the first Black Stationary Fireman to work on the railroad in Brunswick, working long

hours in the roundhouse. George and his wife Acheir owned a farm near Burkittsville. After working a shift, he came home to work on the farm, milking cows and attending to farm chores late at night. Carl admired his grandfather's achievements and was proud of his work ethic. He wished to honor him with the painting.

The painting portrays men working on the tracks with a white foreman standing by. A young girl is holding a bucket of water. Known as “water girls,” they carried water to the worksite for drinking. A young Brunswick girl named Mary Monroe, whose father worked on the railroad, served as a water girl. She once shared a story with Madeleine Butler about eating lunch with the workers. Someone asked if anyone was eating cucumbers and then suddenly knocked her down, saving her from the bite of a copperhead (they are known to smell like the vegetable).

Carl Butler knew Mary Monroe and included the water girl in the mural, understanding the important role she and others like her took on. Later her married name was Mary Johnson and she was very active

in the Brunswick community serving as president of the local American Legion and VFW Ladies Auxiliaries, the Brunswick Museum and Brunswick Ambulance Company. In 1992 she was honored as a Brunswick Distinguished Citizen. Mrs. Johnson passed away in 2001.

Butler was an accomplished artist

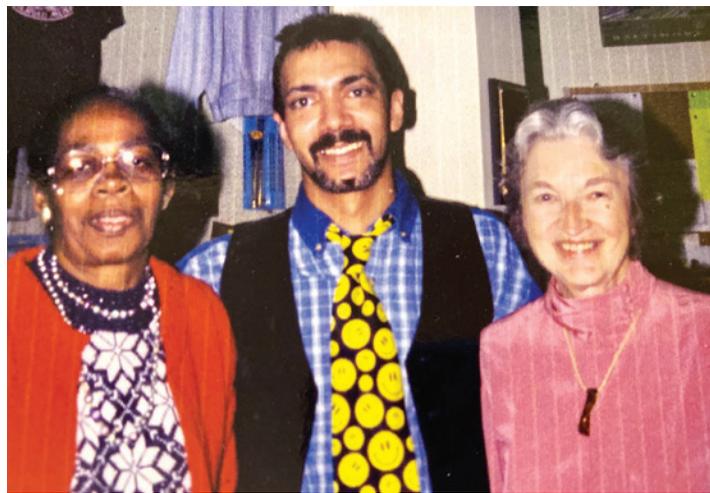
Carl Butler was born in Orleans, France to Randolph and Madeleine Butler. His father was a career U.S. serviceman stationed there and his mother was a French citizen. The family moved back to the United States in the 1960s. Carl attended Brunswick High School and the Maryland Institute College of Art. Before his sudden death due to a heart attack suffered while volunteering as a live artist in the Burkittsville Historic House and Garden Tour in 2018, Butler was an active and accomplished artist.

Another example of his mural work can be seen on Ice Street in Frederick on a building owned by the Asbury United Methodist Church. His mother said, “Carl believed that God gave him the gift of painting; his work was inspired. He followed this bible verse: Romans 8:28 ‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.’” She says if you look closely at the Museum mural you can see the inspiration he felt as he worked through the sky filled with soft sunrays and lofty clouds.

Museum director Julie Kloetzli stated, “The Brunswick Heritage Museum is honored to showcase such a stunning mural that begins telling the story of the Gandy Dancers in Brunswick. With the roundhouse as its backdrop, the mural is both beautiful and historically significant, highlighting an important chapter of our past and inspiring the Museum to share a fuller story of all those who helped build this town. My hope in the near future is that we can find the volunteers who can help us broaden Brunswick's Black history exhibits so that over time we can offer a more comprehensive and inclusive narrative of our town.” ■



George Butler was Carl's grandfather.



Estelle Belt, Carl Butler, and Eleanor Milligan, former curator at Brunswick Heritage Museum.

We want to hear from our readers!

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Please see box on page 2 for more information.

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TRAVEL, ARTS, CULTURE

Valentine's Day

ADVICE TO THE LOVELORN

Dear Lovelorn Advisor:

Please help! It is nearly Valentine's Day and I promised my new friend a delicious dinner, personally created. Why did I do this? I can't even boil water successfully — it always burns!

The library has a ton of cookbooks but they all read like Greek to me, with pulse this and pound that and puree whatever. I am pulling my hair out — and no one wants that in their food!

Do you think I should cancel the promised dinner and enjoy a romantic, quiet evening with ChatGPT?

Shirley Washedup

Dear SW:

Not a problem!

The first approach would be to follow the example of Agatha Raisin in "The Quiche of Death" (by M.C. Beaton, 1992) and order out. When the food arrives, quickly slip it into your own baking dish (buy a used one from a local thrift store). Unfortunately, one of Ms. Raisin's guests was poisoned by the quiche she ordered, but, being a detective, she solved the mystery.

Another approach is to get a big can of stew at the grocery, pour it into a (used) casserole, add large quantities of miscellaneous spices and then ostentatiously remove it from the oven when your guest arrives. Before hiding the can deep in the trash, familiarize yourself with the ingredients in case the guest inquires. Don't mention the disodium EDTA or things like that.

L.A.



FILM REVIEW

Reviewed by LAURA DVORAK

Kanopy is an on-demand streaming service offered by the Frederick County library system for films, documentaries and courses, among other selections. Kanopy participants receive "tickets" each month for "admission" to view choices.

Runt
(2024) 1 hour, 31 minutes
Directed by John Sheedy

Based on the popular children's novel (2022) by Craig Silvey, Runt is a story from down under about an underdog who strives to please. Adopted from Upson Downs's streets by young Annie Shearer, Runt quickly shows his stuff when Annie's father's sheep venture into the neighboring land baron's turf in the town of Upson Downs. Runt makes quick work of herding them home. The neighbor makes a big deal of the trespass because he has designs on taking the Shearer's land. He informs Mr. Shearer the law will allow for future seizure of trespassing sheep.

To compound this onerous neighbor's designs, it hasn't rained for more than a year, and the farm is drowning in debt from the drought. Annie's grandfather, no longer living, was a brilliant inventor who designed a rainmaker. But it needs tinkering to work.

Annie, impressed by Runt's quickness and intelligence, has designs to help win money to keep the farm solvent. She decides to enter Runt in a local agility contest. But Runt has one quirk: he will perform spectacularly for Annie but not for any other spectator. If this hurdle can be jumped—and if Runt wins—there is opportunity for performing in London's Krumpets Dog Show. That's where the real money can be had.

For a doggone riot of a ruff story gone gold, Runt might be just your cup of tea. Just add crumpets. ■



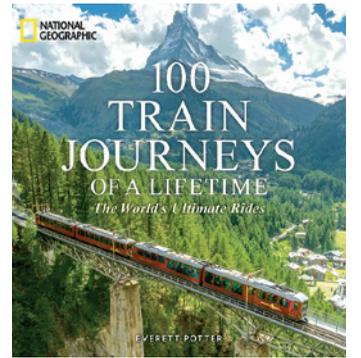
OFF THE SHELF

100 Train Journeys of a Lifetime: The World's Ultimate Rides (2025)

Everett Potter for National Geographic

Reviewed by LAURA DVORAK

It's never too early to dream of that next vacation, even in the midst of winter. 100 Train Journeys is just the ticket, with amazing photos, the enduring hallmark for National Geographic publications.



Potter divides 100 train excursions into six regions: Europe, Africa/Middle East, North America, South America, Asia and Oceania. He includes a budget key (with the caveat that these are subject to change). Four price categories range from minimal expense to more than \$650 per day. Whether your dreams include the possibility of experiencing the northern lights, seeing lions in the wild, or viewing Roman ruins, Potter's got it covered.

Closer to home, a panoply of North America Amtrak journeys is featured. He describes one of the least known long-distance trains, the Texas Eagle, which travels through the middle of the country, from Chicago to San Antonio, where it links up with the Sunset Limited continuing to California. The trip, winding through seven states, takes 66 hours (3 nights aboard) over the 2,728 mile journey and runs three times a week. "On a train ride in the U.S.," Potter relays, "you'll pass a thousand backyards...riveting as a great American novel." Some of those could be Brunswick's.

The book describes each train's configuration—classes of service, dining, lounge, sleeping cars, air conditioning or not, etc., and also provides information about destination stations. Also outlined are trains that provide breaks from travel, with the option to resume the journey whenever desired.

To whet your train-taking-temptation, also check the library for books by train lover Paul Theroux, such as Great Railway Bazaar. Then, plan your getaway— Vacation time is fast approaching. All aboard! ■



The Greater Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce (GBACC) donated several dozen of their sponsored re-usable grocery bags to the 'Drop One - Take One' bin at the Lovettsville Co-op Market. Jill Evans-Kavaldjian shows her approval.

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I'm in It for the Names

By JULIE MAYNARD

Lately I've taken up with the iNaturalist app. The flirtation started small. I just wanted to know what new plant I was looking at along the towpath. The invasives, like gate-crashers at a neighborhood party, have been arriving with annoying frequency.

My affair with iNaturalist began in aggravation but opened a door on a whole wave of things I'd never noticed. Now I can't stop snapping and posting pictures. Ah, the joys of "citizen science," helping to document the world around us.

It turns out thousands of people are sifting through our landscape and recording what's in it through apps like iNaturalist and eBird, and the useful data is piling up. However, I've come to suspect that I'm really in it for the names. Funny names. Poetic names. Names you can't hear without flagging down someone and saying, Hey, listen to this:

Yellow-bellied sapsucker.
Dryad's saddle.
Christmas fern.
Candleflame lichen.
Wood ears.

Despite these unlikely names, you can see all five of these ex-



A yellow-bellied sapsucker.

amples during cold weather.

The first one sounds like a film noir insult ("You yellow-bellied sapsucker!"), but this bird is a common visitor in winter. You can hear its mewling call in your backyard or along the canal. It's the woodpecker that drills those rows of holes on your trees, then checks on them to see if any sap is available for sucking.

Candleflame lichens are those orangey crusts that grow on tombstones in old cemeteries.

And wood ears— well, this fungus looks just like it sounds but is good in soups if you catch it before it gets too leathery.

There'll be more great names as the world turns. Look for

skunk cabbage and Dutchmen's britches in the spring, painted ladies and feather-legged flies in the summer, then beefsteak plant and Baltimore snouts in the fall. (The snout is a rather nondescript moth, but what a name!)



Dryad's saddle sticks out from tree trunks as if waiting for a woods fairy to come along and take a ride.

Meanwhile, it's Great Backyard Bird Count time again. People around the world will take part in this late-winter ritual from February 13 to 16, 2026. You can, too: spend time in your favorite places watching birds then log what you see online. Do it for 15 minutes, looking out your window, or while you're walking the dog or visiting a park. Identify any birds you see or hear and submit your counts; learn how at www.birdcount.org. (If you already use eBird or Merlin, your submissions over the four days will automatically count toward the GBBC.)

Join your neighbors and make sure the Brunswick area map lights up with birds.

You might even see a yellow-bellied sapsucker! ■



Christmas fern is easily identified— each leaflet looks like a little Christmas stocking.

Back to Basics: Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

By LAURA DVORAK

Ready to part ways with and donate your decades-old bowling shirt? According to Public Interest Research Group, North Americans individually buy an average of 53 pieces of clothing yearly and, collectively, throw away 17 million tons of textiles yearly.

What does "throw away" mean? Textiles constitute 5.8% of all municipal solid waste. That dreaded bowling shirt, ousted from your closet, may end up as landfill. In fact, for 100 clothing items donated, 15 will sell locally, 30 will travel to other countries — where items may not be considered salvageable, becoming that location's trash issue — and 55 will tumble into landfills (sources: EPA, Goodwill).

And yet, donating and supporting stores that sell donated items makes sense, environmentally and economically, provided thoughtful consideration is given to the process. Donate with purpose: speciality stores such as Partners in Care, offer a niche for individuals seeking professional attire and Fetch is animal-centric. Donate items in good shape. Repurpose worn items into cleaning rags or other uses. Buy nothing, buy less, swap. December 6, 2025 was our country's first National Clothing Swap Day. Sell at consignment shops, online, or at other venues. Consider researching local sites such as Buy Nothing Brunswick (Facebook) or FreeCycle (Freely-Wheely.com), and Lovettsville free cycle (trashnothing.com).

For local bricks and mortar stores that accept and sell donations, check these (all will welcome you as a volunteer). A sample of store offerings, not exhaustive, include:

Blue Ridge Hospice

609 E. Main St., Purcellville
Clothing, shoes, jewelry, housewares, furniture, books
Wide aisles, organized
Points: \$250 cumulative spending = \$10 off future purchase

Auction items; highest bid awarded after seven days bidding inactivity on item
Dressing rooms

Fetch Thrift

1818 Rosemont Ave., Frederick
Clothing, shoes, jewelry, housewares, pet supplies, books

Easy to navigate, shelves, racks and aisles are fairly controlled chaos

Opportunity to cuddle with cats (\$5) and/or adopt

Dressing rooms (bathrooms)

Goodwill

1003 W. Patrick St. and 1750 Monocacy Blvd.

Clothing, shoes, housewares, books, sports equipment, toys

Crammed racks, narrow aisles

No dressing rooms, 7 days to return with receipt for store credit (shoes not returnable)

Senior discount Tuesdays

Partners in Care Upscale Resale Boutique

5 Willowdale Dr., Frederick
Clothing, shoes, jewelry, housewares, art

Easy to navigate

Points: \$100 cumulative purchases = \$5 off future purchase

Dressing room (restroom)

Senior discount Tuesdays and Fridays

Restore Habitat for Humanity

917 N. East St., Frederick
Clothing, shoes, housewares, furniture, appliances, construction items, books

Easy to navigate

Senior (62+) and military, 10% discount daily

Dressing room (restroom)

Pick up available for large item donations

Select Seconds

8 E. Patrick St. (Frederick Health)

Clothing, shoes, jewelry, housewares, books

Easy to navigate

Dressing rooms

Even pricey clothiers contend the most sustainable clothes are the ones you already own. ■



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LOCAL HISTORY

The B&O YMCA

From Railroader Refuge to the Heart of Brunswick's Community Life

By PETER WENNER

As you relax in the new B&O Railroad Park next summer watching trains pass by, just imagine all the activity that once took place on that hallowed ground. It was home to the B&O YMCA, a Brunswick institution throughout most of the 20th century.

Our YMCA wasn't just a full-service railroad hotel offering respite for weary railroad workers on layover; it served as a vital community center for the city. Numerous civic organizations hosted regular events there.

Fathers brought their sons to "The Y" for haircuts. Families gathered for Rotary or Lions Club Christmas dinners in the old chapel, where children eagerly awaited visits from Santa. Many enjoyed swimming in the YMCA pool and watched sporting events, especially baseball at next door E.W. Scheer Stadium from 1928-1965. Kids pedaled their bikes to the YMCA to hang out, listen to railroaders' tales, watch the action, and enjoy the "greasy spoon."

Railroad crews and the YMCA: A partnership for well-being

Railroad crews often worked far from home and faced irregular schedules with inadequate lodging. To help ensure that workers remained sober and dependable, railroad companies partnered with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), which had been founded in 1844 in London, to provide a safe, Christian refuge for young men moving to cities for work.



The Y in its final years of service during the 1970s.

The organization began its involvement with railroads in 1872, opening the first Railroad YMCA in Cleveland for the Lake Shore Railroad. This model quickly spread to major rail hubs, offering lodging, meals, haircuts, religious services, and recreation. It provided workers with superior alternatives to saloons and inadequate boarding houses.

The B&O was an early adopter, aggressively establishing a network of YMCA hotels across its mainline, providing accommodations for workers along its infamous long mountain routes. By the 1920s, over 300 Railroad YMCAs existed in the U.S.

The Brunswick Y

The B&O Railroad prioritized Brunswick for a YMCA due to its role as a division point between Baltimore and Cumberland. Thousands of B&O workers passed through weekly, as it was home to a ma-

lor crew change terminal and locomotive servicing area.

A typical full-scale railroad hotel, the Brunswick Y opened in 1907. It was just steps away from the yard, allowing train crews to easily walk off their trains and into the hotel to relax after completing their runs. The first building cost \$16,000 to construct and included dormitories with 46 beds. Initial officers included W.E. Shannon, Chairman, and Howard Marvin Jones, Treasurer. Dr. Levin West, who led the staff of the B&O Emergency Hospital in the adjacent building, was among the directors.

As the Brunswick railyard expanded, the YMCA building was enlarged in 1916 and upgraded in 1927 with the first electric laundry installed in any B&O YMCA.

Along with dormitory rooms featuring communal baths and showers, The Y provided rail-

roaders with game rooms that, as noted in a 1927 "The Y and How Magazine," included a bowling alley, pool tables and game rooms. Additionally, there was a restaurant that operated 24/7. The barbershop was a popular gathering spot.

A basement fire in 1934 caused extensive damage to all three floors, but the building was quickly restored due to its importance.

In a 1983 Brunswick Citizen article, James F. McMurry explained that the emergency hospital, initially a "bunkhouse" for railroad workers, operated as needed for railroad accidents, with staff on call. It was urgently thrust into service to treat local patients during the deadly 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic. After improved railroad safety measures were implemented, the hospital was discontinued and the annex later became a control office for the local yardmaster and train master before its demolition in the 1960s.

A steady hand and welcoming heart

Day-to-day operations at The Y were overseen by a General Secretary, akin to a General Manager today. In 1928, General Secretary H.S. Bickel oversaw the development of E.W. Scheer Stadium for Brunswick men's YMCA-sponsored baseball team, a force in the Frederick County League. This stadium featured arguably the

finest baseball field in the area. During Bickel's tenure, the community swimming pool was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression and remains in service today.

Reporting to Bickel, Marvin Younkins started as a cashier following graduation from Hagerstown High School in 1929. He worked his way up to General Secretary by the late 1940s and dedicated his entire career to the organization. According to his son John, born in 1947, his father ran everything. "You got a membership to The Y that allowed you to go to the pool and do other activities... He would sign and issue all the cards. Dad had a lot of responsibilities. He was not only in charge of the restaurant and the hotel, the whole building was under him. He also managed the swimming pool."

Younkins said that his father ordered all the food for the restaurant, typed the daily menus, and disliked taking inventory of items in the vast basement stockroom. Evelyn Webber Darr, who also spent her career at the YMCA, was his trusted assistant. She followed a similar trajectory as her boss, starting as a cashier and eventually advancing to Acting General Secretary before retiring in the 1980s. Emanuel Holland and Levy Arvin were longtime custodians at The Y and pool.

Marvin Younkins died suddenly of a heart attack at age 52 in 1963. The Little League field is named for him. He was succeeded as General Secretary by Sam Cole and later, Glen Moler.

Where the action was: The Barbershop, Restaurant and Game Room

Ask almost any male Brunswick "old-timer" today, and he'll tell stories of barber George Merriman holding court, with Monkey Runkles as straight man.

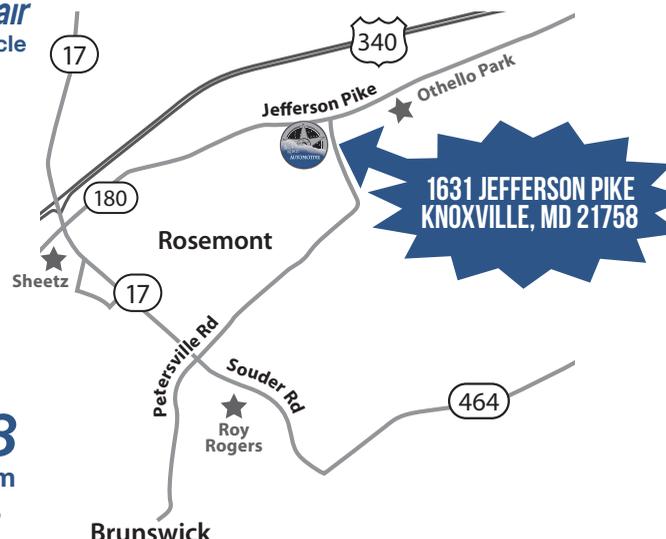
John Younkins said, "I remember waiting for hours to get a haircut, listening to George Merriman spin his stories of baseball, and doing the

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Vivian Darr (far left) and Marvin Younkins pose with members of the YMCA staff in 1947. It looked like they were having fun.

BLAIR HARRINGTON

JAMES R. CASTLE

BRUNSWICK HISTORY COMMISSION



The original B&O YMCA and Emergency Hospital, circa 1907. Note the fountain and gardens in B&O Railroad Park. Coincidentally, the park will once again be known by that name.

soft shoe between customers." John's classmate Brenton Barger described the scene this way, "he'd cut a little hair, then walk over to talk to (the guys) sitting in chairs, then come back and cut a little more."

Younkins remembered the "slapping sound" of dominoes outside the barbershop as customers awaited their turn. Despite the Y's ban on gambling and alcohol, Barger witnessed occasional wagering, sometimes for hours, on card games when he worked in the basement railroad callers' office.

According to Younkins, "There was a contingent of 'Sneaky Petes' (a term for the small flask that alcoholics could conceal in their pockets), that used to hang out on the porch. There was one who drove dad crazy. Every time he would see



In the early 1960s, Peck Porter (left) and Gary Greenfield posed for a picture while getting haircuts from the legendary George Merriman and his young apprentice, Larry Bussard.

Fawley Harmon wrote that "Everyone knew my Aunt Yonnie. Mom used to call her 'the queen of the YMCA'. She certainly kept all those railroaders in line."

RAY DINTERMAN



The end of a landmark, as firefighters tried in vain to rescue the YMCA building on the night of Friday, November 7, 1980. The remnants of the building were a sad sight at the annual Veterans Day Parade that Sunday.

him on the porch, he'd throw him out, either physically, or call (Willie) Crum the cop." Railroad policeman Bernard Burch also helped maintain order.

The restaurant evokes fond memories. As the Brunswick Citizen once put it, "they served the best vanilla ice cream and chipped beef on toast in town." The ladies who worked in the kitchen were kind but didn't tolerate bad behavior. According to Vivian Ayres Simpson, "Betty Dinges was nice and didn't take any stuff. My first night, this table full of guys were giving me a hard time while taking their order, and Betty told them to cut it out." They complied and apologized.

Other ladies who worked there in later years as wait staff were Sis Darr, Clara Mentzer, the Lust sisters, Mary Sue Moss and Yonnie Longerbeam. Jenna

Mildred Himes was head cook, assisted by Rex Merriman.

The devastating fire of 1980

On November 7, an electrical short in the first-floor office ignited a fire that destroyed the beloved Y. It began around 9:30 p.m. and was discovered by Assistant Director Wanda Porter, who heroically used a railroad lantern to evacuate sleeping railroaders. Everyone escaped safely.

Rebuilding on the original site was ruled out, ironically, due to its proximity to railroad activities.

A new YMCA opened on Souder Road in 1986, but it closed in 2011 due to declining membership and financial losses. Today, the building operates as a Travelodge by Wyndham Hotel, although railroad shift workers still spend layovers there. ■

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

100 Years Ago
from The
Valley Register

Compiled by
Julie Maynard

January 29, 1926.

B. & O. Cars Robbed

Early Thursday morning of last week, two freight cars were ransacked in the B. & O. Railroad yards, Frederick, and between \$400 and \$500 worth of merchandise taken. Sheriff Albaugh and detectives of the railroad company are running down clues with the expectation of making arrests in the near future.

County Jail Not Satisfactory.

The Frederick county jail was not listed in the names of the State jails considerable satisfactory, submitted by United States Commissioner J. Frank Supplee, Jr., and Amos Woodcock, U. S. District Attorney. Although four Federal prisoners are held in the Frederick county jail, both Federal officers failed to include the county bastille in their classifications.

February 5, 1926.

FREDERICK COUNTY IN GRIP OF KING WINTER

Drifts From 8 to 12 Feet Deep on Trolley Tracks—Nearly All Country Roads Blocked By Drifts

A blizzard of terrific strength, which whipped across this section on Wednesday and Wednesday night, left a trail of paralyzed traffic on Thursday morning that has not been equaled in years. The snow, which began falling long before daylight Wednesday, was accompanied by a high wind, and before noon, small drifts were seen along the town streets, some in places where snow had never drifted before. All day the snow continued and the wind seemed to increase its violence, while on Wednesday night, a heavy sleet fell for several hours.

Heavy drifts were encountered on the State Highway but the periodic traffic, together with the work of several State Highway Commission snowplows, kept the highway open enough that machines could, although with difficulty, get through.

Officials of the State Roads Commission reported the Cumberland highway, out of Hagerstown, was completely closed, and the plow working in that territory had broken down in attempting buck the drifts. ... Probably the most trouble locally was experienced by the Potomac Edi Co., operating the trolley line between Hagerstown and Frederick. The wind, which accompanied the snow and sleet Wednesday night, was said by several of the drivers of the State Highway snow plows to be the worst they had encountered on their several years of road work. It was punishment in the extreme for the plow operators, for at frequent times they were compelled to alight from their trucks, and with the aid of flashlights, determine whether they were still on the roadbed.

Groundhog Tommyrot

The groundhog didn't see his shadow and according to old traditions, the winter is over, but with the weather we faced on Wednesday it seems like it's about time to do away with that groundhog tommyrot.

Crime On Decline.

Crime is apparently on the decline in Frederick county, or at least it is being kept more thoroughly under cover than for some time past. For the February term of the grand jury there are listed to date only 35 investigations. This is an unprecedented small number of cases to be taken up at this time. The grand jury, as a rule, is in session for ten days to two weeks, but the State's Attorney doubts that there will be

enough material to keep the jury at work for a week at this session

Quilting Party.

A most enjoyable quilting party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram E. Remsburg, south of town, in the past week. Three quilts were completed. ... A most enjoyable time was had by all.

Want New Road.

More than 250 citizens of Brunswick, Knoxville and Moore's Addition attended a mass meeting in the Red Men's Hall, at Brunswick, on Thursday night, [to organize] a committee to appear before the Frederick County Commissioners, relative to securing an improved road between Brunswick and Knoxville. The citizens voted unanimously in favor of the petition.

February 12, 1926.

FINDS WIFE'S DEAD BODY WITH EMPTY GUN NEAR

Cause For Act Is Unknown

Returning from the home of his daughter, Mrs. Carl Hoffman, on Friday afternoon last, about 4 o'clock, Jacob Minnick, residing three miles south of Middletown, discovered the body of his wife, Mrs. Cora Minnick, aged about 58, lying on the dining-room floor of her home, with an empty shot gun and small stick nearby. A large wound in the breast over the heart indicated the woman had placed the gun barrel against her breast then pushed the trigger with the stick. It is thought the shot was fired shortly after noon and death was instantaneous.

While no message was left by the dead woman, her husband stated that some time ago she had suffered a serious illness and had been in poor health since that time. It is thought the woman may have been brooding over the possible return of this illness, and this was the motive for taking her own life.

After New Road.

A delegation of about 50 taxpayers, including half a dozen women, merchants, and business men of Brunswick and Knoxville, appeared in a body before John N. Mackall, chairman of the State Roads Commission, in Baltimore, on Thursday, and strongly urged an improved road over the old bed of the county road between Brunswick and Knoxville. Mr. Mackall said he would hold the matter under advisement, but the delegation feels that their claim has been recognized.

14 INCHES OF SNOW FALLS WITHIN WEEK

Frederick county was again yesterday morning digging itself out from the effects of another heavy snow, which measured a good bit over six inches, and which fell Tuesday night. Although the State Highway snow plows had opened the roads on Wednesday, high winds on Wednesday night piled the snow, which was very light, to great depths at places.

Although the groundhog, in the opinion of the old-fashioned, superstitious people, supposedly knows his stuff, he's missed it by miles this winter, or else is a practical joker. Since the first of last week, the snowfall here has registered a strong 14 inches. ... The thermometer also decided to go to extremes, along with the groundhog, and on Thursday morning at 9.30 o'clock was registering as low as 12 degrees. Hope is being held out by backers of the groundhog that bad weather is now at an end, and that the band we have experienced was merely ill-luck.

Ernest Thayer's poem "Casey at the Bat" appears in full, though without attribution: "It looked extremely rocky for the Mudville nine that day: The score stood two to four, with but an inning left to play. / So, when Conney died at second, and Burrows did the same, / A pallor wreathed the features of the patrons of the game." The poem is printed all the way to the famous last line: "But there is no joy in Mudville—mighty Casey has struck out." [The piece first appeared in 1888, so this isn't an anniversary reprint... but it certainly is a fine poem.]

February 19, 1926.

CAMPBELL IS INDICTED ON CHARGE OF MURDER

An indictment by the February grand jury, on two counts, murder and manslaughter, is said to have been found against Jesse Campbell, of Brunswick, who has been in the Frederick county jail since Oct. 30 last, held in connection with the death of Mrs. Elsie Sullivan, aged about 24, also of Brunswick, who was found dead in her apartment with a bullet wound in her side. Campbell's arrest followed an investigation by Sheriff Albaugh and his deputies.

Campbell tells a story of having gone to the apartment of Mrs. Sullivan, where he found her in a dying condition. He summoned Dr. J. M. Baxter, but the woman had expired before the physician arrived. It is claimed that Campbell and other men were seen running from the apartment after the pistol shot was heard.

S. A. Lewis, Campbell's attorney, endeavored to secure his client's release during the early part of December on habeas corpus proceedings, but the move was unsuccessful.

Joy—Slifer

Mr. Earl Joy, of Brunswick, and Miss Mary Catherine Slifer, daughter of Mrs. George Slifer, West Main street, Middletown, were quietly married yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, at the Reformed parsonage in Burkittsville, by the pastor, Rev. W. B. Werner. They were accompanied by Mr. Albert Orrison, of Brunswick. They will probably reside in Brunswick.

Anthracite Coal Strike Comes to End at Last. Costliest Strike in History

158,000 Men Who Walked Out Six Months Ago Will Return at the Old Wage Scale—Settlement Based on New 5 Year Contract—Work To Resume Immediately.

... The joint conference between the operators and miners followed a meeting of the entire scale committee of the miners, who ratified the final proposal...

February 26, 1926.

Arrested For Larceny.

Frank Fauble and Russell Martin, both about 22 years of age, were arrested near Knoxville last Monday afternoon by Deputy Sheriff Morgan Runkles, charged with entering a house near Burkittsville and stealing four window sashes. There were taken to Frederick and lodged in jail for a later hearing.

ANOTHER SPRING OMEN

Wednesday was St. Mathias Day, and according to the old tradition, in the event the Saint sees ice he will break it, and in the event there is no ice, he will make it. The Saint sure enough saw ice on Wednesday, and if the old tradition is to correct, spring is now on the way. Just whether this old saying will be held like that of groundhog day is yet to be seen, but really, it can't make much more of a mistake.

SPORTS

BHS WRESTLING

Crawford Sets the Pace

By BILL CAULEY

Seth Crawford knows how to handle pressure when it comes to doing what's right for Brunswick High School's wrestling team.

The Railroader senior, who wrestles in the 152-pound weight class, doesn't do anything flashy or fancy. Crawford's mindset is simple.

"I just treat a match like it's another day of practice," Crawford said following the Railroaders' 48-28 home win over Liberty on Friday, Jan. 2, starting off the new year. "It's like an extension of practice."

Crawford's approach to the sport has resulted in much success over the last three years. He's racked up more than 150 wins and was a runner-up at the Class 2A-1A state tournament last year.

"To be honest with you, Seth's probably the best wrestler I've ever coached," Brunswick coach Scott Tilles said. "Yes, he's that good."

Handling pressure and being consistent

Crawford's freshman year as a wrestler is where he learned how to handle pressure during an actual match. "I found out then the way was to just go about it like a practice," he said. "There's a lot more pressure during that live match, do the same stuff like in practice."

BILL CAULEY



BHS wrestler Seth Crawford

That decision laid the groundwork for Crawford's success over his high school career. "The main thing is to be consistent," he said. "Just keep doing what I've been doing all year, go out and do the job no matter what."

Crawford doesn't allow himself to rest on his previous success. If anything, his self-imposed training regimen is tougher than in the past.

"I just want to be a better wrestler," Crawford said. "I try and practice against heavier people and, sometimes, against heavier opponents in matches. I push myself more and more. I want to do what I think is best for me and be more successful."

Win over Liberty

In Brunswick's win over Liberty, Crawford had little trouble pinning the Lions' Ty Sullivan with 34.1 seconds left in the first period. Crawford put Sullivan on the mat for a takedown in the first 15 seconds, then flipped him on his back, eventually earning the pin.

"The plan all along was to get the takedown and get the pin, but I might have tried to go for the pin too early," Crawford said. "I actually wanted to get in a little more work."

Instead, things went a little faster than Crawford had wanted against Sullivan. In any case, he was happy with the pin and is primed to make another run at the state tournament in early March.

Regionals coming up

Regionals will be held Feb. 27-28. The state tournament is set for March 5-7 at the Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro (Prince George's County).

This will be Crawford's final year of high school wrestling for the Railroaders and Tilles is going to hate to see him go, but Crawford's impact on the program is quite impressive.

"Seth's taking his wrestling career to a whole new level this year," Tilles said. "As an individual wrestler, he's got the most wins in school history."

Crawford said he has made plans for college, but is keeping that a secret for now. ■

BHS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Railroaders Continue to Take Small Steps

By BILL CAULEY

Just past the halfway mark of the season, Brunswick High School's girls basketball team has shown moments of greatness, but at the same time the Railroaders are still seeking ways to play more consistent basketball.

"We're taking small steps," second-year Brunswick coach Sam Connelly said. "But at the same time, other teams are getting better. We're improving with each game, but the thing we have to do is improve a little bit faster and be more focused on what we're doing."

The Railroaders are 3-10 through games of Friday, Jan. 17. In a home game with Boonsboro on Jan. 17, Brunswick hung with the Warriors and actually held the lead twice, but the Warriors, with a game-high 21 points from junior Heather McLean, were able to eventually pull away from the Railroaders for a 50-37 win.

A 3-pointer by sophomore point guard Emme Miller gave Brunswick a 3-0 lead to start the game. The Railroaders kept things tight throughout the period before Boonsboro pulled out in front at the end of the quarter, 11-7.

Thanks to some clutch foul shooting in the second quarter, the Warriors widened their lead over Brunswick by two points, taking a 24-18 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Railroaders had a bit of a cold spell from the foul line in the third quarter, going 4 of 9, which proved costly.

Behind 10 third-quarter points from McLean and Brunswick's woes from the foul line, the Warriors led 39-29 to start the fourth quarter. The Railroaders got no closer than eight points the rest of the game.

Connelly said had it not been for the missed foul shots and turnovers, the game would've been much closer. "We had some unforced errors and missed some free throws at key times," he said. "We weren't taking advantage of open shots. We just did not play well."

Junior swing guard Juliette Bell led Brunswick with nine points, all in the second half. Senior swing guard Latrice Naylor, in her first game back after breaking a finger at the start of the season, had eight points.

"Having Latrice back on the court makes a big difference," Connelly said. "She does a great job on the ball and playing defense."

Makayla Bailey and Brooke Wilhide were the other top scorers for Boonsboro. Bailey scored in double figures with 10 points. Wilhide had eight.

A quick look at the most current statistics shows Miller averaging 9.8 points and 3.4 assists per game for the Railroaders. Madison Greenwood has a 6.2 rebounding average. ■

BHS BASKETBALL

Brady Renn: Railroaders' Spark Plug

By BILL CAULEY

Senior Brady Renn is not playing basketball for Brunswick High School's boys' basketball team because he wants to score a lot of points and lead as many statistical categories as possible.

No, this young man has his feet on solid ground and can be best described as a total team player. Renn said he does everything he can to do his part and help the team be successful.

So far, it's working. Through the first eight games of the season, the Railroaders are off to one of their best starts in years at 6-2 through the first part of the 2025-26 season. Brunswick closed out 2025 with a split of its two games at the Ron Engle Classic at Middletown High School.

The Railroaders lost to Yorktown on Monday, Dec. 29, then defeated Heritage Academy, of Hagerstown, the following day.

Dedication and work ethic

Renn's dedication to the game and his work ethic make him the kind of player coach Larry

BILL CAULEY



Brady Renn is a senior on the BHS basketball team.

Brown looks for in an athlete.

"He's our spark plug," Brown said after Brunswick's 81-55 win over Williamsport on Friday, Dec. 19, which was the final game before the Railroaders headed into the winter break. "He's our vocal leader on the floor, the very soul of our team."

Renn said his approach to the game is work to make play after play, following up on every

action and be ready to back up others if they need it. "I want to do whatever I can to help the team," he said.

When Renn was in the game, he was all over the court, applying pressure at both ends of the floor. Renn uses the in-your-face style of basketball. He's not afraid to challenge a player on offense or, when he's got the ball on offense, to challenge a defender.

Renn scored just six points in the Railroaders' win over the Wildcats, but he dished out five assists and was constantly shouting out instructions to his teammates. If things weren't going right, Renn stayed positive and encouraged others on the team to do the same.

"Brady's communication skills on the floor are just great," Brown said. "You add that to our sixth man, the crowd, and it ends up being a great combination."

Playing any position

Brown said he watched Renn come up through the youth basketball system in the Brunswick area. From PVYA, to the

Mid-Maryland Youth Basketball League, right through the BHS junior varsity basketball system. All the while, Brown had a feeling Renn was going to be a great player, working well with his teammates and, at the same time, be a fierce competitor out on the court.

"Brady can play any position," Brown said. "He can run the point, go out on the wing or work the middle at low post. He's not concerned about how

many points he's scored. That's not Brady. He works hard to make sure he gets the job done and we get the job done."

Renn said his plans beyond high school include attending Frederick Community College and trying to make that team, possibly as a walk-on. For the time being, Renn remains dedicated to doing what he can to keep the Railroaders on the winning track and being successful. ■



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Football Leads into Wrestling Career for Charles

By BILL CAULEY

Dorian Charles never fancied himself as a wrestler early in his youth sports career.

As a youngster, Charles was more into football. Through his youth football days, he enjoyed the grind and aggressiveness.

During his freshman year on the Brunswick High School junior varsity football team, it was this type of dedication that caught the attention of JV football coach Scott Tilles. Tilles, also the varsity wrestling coach for the Railroaders, saw Charles' potential and took him to the side one day during the football season.

"I told him he needed to be wrestling," Tilles said recently. "So I talked him into it."

Charles, now a senior on Brunswick's varsity wrestling team, helps set the pace for the wrestlers in the upper weight classes. He usually wrestles in the 215-pound weight class.

Charles picked up a pair of key wins for Brunswick over a two-match stretch in early January. He eked out a 4-1 overtime decision over Boonsboro's J.T. Griffith in the Railroaders' 51-30 win on Wednesday, Jan. 7. In a match on Friday, Jan. 2, Charles pinned his opponent, with 18.1 seconds left in the



Dorian Charles is on the BHS varsity wrestling team.

first period, as Brunswick defeated Liberty, 48-28.

At first, Charles may seem unpredictable during a match, but Tilles knows better.

"He looks likes when he comes out there, he doesn't know what he's going to do, but he has in his mind exactly what he wants to do," Tilles said. "It might not be right away, but he's like calculating how he's going to do things. You're telling him one thing, but he knows exactly what he's doing."

Tilles said sometimes Charles may not listen as well as he

should, but he gets the job done. Charles also knows he's just one part of Brunswick's total wrestling picture.

"We've got a good lineup," Charles said. "We've got a strong group of middleweights and heavyweights. Our lightweights look good too. We'll keep getting better as we go through the season and head to regionals."

In the beginning, Charles was in the 285-pound weight class, but he worked to lose 50 pounds to better his chances of success. "I cut out a lot of junk stuff," Charles said. "I wanted to take better care of myself."

In his win over Griffith on Jan. 7, Charles fell behind in the second period, 1-0, when Griffith was awarded one point due to a stalling penalty assessed on Charles. He got that point back when Griffith was called for stalling in the third period, which knotted the score at 1-1.

The match eventually went into overtime, meaning whichever wrestler scored first in any manner, that wrestler would be the winner. With one minute to go in overtime, Charles took down Griffith for the win.

Tilles credited Charles and the team, overall, for the win against Boonsboro. "We were missing three starters due to

43rd Annual Forest of Needwood Race March 14

By LEE ZUMBACH

The oldest road race in Frederick County, the 43rd Annual Forest of Needwood 5-mile race, will take place on Saturday, March 14, in PETERSVILLE, starting at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

This is a Frederick Steeplechasers Grand Prix race. It honors the memory of Jennifer Shafer Odom. Jennifer was a Brunswick High and West Point graduate, who gave her life in service of our country in 1999. A scholarship is given each year to Brunswick track and cross country graduates in her name.

Registration for the event is at [Runsignup.com](https://www.runsignup.com) – put Forest of Needwood into the race search box. Registration can also be done on race day at the church starting at 11 a.m. Information is also available at [BARCMD.com](https://www.barcmd.com) under events.

The race is sponsored by BARC, the Express Run Club of Brunswick and Frederick Steeplechasers Run Club. Awards, race t-shirt, random prizes and refreshments are given to all

participants," he said. "But we still looked good."

With Charles helping set the



Runners gather at the start of the 2025 Forest of Needwood race, the oldest continuous road race in Frederick County.

participants.

This is a 5-mile race loop through the historic Needwood property just north of Brunswick, with a 1 p.m. start gun. It is open to all runners ages 12 through adult with age group awards given at the finish. A special under-18 age category is offered with awards.

Make plans to take part in this healthy early spring exercise and honor Jennifer while supporting a great cause. For more information, contact race director Lee Zumbach at 301-834-8045. ■

pace, Brunswick looks to be very competitive over the remainder of the season. ■

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HONDA

ALL ABOARD BRUNSWICK

FEBRUARY 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.

Elementary Explorers: Escape the Castle (ages 5–10)
February 3, 4:30–5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Teen Time: Suncatchers (ages 11–18)
February 5, 6–7 pm
Brunswick Library

Roll for Recovery Board Game Day
February 7, 12–7 pm
Benefits Trinity's Children
Brunswick City Park Building

George Washington's Dream: The Potomac Company—making the River Navigable
February 8, 2 pm
Lovettsville Historical Society
Free public lecture by Paul Kreingold
St. James Church, 10 E. Broad Way, Lovettsville

Snowman Follow-Along Painting (free), all ages / skills, supplies provided
February 8, 2–4 pm
Brunswick Library

Adult Adaptive Program: Let's Get Moving
February 10, 1–2 pm
Brunswick Library

Drawing for Kids ages 6–18 (9 weeks, \$135)
February 10–April 7, 5–6 pm
Brunswick City Park Building
Brunswickartevents.org/
classes

Beginner Guitar, adult & teen (9 weeks, \$160)
February 10–April 7, 6–7 pm
Brunswick City Park Building
Brunswickartevents.org/
classes

Level 2 Guitar, adult & teen (9 weeks, \$160)
February 11–April 8, 6–7 pm
Brunswick City Park Building
Brunswickartevents.org/
classes

Paper Making (\$15)
February 11, 7–8 pm
Brunswick City Park Building

Caregiver Toolbox: Potty Training Made Easier (Part 2)—Practical Strategies
February 12, 11–11:45 am
Brunswick Library

Teen Time: Puppet-Palooza (ages 11–18)
February 12, 6–7 pm
Brunswick Library

Tween Time: Valentine's Day (3rd through 8th grades)
February 12, 6–7 pm
Brunswick Library

Adult Adaptive Program: Card Stamping
February 13, 11 am–noon
Brunswick Library

Indoor Farm Market
February 13, 4–7 pm
American Legion
18 S. Maple Ave.

Eagle Riders Valentines Dance
February 13, 8–11 pm
Brunswick Eagles
401 Central Ave.

Busy Town (ages 0–5)
February 14, 10 am–noon
Brunswick Library

Annual Toy Auction and Show
February 14–15
Brunswick Volunteer Fire Co.
1500 Volunteer Dr.

Spinning & Weaving Demonstration
February 15, 2–4 pm
Brunswick Library

Elementary Explorers: Who Shall I Be Day (ages 5–10)
February 17, 4:30–5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Celebrate Heart Health with Dietician Christina Fritz
February 18, 5:30–6:30 pm
Edward F. Fry Library, Point of Rocks

Procreate Digital Art (\$15)
February 18, 7–8 pm
Brunswick City Park Building
Bring iPad pre-loaded with Procreate, Apple Pencil

Sausage and Pork Chop Sale
February 19
Call 301 536–1729 for info
Petersville Ruritan Facebook

Elementary Explorers: Getting Jazzy with the Harlem Renaissance (ages 5–10)
February 19, 4:30–5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Teen Time: Retro Video Game Night (ages 11–18)
February 19, 6–7 pm
Brunswick Library

Country Breakfast Buffet
February 21, 6:30–10 am
Petersville Ruritan

Teen Time: Teen Felting Hangout (ages 11–18)
February 21, 2–3 pm
Brunswick Library

Hill Top House and its Founders
February 22, 2–4 pm
Brunswick Library

Elementary Explorers: Stop Motion Studio (ages 5–10)
February 24, 4:30–5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Mini Book Making (\$15)
February 25, 7–8 pm,
bring items to personalize your book
Brunswick City Park Building

Caregiver Toolbox: Perinatal and Postpartum Mental Health
February 26, 11–11:45 am
Brunswick Library

Teen Time: Circus Skills with Theatricks of Frederick (ages 11–18)
February 26, 6–7 pm
Brunswick Library

Comedy Night
February 28, 6:30–8 pm
Brunswick American Legion
Alrpost96comedy.eventbrite.com

SAVE THE DATE

Celtic Music Session, Brunswick Food Bank Benefit
March 1, 2 pm
Grace Episcopal Church, 114 E A St.
Suggested donation \$10

Petersville Ruritan Fundraiser: Paint Night (\$32.50)
March 12, 6–8 pm, doors open 5:30 (snow date March 17)
NOTE: Ticket purchase deadline 2/26/26, non-refundable
canvascelebrations.wixsite.com/petitpicasso
Tina Young 301 506–0315 or mail payment to Tina, 2400 Kaetzel Rd., Knoxville 21758

RECURRING

Baby Storytime
MONDAY, 10:30 am, ages 0–24 months with caregiver
Brunswick Library

Manly Movie Night
MONDAY, 7–9 pm, BYO drink
Traveling Bros. Cigars
302 W. Potomac St.

Toddler Storytime
TUESDAY, 10:30 am, 2 year olds with caregiver
Brunswick Library

Shuffleboard & Cornhole – \$2
TUESDAY, 4:30–6 pm
Parks & Recreation Building, Brunswick Elementary School

Table Top Tuesdays
TUESDAY, 6–8 pm (3rd Tues. calling all Dungeons and Dragons neophytes and / or pros) BYO drinks
Traveling Bros. Cigars
302 W. Potomac St.

Valley Quilters, all ages / levels
1st WEDNESDAY, 6:30 pm
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jefferson
Peggy at valleyquiltersTLC@gmail.com

Preschool Storytime
WEDNESDAY, 10:30 am,
3–5 year olds with caregiver
Brunswick Library

Preschoolers School & STEM Skills
WEDNESDAY, 11:15 am
3–5 year olds with caregiver
Brunswick Library

Ladies' Movie Night
WEDNESDAY, 7–9 pm
BYO drinks
Traveling Bros. Cigars
302 W. Potomac St.

Musical Storytime
THURSDAY, 10:30 am, ages 0–5 with caregiver
Brunswick Library

Conversation Class for English Language Learners
SATURDAY, 10:30–noon
Brunswick Library

Intermediate Conversation Class for English Language Learners
SATURDAY, 10:30 am
Brunswick Library

Brunswick Arts Council
Meeting open to public
2nd SATURDAY, 10 am–noon
Brunswick Library

Connect & Create
2nd SATURDAY
Smoketown Brewing

Goose Creek Ruggers
2nd SATURDAY, 10 am–1 pm
Catoctin Presbyterian Church,
15565 High St., Waterford, VA

Games Club of Maryland
3rd SATURDAY, 12:30–7 pm
Smoketown Brewing Station

Worship Service
SUNDAY, 9 am
Jefferson United Methodist Church
3882 Jefferson Pike

Worship Service
SUNDAY, 9:30 am
New Hope United Methodist Church
7 S. Maryland Ave.
brunswickumc.com

Demand a Referendum on Data Centers

Join the movement to let the voters decide about data center expansion in Frederick County.

On December 23rd, the Frederick County Council decided to expand the current Eastalco data center complex of 1600 acres by more than 1000 acres.

The Council took this decision despite vehement opposition from nearly every environmental, land preservation, and smart growth group in the County, the Farm Bureau, and both Maryland Legislative delegations. **Public opposition to the expanded data center zone was massive.**

The rushed expansion of data center development in Frederick County is a bad policy. Data center development in Frederick County brings enormous environmental, electric grid, and financial impacts. **Increasing the land set aside for data centers before thoroughly studying these impacts is unwise, premature, and unpopular.**

The voters of Frederick County should decide a question of this importance.

Please sign the referendum petition. Visit us at www.fcdcreferendum.org and on Facebook: Frederick County Data Center Referendum Committee for dates and locations.

Let the people decide!

If you'd like to volunteer to collect signatures, please use the QR code.



VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP



Frederick County Data Center Referendum Committee