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FREE

Data Center Overlay Legislation Proposed by County Executive

By PATRICE GALLAGHER

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater has proposed legislation to create a Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone in Frederick County. The County Council began its review of the bill at meetings on May 27 and June 17.

According to Director of Government Relations Victoria Venable, who presented details of the legislation to the Council, the bill “allows for the creation of an overlay in County code and limits this overlay to lands with a comprehensive plan land use designation of Limited Industrial (LI) and General Industrial (GI) uses. This bill will also limit the size of the overlay to no more than 1% of land within the County...”

An overlay zone adds extra regulations to a specific geographic area, on top of existing zoning rules.

4,400 acres of data centers possible

One percent of Frederick

HUGH KENNEY, PC



Data centers near residences in northern Virginia.

County’s acreage amounts to approximately 4,400 acres, which is more than twice the Eastalco site’s acreage that is already set to hold data centers — that site is 2,200 acres but due to other

zoning designations on the property, only 1,600 of those acres are available for data center development.

In a press conference on May 6, Fitzwater and the County Council announced the overlay proposal, and indicated the overlay area would be concentrated around the former Eastalco site near Adamstown, where a data center campus is currently under development.

The bill also indicates that “it is the intention of the County Council ... that for every acre of land within the Overlay Zone that is in the agricultural district and approved for a rezoning to Limited Industrial (LI) or General Industrial (GI), five acres of nonpreserved agricultural land shall be preserved.”

Setbacks from residences

A previous piece of legislation concerning data centers, Bill No. 25–05, also known as the Knapp Young Critical Data Infrastructure bill, allowed for data centers to be built next to residentially

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Carnival Time

JEFFERSON RURITAN CLUB HOSTS LONG-RUNNING COMMUNITY EVENT

By ABBIE RICKETTS

Flashing colors from amusement rides will light up the night sky come late July, affording a festive view while beckoning travelers on US 340 to take the exit. The small, quaint community of Jefferson will be ready for them with the annual Jefferson Ruritan Carnival.

David Remsburg is a busy man right now with a big responsibility. He is in charge of planning and executing the popular and long-running carnival. Everyone who loves a good carnival awaits this one and it’s coming July 21–26. The six-day event will open evenings from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at 4603-B Lander Road in Jefferson.

The carnival is the largest fundraiser for the Jefferson Ruritan Club. Remsburg says the carnival has always been well-supported and the funds raised go towards maintaining the buildings, paying for projects in Jefferson,

helping needy neighbors, and supporting local 4H, youth sports leagues and boy scouts. These are among the many community projects the club sponsors.

Rides, Food and Entertainment

Preparing for, hosting and cleaning up takes the Ruritans 2½ to 3 weeks. Hams are baked and food preparations begin. Snyder’s Attractions, the ride provider, sets up the main attraction with 13 or more rides. Parking can get tight so come early to get a spot in the parking lot.

A popular lineup of entertainment will play each evening including a mix of country and rock music. Bands include Park Avenue, Rewind, Bobby Dee and the Truck Stop Burritos, Jump-town, and Brushfire. The Spin Outs, an Elvis tribute band with Elvis entertainer Taylor Brown, is featured on Friday night. Bring

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WINNERS!



Elementary and middle school-age runners won medals for placing first in their group (left to right): Emmett Otto (246), Felix LeBlanc (105), Eloise LeBlanc (106), Juliet Kenawell (224). The 21st annual Milton Frech Jr. Potomac Street Mile took place on June 14 to support downtown non-profits. The race is named for Brunswick’s former Chief of Police and sponsored by Brunswick Main Street.

July 4th Public Reading of Declaration of Independence in Lovettsville

The Lovettsville Historical Society continues its tradition of a public reading of the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth of July so all can hear it and ponder its message, its pledge, its inspiration, and how far we yet need to reach out to meet its ideals.

The reading takes place on Friday, July 4th at 10 a.m. at St. James United Church of Christ, 10 East Broad Way in Lovettsville.

Our nation’s founding document will be read with seven local readers placed around the historic St. James Church and balcony—one person reading in German because Lovettsville is the “German Settlement.” The 1901 church’s special acoustics make for a wonderful antiphonal reading that will give listeners a memorable experience. There will be an opportunity for audience participation as well.

Those attending will then have a chance to sign a large copy of the Declaration with the original signers, reasserting one’s hopes and beliefs, whatever our current shortfalls may be. Then the church bell will be rung in celebration!

For more information, contact the Lovettsville Historical Society at events@lovettsvillehistoricalsociety.org.



STEVE SHREVE / UNSPLASH

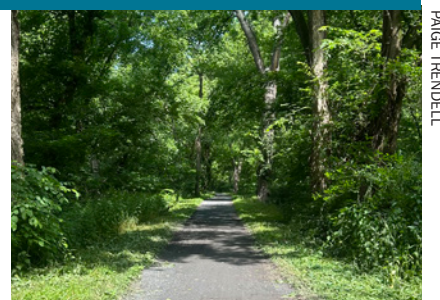
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PAGE TRENDLE

PLUS: SPRINGFEST PHOTOS, BEHIND THE BADGE, GETTYSBURG, WILT’S IRONWORKS, DOG PARKS, AND MORE

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BRUNSWICK NEWS

Jefferson Carnival CONTINUED

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a lawn chair. Check the website at JeffersonRuritan.org for band schedules and genres.

Nightly dinners will be served in the Ruritan Building with a different two-meat combo every night. Other carnival fare will be available outdoors at food stands. Credit cards and cash are accepted for rides and food. Cash is needed for some of the games.

Games are set up in the pavilion stalls and are run by local organizations. The Ruritan Club does not charge rent to the scouts, churches and others for these spaces, and the groups get to keep the proceeds. It's just one of the many ways the Ruritan gives back to the community. One group Remsburg mentioned in particular was the Random Acts of Kindness student organization members of Brunswick High School who work in the food stands and do other jobs to earn community service credits. The students also become eligible for Ruritan scholarships.

Carnival started in 1957

The Jefferson Ruritan carnivals

go back nearly 70 years. In 1955, the club was chartered with 79 members. By 1957, the organization was holding its first carnival on the grounds of the former Jefferson Elementary School (at Lander Road and Maryland Route 180 where Dunkin Donuts is now located) and has held one every year except 2020 when the pandemic prevented it.

Since 1969-1970 the carnival has been held on five acres purchased from James Ingram. This is also home to the Jefferson Ruritan Center and the Jefferson Volunteer Fire Company.

Remsburg has served on the carnival committee since 1972 and became chairman in 2001, taking over for long-time chairman Merhl Remsburg. He said, "While it's a lot of work, the job is made easier because we have committee members who have each taken on a specific task and they do it year after year." When asked how many people are needed to run the carnival, Remsburg said, "The club has 110 members and many of them help along with friends, neighbors and family members." He added, "It takes everybody!" ■

Data Center Overlay CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

zoned or designated land with a setback of only 200 feet from the residential property line, a setback that proved controversial with some members of the public, and was opposed by Council members Donald and McKay. During the overlay legislation discussion in the May 27 meeting, Ms. Venable — representing the County Executive — and several Council members appeared open to increasing that distance as part of the Council's consideration of the overlay bill.

Adamstown residents voice concerns

The Council meeting on June 17 included a large crowd, many of them residents of the Adamstown area, where the new overlay zone would target data center growth. Council members heard testimony from farmers and homeowners who are opposed to living with more data centers beyond those at the former Eastalco site, due to concerns about constant noise from the data centers' equipment, truck traffic during construction, high

water consumption, environmental degradation, and viewshed destruction. In addition, as has been shown across the country, data centers require tremendous amounts of power, and this often means new transmission lines must be built to provide the power. Members of the public who testified also urged the Council to preserve lands that have been protected in Rural Legacy and Priority Preservation areas.

Next hearing July 15

There will be multiple opportunities for the public to learn more and to weigh in as the overlay bill makes its way through the legislative process. The County Council will hold its next hearing on the Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone on July 15 at 5:30 pm in Winchester Hall in Frederick. They'll discuss the particulars of the bill, and the public will have an opportunity to comment. A map of the CDI Overlay Zone will be drafted after the overlay legislation is passed. ■

Rosemont Burgess and Commissioners Elected in May



Front row: Commissioners Robin Scarff and Kelly Watson Huffer. Back row: Burgess John Leach and Commissioners Sean Byrons and Mark Rohner.

They were sworn in on June 2 for two-year terms. At that same meeting the commission approved a budget for 2026 calling for expenditures of \$75,625.

Independence Day Celebrations and Fireworks in the Area

Brunswick

Thursday, July 3
Rain Date: Saturday, July 5
Near Brunswick Middle School
9 pm — Fireworks (at dark)
20–30 min. show

Lovettsville

Thursday, July 3
Lovettsville Community Park
5:30 pm Parade, 6:30 Pool Bash
9:30 Fireworks

Boonsboro

Thursday, July 3
Rain Date: Saturday, July 5
Shafer Park, 37 Park Drive
5 pm — Celebration begins
9 pm — Fireworks

Frederick

Friday, July 4
Baker Park, 121 N. Bentz St.
12 noon — Celebration begins
9 pm — Fireworks

Poolesville

Friday, July 4
Rain Date: Saturday, July 5
Soccer Fields at
14650 Hughes Road
5 pm — Gates open
Admission \$10 per car
6:30–8:30 "Special Delivery
Band" concert
9 pm — Zambelli Fireworks

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July 21-26, 2025

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Nightly Entertainment:



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Wed. - Bobby D & Truck Stop Burritos
Thurs. - Jumptown
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BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL

Mayor and Council June 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

The Mayor and Council have been very busy developing, debating, and passing numerous resolutions and ordinances. This, plus several public meetings, plus a heavy planning and zoning agenda have made for long Mayor and Council meetings in May and June.

Newly passed ordinances
and resolutions

Several new city ordinances take effect on July 1 including those on planning commission appeals, parking fees, changes to the names of certain city positions, development impact fee amendments, and cannabis businesses. In addition, the FY 26 general, capital improvement plan, and enterprise budgets begin on July 1.

The Council passed resolutions awarding contracts for the city pool management (YMCA), trash collection services (Ecology Services), sludge hauling services (TEM Trucking), and on-call engineering review services (Wilson T. Ballard Co.). The Council also passed a resolution allowing the sale of a small property in the 800 block of Brunswick Street.

"If I Were Mayor"

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) holds an annual "If I Were Mayor" contest for fourth graders across the state. The contest is a civics-focused exercise in which fourth graders write essays based on the year's theme.

This 25th anniversary year's theme was "Building Community for a New Generation" and Brunswick Elementary's Maryah Nour, a student of Mrs. Bonanno, was a semi-finalist. She read her essay to the Mayor and Council, after which Mayor Brown pre-

sented Nour a certificate honoring her achievement.

Cannabis ordinance

The new cannabis ordinance passed after city staff made several changes to the draft text from the first reading on May 13. At the Council's second reading on May 27, Council member Eric Smothers proposed adding cemeteries to the list of "sensitive locations" that have larger buffer zones. Council member Andy St. John said that as cemeteries are essentially "religious properties," which are on the list of sensitive locations, they should explicitly be added to that list. All agreed, and the ordinance passed at the June 10 meeting, averting the loss of Brunswick's control to the state over siting and other issues beginning July 1.

The ordinance applies to growers, processors and dispensaries. As there is insufficient land available within city limits to accommodate an economically feasible growing operation, the ordinance will, in effect, only apply to processors and dispensaries, should any decide to locate in Brunswick.

Brunswick Crossing
roadway parking problems

Parking on the street within Brunswick Crossing is allowed only where parking spaces are marked. Although homeowners were told this when purchasing their homes, it has become a problem without an easy solution.

A report by Public Works Director John Gerstner was briefed to the Council and contained recommendations. The Council briefly discussed a public education campaign, signage, center line striping and costs. Council member St. John suggested that whatever is decided should be applied to the Vista Pointe and Springdale Summit internal roadways. Mayor Brown asked that further Council discussion await the outcome of additional staff work.

CDBG funds exceed
expectations

When Brunswick decided in late 2024 to join the Frederick County Urban Entitlement District (FCUED), a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) designation, the county determined that Brunswick could expect to receive up to \$145,000

A Smarter City:
How Technology
Is Powering
Our Future

When I first took office, it was clear that our city's technology systems needed a major refresh. Many of our tools and processes were outdated, limiting our ability to operate efficiently and serve the public effectively. Since then, we've made tremendous progress in modernizing our infrastructure, embracing innovation and building a foundation that supports a more connected and responsive government.

We have made significant strides in modernizing our operations, improving how we serve residents and preparing our city for the future. These improvements are not just about new tools; they're about creating a more efficient, secure and responsive government.

Empowering Productivity
and Collaboration

One of the most transformative changes has been the adoption of Microsoft Teams across all departments. This platform has revolutionized how we communicate and collaborate, especially as we transitioned from desktops to laptops and docking stations to support telework.

This may seem like something that is simple and minor, but when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, there were only a handful of staff who had access to a city-issued laptop. Another handful could only remote access city systems using a personal device. This meant that dozens of city staff were sent home and not able to work until the offices reopened.

We have also implemented Office 365 and begun piloting Microsoft Copilot, an AI-powered assistant that helps streamline tasks and boost productivity. Teams Rooms have been added to enhance hybrid meetings,

in guaranteed annual funding.

City Administrator Julie Mar torana announced that Brunswick's first allocation under the FCUED will be \$190,000, all of which will be used for sidewalk improvements and installations on Maple Avenue (the only street in the city that qualifies for CDBG funding based on its low-moderate income status).

The state in whole receives about \$8 million annually, which is likely to decline based on federal budget cuts.

Brunswick House
rehabilitation

Brunswick House, an affordable age-restricted apartment complex at 1100 Peach Orchard Lane, will be fully rehabilitated if it's owner, Volunteers of America National Services (VOANS), wins the complex funding it seeks.

All 52 units will be rehabilitated to improve energy efficiency. No residents will have to move out during the renovation.

The nearly \$18,000,000 project will be financed through a combi-

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



and we've been in the process of moving our document storage to the cloud, eliminating the need for physical storage and making information more accessible.

Strengthening Security
and Access

Security has been a top priority. We've introduced two-factor authentication to protect sensitive data and replaced the outdated key card system at City Hall with a modern access control solution.

Security cameras have been installed at key locations, some equipped with license plate readers to assist the police department. There are plans to stream live footage from the train tracks on the city's website to monitor train blockages.

Smarter Infrastructure and
Field Technology

We have expanded our use of ArcGIS and developed mobile apps to map and inventory city infrastructure in real time. Tools like leak detection deployers and sewer flow meters help us proactively address maintenance issues.

We installed an air quality monitor and a river stream gauge to provide real-time environmental data. Through a partnership with Virtual Railfan, residents will soon have a 24-hour livestream of trains from B&O Railroad Park.

Streamlining Operations
and Services

We have digitized many of our internal systems. The Spring-

brook Purchase Order System and Paychex Payroll System have replaced manual paper processes, and soon we'll have a digital process for employee performance evaluations.

Did you know that when I took office in 2020, the city was still using 3-part or 3-ply paper for all purchase orders? Our eMaint system supports maintenance operations, and the iWorks portal allows residents to apply for zoning and permit requests online. We're also rolling out a concern reporting portal that will make it easier for residents to report issues like water or road problems. (More to come on this in a future article!)

Enhancing Mobility,
Sustainability and Public
Engagement

As part of our broader modernization efforts, we've invested in technologies that not only support a more flexible and sustainable workforce but also improve how residents interact with city services. One of the first major shifts was transitioning staff from traditional desktop computers to laptops with docking stations — enabling remote work, increasing mobility and ensuring continuity of operations regardless of location.

To further support flexibility, we implemented a new phone system that operates across computers and mobile devices, eliminating the need for physical hardware and allowing staff to stay connected whether in the office or in the field.

We upgraded the audiovisual equipment in council chambers, significantly improving the quality of public meetings and making it easier for residents to participate both in person and online, with additional features in the works to make hybrid meetings more seamless for both council members and the public!

On the sustainability front, we've added two fully electric vehicles to our city fleet, reducing emissions and setting a strong example for environmental responsibility. At the same time, we've introduced tools like the ParkMobile app to streamline downtown parking and reduce congestion.

While I recognize that not everyone is tech-savvy, we are committed to making these systems user-friendly and ensuring that alternatives are available for those who need them. These improvements are more than just technology — they are about building a city that works better for everyone and stays ready to serve under any circumstance.

This is just the beginning. As we continue to modernize, I will share more updates on how we're improving city services and infrastructure for all. ■

— Nathan Brown

city in determining how best to address these problems, as has arisen in the context of the Vista Pointe development. He said that the water and wastewater treatment plants processed 16,000,000 gallons of water during the recent heavy rains and reminded residents to ensure that sump pumps and floor drains release water to the ground to help reduce stormwater runoff. ■



"If I Were Mayor" essay contest semi-finalist Maryah Nour receives a certificate from Mayor Nathan Brown. At left is Nour's fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Bonanno, of Brunswick Elementary School.

BRUNSWICK NEWS

Dog Days of Summer

LOCAL DOG PARKS GIVE SPACE TO RUN AND PLAY

By JEAN TOLEMAN

Come four o'clock daily, Paris, Penny, Harley and Nash start to get antsy. It's time to get outside, visit friends and RUN. They nudge their human companions and wait patiently for the leash and the door to open. Off to the dog park they go. While the pups run and play, their human companions socialize.

This is the scene across the country as pet ownership has increased, homes have smaller yards, and dogs need a walk with a romp.

Brunswick has two dog park areas — one located downtown across from City Park on East Potomac Street and one in Brunswick Crossing. There is also a small area for dogs at Othello Park.

On a mild sunny June day
there were a dozen people and
dogs playing at the Brunswick

Crossing park. Most of the folks had been bringing their dogs since they were pups. Dave Roberts, companion of Truman, a Shetland Sheepdog, said, "All are welcome once they are about four months old and they have had all their shots."

The park has two areas, one for smaller dogs and one for larger. This day, Sully and Bear, two Bernedoodles, were in the large dog area. According to their “dad” Mike, this is becoming a popular dog breed. Sully and Bear are big dogs so Mike was keeping them separate from the others. That didn’t mean they played alone. Nash, a “bully mix” containing 19 breeds, according to his “dad” William, and Bear were enjoying chasing each other along the fence that divided the two areas.

In the small dog area, Penny, a Corgi, Harley, a Goldendoodle, Lily, a Cavachon, Jolie, a German

Shepard and Paris, a Jack Russell-Pug mix, were frolicking joyously. This group of old friends knew how to play “nice” most of the time, even though there was quite a difference in sizes.

Friends beyond the dog park

Some of the human regulars have continued their friendship out of the dog park, forming the Dogpark Lassies, with social outings. Jolie's owner, Cyndi Rutherford, has been coming to the park for two years. "I have made a lot of friends at the park and Jolie enjoys the exercise and attention," Rutherford said. Kathy Heinsohn and her dog, Franz, come to the park most days, sometimes twice. Franz likes that there are water fountains and nice doggy poop bag dispensers. He indicated his "mom" had read him the dog park rules and he tries to follow them.

Hope Ray owns Paris who has been crowned "Queen Bee" of the park. "She never lets me miss an evening," Ray said. Ray recently moved to downtown Brunswick from the Crossing community but still makes the afternoon trip up the hill.

Penny, a one-year-old Corgi, had brought her "mom," Kim Reightler, along with Kim's daughter and grandson, Archer, to the park. Archer (4 years old) was helping the pups exercise by running with them and showing them how to use the obstacle course. "Everyone who uses the park has been really nice and the dog etiquette is good," said Reightler. "We have a storage box one of the guys built where extra toys and leashes can be kept."

Harley, a six-year-old Goldendoodle, was Jeff Silverblatt's motorcycle replacement. "He is



Lily, Truman, Harley and Paris with owners Linda, Dave and Hope.

Brunswick Collision Center to Open on North Maple Avenue



An architectural rendering of the Brunswick Collision Center.

By MARK ROHNER

The long-vacant commercial building at 1200 North Maple Avenue will soon be the location of a new business, Brunswick Collision Center.

Renovations to the 18,000-square-foot building are nearing completion, and owner Jose Gonzalez said he is aiming to open the business by late August.

In an interview, Gonzalez said he expects to begin hiring around the second week of July. "We're going to start with a low amount, maybe 10 or 15 employees, and work our way up," he said.

Gonzalez already operates similar auto-body repair businesses in Loudoun County, Virginia – in Purcellville, Sterling, and Leesburg. The Brunswick location will be his first in Maryland. The 2½-acre site will include 43 off-street parking spaces, according to the Brunswick Planning Commission.

An 'up-and-coming community'

Gonzalez said he was interested in expanding in Brunswick because it's an "up-and-coming community" with "growth on the residential side."

"It made so much sense," he said. "We already capture Loudoun; we have the east, center, and west part of the county, and to continue growth, we are looking at Fairfax County and we are looking towards Frederick and Brunswick."

The North Maple Avenue building includes potential additional commercial space, but Gonzalez said he is not looking for tenants "at the present time." One future possibility, he said, is that "I could bring in a rental car company to kind of share the space." ■



Haegi and Eric Stuyck with their dog Lucy and Kathy Heinsohn's dog Franz.

Dog-Friendly “Popsicles”

After an outing to the dog park, treat your pal to a fun summer treat. This recipe is from American Kennel Club:

- Slice a few bananas, then freeze the pieces for several hours.
- Next, mix the fruit with a few spoonfuls of plain yogurt in a food processor until you have a smooth base with the thickness of a milkshake.
- Next blend in whatever mix-ins your dog would love. Bacon bits for a meaty treat, frozen strawberries & blueberries for a red, white, and blue celebration, or pumpkin puree.
- When all the ingredients are blended together, pour into small paper cups, then freeze.
- If you want your popsicle on a stick, don't use wood. Use bone-shaped dog biscuits, salmon skin treats, or any other stick-shaped, edible chew.
- To release, simply peel the paper off before serving.

like their solitude can all find a place to be let off their leash to run and stretch their legs. ■

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Juveniles Charged in Alleged Assault at BHS

By JULIE GOURLEY

As of this writing, five students at Brunswick High School, all minors, have been charged with various crimes in connection with assaults in the boys’ locker room on April 3 and 11, according to the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office.

The students and the victims are believed to be members of the boys’ lacrosse team. There were three perpetrators in the April 3 incident, two of whom took part in the April 11 incident involving five perpetrators. Both assaults involved the use of a sex toy.

Civil lawsuit

In addition, three BHS officials — Principal Eric Schwarzenegger, Athletic Coordinator Kirk Meehan, and lacrosse coach Neil Roche — and the Frederick County Board of Education are the subjects of a civil lawsuit brought by the parents of one of the minor victims. The case was filed in Frederick County Circuit Court on May 25.

The Frederick County Sheriff’s Office has jurisdiction because the alleged crimes took place in a county facility.

The eldest, a 17-year-old, was charged with one count of fourth-degree sex offense, one count of second-degree assault, and two counts of visual surveillance of a private area.

Two 16-year-olds and one 15-year-old were each charged with one count of second-degree assault. The other 15-year-old was charged with two counts of second-degree assault.

The assaults were recorded and shared on social media.

The Frederick County State’s Attorney will decide whether to charge the youth as adults. Because the cases are being handled in juvenile court, proceedings and records cannot be made public.

As for the civil lawsuit, which cites FCPS Regulation 400-47 and school board Policy 418, there could be consequences for the three BHS officials. Policy 418 requires that any FCPS employee, coach, contractor, extracurricular

club sponsor, or volunteer must verbally report any suspected child abuse or neglect as soon as possible and must submit a written report within 48 hours of the verbal report.

Regulation 400-47 allows the school board to suspend or dismiss an employee for “misconduct in office” which includes failure to report suspected abuse or neglect. Failure to report can also result in criminal charges and loss of any relevant certifications.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs claim that several hours went by after the incident without any reporting by school officials such that the parents had to contact law enforcement themselves. They further allege that this allowed time for the perpetrators to clear the locker room of evidence, get their stories straight, and “prevent a full and meaningful investigation.”

The Sheriff’s Office asks that anyone with information contact them at 301-600-1046. ■

BEHIND THE BADGE

Patrol Supervisor Brandon Smith



By JULIE GOURLEY

The Brunswick News-Journal periodically profiles an officer in the Brunswick Police Department. We hope this helps the community get to know their police department. Earlier, we profiled Officers Eric Bittner, Joel Storms, and Noah Saltzman.

Corporal Brandon Smith has been with the Brunswick Police Department for 11 years and is assigned to patrol operations as a patrol supervisor. He is also a canine handler and takes good care of “Kyro.” Smith previously

worked for the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office as a correctional officer.

“I like working in the Brunswick community because it truly is a tight knit community and in times of need the town comes together and supports the ‘better Brunswick’ goal,” Smith said. “Working in a small town, I get to interact with the citizens and get to know them and what they seek to require from their small town police department. The citizens know our faces and it’s not just a random officer working an area that they don’t normally work.” ■

BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2025

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Maryland State Citations	29	156	5	40
Maryland State SEROS	6	28	2	26
Warning Citations	112	419	35	385
Parking Citations (paper)	82	50	18	30
Warning Parking Citations *	67	132	6	42

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Calls for Service	1,700	8,508	690	4,980
Homicide	0	0	0	1
Rape	1	3	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	1
Assault	4	24	5	42
Breaking & Entering	0	1	2	3
Theft	2	15	5	22
Auto Theft	0	0	0	2
Adult Arrests	7	36	7	38
Juvenile Arrests	1	4	0	12

OTHER INCIDENTS				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Motor Vehicle Accidents	11	39	14	54
Emergency Evaluations Mentally Ill/Suicidal Persons	5	33	12	37
Overdoses	1	5	0	6

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)

Frederick County Sheriff’s Office Launches Citizen Feedback Service

In early June, the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) rolled out a new citizen engagement and feedback system designed to improve communication with the community. The service uses text messaging to allow residents to provide feedback following non-life-threatening interactions with deputies who respond to 9-1-1 calls for service.

“In today’s on-demand world, we recognize the importance of keeping citizens informed and connected,” said Katie Robine, Public Information Officer for the FCSO. “Much like private companies that send automatic text updates and satisfaction surveys to customers, FCSO is now able to do the same. We believe this new tool, PowerEngage, will significantly enhance communication with the community we serve.”

Text message surveys will be sent hours or days after an incident and will invite residents to complete a brief questionnaire about their experience. Participants will also have the opportunity to share comments, provide feedback or thank the responding deputy.

The surveys are sent to phone numbers captured during the ini-

tial call for service. However, residents who did not receive a survey via text may still participate by visiting the FCSO website at www.frederickcosheriff.com.

Participation is voluntary. Those who prefer not to take part can simply ignore the message or

reply “STOP” to opt out of future survey messages from the Sheriff’s Office.

This survey system is not intended for reporting emergencies, crimes, or filing formal complaints. For emergencies or to report a crime, always call 9-1-1.



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BRUNSWICK NEWS

Former City Hall
and Police Station Sold



Brunswick City Hall, 1949–1999; and Police Department 1949–2024

By WAYNE ALLGAIER

This past September, the Brunswick Mayor and Council voted to sell the old City Hall building at 20 East A Street, which had served as City Hall from 1910 to 1999, and then served as headquarters for the Brunswick Police Department until last year when it moved to the city’s new Operations Center on the west end of town. The sale was final on May 15.

Brunswick residents remember the Mayor and Council meetings held there in the days before televised meetings and video replays, when citizens crowded into a small room and engaged in public discussions in a less structured setting. Many remember the police department with the jail in the basement.

Brunswick’s first City Hall

Some undocumented reports indicate that Brunswick’s first City Hall was located next to Brunswick’s first Church, the Methodist-Episcopal Church, which had been in a log building between the eastbound and westbound tracks. However, we have no records to substantiate that claim.

1889: Enter the B&O Railroad

The B&O Railroad had eyed the village of Berlin (population 221 in 1880) as the site for their new freight classification yard. On December 7 of that year, anticipating a need for housing for railroad employees, the Real Estate and Improvement Company of Baltimore City (a subsidiary of the B&O Railroad) purchased several hundred acres of land on the east side of Berlin. The town was officially incorporated in 1890 and the name was changed to Brunswick. The new town

needed a City Hall.

On October 12, 1897, the Mayor and Council of Brunswick purchased a lot at 20 East A Street from the Real Estate and Improvement Company. The deed stipulated that the City “shall within one year erect a municipal building on said land to cost not less than \$4,000.” But this would not happen for another 13 years.

A review of the record books of the Mayor and Council indicates that their early meetings were held “in the mayor’s office,” but the location of that office during those first two decades is not specified. We can only speculate where it may have been.

City Hall is constructed

Finally, in 1910, the City had a small two-story brick building built on their property on A Street. City offices were on the main floor, and a jail was in the basement. H.B. Funk, builder of many of Brunswick’s early public buildings and homes, was the contractor.

In 1949, 39 years later, this building was enlarged, with a wing being added to either side of the original building. The contractor was John B. Funk, the son of the original builder. During the later part of this renovation, City offices were temporarily relocated to the American Legion house on South Maple Avenue.

The Mayor and Council move downtown

City Hall remained at 20 A Street until 1999 when it moved to its current location at 1 West Potomac Street, the former Bank of Brunswick building. With this move, the police department, which had been located on Central Avenue on the west end of town, moved into the former City Hall.



Brunswick City Hall, 1910–1949

Senior Center Happenings

By JEAN DOYLE

The Summer Session begins in July and goes through September. Registration began June 13 and is still open. Register on-line by credit card at the estore: <http://frederickcountymd-gov.3cartstores.com>, or by check at any 50+ Community Center. To register for a free program, email: VirtualSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.gov

The Summer 2025 Activity Guide is online at: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/8075/50-Community-Centers.

Trips in July and August with a July registration deadline

Wednesday, July 23—Secrets of the Sea at the Earth and Space Science Lab, Frederick: Secrets of the Sea features over 70 marine creatures from around the world. After the show, we will stop at Rita’s Italian Ice. Time: Approximately 12:15 to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$8 plus money for Rita’s. Leave from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Wed., July 16.

Friday, July 25—Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, Boyce, Virginia: The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center provides veterinary services, educational programs, and contributions to scientific research. Time: 8:45 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person and bring money for lunch. Leave from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Thurs., July 10.

Wednesday, July 30—Movie at Warehouse Cinema: Kick back in a recliner and enjoy a movie on the big screen. Ticket includes a snack pack of small popcorn, drink and fruit snacks. The movie is to be decided. Time is approximately 10:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$20 and money for any additional concessions. Leave from the Brunswick Senior Center. Register by Wed., July 23.

Friday, August 1—The Frontier Cultural Museum, Staunton, Virginia: Visit the biggest open-air living history museum in the Shenandoah Valley. See costumed historical interpretive shows. The museum loop is approximately 2 miles. The main paths are paved, but other walkways may be gravel, brick or lawn. Golf Carts can be rented for a nominal fee on a first come first serve basis. Time: 8 a.m. to approximately 6 p.m. Bring lunch and snacks for the ride home. Cost is \$75 per person plus a cash tip for the charter bus driver. Leave from Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, July 18.

Friday, August 8—Maryland’s Best Ice Cream Trail: Spend the day visiting Frederick County’s best ice cream stops including MooCow Creamery in Middletown, Glamourview Creamery in Walkersville, and Happy Cow Creamery in Union Bridge. Time: 10 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 plus money for ice cream and farm products. Bring your lunch or just eat ice cream! Leave from Frederick Senior Center. Register by July 25.

Friday, July 22—Blacksmithing Class at Lawless Forge, Sterling, Virginia: Forge a beautiful flower bouquet out of steel. No prior experience required. Time is 9:45 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$115 per person. Bring money for an early lunch and snacks for the ride home. Leave from Frederick Senior Center. Register by Friday, July 25.

Special Events at the Brunswick Senior Center

Thursday, July 3, Lunch Bunch 4th of July Lunch: Special menu of cheeseburger, baked beans, pepper slaw and watermelon. 12 noon. Reserve a meal three days in advance. Individuals 60+ are eligible, as well as spouses or dependent adult disabled child of qualified individual. Register at 301- 834-8115.

Thursday, July 10, Monthly Dinner Dance: 2–5 p.m. at the Brunswick Eagles, 401 Central Ave. \$12 per person or \$30 for the three sessions this quarter. Paid reservations due 1 week in advance. Call 301-834-8115.

Tuesday, July 15, Coffee with a Cop: Enjoy lunch and visit with a Brunswick City Police Officer. 12–1 p.m. Pre-register for lunch at 301-834-5115.

Friday, July 25, Circle of Friends Memory Cafe: For individuals with early-stage memory loss, their family and friends. 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Free, pre-register at 301-834-8115.

Don’t forget all the many and varied ongoing activities and programs at the Brunswick Senior Center. Call 301-834-8115 for more information or stop by the Senior Center at 12 East A Street. ■

The Police Department moves out

In July 2023, the police department moved into the new Milton E. Frech Jr. Operations Center building at 811 West Potomac Street, leaving the old “City Hall” building vacant. A year later, on September 10, 2024, the Mayor and Council declared the property unnecessary for public usage and approved putting the property on the market.

The building’s future

After sitting vacant for nearly two years, the building was purchased by RDP LLC of Clarksburg, Md., who hope to breathe new life into the building by converting it into rental units, as has occurred with several other historic buildings in Brunswick.

Will the renovation leave the historic exterior façade essentially unchanged as a reminder of the history of this building and all the town business that happened within its walls? ■

Dr. Wayne Allgaier is chair of the Brunswick History Commission and a former Brunswick City Council member, among his many volunteer

activities. He served the Brunswick community as a medical doctor from 1974–2008.

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Springfest in Brunswick

PHOTOS BY JESSICA OTT, JEAN TOLEMAN AND DIANE ELLIS

Brunswick celebrated its 3rd annual Springfest in downtown on May 31.
The event included live music, craft vendors, art shows, food and drink, games, a petting zoo and many other attractions. Downtown businesses opened their doors; some had sidewalk sales and outdoor dining. The event drew large crowds and created a festive atmosphere.



Community Foundation Awards More than \$513,000 in Impact Grants Several Grants Earmarked for Brunswick

The Community Foundation of Frederick County announced in June that it awarded more than \$513,000 through its Impact Grant program to support projects and initiatives that improve and enhance life in Frederick County. The grants were awarded to 50 organizations in the county.

Generous donors create charitable funds with the Community Foundation to support initiatives, activities and projects that are important to them. This year,

more than 50 charitable funds distributed grants.

Grants for the Brunswick community

Among the charitable funds are several that provided Impact Grants in 2025 specifically for the Brunswick community.

The Brunswick Area Fund provided grants to three local organizations. The Brunswick High School Safe & Sane Class of 2025 received \$1,500 to cover the cost of attending graduation night

events for students who are part of the Free and Reduced Meals program. Safe Ride Foundation, Inc. received \$500 to provide transportation for Brunswick area seniors, low-income individuals, and individuals with disabilities. Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of Frederick County received \$718.13 to provide case management services for Brunswick area students.

The Brunswick Community Medical Fund, which was

established at the Community Foundation by the Brunswick Medical Center in 2024, provided \$4,000 to Mission of Mercy, Inc. to provide free medical and dental care for Brunswick area patients.

The Supporting Families with Children Strategic Initiatives Fund provided \$20,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Frederick County to expand middle school after-school educational enrichment programs to Brunswick.

Grants benefit all county residents

A complete list of 2025 grants can be viewed at: [FrederickCountyGives.org/Awarded-Grants](https://www.FrederickCountyGives.org/Awarded-Grants).

As a leader in grant and scholarship funding, The Community Foundation of Frederick County has infused more than \$102 million into the community since 1986. To learn more about the Community Foundation of Frederick County, visit www.FrederickCountyGives.org.

LOCAL NEWS

Edith Esther Sims (age 96)

Edith (Edie) Esther Hammond Sims, wife and matriarch to a large, loud, loving brood, passed to eternal life on June 3, 2025.

Born on the eve of the Great Depression, Feb. 1, 1929, in Flint, Michigan, Edie was the fifth of eight children to Earl Warren Hammond and Gabriella Sidonie VanEeckhoutte Hammond.

After high school graduation, she moved with her parents to Oxnard, California, where she worked for the U.S. Navy. She met the love of her life, Billy Gene Sims, at a USO dance in 1951. They were married just three months later, launching a life of adventures that spanned more than six decades. Together they raised six children, eventually extending the family tree to 13 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren and growing an ever-increasing circle of friends.



for two decades that included two tours to Vietnam for Bill, while Edie reared their boisterous brood and served in officers' wives' functions.

Following retirement Edie and Bill spent 40 years operating Antiques 'n Ole Stuff in Washington, D.C., Chambersburg and Fayetteville, PA, and Brunswick, MD. Edie also owned and operated Sweet Dreams, a home decor shop in Brunswick. She was a founding member of Holy Family Catholic Community in Middletown, MD and served as a greeter and a lector.

Following Billy's death in March 2017, Edie stayed active. In her early 90s she traveled with her daughter, Vanessa, and fellow parishioners on a pilgrimage to Rome. She loved gardening,

participating in the Saint Lucy Guild, thrift store treasure hunts, playing (winning) games with her children and friends, and caring for her beloved cat, Mitt.

Survivors include her sister, Anna Allison; her children Billy M. (Gail) Sims, Hagerstown, MD; Marcus A. (Lourdes) Sims, Laurel, MD; Vanessa K. Armstrong, Staunton, VA; Monica Sims Crimmins (John) Hannon, Diana Sims (Keith) Snider and John D. (Theresa) Sims, all of Alexandria, VA; grandchildren Benjamin (Whitney) Narduzzi; Gabriel (Anna) Narduzzi; Emily (Nick) Macedonia; Bess (Chad) Sussman; Nathaniel (Katelyn) Snider; Alexander (Elizabeth) Snider; William Snider; Samuel (Meghan) Snider; Annalisa Sims, Marcella (Brian Rosado) Sims; Johnna Sims; Billy G. Sims II; and Nourah Barden; 20 great-grandchildren; many beloved nieces and nephews, a Belgian cousin, and lifelong and recent friends.

Visitation is 1 p.m. Friday, June 13, 2025, with funeral Mass at 2 p.m. at Saint Louis Catholic Church, 2907 Popkins Lane, Alexandria VA 22306. Burial at Arlington National Cemetery to be announced.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to St. Louis Catholic Church or to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington. ■

Clay Carey: A Remembrance



Clay Carey in 2002 at a 4th of July picnic in Bolivar, waiting for fireworks.

By MICHAEL HULETT

Clay and I were unlikely friends. Our common bond was community theater. In 1991 I cast him in "Our Town," the inaugural production of the Brunswick Community Theater in the hall of the United Methodist Church. His crowd-pleasing talent was immediately obvious and over the next decade or so we worked together in dozens of local plays.

When I began directing theater, Clay taught me patience and positivity; when we acted together, he gave me comfort.

Clay was elected president of the Brunswick Community Theater and guided its fortunes into the millennium. When the new City Park building was being designed, Clay worked closely with Brunswick city officials to ensure the facility could be used as a performing space. BCT was designated the resident theater company, rent-free!

Clay was a natural actor, both on and off stage, with a wonderful sense of comedic timing. He particularly enjoyed playing

farces, and the broader the better. And he could be equally flamboyant away from the theater. He enjoyed hosting game nights and pizza parties, watching his beloved old movies on Turner Classic Movies. He could name every actor in a film and tell you about every other film the actor had made.

Clay was cheerful and opinionated, warm-hearted and occasionally stubborn, and a dear friend. He made me laugh. Other interests have led us on different paths, but we've stayed in touch and I know that after he retired from the civil service, Clay devoted himself to serving his church and his community. For years he was a volunteer for "Meals on Wheels" and enjoyed transporting seniors around Brunswick.

But as outgoing as he was, Clay was inherently a private person. As well as I knew one side of him, I suspected, like a gem, there were many hidden facets. Only now have I learned that "Clay" wasn't even his first name. A "stage" name perhaps.

Clay died on June 19. Well, as he leaves this stage for the next, I hope he can hear the applause. ■

Local Raw
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A Hidden Historical Gem on South Mountain

Story and photos
by AARON LENNOX

In late December of 1893, as a wildfire smoldered on the mountain above Knoxville, Maryland, a plot of land was set aside along the quiet mountain road and officially deeded. The land was a burial ground whose rich heritage, much like its location, has remained mostly hidden from view.

Knoxville African American Cemetery holds generations of African Americans, from veterans who served their country, to railroad workers, mail carriers, farm laborers and their children. Many had survived the hardships of enslavement, and all endured the ongoing trials of segregation and systemic injustice. For over a century, this secluded place of rest has remained a hidden historical gem, largely unnoticed even by nearby residents.

Many years before the original Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church was built a stone's throw from its present location in Knoxville, a seed of faith was planted on the mountainside. Former slaves of Caspar Wever, given their freedom many years before the Civil War, had been provided land to make a living. It was in the home of one such family that Rev. Thomas W. Henry of the A.M.E. Church found himself while church-planting in the late 1830s, and with the family's permission held the first prayer meetings. These gatherings were not just acts of worship, but declarations of hope and solidarity.



Knoxville African American Cemetery

It would take nearly half a century for the fruits of these labors to grow and become Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church at Knoxville.

Though the Knoxville African American Cemetery is not formally tied to any church, some of the same hands that built the original Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church and signed its deed in 1876 would later sign the deed for the cemetery in 1893. These same hands no doubt turned the soil for some of the earliest graves, uniting faith and remembrance with their labor.

Burials marked by fieldstones

While the cemetery contains at least 130 known burials, the vast majority are marked not with inscribed headstones, but with unadorned fieldstones. Easily overlooked, these simple

markers hint at the cemetery's early history, when enslaved or impoverished families lacked the means for engraved headstones.

These fieldstones are powerful symbols, representing the quiet resilience of a community that preserved dignity and respect for their loved ones amid the constraints of systemic hardship. These stones are a testament to individuals whose names and

stories may not have been written, but whose memories remain rooted in the land.

Veterans' graves symbolize freedom and equality

Amid the fieldstones are the graves of several veterans, including Civil War soldiers. These veterans are a crucial part of the cemetery's history, representing African Americans who, despite the challenges of segregation and discrimination, served with honor in the United States Colored Troops, and later in the United States Army as well as the Marines.

The Civil War veterans that rest here highlight this area's connection to one of America's most transformative periods. Frederick County was the site of complex allegiances and shifting loyalties during the Civil War. African American soldiers from Maryland played an essential role in the Union victory and the abolition of slavery. Their graves, though presently unmarked, speak not only of their courage,

but of the very ideals of freedom and equality.

Resting in peace after life struggles

As the decades passed, the cemetery fell under a darker shadow beneath its canopy of towering trees. A nearby landowner, perhaps emboldened by an erroneous tax map, claimed the cemetery as their own. For many years, families that came to honor their ancestors were met with threats and intimidation, their grief compounded by fear — a cruel reminder of the hardships their ancestors endured.

Over time, the land surrounding the cemetery has changed hands, and former property owners have passed on. Property deeds and records have been carefully researched and friends and family have come together to offer a glimmer of hope that soon those who struggled so much in life will be able to truly rest in peace here.

Those who stray from South Mountain Road and into this sacred ground may feel a sense of serenity and seclusion, where nature itself seems to protect the memories of those interred, their legacy forever sheltered by the trees and soil. They may hear the distant sound of the freight trains slowly moving their way through the towns below, the same sound once so familiar to those at rest here. Listening closer, within that distant rhythm they may hear faint echoes from a time long ago, when this lonely mountain road carried song, and with it, prayers for freedom. ■



Cemetery grave plaques

JULY 25
@ 7P

UPSTAIRS
AT Smoketown



TICKETS



THE
AMISH OUTLAWS



OPINION

PUBLISHER'S EDITORIAL

Keep A Cool Head...
but it's going to cost more and more

If you used 1,000 kilowatt hours (kwh) of electricity in May/June, your bill would be \$109.00. That same amount of power in May/June of 2019 would have cost \$63.00. (Those figures are just the cost of the electricity, not the *other charges listed on your bill.)

That is an increase of 73% over the six-year period or 12% per year on average. The national inflation rate for the U.S. for the same period was 3.8% per year.

Why has the cost of electricity gone up three times faster than other costs? It's a matter of supply and demand. While Americans are using more electricity for things such as heating, cooling, and plug-in cars, the increased efficiency of modern equipment has kept that overall usage in check.

However, here's the important factor: "...the 2024 Report on U.S. Data Center Energy Use produced by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory ...outlines the energy use of data centers from 2014 to 2028. The report estimates that data center load growth has tripled over the past decade and is projected to double or triple by 2028." (U.S. Dept. of Energy — emphasis added).

That's not all. The *other charges (mentioned above) which appear on the right side of your bill are going up. Building the power lines to go through Frederick County from southern Pennsylvania to supply power to data centers in northern Virginia and eventually to those being built on the old Eastalco site, is going to cost hundreds of millions of dollars. That cost will also be on your power bill.

Keeping a cool head under these circumstances is going to be difficult and expensive. At this time, it would be best to slow down the malignant growth of data centers in our County. ■



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brunswick is Lucky that Boys & Girls Clubs Are Here

At our local Springfest, I was able to chat with folks from Frederick County Boys & Girls Clubs. We, in Brunswick, are lucky that they will be able to provide services for our community here in Brunswick.

For those of you who might not know, Boys & Girls Clubs provide invaluable resources to communities. They offer safe, supportive environments for children and teens to learn, grow and thrive. The after-school programs keep our children engaged in productive activities and away from negative influences. They mentor, provide tutoring and offer enrichment programs and fun after-school activities.

As a longtime educator in Frederick County, I encourage all of our families to take advantage of these great programs. Our Brunswick Middle School works with Boys & Girls Clubs to provide programs at the school. Contact Boys & Girls Clubs of Frederick for more information.

— Sue Blair, Knoxville



Impressed by Brunswick Arch

As a long-ago Shepherd student who took the old B&O to college, I was astounded by all the landscape changes on my recent visit. By far the most impressive is the "Brunswick" arch framing the river entrance to the town. The design is evocative of the iron truss bridges we crossed to the historic villages along the way. I can just imagine it greeting the hikers and bikers on the C&O trail and inviting them to stop in.

Brunswick has so much to offer visitors! The history, shops, galleries, and eateries are well worth the stop. Your impressive sign tells them this railroad town is well worth experiencing.

— Jan Hardey, Stuart, Florida

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FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July is a month brimming with excitement and community spirit. As we embrace the warm weather, our community comes together to celebrate our nation's independence. Fireworks will illuminate the sky on the Fourth of July, and we encourage everyone to enjoy the festivities safely and responsibly.

Freeze on Data Center Applications

I've heard concerns from the community about developers trying to rush data center applications before stronger regulations can be put in place. That's why I issued an executive order last month that temporarily prevents the consideration of any new applications for data centers. The order also applies to electrical substations that support data centers.

This temporary pause gives the Council time to act and should give the community peace of mind about the process. The order is designed to prevent further development of data centers before new standards become law and while the County Council considers zoning regulations. On May 20, the Frederick County Council approved Bill 25-05, which created stricter design requirements for critical digital infrastructure facilities and substations. But like most bills, there is a 60-day delay before it takes effect. Council members and I announced a separate bill to limit the construction of data centers to the area around the old East Alcoa property north of Adamstown. The bill to establish a zoning overlay was introduced June 17.

To learn more about Executive Order 03-2025 and legislation being considered by the Council, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Tracking Progress of Livable Frederick

You can now track Livable Frederick goals through a newly launched online dashboard. This tool allows users to see how the County and its partners are making progress on implementing Livable Frederick. The new online dashboard makes Livable Frederick more transparent, measurable and collaborative. I encourage you to explore the dashboard to see how Frederick County is turning our shared vision into action. Livable Frederick is Frederick County's Master Plan. It lays out a vision for the future of our families, neighborhoods and overall community. The plan includes actions designed to create a vibrant and unique community where people live, work and thrive while enjoying a strong sense of place and belonging. The plan was adopted in 2019 after a multi-year public outreach process. The dashboard will be updated regularly. You are invited to share your thoughts and ideas. To learn more and access the new



County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Livable Frederick Dashboard, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/LFDashboard.

Celebrating Agriculture in our County

Frederick County continues to support agricultural innovation and economic growth through its Agriculture Innovation Grant Program. Last month, I announced \$125,000 in grant awards as part of the March 2025 cycle. Seven agricultural businesses were selected to receive funding for projects through this competitive program.

The Agriculture Innovation Grants Program is a strong and successful partnership between County government and our farmers. Targeted investments will help make farming more viable and sustainable, which is good for our economy and quality of life.

Projects awarded in this cycle are expected to create 16 jobs across Frederick County's agricultural sector. For more information and to see this cycle's winners, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Agriculture.

Our community is full of hard-working, passionate individuals who make Frederick County a special place. The Office of Agriculture recently released the latest issue of Homegrown Frederick magazine to showcase the people, businesses and products that drive our agricultural community.

The 2025 edition features inspiring stories on unique non-alcoholic craft beverages, women in agriculture, agricultural education in local schools, and innovative farming projects. From multi-generational family farms to emerging enterprises, Homegrown Frederick paints a vivid picture of our community's deep-rooted agricultural heritage and forward-thinking vision.

To get a copy, call the Office of Agriculture at 301-600-3039 or email FCAG@FrederickCountyMD.gov. A digital version of the magazine is also available at www.HomegrownFrederick.com.

July Celebrations

In addition to celebrating Independence Day this month, July is recognized as Disability Pride Month, a time to celebrate the achievements, contributions and

FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSWOMAN APRIL MCCLAIN DELANEY

In the summer of 1980, National Public Radio (NPR) completed the first nationwide radio satellite distribution network, allowing its programming to reach millions of additional listeners across the country, especially in rural towns often underserved by commercial media. In the decades since, more than 1,000 local stations have broadcast programs guided not by profit margins or corporate interests, but by a mission to inform and serve the public.

A critical threat

Now, that legacy faces a critical threat: the Senate is set to vote on a bill that cuts \$1 billion in funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), putting programs like Sesame Street and Arthur at serious risk. These shows provide valuable educational content for children,



Congresswoman April McClain Delaney

especially those without cable. We can't afford to cut what helps families thrive. So, when this bill was brought before the U.S. House of Representatives last week, I proudly voted against it and spoke on the

floor of the House chamber to stand up for Marylanders, rural communities, early education and the kids who need these services the most. Before I came to Congress, I worked for decades as a non-profit advocate for children's online safety, digital literacy and bridging our nation's digital divide. For so many rural communities—like my hometown of Buhl, Idaho, and those across Western Maryland—the CPB provides families a lifeline to news and educational programming. This broadcast programming is free to every American—and priceless in its impact. Balancing the budget on the backs of working families is harmful to our nation, our families and our future. We can and must do better. ■

diversity of people with disabilities. To watch a recording of our Disability Pride celebration, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV or tune in to Comcast channel 1072 or 19. We also acknowledge the im-

portance of Parks and Recreation Month, a time to appreciate the natural beauty of our county. Take time this month to visit a local park or join a recreational sports league. Visit www.Recreator.com to learn more.

As always, we continue to celebrate our rich history in Frederick County while remaining committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone in our community. ■

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LOCAL NEWS

Wilt's Custom Ironwork:
Welding to Serve

COURTESY OF DAVID AND TERESA WILT



Cross made of rebar like the Honduras cross

By ABBIE RICKETTS

David Wilt, a long-time resident of Olive School Road, has enjoyed a long and successful welding career. He has worked on all types of welding including onsite fabrication. Specializing in ornamental welding, his work can be seen in prominent places such as Washington, D.C., but the highlight of his career and most dear to his and his wife Teresa's hearts are the beautifully intricate crosses he has made for churches all over the world.

The Wilts started Wilt's Custom Ironwork in 1983. After David had served in the Coast Guard, where he learned to weld, and after working at Neutron Welding, he began doing onsite welding and welding at his shop on Olive School Road.

A mission of welding

He and Teresa had become active in their church and knew they wanted to somehow share their love for Christ through David's work. Sixteen years ago, Wilt was invited to join a mission trip to Honduras where his welding skills were needed. He was with a group that was building a feeding center at a church. While there, he prayed about leaving the locals at the church a gift. His prayers led him to craft a cross welded out of leftover rebar from the building work. Supplies were very short so he had to be creative. The town people were very pleased with it.

Wilt returned to Honduras three more times and he leaves a cross each time. Moved by how content the people were, even though they were very poor, changed him, he said. His skills as a talented welder became in-

tertwined with serving the poor by helping them build churches for their communities.

The Wilts have also worked with Macedonia Missionary Services located in Kentucky. According to the organization's website, "Macedonian has also helped develop a vision for missions by taking Pastors and lay-people from the churches to the foreign mission field for special projects. The verse 'Mine eye affecteth mine heart...' — Lamentations 3:51, has proven true as these men and women have returned to their home churches with a new zeal for missions. The ministry serves not only as a missions' guide, but also as a missions' teacher, so that those who participate in a project will experience life-changing revelations." The Wilts life-changing experience in Honduras led them to complete 15 foreign missions since then.

In February 2015, they traveled on a mission to Russia where David worked on welding projects and Teresa helped in a dental clinic. Wilt said President Putin, leery of them, would not allow the group to tour orphanages but

they were allowed to visit a reform school. David also taught welding for ten days to Nicaraguan teenagers while on a trip to that country.

On a trip to Mexico, apprehension set in for Wilt as the area he would be traveling to was taken over by a cartel. Wilt felt spreading the gospel to the poor through helping them build churches was important, so he and the group he was with relied on prayer and the patrol of the Mexican Army to keep them safe. A sandstorm kept them hidden at one point. The weather didn't cooperate but finally the skies cleared and they were able to complete a tin roof on the church.

David and Teresa have also traveled to Belize and Brazil to complete welding on roofs and staircases. Wilt said they use metal rather than wood for framing and other work due to its durability in the humid southern hemisphere climates. Wilt has left a cross at each location in his travels.

Notable projects

Early on in Wilt's welding career, another welder turned over his federal government contracts to Wilt, which helped him launch his business. He was contracted to fabricate and install the gates at the White House and at some embassies in Washington, D.C. He completed many other notable projects in the area including iron fencing at federal buildings and gas lanterns at the White House.

He restored the gates to the National Cemetery at Antietam and fabricated the dam buttress railing at Harpers Ferry. Among his many private clients are former Washington Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann and Redskins/Commanders former owner, Dan Snyder. Wilt said he prefers the intricate work of ornate gates and fences as well the intricate work of the crosses he designs and makes.

Driven by God, Wilt said he and Teresa devote a month out of every year to mission work helping to build churches in small, poor communities in the world utilizing David's welding skills to spread God's word to those seeking it and in need of help. They always leave behind a beautiful cross to the communities they have touched

Wilt's Custom Ironwork is located at 3546 Olive School Rd., Knoxville, Md., phone 301-834-6308. ■



Teenagers with their welding projects in Nicaragua

BHS Students of the Month: May 2025



Pictured from left to right: Eden Evans (Science, grade 9), Evelyn Moles (Physical Education, grade 10), Dillon Murphy (World Languages, grade 10), Madeline McGoldrick (Career and Technical Ed, grade 11), Andrew Thiede (English, grade 11), Clara Held (Math, grade 11), Aveline Murphy (Visual & Performing Arts, grade 11), Kadence Houck (Social Studies, grade 9), and Principal Eric Schwarzenegger. Not pictured: Corbin Steiner (Media, grade 9).

Computer Backups

Computers have become an essential part of our lives. As much as we try to keep up with developing technology, these #%*\$&!! things keep changing. Fortunately for our readers, [John the Computer Guy](#) has offered to write this computer column intermittently to address some of the questions that keep coming up.

If you have a specific question, send it to Editor@Brunsnews.com and we will run it by him.



Do you need a backup? The way to approach this is to ask yourself what would happen if you lost your device. A loss might be as simple as replacing your phone and syncing from the cloud. Or it could be catastrophic. It all depends on the location and value of your data.

First level: the cloud

By far, the easiest backup for phones and tablets are cloud sites provided by your phone provider (Apple, Google, Microsoft). This may be free or low cost depending on how much you send to the cloud.

If all your data are on the phone or tablet and it all fits in a cloud account that's a reasonable cost, you may be all done. If disaster strikes, get a new device, hook it up, and restore from the cloud. You are done and protected. But for larger data amounts that might be on a laptop or desktop computer, you may need a backup device you own.

Second level: local backup storage

The next level backup uses a storage device that you control. You then back up your phone or tablet to the computer, thereby eliminating the need for cloud storage (or not depending on cloud costs) and then back up the computer to a local storage device.

A typical home user backup device will be around \$100 from Amazon, Best Buy or Walmart, but faster and bigger devices raise this cost. Once you have a device, there may be software for your computer to do the backups at regular intervals or you can do them yourself. At this point, your local backup is vulnerable, so some off-site copy is needed, unless you are using the cloud.

Third level: off-site backup storage

If your backup device and computer both fail (think fire and water) then you need to store your backup off-site. There are companies that will handle your off-site backup. This is not the same as cloud storage. You are not going to be accessing files in this storage plan; it is there to provide a backup you can restore if all other backups are lost.

Many companies offer this with plans that can start as low as \$100 per year for a single computer with varying limits on how much you back up. Microsoft, Backblaze and Crashplan are three popular off-site backup sites. You can also make your own by having two physical devices you rotate so that one is always off-site.

In my case, I use no cloud storage for backups. I have a 4,000GB storage disk beside my computer (initial cost \$279) that does automatic continuous backups of my computer, and every week I back up my phone and tablet to the computer. I use an off-site plan that costs \$95 per year for unlimited backup. I consider these costs worthwhile to protect my data.

It is your choice. The need for a backup is totally dependent on you and your data. No one knows what it's worth except you. ■

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@BrunsNews.com.

GARDENING, AGRICULTURE

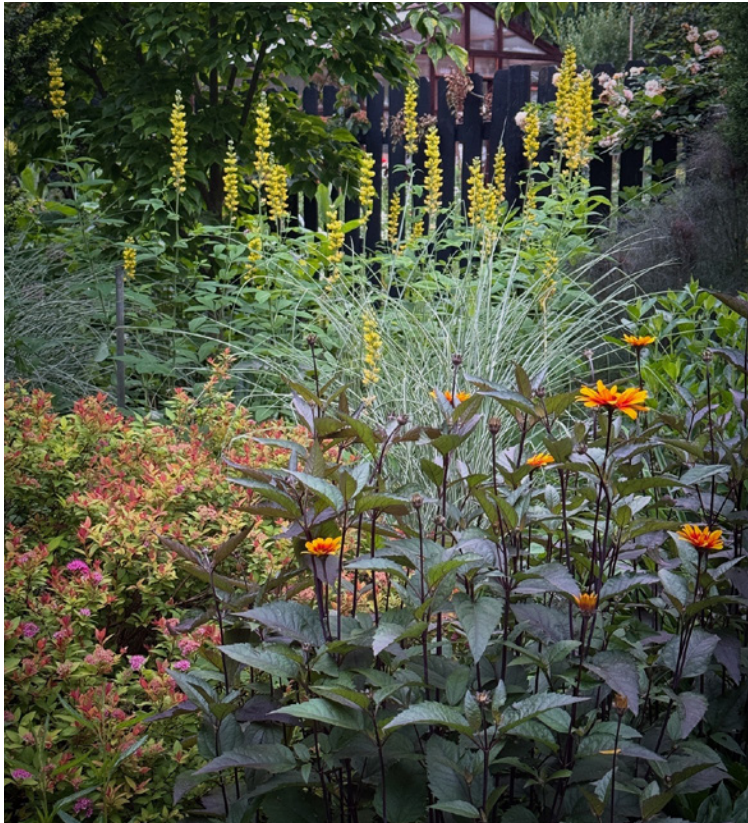
The Necessity of Underwear

BY MARIANNE WILLBURN

The tricky business of last-minute staking is on the agenda this month. Each year I fantasize that the storms won't come, the vertical accents won't go horizontal, and the work I shirked in May won't haunt me in July. And each year I am slapped in the face (sometimes literally), by plants that really needed an assist to be all they can be.

There are many people who feel that staking plants is time consuming, overly meticulous and fussy. But staking is not solely about appearance, and can positively affect the production and purpose of a plant. If you choose to plant, for instance, an old-fashioned peony with heavy double blooms that smell sweetly, something is lost in translation if you have to pull the blooms out of a mud puddle in order to sniff them.

MARIANNE WILLBURN



Stop tomato flop

Tomatoes can flop, and the Italians often grow them thus — in an orgy of vining, twining summer stems reclining atop beds of straw, but I find that there is more production and less waste when they are (at the very least) leaning against an upright cage.

This sentiment might reflect the uptight part of my nature, but it is also very practical when one is dealing with a small space and a humid, fungus-loving climate. The Italians also live in Italy, and not in my cool stream valley.

Thanks to a friend's successful example, I have now taken to removing the bottom leaves of my tomato plants as they grow to stop soil borne disease splashing back onto the foliage. This is made possible by staking the plants in the first place — other-

wise all leaves are bottom leaves. I have had much healthier plants as a result.

Different stakes for different plants

If you've ever dug a huge hole, amended it with love, and planted a small precious tree, only to leave the staking for another day, I trust that the resulting 60 degree angle of the trunk five years later is to your liking. Trees settle in their holes. They stretch toward the sun and must be gently reminded that building good character starts with boundaries — yours.

So, staking should be undertaken, and just like any good undergarment, the stakes should be discrete. But how, and with what? I am not a garden-gad-

get person, but a few years ago, I found green metal stakes in two- and four-foot lengths topped with a half circle hook at one end, allowing the gardener to quickly pop in a stem and secure it without ever getting out the twine.

I love these reusable, camouflaged stakes and add a few to my collection whenever I see them at garden centers. They are great for plants like foxglove, large iris, Echinacea, and other perennials and annuals that throw up tall blooms that could be damaged by winds or rampaging guinea hens.

For larger clumping perennials whose blooms grow more as an extension of the foliage (peony, hypericum etc.), hoop style staking with attached 'legs' is the option we are always given at the home centers, but it is rarely satisfactory.

You will spend a great deal of time trying to get all three stakes at equal depths, and wind or rain can still push a plant to one end of the hoop or another. One is often left with the look of a too-big vase for a too-small bouquet. But hey, at least they're off the ground.

Be creative with staking

My preferred method these days is either to create a pea-stick structure for the plant to grow through in late winter (which can be almost as beautiful as the plant itself), or create a network of twine and bamboo to create something similar with an inner cobweb-like structure once the plant is actively growing.

The term 'pea-stick' refers to the old practice of sticking branched twigs (often hazel

or other bendable tree branches), into rows of pea seeds for the emerging plants to cling to. The branches are cut in winter when shed of leaves. In the early spring, they can also be used to surround a perennial crown in a circle, and the tops are carefully bent and broken to form a cobwebbed dome — woven into each other in a pleasing way that smacks of rusticity and cunning. It is almost a shame when the plant is fully emerged and the artistic shapes are lost.

But it is July, and that ship has sailed. Now your most egregious floppers require one or two stout canes pounded into the soil near the perennial clump, and some twine wrapped around several strategic outer stems to create a different type of cobweb.

Such staking won't secure a small tree. But ½ inch rebar can be pounded in on either side of a newly planted specimen and connected with a bit of rope

sheathed with rubber hose to protect the trunk from being gouged. Use a figure-eight configuration with the rope and don't secure it too tightly — it's important the tree is able to move a bit in the wind. After a year or so of this treatment, a tree is usually able to hold its head up high.

Some plants will require an immediate staking, others can grow into it, and still others will get by with a stake thrown in on an as-needed basis. Use your discretion, and think carefully about a plant's need for extra support before you buy it. If you disapprove of underwear in the garden, you can easily find dwarf cultivars that make such trappings unnecessary — but burning one's bra and letting it all hang out is not the answer. ■

Marianne Willburn is the co-host of The Garden Mixer Podcast and a contributing editor at GardenRant.com. She gardens in Lovettsville, VA.

Quick Pickling

By JEAN TOLEMAN

Vinegar is the great pickling agent. With our summer gardens starting to produce, possibly more than we can use fresh, try this Quick Pickling process from littlefrugalhomestead.com.

Use very fresh vegetables or fruit. Any vinegar can be used; white is the most common. Avoid aged vinegars like balsamic as the acidity is too weak and the viscosity too thick.

Prep time: 15 minutes. Cook time: 15 minutes. Servings: 8

Equipment:

Saucepan and 2 pint jars with lids.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup vinegar — apple cider, white vinegar or red wine vinegar
- 1 TBSP sugar
- 1 TBSP salt

Optional additions:

Minced garlic, cloves, cinnamon stick, bay leaves, fresh herbs, whole peppercorns.

2-3 cups vegetables or fruit:

The produce can be left whole (pearl onions, berries, green beans), sliced (carrots, zucchini, onions, peppers, radishes, melon), or spears (cucumber, pineapple, asparagus). The more surface area exposed to the brining solution, the quicker the tangy flavor will go into the food.

Instructions:

1. Wash the jars and make sure they are very clean.
2. Pack the prepared produce tightly into the jars, leaving half-inch space between the rim of jar and top of produce.
3. Heat water and vinegar together just to a boil.
4. Add sugar and salt and stir until dissolved.
5. Add any herbs or spices you are using.
6. Turn off the heat.
7. Pour the hot brine over the produce until completely covered.
8. Wipe the rim and cap the jars. Let sit until cooled to room temperature.
9. Store in the refrigerator for at least 48 hours before serving. ■

MARIANNE WILLBURN



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IN THE KITCHEN

Community Donations Nourish Local Food Banks

By JEAN TOLEMAN

In our communities of Jefferson, Brunswick and Lovettsville, there are places where individuals, businesses and civic groups donate food, money and time to help fellow citizens who have difficulty purchasing enough food to ward off hunger. The factors causing food needs are many — increases in costs of living, unexpected job loss, unexpected medical expenses or personal disasters, more retired persons on fixed incomes, and financial assistance programs being trimmed.

Food and money come in to local food banks every week and those who are hungry are fed, not because we know all of them, but because they are neighbors. None of the three local food banks have ever run out of food. Jennifer Effler, manager at the Brunswick Food Bank said, “When we ask, we have gotten.”

Volunteers make local food banks possible

Food banks are volunteer organizations with most, if not all, of their resources coming from donations as food or money. A typical supply of food, according to the Jefferson Food Bank website, for a family of 4–6 might include items such as baked beans, tuna, stew, chili, canned chicken, pasta/sauce, canned vegetables, soup, canned fruit, cereal, peanut butter, potatoes, rice and other nonperishable foods. The Brunswick Food Bank also provides meats, cheese, frozen items, a bit of fresh produce and personal items too.

Maryland Food Bank supplies 780 food pantries across Maryland out of a hub location in Baltimore. Frederick County receives its food from the Western Maryland Food Bank Branch in Hagerstown, which provides food to 120 sites. Even though Maryland is one of the wealthiest states, according to the Maryland Food Bank Hunger Map analysis, around two million Marylanders may experience hunger in 2025. In FY24, the Maryland Food Bank distributed enough food to provide more than 43.5 million meals, according to their website.

Our local food banks receive only a small percent of their to-



Jennifer Effler, manager of Brunswick Food Bank, is ready to serve.

tal food from the Maryland Food Bank. According to Effler, 90% of Brunswick’s food comes from donations.

The Western Loudoun Food Pantry in Lovettsville is totally community supported. Nancy Spannaus, their manager, said, “We get donations from local civic groups, individuals and businesses. On Memorial Day, the local Indian restaurant, Train to Mumbai Farm Indian Kitchen, gave 50% of their sales to us.”

Nick Augustino, manager at the Jefferson Food Bank, said local churches, neighborhoods and businesses do food drives. All managers mentioned the Boy Scout food drive that is held every fall.

Volunteers at the Brunswick Food Bank on the last Thursday of May were busy bagging and distributing food. Here, clients must be registered and meet low-income status. Jeremy Bel, a recent graduate from Brunswick High School was there volunteering with his mom, Jana Bel. Jana has been volunteering for 12 years and Jeremy started when he was in 5th grade. “We like helping other people,” Jana said, “We are first generation immigrants and it feels good to give back.”

Randi Blue, a recently retired teacher from Howard County, was also volunteering. She had worked in title one schools throughout her career and said food was a part of the culture. After leaving the school system, she missed the “good feeling” of providing food to folks who are in need. Effler said the Bruns-

wick Food Bank serves around 60 households a month.

Food bank funding is mostly all local

The \$1 billion federal funding cuts to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which coordinates the Food Bank program, are mostly impacting the Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program. During the pandemic, these programs were allocated additional money, which was temporary. The cuts will have an impact on food and nutrition programs, but because our local food banks are primarily supported by community donations, decreases in the amount of food received has not yet been noted at any of the three sites.

On any given week, what the food banks distribute varies. Brunswick has a monthly “wish list” of items they would like to receive. Most of their donations come in the form of money from churches, individuals and organizations, so each week, they go shopping. Spannaus in Lovettsville said their webpage is updated weekly stating their needs. Augustino said, “It is very cool to see how it all works; it is informal and organic and it comes together.” He said they buy food with donated money, get food from the food bank and get donated food. All is divided up into bags for the households.

Fresh produce is one thing that tends to be limited. The Maryland Food Bank program has been promoting buying foods from local farmers, thus helping to support the local economy. Working independently, the Brunswick Food bank connected locally with Blacksmith Farm in Knoxville. Greg Lefebure leases the land and farms a few extra rows for the food bank. Lefebure said he grows pesticide and herbicide free and this will be his second year of providing fresh produce to the food bank.

A Farm Less Ordinary in Purcellville, Va. donates its extra produce to the Western Loudoun Food Pantry. The farm provides employment and community to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. They grow using organic and sustainable methods, according to their webpage. Other local farmers in the area, as well as individual gardeners and growers at the Brunswick Crossing community garden, also donate to the food banks when they have an excess

of produce. Behind the Brunswick Food Bank, fruit trees have been planted and it is hoped the trees will provide clients with fruit within the next few years.

Understanding food insecurity

For many people in our land of abundance, food insecurity is hard to understand. But in 2023, over 13% of all people in the U.S. were food insecure, defined as one’s access to adequate food, limited at times by a lack of money and other resources. For households with children, it was 18%. In Maryland, the food insecurity rate for 2021-2023 was 10.4% with 3.3% experiencing very low food security.

The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is the tool most often used for determining a household’s need and access to assistance programs. The FPL in 2025 for a household of four is \$32,150. To receive food bank foods, a family of four must make less than \$57,720 annually. U.S. Census data indicates 7.7% of Marylanders have income below the Federal Poverty Level.

In Frederick and Loudoun counties, the cost of living has increased greatly over the past few years, putting more people at risk of food insecurity. Looking at data from livingwage.mit.edu, in Frederick County, a household of two full-time working adults with two children needs to make an hourly rate of \$31.44, or an annual income of \$130,809, to cover

all needed expenses. In Loudoun County the hourly rate would need to be \$37.75 with an annual income of \$157,039.

The United Way has another measure of determining a household’s ability to obtain adequate food. ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) includes households that earn more than the FPL, but their incomes do not stretch to cover the basics. In the Brunswick area, 32.9% of households were below this threshold.

Increases in food needs

Spannaus in Lovettsville said she has seen an increase in the number of families coming to the food bank over the past few months. “Up until March, most of our clients were low wage families, but there has been an increase in the number of people who have lost their jobs or who have had medical issues.” She said this increase had been noted in many of the 25 regional food banks in her network.

The important role food banks play in helping to support the members of a community is great and appears to be growing greater. While food banks have no way of solving the root cause of hunger, they provide the support that a family may need, even if for only a short period of time. We could all experience these times. Maybe that is why we as a community are willing to donate to our local food banks with time, food and money. ■

LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Brunswick Food Bank: 601 East Potomac St., Brunswick. Thursdays 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Jefferson Food Bank: St Paul’s Lutheran Church, 3864 Jefferson Pike, Jefferson, 301-473-8626, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9–11 a.m.

Western Loudoun Food Pantry: New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 12942 Lutheran Church Rd., Lovettsville. Wednesdays 2–5 p.m. Appointments can be made for other days if needed by calling 540-822-5576.

Join Us !! **Porch Sitters** of Brunswick **Wednesday, July 9, 2025**

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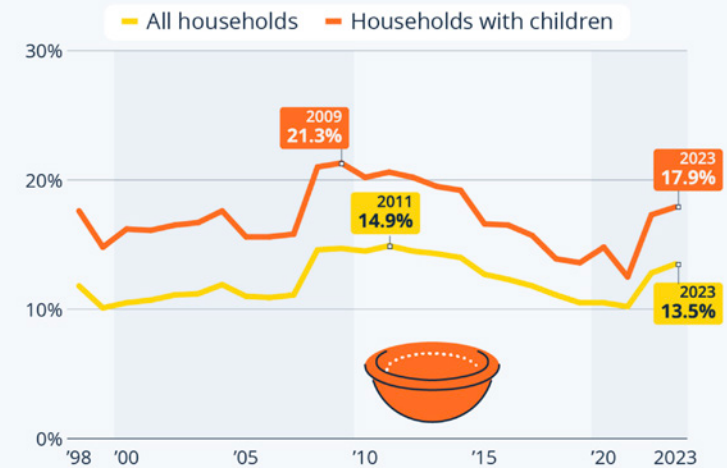
10:00am at the Brunswick City Park Building 655 E. Potomac Street

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Be There !!

U.S. Food Insecurity on the Rise

Share of households in the U.S. classified as food insecure (1998-2023)



Source: USDA Household Food Security in the United States



Lovettsville Town News

By ABBIE RICKETTS

Town Council Meeting
June 12

Appointments:

David Earl — Tree Advisory Board
Bob Custard — Planning Commission
Tripp Curtis — Planning Commission
Adam Baumgardner — Board of Zoning Appeals
Bob Custard — Board of Zoning Appeals

From the Manager's Report -
Jason Cournoyer

East Broad Way — Sewer lateral inspections have been completed for the homes where the lateral crosses the water main and storm drainage in order to preemptively identify needed repairs or replacements. The

completed inspections have not yielded any identified issues with the laterals. Homeowners have been notified and have been complimentary about the Town's proactive approach.

Town Square Landscaping Improvements — Epling is to commence with the grading and planting of hydroseed beginning June 23. The Infrastructure Committee will continue to evaluate and design if any further landscaping improvements are desired.

Chestnut Vale Development — Town staff is having a pre-construction meeting with the developers of Chestnut Vale to get a better understanding of the means and methods of the planned construction and the associated timeline. There is an anticipated impact to the Lakeview Community as well. There are up to 19 homes that could be impacted with the associated

replacement water main down Park Place. Town staff plans to communicate to the HOA once details are known and to ensure that the community is informed and assist with preparations to minimize the disruption. ■

Oktoberfest

Dates are set and planning is well underway for Lovettsville's premier event:

Friday, Sept. 26: 6–11 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 27: 10 a.m.–11 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 28: 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Vendor Application Deadline: Monday, Aug. 18, 2025 or until all spaces are filled
Visit www.lovettsvilleoktoberfest.com/

For questions, contact:

Sarah Moseley
Community Engagement & Economic Development Coordinator
smoseley@lovettsvilleva.gov ■

'Best of Loudoun' Winners and Finalists

Lovettsville is well represented this year!

- Winner: **Jeff Strahan Fitness Image Results**, Personal Trainer
- Finalist: **Andy's**, Best Pizza
- Finalist: **Equine Rescue League**, Animal Rescue/Adoption Org.
- Finalist: **Loudoun Therapeutic Riding**, Equine Facility
- Finalist: **Lovettsville, VA**, Small Town
- Finalist: **R & S Custom Cycles**, Motorcycle Shop
- Finalist: **Safety First Driving School**, Driving School
- Finalist: **Stone Manor Boutique Inn**, Bed & Breakfast/Country Inn
- Finalist: **Lovettsville Co-op Market**, Both Supermarket & Specialty Store
- Finalist: **Train to Mumbai**, Indian Restaurant
- Finalist: **West End Motors**, Both Tire Sales/Center & Auto Dealership (Used)
- Finalist: **Willows Vintage Charm**, Antique Store

Lovettsville Historical Society

Upcoming Lectures

July 13 – Seminar: "Lovettsville Recalled – Then and Now"

Aug. 17 – Maral Kalbian on "The Lovettsville Historic District: An Overview"

All lectures begin at 2 p.m. and are held at St. James United Church of Christ, 10 East Broad Way, Lovettsville. Although admission is free, donations are welcome to defray

expenses of the program and to support the activities of the Lovettsville Historical Society.

Volunteers Needed

Put your love of history and your talents to work for the Lovettsville Historical Society & Museum. Part-time volunteers are sought to help with:

- Social media
- Museum guides and docents (we will train you)

- Event organizing
- Scanning documents into our digital data-base
- Lots of other things

Contact: info@lovettsvillehistoricalsociety.org

Open to visitors on Saturdays 1–4 p.m., or by appointment.

Call 540-822-9194 or write to: info@LovettsvilleHistoricalSociety.org ■

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TRAVEL, ARTS, CULTURE

DAY TRIPS FROM BRUNSWICK

The Gettysburg Battlefield

By JOHN CAVES

Arguably, no single event was more important to our nation's history than the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1-3, 1863. Although it began almost by accident, the fate of the United States hung in the balance for three days as Robert E. Lee tried and failed to break the Union Army outside Gettysburg, Pa. Instead, Lee and his Confederate Army of Northern Virginia limped back toward the Potomac on Independence Day, and the Union endured.

Every American should see Gettysburg, and we in the Brunswick area have an advantage — it is less than an hour away. To get there, take U.S. Route 15 north. To reach the visitor center, take the exit for PA-97 Baltimore Pike, then turn left two miles later at the big sign for the Gettysburg National Military Park.

You can get a map there and ask the rangers for information. The visitor center also has several artifacts on display, including a wall of Civil War firearms, artillery shells, and bugles. There is more inside a museum on site that requires a ticket.

Self-guiding auto tour

Once you are ready to explore the battlefield, a good option is to take the self-guiding auto tour. The park has a map and brochure laying out a sequence of



Rows of graves marking the 425 unknown soldiers buried at the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

16 prominent sites, which it says takes at least three hours to complete. There are parking spaces at most sites, and the National Park Service has a free app that gives information about each stop.

Overview and important places to see

After his victory at Chancellorsville, Va., Lee crossed into Maryland and then Pennsylvania to bring the war to the North. He sought a military victory, but also a political one. A Union defeat on northern soil or the capture of a major northern city — Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Baltimore or Washington, D.C. itself — could

have drained the northern populace's will to fight or convinced France or Britain to intervene on the side of the Confederacy.

The Union Army of the Potomac, newly commanded by George Meade, hurried in pursuit. Both armies sought to engage, but neither was sure of the other's precise whereabouts.

On the morning of July 1, a division of Union cavalry led by John Buford chanced upon a division of Confederate infantry from A.P. Hill's corps northwest of Gettysburg. Though outnumbered, Buford decided to stand and fight. He was reinforced by Union infantry under the respected general John Reynolds, who was killed by a sharpshooter while leading his men into position. Fighting between increasing numbers of troops continued until the Confederates pushed the Union forces back through the town and onto high ground south of it.

McPherson Ridge is the must-see spot to begin your tour. A monument here marks where Reynolds fell. Two miles further west on Chambersburg Pike (U.S. Route 30) is a marker where the battle's first shot was believed to have been fired. North of McPherson Ridge, there is a memorial with an eternal flame that was dedi-

cated by President Franklin Roosevelt and aging Civil War veterans in 1938.

Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill — When July 2 dawned, the Army of the Potomac was in a strong position along Cemetery Ridge. Lee attempted to dislodge it by attacking both of its flanks simultaneously. Coordination proved challenging, however, and the attacks did not begin until late in the day. On the Union right flank, the Confederate corps commanded by Richard Ewell attacked dug-in positions on Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill. They captured a few fortifications, but failed to carry either hill.

Maryland units on both sides took part in the fighting for Culp's Hill. If you park at Spangler's Spring and walk up Slocum Avenue, you can see their monuments in succession: the 1st Maryland Regiment of the Potomac Home Brigade (Union), which was organized in Frederick and included men from Berlin (now Brunswick); the 3rd Maryland Infantry Regiment (Union), which organized in Baltimore; and the 2nd Maryland Infantry Regiment (Confederate).

Devil's Den and Little Round Top — The fight on the Union left flank was more dramatic. An ill-judged decision by corps commander Daniel Sickles resulted in his men attempting to defend exposed positions against James Longstreet's Confederates while the hills of Round Top and Little Round Top were left unguarded. Fierce fighting in the jumbled rocks of Devil's Den below allowed the 20th Maine Regiment, led by Joshua Chamberlain, a professor-turned-soldier, to assemble on Little Round Top at the extreme end of the Union line just before the Confederate attack reached them. With strict orders not to retreat, the 20th Maine repulsed several assaults and, their ammunition running low, finally cleared the Confederates from the hillside with a bayonet charge.

There are several monuments at Devil's Den and on the summit of Little Round Top. Make sure to go to the wooded back side of the hill to see where the 20th Maine made its stand, now marked by wayside signs and a simple stone monument.

High Water Mark — On July 3, the battle reached its climax. Lee, convinced that the fighting on the flanks had drawn forces away from the Union center, ordered a massed frontal assault across nearly a mile of open fields over Longstreet's objection. George Pickett's division led the attack, which became known as Pickett's Charge. It ended in bloody failure. One brigade led by Lewis Armistead briefly penetrated the Union line at a small "copse of trees" before being overwhelmed at what is called the High Water Mark of the Rebellion. The copse of trees still stands, and cannon and several monuments mark the spot where the final, hand-to-hand struggle occurred.

Seminary Ridge and Virginia Memorial — A drive around to Sem-

inary Ridge, where the Confederate attack began, brings you to Virginia's battlefield monument and statues of Lee and Longstreet.

Gettysburg National Cemetery — The defeated Confederates stole away during the night of July 4, but the battlefield's story was not entirely over. North of the visitor center on Taneytown Road is the Gettysburg National Cemetery, which Abraham Lincoln dedicated in November 1863 with the Gettysburg Address. The spot where he spoke is now marked, as he would have wished, by a monument to the fallen soldiers who rest there.



The Maryland monument near the parking area for the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

Eisenhower National Historic Site — Gettysburg has another connection to U.S. history: West of the battlefield is the Eisenhower National Historic Site, which preserves a farm owned by President Dwight Eisenhower, a hero of a later war. The site is managed by the National Park Service and is open to the public.

Arrive early, spend the day

Visiting the prominent spots at Gettysburg takes most of a day, and seeing everything takes many visits. The town has a variety of cafes, breweries, restaurants, and souvenir shops. Admission to the park is free, but it can get crowded, especially in summer. Arriving early is advised.

Lastly, do yourself a favor and read Michael Shaara's *The Killer Angels* or watch the movie *Gettysburg* before your trip. Those tell the story of Gettysburg more vividly than any textbook can, and they will make the battlefield feel at once more familiar and more hallowed. As Lincoln said, "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." He was wrong about the first part, but could not have been more right about the second. ■



A cannon by the "High-Water Mark of the Rebellion." The stone marker on the left indicates where Confederate general Lewis Armistead was mortally wounded.

FILM REVIEW

Review 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.

Delicatessen (1991)

Directors: Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro
French with English Subtitles, 99 minutes

A quirky black comedy, Delicatessen examines humanity amidst mayhem. The delicatessen is owned by a butcher named Clapet, and the sprawling structure includes several apartments he controls. It is post-apocalyptic France, times are tough and the currency is lentils. The residents are hungry and crave meat. The butcher supplies them, selling various cuts from the revolving door of helpers hired after answering ads.

Former circus clown Louison answers such an ad, and is nearly dismissed due to his slight frame. Instead, he gets the job and proves nearly indispensable. He has the good fortune to be favored by the butcher's daughter, Julie, who lives upstairs. They share a love for music. She plays cello, Louison plays saw.

As the delicatessen's supply of meat dwindles, Louison becomes fair fresh game requiring only garnish. Julie, now enamored with Louison and wise to her father's scheme, solicits the help of the Troglodistes, vegetarians who live in the sewer system. They are keen on getting their hands on bags of corn. Corn! Julie provides them with coordinates and the rescue deal is on.

The film is a circus in itself, with its array of apartment-dwelling oddities. The breadth of good and evil, coercion and cooperation, authority and civil engagement harkens to Nazi-Germany and the resistance. Taken on its surface, however, the tale is a clever cleaving of life in the (hopefully) unimaginable future. ■



TRAVEL, ARTS, CULTURE

A Summer Staycation in Brunswick

By PAIGE TRENDALL

Squeezing in a summer vacation becomes difficult with a busy work and personal schedule, which is why “staycations” are becoming more popular. Instead of traveling to a distant and expensive destination, many are opting to stay and explore nearby locations. Brunswick is a perfect staycation city, populated with charm, shops and eateries.

This itinerary can be completed on foot or by bike, and the MARC Station lot provides convenient parking. Visit these spots for a fun day and to learn something new about Brunswick.

Breakfast: Beans in the Belfry

Start the day off with breakfast at Beans in the Belfry. Their menu features bagels, sandwiches and pastries, with numerous coffee and tea options. Located on Potomac Street in a restored church, this eatery is known for its impressive red brick exterior and interior decor. Once inside, there is plenty of seating, including tables and chairs, couches, and church pews. Rugs adorning the floor and light from the stained glass windows create a welcoming feel.

Beans in the Belfry is open Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on Tuesdays, and open on other weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Morning Activity: Exploring the C&O Canal National Historical Park

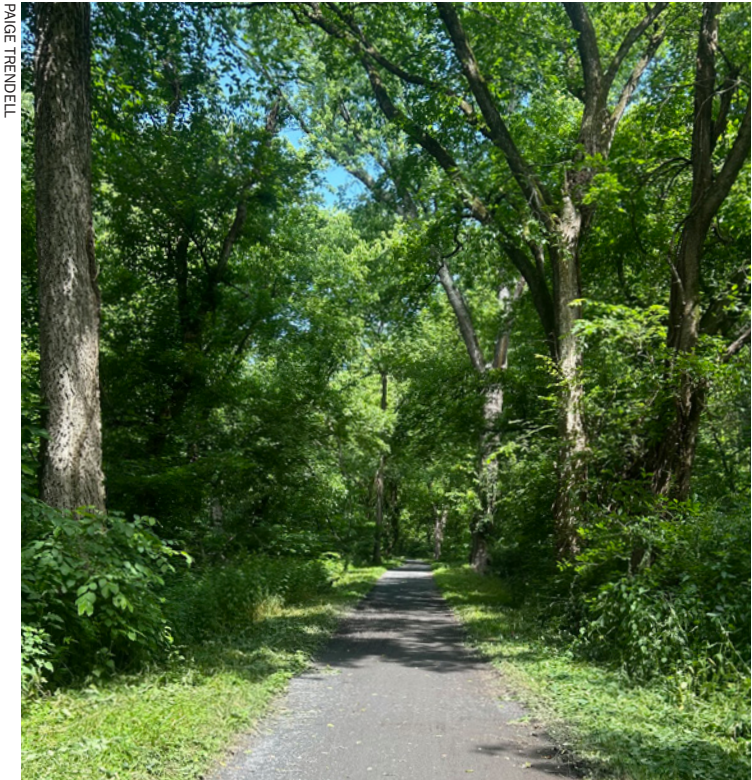
After breakfast, head over to the C&O Canal towpath for a morning walk. During operation, mules walked on this path, towing boats in the canal, which explains the name. The area near Brunswick is relatively flat and accessible on foot, by bike, and even on horseback. The tall trees offer overhead shade on a hot summer day. One sought-after destination on the trail is Harpers Ferry, which is 5.7 miles west of the Brunswick entrance.

The Potomac River and remnants of the canal lie on either side of the towpath. Close to the entrance is Lock 30. According to the accompanying sign, businessman Charles F. Wenner used water near this lock to power his flour mill during the 19th century. Turtles are often seen resting on logs in the canal, and deer are spotted in the surrounding forest.

To access the river, visitors can use the boat ramp in Brunswick or venture down a trail off the towpath. A popular entrance lies between mile markers 55 and 56. The towpath may stay the same, but there is always something new to explore in the nature surrounding it.

Lunch: Boxcar Burgers

Stop by Boxcar Burgers on South Maple Avenue for a mid-day refuel. The ice cream cone on the exterior of the building is hard to miss. Their menu offers a variety of burgers made with locally sourced beef from Frederick County, as well as a plant-based burger. Boxcar Burgers also sells frozen custard from Queen City



The C&O Canal towpath in Brunswick.

Creamery in Cumberland to satisfy a post-lunch sweet tooth.

The interior is decorated with a classic black and white tile and a variety of colored chairs that are reminiscent of a classic diner. Boxcar Burgers is open from 12 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and from 12 to 7 p.m. on Sundays.

Afternoon Activity: Shopping Downtown

Spend the afternoon walking along Potomac Street and visiting the many stores unique to Brunswick, and check out the signs holding interesting historical facts along the way. Amper-sand, Antiques N’ Ole Stuff and Potomac River Interiors are great options for finding a special gift. The hours vary, but most shops are open Thursday to Sunday.

Also on Potomac Street is the Brunswick Heritage Museum. The highlight of this museum is the 1700 square foot HO-scale model railroad spanning from Brunswick to Washington, D.C., situated on the third floor. The first floor includes C&O Canal exhibits, the Brunswick Visitor Center and a gift shop, while the



Lockhouse Gallery is in the downtown shopping district on Potomac Street.

second floor showcases “Brunswick Through the Ages.” The museum is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Dinner: Potomac Street Grill

After a day of walking, shopping and exploring, Potomac Street Grill has enough options to curb anyone’s appetite. They serve dishes from around the globe, creating a fusion of cultures. Menu items range from subs to shawarma to taco salad. For dessert, both chocolate cake and walnut baklava are on the menu. Most can find a new dish to try or enjoy a familiar classic.

Inside is a full bar and tables and booths overlaid with plaid tablecloths. Potomac Street Grill is open Sunday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Evening Activity: Smoketown Brewing Station

Wrap up the day with a pit stop at Smoketown Brewing Station, also on Potomac Street. Housed in the former Brunswick fire station, it holds another piece of Brunswick history. The brick exterior and bright red firehouse doors reflect the building’s previous role. This brewery has an extensive craft beer list and many food options. There is ample seating inside, as well as a dog-friendly patio outside.

Trivia is held every Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m., and either live music or open mic nights are on Fridays. Smoketown Brewing Station is open Wednesday to Sunday during the afternoon and evening.

For more information on historic sites and activities in Brunswick, visit brunswick-mainstreet.org. ■

Paige Trendell graduated from Brunswick High School in 2024 and is currently a journalism student at the University of Maryland. Her interests include radio journalism and writing lifestyle content.

OFF THE SHELF

REVIEWS BY LAURA DVORAK



Hale County This Morning This Evening (DVD, 2018) Directed by RaMell Ross, 76 min.

RaMell Ross received an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary Feature in Hale County This Morning This Evening (2018). The film is a visit within an Alabama community—nearly all black—with the magical effect of outlining characters while making the ordinary extraordinary.

Most workers here draw their pay from the catfish factory, making just about enough to return to work. The viewer sees them at church, hospital, school, at play and just living the best they can.

Young men speak of dreams. Quincy has a young wife and two children, and Daniel works endlessly at perfecting his basketball maneuvers. Both dream of getting into good schools despite the odds. There

is laughter and loss, and solemn times giving way to silliness. The blues ring out; the Bible weighs in.

The filming of light is exquisite, day and night. The captured streams of sunlight through leafy trees as smoke from burning tires rises amidst them is exceptional. The camera is nearly one with its subjects. Watching Daniel’s hoop shots, the view is right at his back, the action is immediate. In the delivery room, the birth of twins is right there, right now. The viewer is as close as is the priest to parishioners receiving ash on forehead. Ross uses “time to figure out how we’ve come to be seen.”

Ross has continued his successful trajectory as director of The Nickel Boys (2024), based on the novel by Colson Whitehead.

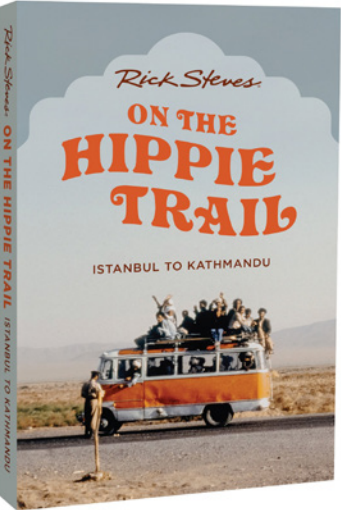
This DVD is available through Marina, a service that accesses all libraries in Maryland and is available through Frederick County Public Libraries. ■

On the Hippie Trail: Istanbul to Kathmandu and the Making of a Travel Writer (2025) By Rick Steves

It is that time of year again when hearts and mind search for the ultimate travel locale. Rick Steves, well known for his travel writing and advice, has a trip tale to tell. Built upon travel journals faithfully annotated daily decades ago (when Steves was 23), the expose was recently exhumed, during Covid lockdown, from his closet. By his count, it included 60,000 words.

It is a fascinating, mostly low-brow scrimp and scamper over-around-under-through terrain no longer accessible, given seismic geopolitical shifts and situations. Steves wanted experiences that would “wallop norms.” Indeed, staying in the occasional YMCA (India) while dining on corn flex and fried cheaps was out of the normal.

His trip began July 13, 1978, with a few furtive days behind the Iron Curtain, his trusted Pentax k1000 ready for action. Along the way, he took snap-



shots of Taj Mahal, prayer wheels in Nepal, the Ganges, students in Lahore and buses in Khyber Pass, among other scenic shots. The trip concluded on September 8, 1978. It was the final summer of the Hippie Trail, as he notes in a postscript, due to both the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Iran’s Islamic revolution.

Today’s traveler can still navigate the numerous other countries Steves explored in 1978: Turkey, Pakistan, India, Kashmir and Nepal. But first, an armchair-view — book in lap — reveals a young man’s sense of a world both welcoming and filled with good people. ■

ENVIRONMENT & SCIENCE

Odorous House Ants Don't Like This Rain, Either!

By DR. KATHY HEINSOHN,
B.C.E.

Ants in your pants? No, in my mailbox! What's all this about?

I have heard this week from five different people in Brunswick and one in Lovettsville that, after our many days of rain in May and now in June, many folks — myself included — got a surprise in the mail. We opened our street-side mailboxes, which typically have posts set into the ground, only to find a colony of ants inside!

They climbed up the post and into the mailbox to get out of the rain, and they brought the entire colony, babies and all!

And when I say colony, I mean a very LARGE colony including workers, eggs, larvae and pupae. Yes, folks, the brown mass of moving objects is the workers; the white ones are either eggs, larvae or pupae being moved by the workers to what they saw as safety among the bills in your mailbox.

If you're new to this experience, let me explain what's going on. Ants, especially odorous house ants (*Tapinoma sessile*) nest in the soil. But so much rain supersaturated the soil, making living there uncomfortable. These ants were literally seeking higher ground. They climbed up the post and into the mailbox to get out of the rain, and they brought the entire colony, babies and all!



An odorous house ant colony

An invasive species

Odorous house ants are an invasive species of ant originally from the tropics. They were brought into the U.S. decades ago and got established in Florida. Now they are pretty much everywhere, having been brought into our yards on nursery stock.

What is planted below your mailbox? No doubt you have plants from a nursery. When putting potted plants in your yard, it's always a good idea to check if the potting soil is infested with ants. If so, shake the soil off into a trash can and get rid of them. Plant that flower with bare roots and with no ants.

Odorous house ants may infest your home after rainstorms as the earth fills with water and forces them out. They will climb ivy and shrubs to find openings around windows, doors, exhaust vents, and plumbing and utility lines to make their way into your kitchen and bathroom in search of moisture.

There are a few bad things about odorous house ants. One is that since they are non-native — aka

invasive — they have few predators, and they out-compete native ant species like pavement ants (*Tetramorium caespitum*). I don't worry about pavement ants in my sidewalk expansion joints; they stay there and are non-infesting. But you won't find them in a yard with large odorous house ant infestations. They get kicked out!

When putting potted plants in your yard, check if the potting soil is infested with ants. If so, shake the soil off into a trash can.

Odorous ants like both protein and sweets. They often feed on cat or dog foods left outside, or they infest shrubs loaded with sweet

honeydew-producing aphids or mealy bugs. They also like moisture (just not too much!) so you often find them under water hoses, paving stones, pet water bowls, or drainage pipe splash blocks.

Some more bad things about odorous house ants, at least from our human perspective, is that they have many queens in their colony, and move their colonies every 14 days. And it doesn't take much of a disturbance (such as rain) before a few workers grab one of the many queens and set up a new nest elsewhere in your yard or home. Disturbances can also be a drought, spraying them with something that is repellent (like Clorox or vinegar), or moving furniture, wood piles, or pavers. What was one nest can easily become 10 to 20 nests in two to four weeks' time.

Control is a job for professionals

A professional integrated pest management (IPM) team can help you rid these ants from your yard and home. If you use a repellent material on the exterior of your home, you might trap huge nests inside your home. Then those nests split or multiply within the home, and the setting up of more colonies makes them much harder to eradicate. The IPM technician will know where to look and how to treat them appropriately. This is not a DIY situation.

Why are these ants called "odorous"? If you crush one of the workers then smell your finger, you will note a distinctive odor that is described as rotten coconut. It is pungent. You won't forget that smell. ■

Burn Ban in Frederick County

The Frederick County Health Department reminds county residents that there is an open burning ban in effect each year from June 1 through August 31. Open burning permits cannot be used during this time period. The ban does not apply to small recreational fires such as campfires, barbecues, or gas grills.

The annual ban, which is required by the Maryland State Air Quality regulations, first went into effect in June 1995. The ban extends throughout the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Region and is designed to reduce the high ozone levels that affect the region during the summer months, allowing for better air quality. The ban is not related to rainfall.

Residents are also reminded that they must obtain an annual

open burning permit from the Health Department prior to any open burning during the months when the burn ban is not in effect. For more information on how to obtain a permit, visit the Health Department's website: Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Burn-Permit.

Open burning ban violations and open burning without a permit are subject to fines of up to \$500 under the Frederick County code and up to \$25,000 under Maryland state regulations. Burning of household trash or household rubbish is not allowed at any time of the year. For additional information, contact the Community Services Office in the Health Department's Environmental Health Division at 301-600-1717. ■

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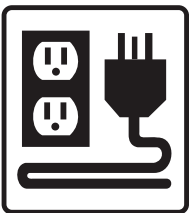
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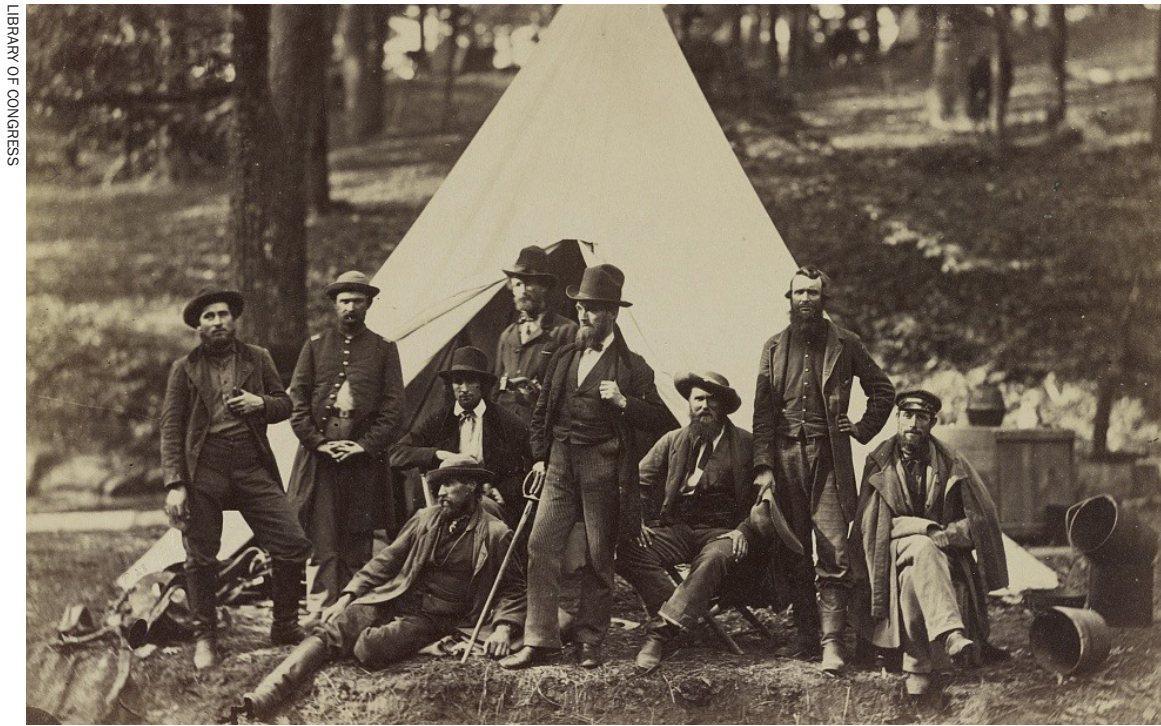
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LOCAL HISTORY

Berlin During the Civil War

What our ancestors experienced here



Union picket guards camped at the river bottom below Berlin were photographed by Alexander Gardner in October 1862.

By PETER WENNER

While much has been written about the pivotal Civil War battles fought in our region during 1862–1863—a period crucial to turning the tide in favor of the Union—little attention has been given to events in Berlin, now Brunswick.

Situated across the river from Confederate States of America (CSA) territory, the officially neutral village of Berlin played a strategic role as an invasion frontier for the North. Its importance is highlighted by telegraphic dispatches sent to President Abraham Lincoln from Generals George B. McClellan and George G. Meade, labeled "Berlin."

Although there was no major battle in the Petersville District that is now Brunswick and Rosemont, there was bloody action, including several skirmishes fought from September 18–29, 1861, and more intense fighting on September 6–10, 1862. In the diary of Lieutenant Henry M. Binney, aide to the commander of the Harpers Ferry garrison taken by General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson shortly before Antietam, he wrote that "the fighting in and around Berlin was severe, with many dead and wounded."

Rosemont resident Wade Wat-

son has discovered artifacts that confirm as many as a dozen military encampments across a wide area of Brunswick, Petersville and Knoxville.

According to Brunswick: 100 Years of Memories by the Brunswick History Commission, Union "picket guards are among the unsung heroes of Berlin's past." While the Union Army was encamped at Berlin, these guards stood watch for rebel invasions of the crucial C&O Canal and B&O Railroad locations on the upper Potomac River.

In the early months of the war, the Confederate Army torched Berlin's new covered wooden bridge, necessitating the Union Army of the Potomac to hastily assemble pontoon bridges to pursue the Confederates back into Virginia after the battles of Antietam in 1862 and Gettysburg in 1863. During that time, Union generals seized several local farmhouses as command posts.

Here is the backstory.

Early Confederate Incursions into Maryland

CSA General Robert E. Lee's initial strategy for the Maryland Campaign, which didn't begin in earnest until 1862, wasn't focused on occupying the North.

Instead, he aimed to harass western Maryland to persuade a sympathetic slave state to either join the Confederacy or encourage both the state government and Washington to negotiate a peace agreement that would allow the South to exist as an independent government. This strategy required careful diplomacy between Maryland, a neutral state enforced by the federal government, and Virginia, which had seceded from the Union following the fall of Fort Sumter.

Maryland's position as a border state was precarious. The state was divided on the issue of slavery, as the practice was much less prevalent in Western Maryland compared to other regions. In fact, most German Protestant settlers in Western Maryland were morally opposed to slavery.

Despite the split, Maryland and Virginia were potential bordering enemies, which made locations along the upper Potomac points of contention between the Union and the Confederacy throughout the first half of the war.

Diplomacy faced its first significant challenge on April 18, 1861, when the small federal garrison in Harpers Ferry set fire to the arsenal and evacuated the town as Confederate forces approached. CSA troops stationed there conducted a series of aggressive raids into Maryland, featuring those led by Jackson at Harpers Ferry and Maryland Heights. These actions angered Maryland residents and threatened to undermine any sympathies between the two states. The governors were drawn into the conflict, and only through interstate diplo-

macy were friendly relations preserved.

A 2002 article in the Maryland Historical Magazine titled "Border Strife on the Upper Potomac: Confederate Incursions from Harpers Ferry, April–June 1861" by Timothy R. Snyder provides evidence for the following events.

Two days after Virginia took control of Harpers Ferry on April 18, 1861, Confederate troops crossed into Maryland to search for weapons they believed private citizens had hidden. On April 22, Washington County Sheriff Edward M. Mobley notified Maryland Governor Thomas Holliday Hicks about this violation of the border.

Days later, CSA soldiers encountered C. F. Wenner, a Berlin merchant and landowner, who owned a grain storehouse at Lock 30 on the C&O Canal. On April 24, Virginia cavalry demanded he surrender a canal boat loaded with grain, claiming authority from CSA command in Harpers Ferry. Wenner insisted on inspecting their orders, however, Colonel William S. H. Baylor commandeered the boat.

Having served as a busy ferry route since the early eighteenth century, Berlin had built a covered wooden toll bridge in 1857 that was the first crossing to span the Potomac River and connect the village with the Virginia shore. With the addition of the bridge, the town then possessed multiple commercial transportation routes, including the canal and one track of the B&O Railroad.

Brunswick: 100 Years of Memories reported this tragic scene, "Before dawn, Sunday June 9th, 1861, Drake's Cavalry saturated the bridge with kerosene and placed powder at various spots on it. The torch was applied, and flames leaped high, lighting the surrounding hills and village of Berlin. The bridge collapsed into the river, leaving nothing but black and embers and the stone piers."

The Maryland Campaign

Following the success of the Northern Virginia campaign in the spring of 1862, Lee became aggressive again. He moved north with 55,000 men through the Shenandoah Valley starting



Image from an 1862 stereograph by Alexander Gardner shows a lone picket guard on horseback in Loudoun, with the pontoon bridge across the Potomac River leading to Berlin visible on the left.

Frustrated, Wenner sought protection from the local sheriff for his detained cargo. The Maryland legislature agreed to appoint a commissioner, Outerbridge Horsey, a well-connected farmer from Burkittsville with a prominent family name, to negotiate for property protection and compensation for Maryland residents. Horsey succeeded in Richmond, which led to the return of arms to the citizens of Weverton. Wenner also received compensation.

Despite successful early diplomacy, the situation at Harpers Ferry deteriorated.

The Destruction of Potomac River Bridges

In the summer of 1861, the Confederate Army burned bridges at Berlin, Harpers Ferry and Point of Rocks to obstruct the Army of the Potomac from invading Virginia. The CSA destroyed the B&O bridge at Harpers Ferry nine times during the war.

on September 4, 1862.

Lee's primary objective was to damage Northern morale in anticipation of the November midterm elections. Along the way, he looked to resupply his army via the fertile farms and communities in Maryland and Southern Pennsylvania, away from devastated, war-torn Virginia. Lee undertook the risky maneuver of splitting his army so that he could continue north into Maryland while simultaneously capturing the Federal garrison and arsenal at Harpers Ferry.

An ensuing Union victory might have been assured when northern soldiers accidentally found a copy of Lee's orders to subordinate commanders wrapped around three cigars in Frederick. Armed with this intelligence, General George B. McClellan planned to isolate and defeat the separated portions of Lee's army. Most accounts suggest McClellan held back, but some show he met the moment, leading to a draw at Antietam.

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SPORTS

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
Brunswick Nationals win Fogle Classic

By BILL CAULEY

It's a scenario Brunswick Railroaders Little League has seen before.

In a tournament championship game, facing elimination, Brunswick has trailed late in the game, but mounted successful comebacks to win the championship.

That was the case during the championship game of the Dave Fogle Memorial Classic on Monday, June 9, at Frederick Little League's Danny Miller Field at Robert B. Staley Stadium. The Nationals fell behind early against Montgomery County Little League-Lower's Astros and trailed 6-5 heading into the bottom of the sixth inning, on the brink of elimination.

That's when Brunswick went into late-game rally mode for the win. The Nationals scored twice in the bottom of the sixth, with Brayden Mobley delivering a game-winning RBI walk-off single with one out in the sixth for a 7-6 win, laying claim to the tour-

naments' championship flag.

The Fogle Classic marked the start of post-season Little League play.

With one out in the bottom of the sixth, MCLL-Lower's Leo Wang walked Drew Brutchter. Nate Belcher followed with a single to right field, pushing Brutchter to second.

Wang, now experiencing control problems on the mound, issued back-to-back walks to Reed Putnam and Jesse McMongale, forcing Brutchter home and tying the score at 6. Wang was relieved by Max Randolph.

Mobley stepped to the plate, nailing the first offering from Randolph. His single to left-center scored Belcher, sending Brunswick's dugout, and the Brunswick fans in the bleachers, into a massive celebration.

"I was looking for a fastball to the middle inside of the plate," Mobley said of his game-winning single. "I wanted to try and get a drive to the outfield to bring in a run."

On the brink of elimination, Brunswick had pulled off another comeback.

"All season-long, we've been preaching attitude, attitude, attitude, attitude," Nationals' manager Jonathan Purks said. "We had gotten ourselves into a situation in this particular game where some of the attitudes dropped and we had gotten down in the dumps. We needed to pick it up and get back in this game."

MCLL-Lower had taken a 5-0 lead before the Nationals began their comeback effort. Brunswick scored three unearned runs via three Astros' errors. MCLL-Lower answered with a single run in the fourth on two Brunswick errors.

The rest of the game belonged to Brunswick.

Back-to-back RBI doubles from Brutchter and Belcher plated a pair of runs in the bottom of the fourth, cutting the Astros' lead to 6-5.

"We had one or two bad innings, but after that, we got things going," Purks said. "We responded in a critical situation.



The Brunswick Nationals Little League team after winning the Dave Fogle Memorial Classic Tournament on June 9 at Robert B. Staley Stadium in Frederick.

That's one thing we stress to these players, how to meet challenges."

Max Racosky and Belcher each had two hits with a double for Brunswick.

Racosky was the starting pitcher for Brunswick, pitching until the fourth, with two out, when he was relieved by Brenden McGann, who got the win in relief. "Max did a great job," Purks said. "We had used a lot of our pitchers earlier in the tournament, so we were going to let Max go as long as he could. Then Brenden went in there and threw strikes. Great efforts by both pitchers."

Blake Bixler had a double for MCLL-Lower. ■

BHS Girls' Tennis Wins Central Maryland Conference Championship



Members of BHS girls' varsity tennis team received a Championship Plaque on winning the 1A / 2A division of the Central Maryland Conference (CMC) for 2025. Pictured from left to right: Hope Lehto, Addison Ligi, Lena Butler, Adwoa Bedford, Addison Willis and Kaitlyn Heck. Not available for the picture: Aveline Murphy, Kylie Shawver, Janelle Razunguzwa and Madison Plue.

By LEE ZUMBACH

The Brunswick girls' tennis program has a long and successful history, going back to the early 1970s. Over those 55 years, Brunswick has had many county and league individual and team championships and has one of the best win/loss percentages for any male or female Brunswick sports teams.

Last season, Brunswick won the league championship with a record of 13-1. This season's girls' varsity team accomplished a most improbable achievement as they repeated as team champions of the 1A/2A Central Maryland Conference (CMC) with a regular season record of 13-2. Why improbable? Because this 2025 team completed this season with just three of last year's eight players returning from 2024. Not only that, but they came with-

in just two sets of going undefeated as their only losses were 3-2 losses. Also, the team was ranked as the #2 team in the county by the Frederick News Post, behind powerful Urbana. The championship came with big wins over Walkersville, Middletown, Boonsboro, Clear Spring, Smithsburg and Williamsport.

Lena Butler, an extremely talented and hard-working sophomore, led this team with a 12-3 record at #1 singles. Junior Aveline Murphy played a mix of #1 doubles and #2 singles with a 13-2 record and placed 2nd in the county in #2 singles. The only senior on the team, Kylie Shawver completed her 4-year team membership with a 90% winning record at various doubles slots.

The team got a huge boost from sophomore Addison Ligi, who won every match she played in doubles, and freshman Janelle Razunguzwa, who had just 2 losses on

the season. Then Addison Willis, Kaitlyn Heck, Hope Lehto, Madison Plue and Adwoa Bedford moved up from a JV role last year to add to the wins this year.

The team's head coaches were Lee Zumbach and Larry Collins, assisted by Josh McDonald. They attributed the team's success to hard work, talent and motivation while living up to the team slogans "As Long As It Takes" and "Better Today than Yesterday." The team had great chemistry and worked well together.

A very good JV group also made great progress. One of the best things about tennis is that it is a life-long sport, low in injury and high in excitement and physical fitness, with all getting a chance to play at practice and matches.

The boys' team also had a great season with an 11-4 record after going 4-11 last season. This team was led by freshman #1 player, Aiden McDonald, and seniors Matthew Allgaier and Daniel Wisniewski, freshman Luke Prosnick and junior Chris Price. ■

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COMMUNITY INTEREST

BHS Track Season
Ends with Several
School Records Broken

By ANNE ZUMBACH

The Brunswick track teams ended their season at the state track and field championships at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex on May 24. The teams qualified 13 boys and 12 girls to compete in 21 events. To qualify, athletes had to be a top finisher in the regional meet, meet the qualifying standard, or be among the top 16 finishers in the regional meets across the state.

The top finisher for Brunswick at the regional meet was Chris Rogers who won the 200-meter dash. Second place finishes went to the girls 4X400 meter relay of Sergia Nyambi, Allison George, Alexa Domathoti and Kate Virgilio and the boys 4X400 of Chris Rogers, Josiah Nunez, Shane Weingard and Patrick Campbell.

Top finishers
at the state meet

The top finisher for Brunswick at the state meet was the girls 4X400 team of Sergia Nambi, Alexa Domathoti, Allison George and Kate Virgilio as they captured 3rd place in 4:07.75. Asher Adelman took 4th place in the 3200 in 9:52, the first boy to go under 10 minutes in the 3200 since Paul Spurrier in 1996. Sergia Nyambi took 5th in the high jump and the 300 hurdlers while Alexa Domathoti took 6th in the 400.

Collin Aldridge had an outstanding day as he took 6th in the pole vault with a vault of 12'6" — a personal record by a foot. The girls 4X800 of Alexa Domathoti, Vivian Alexander, Shelby Kenawell and Kate Virgilio took 6th

while the boys 4X800 of Josiah Nunez, Adam Parde, Simon McGillivray and Saher Adelman took 8th. The girls 4X200 relay of Sergia Nyambi, Kendall Garner, Leah Smallwood and Morgan Bilbrey took 7th and Kendall, Leah, and Morgan joined Abigail Ashley to take 7th in the 4X100 relay.

Brunswick coaches were pleased with the state performances, noting that competition was very tough across the state. When Collin Aldridge went out at 13 feet, there were still 5 vaulters left. Simon McGillivray ran 10:07 in the 3200 and finished 10th. Last year that would have been 4th. Although Adam Parde clocked a 2:02 in the 800 he didn't place as the top 8 ran under 2 minutes.

School records broken

During this season, Brunswick teams broke three school records. Chris Rogers broke the school record in the 100-meter at the Central Maryland Conference meet when he ran 11.06 seconds. The previous record of 11.10 was set by Chance Smith in 2011. At the regional meet, Chris broke the 200-meter record when he finished first in 22.28. The previous record of 22.57 was set by Erik Jones in 2016.

The girls 4X400 team set a school record of 4:07.75 at the state meet. Girls on that team were Sergia Nyambi, Allison George, Alexa Domathoti and Kate Virgilio. The previous record was 4:10.4, set last year. With so many runners coming back next year, many school records will be in jeopardy.

Rotary Honors Dan Roe of Brunswick

Daniel M. Roe of Brunswick was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International in recognition of his selfless service to community and nation. The current chair of the City of Brunswick's Planning Commission, Roe has served on the municipal body for over a decade.

The Paul Harris Fellow Award, named for the founder of Rotary International, is presented to an individual whose service is emblematic of the Rotary motto — "Service Above Self." A \$1,000 contribution to the Rotary Foundation has been made in honor of Roe. Since its creation in 1917, The Rotary Foundation has directed \$6.8 billion to humanitarian work around the globe. The Rotary Foundation is a leading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Dan Roe has been lauded for his service as a volunteer at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Roe has served as an election worker for the Frederick County Board of Elections; chaired a local chapter of the foreign policy group Great Decisions; chaired Brunswick Crossing's Adopt-A-Park team



Left to right: Rotary Club of Carroll Creek Rotarian Richard Foot, Dan Roe, and Dan's wife, Roseanne Roe.

stewarding Kim Weddle Park; and has served as a volunteer at the Brunswick Heritage Museum.

"The Rotary Foundation was established," according to Rotary Club of Carroll Creek Rotarian and Brunswick resident Richard Foot, "to do good in the world." Foot uplifts Roe's service to community and nation as an exemplar of selfless service.

Other Brunswick area residents who have been named Paul Harris Fellows include Ellis Burruss, Jim Cox, Sandra Cox, Judy Couillard, Richard Foot, Leslie Gum, Charlie Harris, Jennifer Lolli-Hall, Christopher Mourlas, Abbie Ricketts, Shirley Ann Shores, Ernie Stepoulos, Karin Tome, and Shawn Wolf. ■

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

To have your event listed in next month's newspaper, email events by the 12th of this month to info@BrunNews.com or angel411white@gmail.com.

Summer Explorers: Animal Habitat Dioramas (ages 5–10)
July 1, 4:30–5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Brunswick 4th of July Fireworks
July 3, 9 pm
Near Brunswick Middle School

Lovettsville Independence Day
July 3, 5:30–9:30 pm
Parade, Pool Party & Fireworks
Lovettsville Community Center
57 East Broad Way

Teen Time Window Painting (ages 11–18)
July 3, 6–7 pm
Brunswick Library

Special Summer Program: Reptile Smiles (ages 5–10)
July 7, 3–4 pm
Brunswick Library

Summer Explorers: Pixar Playhouse (ages 5–10)
July 8
4:30–5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Tween and Teen Time: Singing Class with Renee’s Music
July 10
6–7 pm
Brunswick Library

Christmas in July Sale
July 12
8 am–2 pm
Grace Episcopal Church
114 E. A Street

Touch a Truck—all ages
July 12
10 am–2 pm
Brunswick Volunteer Fire Co.
1500 Volunteer Drive

Teen Summer Program: Sword Fighting Demonstration with Roundtable Historical Fencing (ages 11–18)
July 12, 2–3 pm
Brunswick Library

Art Class: Follow Along Painting
July 13, 2–4 pm
Brunswick Library

Summer Explorers: Craftapalooza (ages 5–10)
July 15, 4:30–5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Teen Time: SpongeBob Party (ages 11–18)
July 17, 6–7 pm
Brunswick Library

My Plate Bingo: An Adaptive Adult Program
July 18, 11–noon
Brunswick Library

Puzzle Swap
July 20, 2–3 pm
Brunswick Library

Summer Explorers: Superhero Day (ages 5–10)
July 22, 4:30–5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Chair Yoga: An Adaptive Adult Program
July 23, 2–3 pm
Brunswick Library

Teen Time: Watercolors (ages 11–18)
July 24, 6–7 pm
Brunswick Library

Amish Outlaws
July 25, 7 pm—doors open at 6 pm
Smoketown Brewing (upstairs)

Read to a Dog (ages 0–10)
July 26, 10:30–11:30 am
Brunswick Library

Summer Explorers: Escape the Library (ages 5–10)
July 29
4:30–5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

American Red Cross Blood Drive
July 31
11:30 am–5 pm
Appt www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767
American Legion
18 S. Maple Ave.

Teen Time: Builder’s Bonanza (ages 11–18)
July 31
6–7 pm
Brunswick Library

RECURRING

South Mountain Heritage Society Museum and Guided Walking Tour
FIRST SATURDAYS
10 am–3 pm., through Sept.
Free guided tour at 9 am, required pre-registration
atsouthmountainheritage.org
3 East Main St., Burkittsville

Leechel Reynolds Charitable Fund Cruise–in
SECOND SATURDAYS
through October
9:30 am–12:30 pm
Roy Roger’s parking area, Souder Road

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

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

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

Summer Lunch Program (ages 0–18)
MONDAYS–FRIDAYS
starting June 9
12:15 pm
Days library is open
Brunswick Library

Baby Storytime
MONDAYS, 10:30 am
Ages 0–24 months with caregiver
Brunswick Library

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

Free Coffee & More
TUESDAYS, 8–10 am
weather permitting through Sept.
Faith Assembly of God Church, 3700 Burkittsville Rd.

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

Shuffleboard & Cornhole
\$2
TUESDAYS
4:30–6:00 pm
Parks & Recreation Building,
Brunswick Elementary School

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brunswick Farmers’ Market
2nd & LAST FRIDAYS, 4–7 pm
Martin’s Creek Parking Lot, E. Potomac St.

Games Club of Maryland
THIRD SATURDAYS, 12–7 pm
Smoketown Brewing Station



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1:30PM–3:00PM

FPCA JEFFERSON
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Jefferson, MD 21755
M–F: 7:30AM–5PM
Walk In Lab Services
7:30AM–12PM



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