

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

SERVING BRUNSWICK, LOVETTSVILLE, ROSEMONT, JEFFERSON, BURKITTSVILLE

VOLUME 4 NO. 9

WWW.BRUNSNEWS.COM

SEPTEMBER 2026

FREE

Brunswick Says No to BHS Replacement Site

South selection takes away longtime BHS baseball field; safety concerns cited

By BILL CAULEY

There is much opposition to the selected site for the new location of Brunswick High School.

Following public release by Frederick County Public Schools officials on the selection, which locates the new building on the site south of the current BHS campus, on Cummings Drive, where the existing baseball field is located, there has been an outcry over the selection.

Efforts are underway to convince the Frederick County Board of Education to choose one of the other options, one which preserves the location of the baseball field, yet allows for the construction of the new high school, which is scheduled to open in 2030.

"This just makes me sick to my stomach," longtime BHS baseball coach Roger Dawson said of the school system's choice of sites. "They are dismantling everything the community has done to make this ball field what it is now. A lot of time and effort has gone into upgrading this facility from what it was when the field was put in around 1964."

Dawson made it clear that,



Brunswick Mayor Nathan Brown speaks to an audience at the City Park Building on Aug. 6 for a workshop on concerns about high school site selection.

while he is an FCPS employee, he's also a taxpayer in the community and has a vested interest in what transpires when it comes to the future of the baseball field.

In an attempt to launch a coordinated effort to show both FCPS staff and members of the Frederick County Board of Education this choice of sites is a bad one, community baseball boosters, as well as other concerned citizens, organized two meetings in August to let city, county and state officials know this decision on the school site

is not acceptable.

One meeting was held at the Steadman-Keenan Post 96 American Legion in Brunswick. The other was at the Brunswick City Park Building on East Potomac Street.

Meeting at Legion

An organizational meeting was held on Monday, Aug. 3. More than 30 people, including school board member Colt Black were in attendance.

Many people at the meeting voiced concerns over what they

Continued on page 4

Public Raises Concerns as Lovettsville Considers Annexation

By ABBIE RICKETTS

Lovettsville, with a population around 2700 people, is faced with land use decisions that involve annexing land to the town.

Last December, JK Land Holdings/Lovettsville A6 LLC of Sterling, Va., submitted an application for annexation of the former Bill Moore farm just south of Lovettsville near the elementary school. The 27-acre property is currently zoned Agricultural Rural-1.

Chuck Kuhn, who owns the

company, is the largest landowner in Loudoun County, having bought and sold properties for data center development, business development and conservation purposes. Kuhn looks to have the parcel rezoned to C-2 or C-1 to allow a retail and light industrial center. However, pushback from area residents has recently risen against the proposed annexation.

The town's Comprehensive Plan identifies the property as a potential site for annexation

Continued on page 2



The proposed annexation area (dark area) is just south of Lovettsville near the elementary school on the former Bill Moore farm.

TOWN OF LOVETTSVILLE, ANNEXATION PLAN FOR JK LAND HOLDINGS/LOVETTSVILLE A6 LLC.

Cat Survives Jump Off Brunswick Bridge

By FAITH FRAZIER

What started as a simple trip to a local motorcycle show turned into an unbelievable rescue mission for our one-year-old cat, Marmalade.

On Saturday, August 15, unbeknownst to us, Marmalade had climbed into the frame of our truck before we left home. While crossing the Brunswick Bridge, she fell from underneath the moving truck and landed on the roadway. My mom, who was driving behind us, swerved to avoid hitting her. She watched Marmalade run from the traffic before disappearing from the bridge.

Fearing the worst, my partner, Hunter, and I immediately drove down to the river. We searched the shoreline, called her name, asked people on the water if they had seen her, and traveled downstream in case the current had carried her away.

Meanwhile, my mom walked the bridge and called down to a group of people on a small island below.

To our amazement, they yelled back that they had seen a cat fall from the bridge—and she was on their island.

The group told us they had watched Marmalade fall into the river, belly-flopping into the water before swimming towards the island. One of them, Leo, went into the water, picked her up, and checked her legs, finding no obvious injuries. Once he put her down, a terrified Marmalade disappeared into the thick brush on the island.

With the help of our neighbor, Mike, we searched the island for nearly two hours without finding her. Later, Hunter returned to the island with his sister, a live animal trap, food, blankets and flashlights.

Finally, Hunter spotted Marmalade hiding beneath a fallen



Marmalade survived a jump off the Brunswick Bridge.

tree and was able to grab her and bring her home.

After falling from a moving truck, plunging into the Potomac River, swimming to an island and spending hours hiding in the wilderness, Marmalade came home remarkably unharmed.

At just one year old, our little cat somehow survived an adventure we will likely never believe ourselves—and earned every one of her nine lives. ■

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 18-21

**Candidate Profiles
for Nov. Election**

PAGE 24

**Brunswick's History
of Live Theater**

PAGE 27-28

**2026 Distinguished
Citizens**

PAGE 29

Cricket in Brunswick

[Check us out on Instagram and Facebook](#)



MD CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE

*****ECRWSS****

Local
Postal Customer

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

BRUNSWICK NEWS

Lovettsville Annexation CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

and considers commercial and light industrial uses as possible options. The plan would allow development of 29,000 square feet of retail uses, up to 10,000 square feet of dining or brewery use and 170,800 square feet of light industrial uses.

“We’ve been working very closely with the Town Council and town management to bring services to Lovettsville that are sorely needed for the growing town there,” said Kuhn in a Loudoun Now article from June. He says small businesses and service providers are looking for places to locate as they are pushed from heavily developed Eastern Loudoun.

Public concerns about the annexation

The plan was submitted last December. Some community members have raised an alarm that Kuhn might be planning a data center on the property. Citizens have also voiced concerns about loss of the rural agricultural nature of the area, availability of water, increased traffic, and whether more commercial space is needed as other zoned space within the town has yet to be developed.

“It’s absolute lies. It’s continued fake news just being put out there by the same parties (in a similar Purcellville project) to stir up the general public. The project we’re doing has nothing to do with data center development,” Kuhn said in the same Loudoun Now article, in reference to whom he thinks is influencing citizens to not support his project.

Lovettsville Town Planner and Zoning Administrator John Merrithew said in a statement to this newspaper, “The application is still in staff review process. Staff has provided a list of comments including concerns about utilities and transportation among other things. There are no scheduled presentations or hearings before the Planning Commission or the Town Council. A6 LLC, the owner of the property, has not formally responded to staff’s comments. We met with the owner’s planning and legal representatives to discuss the initial staff comments but have not had a formal response.”

When asked about any scenario in which this could become a future data center site, Merrithew responded, “There is no scenario under the Town’s ordinances that would permit

a data center. Section 42–147, Application of District Regulations, specifically states: ‘Any use not permitted by this chapter shall be deemed to be prohibited.’ Data Centers are not included in the list of permitted or conditional uses.”

Local conservationists weigh in on water availability

In a 57-page report published by the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition last year, water issues were noted. “Groundwater conditions in Loudoun County have significantly worsened over the past several decades. Groundwater as a water supply is no longer sustainable as the water table has slowly declined and several droughts have caused some wells, springs, and ponds to dry up.”

The annexation application states that 59,000 gallons of water will be needed daily for the development. According to Dave Ward, a retired hydrologist who co-authored the report, that would be a 41% increase in what is drawn currently from town wells. According to Merrithew, the average use is 143,000 gallons

What the Lovettsville Community Values Most

- Scenic views
- Small town and rural character
- Environmental resources
- Safe roads and walkability
- Historical sites
- Adequate water and sewer
- Compatibility with neighborhoods

Source: Southern Gateway Land Use Study, 2025–26

per day. The system is rated by the VA Department of Health to pump 492,000 gallons per day under normal conditions. Kuhn mentioned that water to his site would not come from wells on the property but from Lovettsville town wells.

Southern Gateway Land Use Study

The Town of Lovettsville recently completed a community survey to discuss the future of the Southern Gateway study area. There were 160 responses and 45 participants in two town hall meetings held on October 20, 2025, and March 11, 2026.

When asked about concerns with future development in the Southern Gateway, 75% of respondents mentioned the creation of an overly industrial

appearance, a scale and design that is not compatible with the existing development (69%) and impact on neighbors (68%).

Most respondents (85%) believe the area should remain open farm fields and a rural appearance. There is some support for tourist attractions like wineries, and for schools and churches (25% and 22% respectively), that are currently encouraged by the Comprehensive Plan. Approximately 19% of respondents suggested small local businesses would be appropriate.

Next Lovettsville town meeting

The next Mayor and Town Council meeting is Thursday, Sept. 17, 6:30–10 p.m. ■

Farewell to Our Summer Intern!

Paige Trendell of Jefferson served as a summer intern with the Brunswick News-Journal. She will be entering her junior year at the University of Maryland, College of Journalism this fall.

Over the summer, Paige reported on numerous stories and photographed people and events in the community. She encouraged BNJ to enhance its social media presence and developed a plan to do just

that. You may have seen some of her posts recently on train track blockages and highlights of news articles. Paige will continue running our social media platforms while she is away at school.

For all this, we thank her and will miss her when she leaves for College Park. Her writing, photography, and social media work were a great help to the paper and a credit to the school. ■



PAIGE TRENDOLL

BRUNSWICK
NEWS-JOURNAL

P.O. Box 74; Brunswick, MD 21716
240-409-7476 (please leave a message)
Editor@BrunsNews.com
www.BrunsNews.com

Check us out on Instagram and Facebook

Covering events, culture, economics, environmental issues and lots of other things in the Brunswick, Frederick County, and Lovettsville, Va. neighborhoods.

The Brunswick News-Journal is published monthly by Potomac Publication, LLC.

Publisher: Ellis Burruss
Editor: Diane Ellis

ACE group (Advisors, Contributors, Editors):

Bill Cauley

Julie Gourley

Jane Clifford

Julie Maynard

Jean Doyle

Abbie Ricketts

Laura Dvorak

Mark Rohner

Patrice Gallagher

Jean Toleman

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

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

Blocked Railroad Crossings Update

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

As the Brunswick News-Journal has reported, the FRA receives more complaints regarding blockages in Brunswick than in any other community in the state of Maryland. Many of these complaints report instances of pedestrians attempting to climb through or under stopped trains. Others involve blocked first responders, medical emergencies, and multiple cases of missed appointments or late arrivals at workplaces.

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

	Blockages 7/16/26– 8/15/26	Duration: 16–30 mins	Duration: 31–60 mins	Duration: 60 mins or more	Blockages YTD	Notes
Maple Ave. (South)	41*	4	21	16	70	Numerous reports of pedestrians climbing through
Maple Ave. (North)	6	2	—	4	30	Several reports of pedestrians climbing through

* Includes seven reports of blockages lasting more than 2 hours

BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL

Mayor and Council
August Update



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

By JULIE GOURLEY

At the August 11 meeting, incumbent council members Andy St. John and Brian Sandusky were sworn in for new four-year terms. The mayor and council said goodbye to city council member Daniel Yochelson, who was elected in 2022 and opted not to run for a second term.

One vacancy remains on the city council after aspiring candidate, Bridgette Chabot, whose filing for the open seat was accepted by the city, withdrew from the position before she could be sworn into office. Mayor Brown announced that “per the city charter, we will start to enact the vacancy process” at the next meeting on August 25.

Council member John Caves was elected by the council to serve as mayor pro tem.

Yourtee Spring hacked

At the July 28 mayor and council meeting, Matt Campbell, Utilities Director, reported on the most recent cyber security training and upgrades as recommended by EPA, MDE and others. Coincidentally, a few days later Yourtee Spring was hacked.

Yourtee Spring uses a programmable logic controller (PLC) that is linked to other PLCs in county water treatment plants. Forensic analysis revealed that the PLCs were hacked by an Iranian operation. Iran was also linked to the recent hacks at large city water systems around the country. The PLC was quickly repaired and new firewalls installed for extra protection.

Infrastructure
Improvements

Campbell also reported that the Potomac River’s low flow and water levels prompted the Utilities Department to explore adding drinking water wells to the mix of city water sources. One site under consideration is near the new water reservoir on Souder Road. In addition to supplementing city water sources, well water is higher quality and easier and less costly to treat.

The water treatment plant expansion will follow the city’s 30-year growth plan. One immediate issue is that the intake screen becomes clogged from

time to time, often requiring divers and other means to clear it. The city will seek grants and state monies to fund the design of a new intake screen. Should outside funding not come through, the city will front the cost then be reimbursed by developer fees from the two new housing developments and Brunswick Crossing.

The 14 remaining Brunswick homes on septic systems are coming closer to being connected to the city’s sewer system. Some homes will be connected to existing pipes; others will be connected to a new sewer main. The work could begin this fall.

The city is considering installing solar panels at the 811 Potomac Street annex — the third largest electricity user in the city - that could offset the building’s entire usage and possibly more, saving the city \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually. Any overage could be applied to the wastewater treatment plant’s electricity bills, the second largest user in the city. The city would apply for grants to cover the solar panels’ costs.

Street paving

Parts of East A Street have been in poor surface condition for many years. Long-time A Street resident Bob Ward described his block as a “mud street” when he moved to Brunswick in 1970 “and not much more than that now.” Public Works Director John Gerstner confirmed that East A is on the list of streets for paving this fall.

Sports Complex

The Sports Complex is on track to be finished this fall. Next, the city will focus on the skateboard park. There will be a survey to take public comment on the design ahead of contractor bids.

Traffic control

Because so many parents drive their children to Brunswick Elementary School rather than using the school buses, morning and afternoon traffic jams on Central Avenue have become a problem for nearby neighborhoods.

To help alleviate the problem, the Brunswick Police Department has painted double

Fall is a good time
to be in Brunswick

As we say goodbye to summer and turn the page toward a new school year and the arrival of fall, I hope everyone had a wonderful summer filled with family, friends, travel, and time to enjoy all that makes Brunswick such a great place to call home.

Fall is always one of the busiest and most exciting seasons in our community, and we are looking forward to another packed calendar of events that bring residents, visitors, businesses and community organizations together.

In the coming months, we will celebrate Railroad Days in October, enjoy a variety of Halloween activities throughout the community, honor our veterans during the annual Veterans Day Parade in November, and then transition into the many holiday events and festivities that make December such a special time of year in Brunswick.

These events reflect the strong sense of community that continues to define our city. I encourage everyone to come out, participate, volunteer and enjoy these opportunities to connect with neighbors and friends. Whether you are a lifelong resident or new to Brunswick, these events are a wonderful reminder

yellow lines on Central Avenue, installed “No Parking, Stopping or Standing” signs along Central Avenue and West B Street, and shortened the 15 mph speed limit to 7:30–9:30 a.m. and 2:30–4:30 p.m. on Central Avenue. –outside those hours, the speed limit will be 25 mph.

New building
construction coming to
Brunswick Crossing

There will be new construction in Brunswick Crossing for an office building and the coming Taco Bell and Chipotle restaurants. The Planning Commission is currently reviewing site and improvement plans. The specific locations could not be determined by press time.

Accessory Dwelling
Units and Dumpsters

Ordinance 632, which adds Zoning Ordinance Article 21.16, allows accessory dwelling units to be built within the city. Importantly, homeowner’s associations (HOAs) cannot prohibit ADUs per state law HB 1466.

Ordinance 623 on commercial and multi-family dumpsters and other waste receptacles amends and clarifies Municipal Code sections 2103 and 2111. Infractions begin at \$50.

In Other News...

• The mayor and council recognized the Brunswick Railroaders Senior League for winning

FROM THE MAYOR’S DESK



Fall is always one of
the busiest and most
exciting seasons in
our community.

of why our community is such a special place.

Opportunity to Serve on
City Council

I also want to follow up last month’s column regarding the city council election. As previously noted, three individuals filed for three open council seats. Pursuant to the city charter and code of ordinances, when the number of candidates does not exceed the number of available seats, the election is not required and may be canceled because the

race is uncontested.

Since that announcement, however, one of the candidates, Bridgette Chabot, notified the city that she has decided not to move forward prior to being sworn into office. Under the charter and code of ordinances, this creates a vacancy on the council.

The city will be soliciting interest from residents who wish to be considered for appointment to fill the vacant seat.

Serving on the city council is an important responsibility and a valuable opportunity to help shape the future of Brunswick. Council members play a direct role in setting policies, adopting budgets, supporting community initiatives, and representing the interests of residents. I encourage anyone who has an interest in public service and helping our community to watch for additional information regarding the application process and consider applying.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our community. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the fall season as we gather for the events and traditions that make Brunswick such a vibrant and welcoming place. Together, we continue to make Brunswick a community we are proud to call home. ■

Nathan Brown

City Council Member Vacancy
Process Announced

The City of Brunswick will fill a current vacancy on the Council through an appointment process, as provided in the City Charter. The term for this seat runs through August 2030. Here is the timeline for candidates who wish to file:

- **AUGUST 31** — Candidate submission packets available by downloading at brunswickmd.gov/mayorandcouncil, by emailing cmymers@brunswickmd.gov, or by picking up at City Hall, 1 W. Potomac Street. Completed packets must include a letter of interest, professional resume, nominations affidavit, petition of signatures, and Ethics Financial Disclosure.
- **SEPTEMBER 28, 4:30 p.m.** — Deadline for packet submission by candidates.
- **OCTOBER 5, 6 p.m.** — In-person candidate interviews will be held in a public Mayor and Council session. Candidates will be interviewed in random order at City Hall. Council Members will ask pre-determined questions and candidates will have two minutes to respond to each question. While the public is welcome to attend the interview session, there will be no public participation at this session. It will be recorded and broadcast through the City website and Comcast channel 99.
- **OCTOBER 13, 6 p.m.** — Tentative appointment of new Council Member and oath of office.

The Mayor and Council will hold a series of closed sessions during this process to vet and discuss candidates, but the Council vote, appointment, and oath of office will take place in public session.

For more information, contact Director of Administration Carrie Myers at cmymers@brunswickmd.gov or 301-834-7500.

BRUNSWICK NEWS

Remember the 80s?
All 1980s Graduates Welcome
to Class Reunion Sept. 26

By PAIGE TRENDALL

The Brunswick High School class of 1986 will meet for its 40-year reunion on Sept. 26 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Jefferson Ruritan.

Starting at 7 p.m., everyone who graduated from BHS anytime during the 1980s decade is also welcome at the event.

Kelly Edwards, a member of the planning committee, said they opened the reunion to everyone from the decade because the high school was smaller and very tight-knit at the time.

“Most people from that time frame know everybody. So, there's no reason not to open it up to everybody,” she said. The event is BYOB, and there will be food for purchase from the

Whistle Punk Farm Deli food truck.

Everyone who graduated in the 1980s is encouraged to come, especially those who have not been before. Edwards said the reunion will be very casual, similar to reunions of the past. There is the opportunity to catch up with old friends or maybe make new connections.

Attending reunions is a rewarding experience, according to Edwards. “People change over the years, and sometimes you end up talking to people that you may not have even talked to in high school,” she said, adding, “It's a whole different environment.”

More information about the reunion is on the Brunswick Railroaders Class of 1986 Facebook page.

Preferred High School Site
is Cheapest, FCPS Says

By MARK ROHNER

The site chosen for a new Brunswick High School building would entail less cost than two other sites under consideration, according to Frederick County Public Schools.

The controversial selection would locate the building on the south side of the BHS campus, taking over the existing baseball field. The loss of the baseball field, which would have to be replaced elsewhere on the 77.7-acre campus, has generated intense opposition from supporters of BHS baseball.

The site selection was made based on evaluations of three alternatives by a design team consisting of the architect, civil engineer, and construction manager, according to a posting on the project website. The evaluation found that site preparation for the south site, where the baseball field is, would cost an estimated \$5.6 million. That expenditure, over and above the cost of the school building itself, would cover earthwork and grading, retaining wall construction, special

the football field and track is now, and a site on the east side, the current location of tennis courts and softball fields. Site preparation costs for the north location were estimated at \$15.7 million, mostly involving earthwork and replacing the football stadium, while similar costs at the east location were pegged at \$7.5 million.

In addition to the cost differences, the design team considered factors including access for construction equipment, space available for staging materials and equipment, emergency access during construction, and the ability to keep students away from construction activities.

“The combination of site-related costs, construction efficiency, project schedule, and campus safety during construction,” made the south location the preferred choice, according to FCPS. “It offers the lowest estimated site-related cost differential while also providing the most favorable conditions for construction and the fewest challenges to completing the project efficiently and safely.” ■



South (baseball field) site

BHS Replacement Site Controversy CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

feel has been the lack of information from FCPS regarding the site plan, as it relates to both the baseball field and the safety issue. Some of the questions involved how school officials plan to compensate for the loss of the baseball field, disruption of athletic facilities’ usage during construction, and ingress and egress on school property once construction is completed.

Phil Rhodes, a longtime baseball coach at Frederick High School before retiring to Brunswick, has grandchildren living in the Brunswick community, who will eventually come into the high school baseball system after the new school is built. He said he is familiar with the baseball history of Brunswick and realizes its importance.

Rhodes recalls when the new Frederick High School was built and how his team had to be relocated during construction. “The difference was we had a nice place to play in the meantime, McCurdy Field, not far from the school,” he said. “You’re not going to have that luxury here. Where are these kids in Brunswick going to play while the new school is being built? The baseball field at Frederick High doesn’t have the history the Brunswick field has. You just can’t replicate a field like what you have here in Brunswick.”

School officials have said alternate sites, such as Othello Park in Petersville, would be available during school construction. Dawson said that facility is nowhere near what the Railroaders’ currently have.

Greg Barnes, a BHS graduate who has coached baseball in the past and had family members play baseball in Brunswick, recalled stories as to how the school system took away old E. W. Scheer Stadium at the beginning of the 1960s when the current BHS campus was being built, on the former B&O Railroad farm.

“People were told back then by the school board it would replace the ball field and make it just the way it was at Scheer Stadium,” Barnes said. “It was not. We have to fight this thing tooth and nail.”

The current baseball field, unofficially known as “Lee Merri-man Memorial Park,” opened in advance of the completion of the then-new BHS campus so the various youth and adult baseball teams could use it. The original field consisted of just the field, a backstop, dugouts and a manual scoreboard.

There were few bleachers at first and no outfield fence at the time, just a bare bones facility. More bleachers were eventually added and upgrades took place over about 20 years, mostly through the volunteer efforts of the community.

Mark Tarleton, BHS assistant baseball coach and assistant Senior Little League Baseball

coach, said he did some research. He found out the current assessed value of the baseball facility is \$4,288,509.

Black said he heard a lot of legitimate concerns at the meeting, but it was going to take a big effort on the part of the community to let the rest of the school board know of this opposition.

He told those in attendance no final decision has been made on the site selection. The school board has to vote on it, Black said.

“Someone’s not going to be happy, no matter what happens,” he said. “You need to make sure the school board hears your voices. Get organized. Get the word out to your community. Do it right.”

Dawson wanted to make one thing clear to the group. “No one here is against the new school being built,” he said. “We just want it to be done the right way.”

Meeting at the City Park Building

The meeting room was packed. More than 40 gathered during the city workshop on Aug. 6, including Brunswick Mayor Nathan Brown and City Council members Jerry Bonanno, Brian Sandusky and Eric Smothers.

Many people voiced their strong opposition to the selected site, including the mayor and council members present. The message from all was clear — the selection is a bad one and needs to be changed.

A three-page report was made available from the site design team, used by FCPS, showing its findings on the three proposed sites for the new high school and the reasons the South Location was selected by the team. In the summary, the team said the South Location performed the strongest overall, and listed specific reasons.

Brown told the gathering that city officials were not consulted during the review and selection process and only received the report the same day as the scheduled workshop at the City Park Building.

“We are very well-aware of the feelings of this community on this matter; we should have been consulted,” Brown said. “To be clear, we were not involved in the selection process. We had no part in it.”

Brown said the purpose of the workshop was to develop a path forward, calling for more transparency on the part of FCPS staff. He urged those present to organize, make plans to attend future Board of Education meetings, contact school board members, lobby heavily against this selection ahead of a final school board decision on the matter.

“Advocacy does work,” Brown said.

Tarleton said he’s seen all three site plans. “Why not go with the plan where the new



People in the Brunswick community gather at the City Park Building on Aug. 6 for a workshop with the mayor and council on concerns about high school site selection.

school is built behind the existing school?” he said. “You’re not disturbing the old baseball field.”

Perhaps the biggest concern regarding the south campus site, beyond tearing up the baseball field, is the fact current drawings show a serious lack of ingress and egress around the campus location — one way into the school campus, one way out.

Should an emergency arise, requiring the evacuation of the school campus, the possibility exists students and facility could be hindered from a rapid exit.

Several people spoke about this, but the most emotional testimony came from State Senator Bill Folden. As a former law enforcement officer in Frederick County, trained for many emergency procedures, he fears the worst.

“It’s not a matter of if something is going to happen, but when,” Folden said. “You’ve got to have that extra way out in case of an emergency.”

Folden encouraged strong attendance at future school board meetings in an effort to try and change minds at FCPS on the proposed site.

Andy Smothers, a member of Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue, lives near the campus. He said things are already crowded following sporting events at the school. It takes a long time for people, and traffic, to clear out.

“If there is a major emergency, and there’s just one way in and out, the whole area is going to be closed,” Smothers said. “Point of Rocks Road is going to be closed. No one’s going anywhere. This is not a good situation.”

State Delegate April Miller said she served eight years on the school board before being elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. “What the school system is doing now is just not right,” she said. “They’ve got to do better with you people here in Brunswick.”

School board members Karen Yoho and Janie Inglis Monier were in the audience at the meeting. Both said they were glad they attended this meeting and will use this input to have the school board improve on its efforts within the community.

The school board is slated to make a final decision on which site the new school will be built in November. ■

BRUNSWICK NEWS

BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
JUNE 2026

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

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Maryland State Citations	39	239	40	196
Maryland State SEROS	2	21	6	34
Warning Citations	105	670	88	507
Parking Citations	18	138	47	179

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Calls for Service	1,485	9,385	1,481	9,989
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	3
Robbery	0	0	0	0
Assault	4	38	4	28
Breaking & Entering	1	5	0	1
Theft	6	19	10	25
Auto Theft	0	0	0	0
Adult Arrests	9	43	12	48
Juvenile Arrests	0	2	0	4

OTHER INCIDENTS				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	47	5	44
Emergency Evaluations Mentally Ill/Suicidal Persons	5	65	14	47
Overdoses	3	9	1	6

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

BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
JULY 2026

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

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Maryland State Citations	22	261	33	229
Maryland State SEROS	3	24	10	44
Warning Citations	67	737	102	609
Parking Citations	9	151	27	206

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Calls for Service	1,181	10,565	1,749	11,738
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	3
Robbery	0	0	0	0
Assault	8	45	4	32
Breaking & Entering	0	5	0	1
Theft	1	25	2	28
Auto Theft	0	0	0	0
Adult Arrests	9	52	6	54
Juvenile Arrests	0	2	0	4

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

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

Dr. Horine Mural Attracts Tourists



DIANE ELLIS

The mural on the side of the Horine building at 2 E. Potomac Street has become a favorite photo spot for visitors to Brunswick. On August 18, Vanessa and Hugh Fisher from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and their friend Eddy Tello (on right) from Boston spent the night in Brunswick while on a 333-mile bike trip on the C&O Canal towpath. The group drove e-bikes from Arlington, VA to Paw Paw, WV and back during the 8-day trek. They discovered the mural after staying at First Stop Brunswick in the Horine building and having breakfast at Celeste.

Canal Towns Partnership Offers Itineraries
for Exploring Civil War History

By ABBIE RICKETTS

In late September, the Canal Towns Partnership will begin distributing their newly designed “Trail to History” brochures, a series of three with a Civil War theme.

The first brochure includes Poolesville, Point of Rocks, Brunswick, and Harpers Ferry/ Bolivar. The second combines Sharpsburg, Shepherdstown, and Williamsport, while the third covers Hancock, Oldtown, Paw Paw, and Cumberland. Each town has its own Civil War history and the C&O Canal connected them all.

The brochures are designed to create itineraries for visitors looking to spend a day or week-end exploring sections of the canal by bicycle or by driving from town to town in pursuit of experiencing Civil War history.

The brochures will be distributed in visitor centers and businesses all along the canal. Locally, they will be available at the Brunswick Visitor Center (located in the Brunswick Heritage Museum) and at the Frederick Visitor Center. The brochures are funded in part

through a grant from the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. The brochures also can be viewed on the Canal Trust website www.canaltrust.org.

The popular “Towpath to Town” brochure will also be updated. The size will be increased and the brochures distributed throughout Maryland in visitor centers.

Signage is scheduled to be installed soon on the canal at

the National Park Service boat ramp. Directional signs will be replaced and bike safety signs will be installed. Smoketown Rotary Club donated three new interpretive signs near Lock 30.

The City of Brunswick is a member of the Canal Towns Partnership, which is a fiscal partner of the Canal Trust, the official non-profit partner of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. ■



JERRY KNIGHT

Bolivar Heights Battlefield

the little red barn ice Cream Cafe

Hours:
Monday – Thursday : 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday, Saturday: 11 am – 9 pm
Sunday : 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Open Year Round for your favorite ice creams, sandwiches, soups, salads, coffees, lattes and more!
Eat in or Carry Out ☺

4610 Lander Road, Jefferson MD :: (301) 378 – 8100:: Littleredbarnicecream.com :: Facebook

BRUNSWICK NEWS

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR
Volunteering Immerses Resident
in Community

By ABBIE RICKETTS

Mary Bellamy can often be found at local races and runs, registering runners, checking people in, finding the right size T-shirts, and giving directions to participants.

“I love meeting people on that level and enjoy lending a hand,” she said.

When Mary moved to Brunswick with her husband, Fred, nine years ago, everyone was a stranger. She decided the best way to get to know the community and make some friends was to volunteer with local organizations.

She was right. Many people now know Mary; she quickly became part of the community. Enjoying lunch in a downtown restaurant recently, she shared her experiences.

While she volunteers for many organizations, Mary is mostly tied to the Frederick Steeplechasers and their large events. She helps the Brunswick Area Recreation Council and Main Street, and she has volunteered at the Brunswick Heritage Museum and with the local Friends of the Library organization. She helped the Greater Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce as a greeter at its Business EXPO last year. She works at race tables for many groups.

Mary is always willing to help in ways that don’t require much planning or leadership. She said she likes it that way. During events, she cheerfully fills roles that can be difficult to fill, such as staffing tables and distributing T-shirts.

Mary hails from Arkansas, “home of the famous Ozark Mountains,” she said. Her parents were college professors, and her mother was also an architect. She grew up on college campuses.

After graduating from the University of Arkansas, Mary traveled north to earn a master’s degree in American history from Boston University. She was then admitted to Harvard Law School.

On the day she went to take her admissions test, she said, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. sat down next to her and began a conversation. He didn’t attend



MARY BELLAMY

law school there, however, but graduated from the University of Virginia.

Mary lived on campus at Harvard and managed the student game room in her third year. She then took the bar exam and passed on the first try; she said she was always good at multiple choice tests.

When she moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Mary met a young attorney representing a client who had business with the SEC. She said she was soon smitten with him, and they were married early in their careers.

Before Mary and Fred moved to Brunswick, they raised three children in Fairfax County, Virginia. Mary became a stay-at-home mother when expecting her third child but occasionally worked part-time as an attorney. She began doing volunteer work at Inova Fairfax Hospital and served on the board of a church in Herndon.

The three Bellamy children are adults now. Frank lives on the West Coast and Richard on the Gulf Coast. Debbie is the branch manager at the Laurel-Savage Library in Maryland and resides on Kent Island.

Mary has endured bouts of breast cancer since 2009 but said she feels much better now and is back doing what she loves: getting out and volunteering. ■

Brunswick 50+ Community Center
Happenings

By JEAN DOYLE

The Fall Session will begin in October. The Activity Guide will be available online by mid-September and registration begins then. Register for any program with a fee at: <https://frederick-countymd-gov.3dcartstores.com> or in person at any 50+ community center. For the free programs, register at: VirtualSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Trips in September

Friday, Sept. 11—Recycle Field Trip. Tour the Reichs Ford Landfill & Recycling Center. Transportation is provided by the Division of Solid Waste and Recycling. Register by Friday, Sept. 4. Call the Brunswick Center at 301-834-8115. Leaves from the Brunswick Senior Center. 1 p.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. Free.

Monday, Sept. 14—The Maryland Room at the C. Burr Artz Public Library. The Maryland Room is a noncirculating, local history research collection of primary and secondary sources. The collection documents Maryland’s history and genealogy of Maryland’s people. Stop by the Frederick Coffee Company & Café for lunch on the way back. \$5 per person plus money for lunch. 10 a.m. to approximately 1:30 p.m. Leave from the Frederick Senior Center. Pre-register by Friday, Sept. 4 at <https://frederickcountymd-gov.3dcaartstores.com> or call the Brunswick Senior Center at 301-834-8115.

Seniors in the Park

Friday, Sept. 25—A Three-Ring Circus Experience at Urbana District Park. Experience the thrill of the circus with Theatricks Circus Experience. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The location is Urbana District Park, Shelter #3, 3805 Urbana Pike, Frederick. \$15 per person, includes lunch. Register by Wednesday, Sept. 16 at <https://frederickcountymd-gov.3dcartstores.com> or call the Frederick or Brunswick Senior Centers. Limited transportation may be available from some senior centers for a nominal fee.

Special Events at the Brunswick Senior Center

Tuesday, Sept. 1—Bood Pressure Checks & Safety Presentations by Frederick County Fire and Rescue. September topic is Emergency Preparedness Tips. 11 a.m. Free, Drop-in.

Tuesday, Sept. 8—Healthy Aging: What To’s and Know How’s. Part of the Healthy Living Mental Health Series, presented by the Frederick County Health Department. Discuss trends, tips, and behaviors that lead us to healthier lives as we age. 1 p.m. Free, pre-registration preferred at 301-834-8115.

Thursday, Sept. 10—Monthly Dinner Dance at the Brunswick Eagles. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Dancing at 2, Dinner at 4. Meal provided by Brunswick Eagles, hosted by the Brunswick Senior Center. \$20 per person. Paid reservation due one week in advance at Brunswick Senior Center.

Tuesday, Sept. 15—Weis Market Nutritional Talks. Eating for Diabetes is the topic. 1 p.m. Free, Pre-register at 301-834-8115.

Tuesday, Sept. 22—Lunch Bunch at noon. Fall into Fall Luncheon. Menu is chicken cordon bleu, mashed potatoes, peas & onions, and pie. Reserve a week in advance at 301-834-8115. Voluntary contributions toward the meal are appreciated. The meal cost is \$6.

Monday, Sept. 28—Coffee Hour. Stop by to visit with friends. Enjoy a warm beverage and light refreshments. 10 a.m. Free, Drop-in.

Caregiver Support Programs

Friday, Sept. 25—Circle of Friends Memory Café. A safe, relaxed place where people with early-stage memory loss can come together for a blend of education and social interactions. Held at the Brunswick Library from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free, pre-register at 301-600-6022 or email Caregiver-Support@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Don’t forget all the many regular activities at the Brunswick Senior Center, such as the monthly Weis Nutritional talks, Blood Pressure checks and Safety Presentations, Lunch Bunch, Book Club and many Fitness Classes.

There are also free fitness classes available, such as Wii Bowling, Pickleball on Wednesdays and Saturdays, a Walking Group at Othello Park on Mondays. ■



BENJAMIN WEISER, D.D.S., P.A.

BRUNSWICK SHOPPING CENTER
64 SOUDER RD. BRUNSWICK, MD 21716



TEL: (301) 834-6700

Scan Me



Thank You



31 E Potomac St. | Brunswick, MD

Sunday–Thursday 11am to 8:30 pm
Friday, Saturday 11am to 9:30 pm

American, Middle Eastern, and More...
Burgers, Subs, Salads, Shawarma, Hummus, Gyros
Quesadillas, Felafel, Reuben & Kabobs

NEW phone numbers
(301) 969-0046 (301) 969-0409
www.facebook.com/PotomacStreetGrill

JUST ½ MILE FROM THE TOWPATH!
***May not be used along with other discounts.**

Bring this ad to
receive a 10%
discount on any
order over \$20*



**Looking for
Direction?**



I can help with that
John the Barber

Brunswick Barber Shop
Brunswick Shopping
Center on Souder Road

Appt. or walk-in
301-834-5420

43RD ANNUAL BRUNSWICK

★ RAILROAD DAYS ★

2026

"A Small Town Tradition"

SATURDAY & SUNDAY • OCTOBER 3 & 4

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM BOTH DAYS

DOWNTOWN BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND



ALL ABOARD FOR A WEEKEND OF FUN!

Train Excursions • Children's Amusements • Fine Food Vendors
Arts & Handcrafted Wares • Business & Civic Exhibitors • Beer Garden
Train Exhibitions & Mechanical Wonders • And Much, Much More!

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING:

SIDE STAGE

10:00 AM

SATURDAY

Michael Stone Band

SUNDAY

Boo Troxell

MAIN STAGE

2:00 PM

SATURDAY

CAZMIERE

Top 40 Dance Variety

SUNDAY

THE REAGAN YEARS

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

KINGS PIZZA STAGE

SATURDAY

10:00 AM Freddie Long

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

SUNDAY

10:00 AM Michael Stone Band

**2:00 PM Shade Tree
Collective**

FREE SHUTTLE
SERVICES BY



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Scan the QR Code or visit

www.brunswickrailroaddays.org
facebook.com/brunswickrailroaddays



A GRAND CELEBRATION ALONG THE HISTORIC RAILS!

LOCAL NEWS

Jefferson Ruritan Awards Scholarships



Shown left to right: Kassie Higgins, Scholarship Chairperson, Delaney Yablon, Atley Schaeffer, Colin Trendell, Clara Held, and Kevin Grantham, Club President.

For the 49th year, the Jefferson Ruritan Club has awarded college scholarships and recently added trade school scholarships for area high school seniors. For 2026, six students were awarded \$2,000 each. The awardees and the schools they will attend are:

- Benjamin Guyton — Tyler Junior College
- Clara Held — St. Mary’s College of Maryland
- Katelyn Parry — Penn State
- Atley Schaeffer — Frederick Community College
- Colin Trendell — University of Maryland; and
- Delaney Yablon — University of Maryland.

Four of the scholarship winners and family members came to the July membership meeting and spoke briefly about their goals and gratitude for their awards. ■

Petersville Ruritan Club 2026 Scholarship Recipients



Sunora Knill Wilbar, Ruritan President (left) presents Atlee Shafer with her scholarship check.

Jackson and Brady Renn received 2026 scholarship awards from Petersville Ruritans.



Boy Scout Troop 277 Spends Week Camping at Sinoquipe

By SEBASTIAAN BURKE

Boy Scout Troop 277 enjoyed summer camp at Sinoquipe Scout Reservation in Pennsylvania. The troop has attended this camp for more than 20 years. Scouts learn skills at the camp and can discover new hobbies. They take merit badge classes and can complete several rank requirements. This year’s participants were Kyle McGann, Sebastiaan Burke, James Best, Hutch Nerheim, and Scoutmaster Anne Zumbach. Tim McGann and Steven Intolubbe volunteered to assist throughout the camp.

About Sinoquipe

Sinoquipe Scout Reservation was established in 1948, has 13 campsites and stretches over 125 acres in Fulton County, Pa. The camp includes a 10-acre lake, pool, dining hall, and trading post. It offers more than 40 merit badges, including Eagle-required ones.

Troop 277 at camp

Before camp started, scouts selected merit badges they wanted to earn and completed the prerequisites. Each day at camp had a different theme. Monday was showing off your troop T-shirt. Tuesday was wearing a team shirt. On Wednesday each troop picked a unique costume — Troop 277 chose a toga/roman empire theme. Thursday was camp-wide America’s 250th day. Friday’s theme was Sinoquipe apparel. After arriving at camp, Adam Parde (Eagle Scout in the troop and a staff member at Sinoquipe) gave a tour of the camp. Everyone had to take a swim test in the lake. Scouts could fall into three categories: non-swimmer, beginner and swimmer. The scouts settled in small, two-person tents, and after dinner, the whole camp met at the Council Ring and staff performed funny skits. On Monday, the troop woke up early to participate in the



Sebastiaan Burke, Hutch Nerheim, Kyle McGann and James Best at Sinoquipe Scout Reservation.

Run for Life and Polar Bear Plunge. Each day began and ended with a flag ceremony. American and local flags were raised or lowered. Scouts attended merit badge classes for most of the day, and the evenings were left clear for open programs. This schedule continued throughout the week except on Wednesday, when scouts and leaders could participate in activities and win prizes. Instead of merit badge classes and dining hall dinner, the staff had a feast which was a relaxing time and a break from working all week. The staff delivered dinner to the campsites, where each troop had to cook and prepare it themselves. On Friday, there was a campfire at the Council Ring. Staff gave out awards that were earned by each troop. This time, Scouts could sign up to perform their own skits. Camp ended on Saturday with packing and campsite inspections. Awards Throughout the week, Troop 277 was focused on earning two awards: the optional Sino-

quipe Honor Scout Award goes to all scouts who are willing to complete specific activities and requirements. The Honor Unit Award is presented to the very best units at Sinoquipe. Troops must complete specific requirements, which are then verified by camp staff.

Overall experience

During camp, everyone participated in fun events, learned new skills, and completed interesting projects and activities. James Best said, “My favorite thing was the Space Exploration merit badge because we got to make rockets.” He also noticed some of the counselors were not fully knowledgeable on some things. Kyle McGann said, “My favorite part of visiting Sinoquipe Scout Reservation was getting to participate in activities and experiences that can be used in a real-world scenario.” Many Scouts felt that the food in the dining hall could be improved. Overall, Boy Scout Troop 277 had an amazing week at Sinoquipe Scout Reservation this summer and is looking forward to next year. ■

Partnership Forms among Local Lutheran Congregations

By CLAUDIA HARRINGTON

Something new and exciting is happening in the Brunswick, Burkittsville and Jefferson communities. Three congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA): Bethany in Brunswick, St. Paul’s in Burkittsville, and St. Paul in Jefferson will join a shared ministry partnership known as the South Mountain Ministry starting in September. All three congregations have agreed to a contract to call the Rev. Terrance Lively to serve a two-year term. Each congregation will maintain its identity

and historic church buildings. The South Mountain Ministry will allow the congregations to expand opportunities for outreach and service to residents in all three communities. Pastor Lively grew up in West Virginia, attended the University of Alabama, graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, and earned a Master of Divinity from United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa. He has been serving Christ Church Parish Kent Island, Stevensville, Md. With an emphasis on care of creation in his ministry, Pastor Lively is an avid hiker and

enjoys kayaking, running, skiing and swimming. He also has a passion for social justice ministries, particularly those around the LGBTQ+ community, where Pastor Lively can share his experiences and gifts with others and share the love of God to all. Service times for each church: 8:30 a.m. — St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jefferson 9:45 a.m. — Bethany Lutheran Church in Brunswick 11:45 a.m. — St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Burkittsville ■



JEFFERSON FAMILY DENTISTRY



301-834-8804
for your appointment

LOCAL NEWS

The Saturday Collective
at Silver Mane Stables in Jefferson

COURTESY OF SILVER MANE STABLES



Silver Mane Stables on Jefferson Pike in Jefferson, Md.

By JEAN DOYLE

The Saturday Collective, an outdoor market where small businesses sell their wares, is coming to Jefferson for four sessions in September and October. The Saturday Collective is the creation of Silver Mane Stables owners, Khoa Mae and Bryan Buckner. The idea is to support small businesses in the community, and for the community to show up for one another.

About The Saturday
Collective Market

Silver Mane Stables is at 4240 Jefferson Pike. The Saturday Collective will be held on Sept. 5, Sept. 19, Oct. 3, and Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. Currently there are approximately 10 vendors committed to The Saturday

“We want to
provide delicious
things without the
heavy price tag.”

Collective. Vendor space is free. Admission and parking are free.

The market features Lavender Crumb, which will eventually become Khoa Mae’s cottage bakery. For now, Lavender Crumb is a thrift shop that features items \$1 and below, including clothing, shoes and household items. Money made at the thrift shop will go into a free food pantry that will be available to anyone who needs it. Khoa Mae will provide fresh local produce at the food pantry. Khoa Mae stated her goal is

“to bring something affordable to the community.”

Khoa Mae wants to celebrate the community. “We want to give back to the community for supporting us all of these years,” she said. “We want to provide delicious things without the heavy price tag.” Khoa Mae is hoping that families will come and support local small businesses while enjoying a day on their farm.

Silver Mane Stables has been a fixture in Jefferson for many years. They provide basic horsemanship training, western performance development, full care boarding and competitive coaching, including personalized western riding lessons designed for every skill level.

For more information on Silver Mane Stables visit their website at silvermanestables.com. ■

IN MEMORY
Shelly Geasler

By JULIE KLOETZLI

Valley Elementary School was a sea of yellow on August 5, as family and friends gathered to honor the memory of Shelly Geasler. Yellow was Shelly’s favorite color, making it a fitting tribute to a woman remembered for bringing warmth, friendship and a joyful laugh wherever she went.

Shelly passed away from cancer in May 2026, but those who knew and loved her wanted to make sure her generous spirit continued to impact the community.

Shelly was a member of the Jefferson Book Club, whose members raised \$1,300 in her memory. The money was donated to the Calico Clovers 4-H Club, an organization especially meaningful to Shelly, who raised her two daughters in 4-H. The Jefferson Book Club asked that the funds be used for the community in Shelly’s honor.

The Calico Clovers reached out to Valley Elementary School, where Shelly’s daughters had attended, to identify a need they could fulfill.

The school’s principal, Dr. T, suggested two benches — one at the front of the school for visitors and families to sit, and the other as a special “Buddy Bench” for fourth-grade students, a place where a child can sit when looking for a friend or someone to talk to.

The two benches were dedicated in Shelly’s memory. The



SHELLY GEASLER

plaque on the front bench reads: “In Memory of Shelly Geasler, whose friendship made everyone feel welcome. Donated by the Calico Clovers 4-H Club.”

The Buddy Bench carries an equally meaningful message: “Buddy Bench — In Memory of Shelly Geasler, who never let anyone sit alone. Donated by



Bench donated in memory of Shelly Geasler.

the Calico Clovers 4-H Club.” The tribute to Shelly’s life did not stop at Valley Elementary.

To celebrate her love of reading, the Calico Clovers also had a blue lending library box made and placed in front of Hemp’s Meats. Created by Paul Allen, the little library stands as a lasting memorial to Shelly and an invitation for community members to share the joy of reading.

Shelly was one of those exceptional people whose kindness made others feel included and whose joyful laugh could brighten a room. It is fitting that the memorials created in her honor encourage friendship, companionship, community and a love of books.

Shelly’s husband, Pete, and one of her daughters, Bailey, attended the August 5 unveiling. They expressed gratitude for the tremendous outpouring of love from the community and shared that Shelly would have loved the way she was being honored.

The yellow surrounding Valley Elementary that day was more than Shelly’s favorite color. It was a visible reminder of the joy she brought to others—and of a community determined to make sure her kindness continues.

Through a bench that welcomes visitors, a Buddy Bench that reminds children no one should have to sit alone, and a little library that shares books with neighbors, Shelly’s legacy will bring people together for years to come. ■

Summer is still here! Call today to get your
Summer maintenance scheduled.
Call today for an early fall fireplace / pellet stove cleaning.



Thompson

BEST

heating & air conditioning
fireplace & stove

- 100% Free Estimate
- Fast Scheduling
- Satisfaction Guarantee

Our team of experts handles your HVAC needs providing peace of mind and comfort year-round.

YOUR COMFORT IS OUR COMMITMENT

Come visit our showroom at: 4959 New Design Rd., Suite 118, Frederick, MD 21703

301-662-0600 | www.thompsonbesthvac.com | Monday-Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm

OPINION

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

On CSX Blockages,
Communities Need a United Voice

CSX freight trains are harming local economies across the eastern United States. Brunswick is a good case in point; much of our local economy has come to depend on tourism: people come to visit our campground, boat on the Potomac River, and hike on the C&O Canal towpath. Brunswick's Maple Avenue, the primary path for visitors to reach these attractions, crosses two sets of railroad tracks that are often busy with passing trains.

All too frequently in recent years, new practices imposed by CSX are causing those crossings to be blocked, not by trains passing through, but by trains that are being made up by hooking freight cars from different trains into new ones. The new practices used by CSX result in much longer trains. They move back and forth over the crossing, but constantly block it. These blockages can last for an hour or more.

In many cities and towns from Florida to Maine, CSX has blocked emergency responders trying to get to fires, auto accidents or other injuries. They also block school buses and people trying to get to work. Pictures have become common of people — waiting and waiting for the train to move — seen creeping under the freight cars, which could suddenly move without warning. It's just a matter of time before there is injury or death.

The communities that are being harmed need a united voice to get elected officials' attention. One possible approach would be for affected towns to get together in a consortium to buy shares of CSX stock. That would give the organization a voice at CSX stockholders' meetings. Such a voice would get attention in the press and with congressional representatives who are in a position to pass laws or change regulations to force CSX to stop harming local economies.

CSX has created this problem; CSX must be required to solve it. ■

How to send a Letter to the Editor

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

LETTERS

Higher Voltage

I enjoyed the article in the August issue of the Brunswick News-Journal discussing a proposed new electric power transmission line. The line would run from West Virginia to Frederick County. The article stated that it was to be a 265kV line. Checking into it further, the line voltage would actually be 765kV.

— Dan Roe, Brunswick

Masons Seek New Meeting Space for Continuing Service to Brunswick Area

Brunswick Lodge #191 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons have been an active part of the greater Brunswick community since 1892.

During that time, we have held our meetings in three different locations in the city of Brunswick, most recently, since 1955, in the old West End Elementary School on Brunswick Street.

To better meet the needs of our members and to maintain our financial health, we have sold our building and are actively seeking another property smaller in size in the area.

While temporarily holding our meetings and other activities at Columbia Lodge #58 in Frederick, we will continue our legacy of service and investment here in Brunswick.

Within the Masonic community, we are frequently called the Railroader Lodge, a title and heritage we will continue to represent with pride.

We appreciate the support we have received from our friends and neighbors over the past 134 years and eagerly look forward to the future.

For more information about Brunswick Masons, please email me at brownbobpm@gmail.com

— Robert C. “Bob” Brown
Worshipful Master
Brunswick Masonic Lodge

When Local Politicians Celebrate Projects, Check the Receipts

Elected officials enjoy openings and ribbon-cuttings. They can go to an opening of a library or school, give a certificate, get their picture taken for the papers, and get some credit for the project's success.

The question is, did that politician vote for the budget that funded the project?

A large part of a local politician's job is advocating for projects in their district. The other part of the job is being active on Boards and Commissions that plan these projects and voting for the budgets that fund them. When elected officials show up at grand openings in their district, the fact is that if they didn't support the budget that funded the project, they're taking credit where it isn't due.

This November, I encourage everyone to look closely at the local representatives who impact what's happening in your backyard. Are they participating actively, voting regularly, and consistently advocating for residents? Or do you see them at more ribbon-cuttings than budget meetings?

When I look back over my three terms as a member of the county council, I'm proud of the many capital projects that I advocated for in Frederick County's District One. Those projects include the new fire hall in Middletown, new libraries in Middletown and Point of Rocks, new schools in Brunswick and Urbana, and new parks in Brunswick, Point of Rocks, and Ballenger Creek.

I'm proud of these projects because they positively impact our community in a meaningful way, and that's always been my goal in running for public office.

The next time you see a public official speaking at a ribbon-cutting, check and see if they voted for the budget that funded it. You may be surprised by what you discover.

— Jerry Donald, Braddock Heights

(Jerry Donald is a member of the Frederick County Council, District 1. He is currently a candidate for Maryland House of Delegates, District 4.)

Are you sure you got every dollar you're owed?

Get a free Second Look® Review¹ when you file with us.

BLOCK

Advisors

built by H&R BLOCK



Make an appointment

BRUNSWICK SHOPPING CENTER,
62 SOUDER RD
BRUNSWICK, MD 21716 | 301-834-7426

¹ At participating offices. Results vary. All tax situations are different. Fees apply if you have us file an amended return. The IRS allows taxpayers to amend returns from the previous three tax years to claim additional refunds to which they are entitled. Applies to individual tax returns only. OBTP#B13696-BR © 2024 HRB Tax Group, Inc.



BRUNSWICK

Farmers

MARKET



SEPTEMBER: 11TH & 25TH



4 PM TO 7 PM



MARTIN'S CREEK
PARKING LOT
100 E POTOMAC ST

MORE INFO >>











We need a Brunswick education reporter!

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

Join us!
Volunteer and work at your own pace.

Email us:
Editor@BrunsNews.com
if interested.



FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September starts a new season with exciting opportunities. School is back in session, and fall is just around the corner. We celebrate our community at the Great Frederick Fair, community festivals and farmers markets.

September is also Deaf Awareness Month, Arts in Education Month, and it marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month on September 15. Here are highlights of upcoming programs and initiatives.

Open Houses on Data Center Regulation

We know there are a lot of questions about data centers. So, we will be hosting two informational open houses on how Frederick County is regulating the industry. These open houses will take place:

- September 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Claggett Center in the Delaplaine Barn
- September 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Urbana Volunteer Fire Department

Various county agencies will have representatives available, each hosting an informational table where people can learn how the agency's work relates to data center oversight. Attendees will be able to move through the room at their own pace, speak with staff, and review materials.

We continue to work to ensure that all data center-related decisions prioritize public safety,

environmental protection, compliance with the law, and transparency. Data centers are now the most regulated industry in Frederick County.

To learn more, visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/DataCenters.

Utica Connection Trail Groundbreaking

On August 26, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the Utica Connection Trail. The ceremony marks a significant milestone in expanding local recreational opportunities and enhancing community connectivity. When it's complete, the trail will reach Utica Bridge Road, allowing bicyclists and others a safe way to reach Utica District Park.

Trails provide residents with safe, accessible spaces for walking, running and biking, while promoting both physical health and mental well-being. They also foster a sense of community by linking neighborhoods, parks and public spaces.

The Divisions of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Planning and Permitting have been leading the efforts to bring the Utica Trail Connection project to life.

Animal Control Re-Opens to the Public

The Frederick County Division of Animal Control has been undergoing a total renovation and expansion of its shelter. Last month, we cut the ribbon on



County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

the new space to the public for in-person visits and services.

The new space offers bright, open spaces, colorful murals, and new rooms for meeting potential adoptable animals.

This reopening is an important step toward ensuring that community members can access animal adoption, lost-and-found assistance, and educational resources directly.

To learn more about the services provided, visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/AnimalControl.

Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program

Owners of historic properties in unincorporated areas of Frederick County may apply for up to \$50,000 through the Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program. Applications will be accepted between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2026. Award notifications will

take place in early Spring 2027.

Preserving our rural historic sites maintains the unique character and heritage of our community. This grant program provides support to property owners who are committed to safeguarding our history for future generations. I encourage all eligible residents to apply and take an active role in protecting our shared legacy.

Grant funds can be used for expenses associated with exterior work to stabilize, rehabilitate, restore or preserve historic buildings.

Informational workshops will be offered to help guide applicants through the program and application process. The workshops will be offered on the following dates:

- September 1 at 12:00 pm — Virtual
 - September 9 at 12:00 pm — Walkersville Library, 2 S. Glade Road
 - September 10 at 6:30 pm — Virtual
 - September 23 at 5:30 pm — C. Burr Artz Library, Trust Conference Room
 - October 5 at 7:00 pm — Virtual
- Register in advance for the workshops and learn more about the program at FrederickCountyMD.gov/HPGrant.

Upcoming Public Meetings

This month, there are plenty

of opportunities to get involved and share feedback to keep Frederick County thriving.

Representatives from the Maryland Department of Transportation will be in Frederick County to share information and receive feedback regarding the draft Consolidated Transportation Program for Fiscal Years 2027-2032. This is Maryland's six-year capital budget for transportation projects and programs.

The meeting is on Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St. in Frederick. The meeting is open to the public and no RSVP is required. For those who cannot attend in person, the meeting will be broadcast live at FrederickCountyMD.gov/FC-GTV and on Comcast channels 1072 and 19.

You are also invited to attend the annual Legislative Town Hall on Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. at Winchester Hall. This annual meeting provides an opportunity for members of the public to shape Frederick County's legislative priorities for the 2027 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

The Legislative Town Hall will also be broadcast live at FrederickCountyMD.gov/FC-GTV and on Comcast channels 1072 and 19.

Information on previous legislative priorities can be found at FrederickCountyMD.gov/Legislative. ■

Music venues have a secret

Ever been to see your favorite band at a brewery and it sounded terrible? If you know it's not the musicians, then it must be the venue. Sound systems make a big difference but what most places skip out on is sound abatement. When sound echoes around the room, it gets muddy. Then the band can't hear themselves so they turn up louder, which only makes louder mud.

The secret is in the walls.

Upstairs at Smoketown, we hired sound experts to map the room and fix the echoes. It was expensive but totally worth it. Come hear the difference.

- Upstairs at Smoketown concerts this fall**
- Oct 3 – Rays of Violet concert & mini-festival**
 - Oct 30 – Megan Jean's Secret Family**
 - Nov 14 – The Few**
 - Nov 27 – Doc Marten & The Flannels: Black Hole Friday**

Get tickets so we know you 're coming:



A Grateful Experience
October 3

FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

These Laws Can Help Maryland Homeowners Save Money

By JULIE GOURLEY

Most states in the U.S. have laws designed to protect homeowners and their homes. Maryland’s Homestead Law was enacted in 1977, has been amended several times, and now is in three parts:

- The Homestead Tax Credit
- The Homeowner’s Property Tax Credit
- The Homestead Exemption in Bankruptcy

Applications for the first two can be found at onestop.md.gov. The bankruptcy exemption is handled through the Maryland court system.

The Homestead Tax Credit

This program protects homeowners from losing their primary residence by shielding the property from various legal claims and creditor actions. Homeowners can keep their homes during financial distress, such as losing a job, medical emergencies, or economic downturns. In other words, it prevents the forced sale of a primary residence in order to pay debts.

The credit applies to single-family homes, certain types of condominiums, and residential co-ops. It does not apply to apartments or other rental properties.

Maryland homeowners qualify if they meet the eligibility requirements:



IAN McDONALD / UNSPLASH

- The property has been owned and occupied by the applicant for a minimum of six months each year including July 1. It cannot be a rental property or vacation home.
- The home has not been transferred to a new owner.
- No change in zoning has increased the property’s value.
- The purpose or use of the property has not substantially changed.
- The prior tax assessment was not clearly wrong.
- The owner has submitted a one-time application either online or by mail to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

You apply only once and receive the credit as long as you own and live in the property for at least six months, including July 1, each year.

The amount of the tax credit depends on where you live. Counties and municipalities set their own limits, which cannot exceed the state maximum of 10%. Brunswick’s homestead tax credit limit for 2026–2027 is 5%.

The credit is only applied after the property’s tax assessment increases by 10% (the legal limit), so it may not show up on your property tax bill every year. The state’s three-year phase-in of assessment increases further diminishes the credit’s frequency.

Individuals and married couples

can claim this credit on only one home, and it must be the primary residence. Homeowners age 65 and older and those with disabilities may be entitled to additional benefits. There are no income limits.

To find out if you’ve ever applied, go to sdat.dat.maryland.gov/realproperty and look for “Homestead Application Status.” If it says “No Application” then you need to apply. You must apply by May 1 to receive the credit for tax bills starting July 1.

The Homeowner’s Property Tax Credit

This law helps low-income homeowners pay their property tax bills by limiting how much of their income can go

toward property taxes. If your taxes exceed that limit, you get a tax credit for the difference. The lower your income, the larger the credit.

Applicants must meet these requirements:

- Household income cannot exceed \$60,000.
- The home must be the primary residence.
- Applicants must live there at least six months of the year including July 1.

Unlike the Homestead Tax Credit, you must apply for this credit every year. This year’s application deadline is Oct. 1. If you are age 70 or older, you can apply for three years of retroactive credits. ■

www.GrasshopperGardenandPatio.com

Local Patio Design and Installation



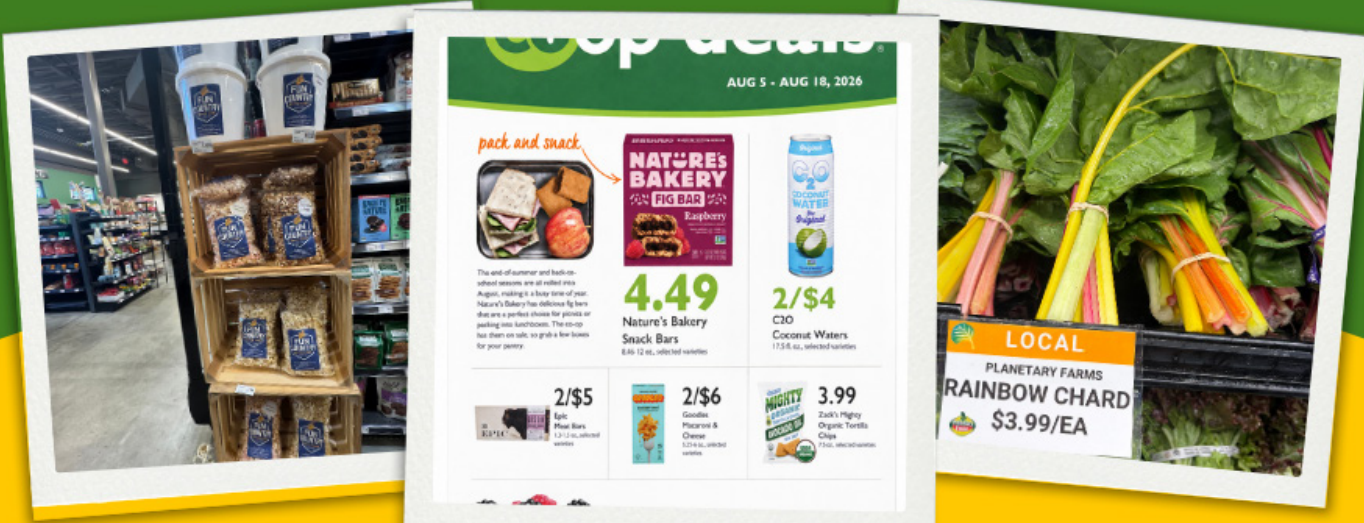
Find us on facebook

301-432-5428

MHIC #125593



NEW MONTH
NEW DEALS
NEW PRODUCTS



SHOP LOCAL, SHOP CO-OP

Phone: 540) 579-8070 | Web: https://lovettsvillemarket.coop

Local Raw
SO BE IT NOW
HONEY



From the slopes
of South Mountain

Our bees make a rich floral honey, collecting nectar from maple and willow in early spring, then peach, apple, and blackberry, and finally from white clover, black locust and tulip poplar. It’s different every year!

So Be It Now
APIARY

Julie Maynard
& Scott Edie
near Burkittsville

For prices or to order,
Text or call 301-371-4591
or email
scottedie@icloud.com

BAKE much? Ask
about discounts
for QUARTS !

LOVETTSTVILLE NEWS

Lovettsville Town News

By ABBIE RICKETTS

Upcoming Town Meetings

Town Council Meeting
Thurs., Sept. 17, 6:30–10 pm

Planning Commission Meeting
Wed., Sept. 2, 7–10 pm

Meetings are at Town Hall
6 E Pennsylvania Ave.



Patriot Day Ceremony
Friday, Sept. 11, 8:30–11 am

The annual Lovettsville Patriot Day Ceremony is at the Lovettsville Veterans' Memorial.

HELP NEEDED on September 8 at 5pm: If you are able to help, the Town will be working with youth groups and other service organizations to place 2,977 flags in honor of those lost September 11, 2001. Rain date for flag placement is Sept. 9.



Lovettsville Oktoberfest
Saturday, Sept. 26
10 am–5 pm

The festival will be held in the Squirrelle, Samuel A. Finz Municipal Complex, and the surrounding downtown streets.

There will be German style food, all-day German competitions such as Stein Hauling and Hoisting and Weiner Dog Races, Kinderfest, Young Entrepreneur Vendor Area, and a Live Music and Entertainment Area with German bands and other musical entertainment. Family-friendly games and activities and local artisans, makers, and specialty vendors will be included in the activities.

Fall Festival by Joshua's Hands
Oct. 17, 10 am–5 pm

Enjoy hay rides, entertainment, kids' crafts, demonstrations, pony rides, a petting farm, carnival-style games and more. Not just for kids.

This is a celebration for kids of ALL ages — the young and the young at heart! Although everything is FREE (including lunch) there will be opportunities to support the work of Joshua's Hands. Adults will particularly enjoy the 2 pm auction. Donations accepted.

Historic Walnut Creek Farm, 39550 Meadowlark Dr, Hamilton, Va., just one mile from the intersection of Rt. 7 & Rt. 9. Information at joshuashands.org.



Lovettsville Historical Society
Upcoming Lectures

Sunday, September 13
The Loudoun Valley Campaign of 1862: McClellan's Final Advance

A life-long student of American History and the Civil War, Matthew Borders holds a B.A. in U.S. History and an M.S. in Historic Preservation. He has worked as a National Park Service ranger at Antietam National Battlefield, as well as a historian and battlefield surveyor for the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. He is a Certified Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield and Harpers Ferry National Historic Site. He and fellow Antietam Guide, Joe Stahl, have published the "Faces of Union Soldiers" series.

In 2019 Matthew Borders was honored as the recipient of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation's Dr. Joseph Harsh Award for his research topic: The Loudoun Valley Campaign of 1862: McClellan's Final Advance. This research looked into the 13 days prior to McClellan's removal from command of the Army of the Potomac, Oct. 26–Nov. 7, 1862. This period has been generally overlooked in Civil War history; however, the gravity of McClellan's final campaign and the opportunities that it offered should not be. Had his campaign been allowed to reach its conclusion, it is possible that much of the popular opinion of General McClellan, and how he waged his campaigns, would be drastically different.

Sunday, October 11
"The Monocacy Aqueduct" with John Wolz

All lectures are in-person at 2 p.m. at the St. James United Church of Christ, 10 East Broad Way in Lovettsville. We are no longer live-streaming via Zoom. Questions: events@Lovettsville-HistoricalSociety.org.

Fall Community Yard Sale
Oct. 3, 8 am–12 noon
16 S. Berlin Pike

It's that time of year again – our Fall Community Yard Sale at the Lovettsville Game Club. To sign up for a spot, contact Alex Cassidy 301-471-8706.

Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

2-Year

4.20%
APY*

3-Year

4.25%
APY*

4-Year

4.35%
APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



Meg Galvan
Financial Advisor

210 Wirt Street Sw
Leesburg, VA 20175
540-780-7772

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 06/12/26. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

LOVETTSTVILLE NEWS

Official Statements on the Valley North Transmission Line Project

The Town of Lovettsville has announced it formally opposes the Valley North Project. This is an excerpt from an announcement by Lovettsville Mayor Christopher Hornbaker:

On August 11, 2026, the Lovettsville Town Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2026-08-0002 formally opposing the Valley North Project and requesting that alternative routes and/or technologies be pursued, as well as requesting our county, regional, state, and federal elected officials and regulators seek ways to: (1) reconsider policies promoting and/or resulting in the increased energy demands, (2) investigate and require alternative sources of energy generation and localized power solutions dedicated to serving the primary consumers of the additional electricity supply for which this project is being pursued; both of which are specifically attributed to the existing and expanding data center market. I appreciate both the unanimous support of Council as well as the more than fifty citizens from the Lovettsville community who submitted written comments and/or came out to speak. Furthermore, I appreciate my fellow members of the Coalition of Loudoun Towns (COLT), that includes Mayors of the towns of Hamilton, Hillsboro, Leesburg, Middleburg and Round Hill, for lending their voice to this important matter that impacts the greater Western Loudoun region.

The Lovettsville Historical Society provided a statement in July. Here is an excerpt:

The Valley Link power line project drives right through the heart of the German Settlement, threatening historic viewscapes bordering the National Register Historic Districts and quiet historic (and non-historic) properties that include houses, churches, and cemeteries. Construction and operation of high-voltage transmission lines with their massive 150 to 175-foot towers and 200-foot rights of way makes an indelible intrusion into the nature of this historic area. Once this landscape has been compromised, it is changed forever; there is no going back, whatever may happen to the electrical or data center industries in the coming decade.

The Lovettsville Historical Society board feels it incumbent upon them as a leading history voice in the threatened area to stand by their mission and oppose the intrusion into the historic German Settlement of the Valley Link North project. ■

The full statement can be read at www.lovettsvillehistoricalsociety.org/.

Transmission Lines That Scar Our Hillsides

By JOHN P. FLANNERY

Eirik Harteis is the owner, manager and CEO of Bridgeway Bikes of Brunswick, and he lives on the Virginia side of the Potomac River near Lovettsville.

When he was a kid, Eirik delivered newspapers door to door and it gradually dawned on him that he could deliver more papers faster if he rode his bike while working his paper route.

Years later, Eirik still loves riding bikes, with the sound of rubber tires humming on ground and gravel trails passing through legacy forests with spectacular displays of nature at every turn. Eirik founded Bridgeway Bikes so that others could find their love of the road on one of his spanking new bikes (or that old bike that sorely needs repair).

Then it happened — a disturbance in the quiet, mostly rural life of persons cutting the wind with a bike. All of a sudden, transmission lines are coming from West Virginia, seeking rights-of-way across private land, in disregard of conservation easements, to serve the demanding energy and water needs of the ever-burgeoning data centers. It’s argued the power lines and data centers in combination form the necessary predicate to the existence of artificial intelligence and its growth and worldwide competition with China.



Eirik Harteis — a voice for conservation

The proposal

Valley Link Transmission Company LLC, a consortium of Dominion Energy, First Energy Transmission LLC, and Transource Energy LLC, proposes to construct a 765 kV transmission line from Putnam County, W.V. to Frederick County, Md., with a portion of the line in northwestern Loudoun County. The project also includes two new substations — one in Hardy County, W.V., and one in Frederick County, Md.

This transmission line, at 765 kV, is perhaps the largest yet in Virginia to serve the demand for data centers. These towers are 175 feet in height.

Eirik lives off Taylorstown Road in Eco Village in Loudoun County and he said Valley Link is considering putting these power lines through our community. “These lines will besmirch our wonderful gravel road and our landscape,” Eirik said.

More opposition

Molly and Sam Kroix, who raise goats and make artisan goat cheese at Georges Mill Farm, an historic Loudoun County farm going back to the 1750s, agreed with Eirik, “We don’t want the transmission lines.”

Response from community members uniformly agreed that they didn’t want these transmission lines. Most said the lines are ugly, will reduce property values, and raise electric rates.

Richard Gillespie, a retired history educator, who unearths and revives the past, and is renowned for his public lectures, lives in the 18th century Peter Sompher home in Taylorstown. He said there are in fact a number of historic German Settlement homes in the area. It’s not just his home that may be compromised.

here,” he said.

The Twisted Cat is open Tuesday through Sunday from 2–11 p.m. with plans to extend the hours in the future. ■

Richard was critical about losing the enjoyment of his own historic property and thus was concerned about these lines destroying the past. One proposed transmission line that especially concerned him ran only 100 feet from the back window of his home. Richard charged that the energy power lines are “a massive wire system coming into one of our most historic landscapes with a buzz saw.” Richard concluded, “We’re going to fight them to the end.”

Valley Link’s response

At one of the meetings with Valley Link in Lovettsville, a Link representative didn’t understand what the fuss was all about — he said there was “nothing in the way but trees.” So why not put a transmission line there?

There were 23 “open” meetings planned across the project’s study area. Some meetings were scheduled in conflict with another meeting. There was public concern that the scheduling conflict may have been calculated to suppress public attendance.

Alfred Ghiorzi, who was active in an earlier energy fight years ago, reportedly asked at a Valley Link meeting if the lines could be buried; he wasn’t satisfied with the response he got.

Conservation easements

Nor does Valley Link seem much concerned by the Eco Village’s conservation easements preserving and restricting the use of the land.

When one Valley Link representative wondered if it mattered that there were only trees on a proposed transmission pathway, he apparently was unaware that conservation easements were created to protect “open space land.”

The Virginia Open-Space Land Act, enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in 1966 authorized the use of conservation easements to maintain the character of open space land.

There were several conclusive declarations in the conservation easements for Eco Village discussing open space land including:

“The property possesses natural, scenic, and open space values (collectively ‘conservation values’) of great importance to the Grantor, the people of Loudoun County and the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, including but not limited to, numerous small streams and natural springs, mature forest, rural rolling hillsides, pervious surfaces, wildlife habitat, park-like open space, and scenic views from Taylorstown Road.”

Eirik’s final statement was that the entire transmission project was “a scar on the Short Hill Mountain.” ■

Twisted Cat Tavern Opens a New Location in Lovettsville

By PAIGE TRENDELL

With a peanut butter burger, grilled cheese roll-ups and a shredded pork and mac and cheese sandwich on the menu, the Twisted Cat Tavern certainly lives up to the “twist” in its name.

The restaurant, which has another location in Leesburg, opened in Lovettsville on July 21 in the building previously occupied by Velocity Wings.

The menu has plenty of classics such as tacos, steak and cheese and wings, but the unique dishes provide a chance to experience familiar food in a new way. A shredded pork sandwich topped with mac and cheese, coleslaw and barbecue chips allow one to taste each part of a meal in one bite.

The Nutty Cat Burger is a favorite of co-owner Pete Godden. “The first time I had it, I fell in love with it,” he said. Other fun menu items include jalapeno stuffed eggrolls, a pork belly BLT and a Thai-inspired drunken bolognese. Even though the dishes may vary, they are all made from scratch, according to Godden.

Situated on the corner of



The Twisted Cat Tavern’s “Mac-Rib” is a shredded pork sandwich topped with mac and cheese, barbecue chips and coleslaw.

Town Square and Town Center Drive, the restaurant is hard to miss, especially with the cat logo at the entrance. Godden said the cat iconography was a finishing touch of the restaurant when he and co-owner Doug Dobbins were planning the first location. They wanted a restaurant with a tavern feel, and a twist on the menu, but were missing an identity.

“I was like, ‘You know what? We love cats, let’s have a cat-themed tavern,’” Godden said.

The interior of the restaurant evokes sitting in a modern tavern. The black ceiling, walls and chairs, paired with the brown

tables and floor, create a moody feel. The large windows and lights throughout keep the interior bright enough to read a menu. Televisions on the walls provide ample entertainment, as does the cat decor scattered throughout.

General manager and Lovettsville local Hunter Adams said he believes the restaurant has been a good fit so far. “I think the town needed something like this,” he said.

Opening the new location in Lovettsville has been a positive experience, according to Godden. “I’m just in shock at how outstanding everyone’s been, and we’re very excited to be

What to do with ALL THOSE TOMATOES?

By JEAN TOLEMAN

This has been a bumper year for tomatoes. Even people with no gardening history, or only one plant on a patio, have been able to enjoy fresh home-grown tomatoes. For those of us who had low expectations and planted more than we needed, boy have we been surprised!

Between all the rain and the warm days, tomato plants have been happy and the fruit is still coming on strong. The first local tomatoes were harvested in July and here it is September. We have eaten tomato sandwiches, tomato salad, made fresh tomato sauce, and maybe canned or froze tomatoes. Now what? What are we going to do with all those tomatoes?

Native to South America, tomatoes are from the nightshade family and are actually a fruit, though the U.S. Supreme Court declared them a vegetable in 1893! They are extremely versatile and are part of many of our favorite recipes. Where would we be without tomato sauce on pasta or pizza? And what is a BLT without the tomato?

Tomatoes are an important part of a well-balanced healthy diet due to their high level of



Tomatoes from Blacksmith Farm at Brunswick Farmers Market in August.

lycopene, an antioxidant that plays an important role in reducing risk of heart disease and certain cancers. Its vitamin A content helps reduce the harmful effects of sun damage on skin and supports eye structures which help with night vision. They are high in fiber and low in calories.

What to do with all the extras? Try these recipes. ■

Tomato Pie

This is a true southern classic. Serve with a fresh ear of corn and a cucumber salad and you have a wonderful late summer meal.

- 3-4 large tomatoes
- Pie shell
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. corn meal or bread crumbs
- ½ cup onion, finely chopped
- ¼ cup sliced fresh basil and a pinch of dill
- 2 cups (8 oz) grated cheese (sharp cheddar, mozzarella, or blue)
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. hot sauce
- Black pepper

Pre-bake pie shell until lightly brown.

Halve the tomatoes and squeeze out the juice, then roughly chop. You should have about 3 cups. Sprinkle with ½ tsp. of salt and set in a colander to drain for about 30 minutes.

In pre-baked pie shell, sprinkle 2 Tbsp of corn meal or bread crumbs on the bottom. Spread the chopped onion over the corn meal. Squeeze liquid out of tomatoes in paper towels. Spread the tomatoes over onion. Sprinkle sliced basil and dill over the tomatoes. In a bowl, mix grated cheese, mayo, egg, hot sauce and black pepper together. Spread over top of pie.

Bake 20 minutes at 425 degrees. Remove pie from oven and lower temperature to 375 degrees. Wrap edges of pie crust in foil, return pie to oven and continue baking until firm and golden. Let cool for 1 hour.

Gordon Ramsay Tomato Relish

This relish can be used in place of ketchup, is great with fish or chicken or alongside a cheese board. Makes about 4 pints.

- 5 cups of ripe tomatoes, peeled, chopped and seeded (removing seeds and some moisture cuts the cooking time)
- 2 limes (zest + juice)
- 1 Tbsp fresh grated ginger (decrease this by half to reduce the heat)
- 1 cup sugar (can decrease to two-thirds cup for less sweet)
- ½ tsp red pepper flakes
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- ⅛ tsp ground cloves
- ½ red onion, diced

Zest and juice the limes, grate the ginger, dice onion, seed and chop tomatoes. In large saucepan (a wide, shallow pan will shorten the cooking time), combine all ingredients. Stir to mix. Bring to a simmer on medium heat. Stir every few minutes. Cook uncovered for 30-35 minutes, until thickened and reduced by one-fourth. Let cool completely. Store in clean sterilized, airtight jars in fridge or freezer.

Source: gordonramsayeats.com



www.blueridgeautorepair.com

Ten Suggestions for Success

- 1. Work at something you enjoy and that's worthy of your time and talent.
- 2. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
- 3. Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know.
- 4. Discipline yourself to save money on the even the most modest salary.
- 5. Commit yourself to constant improvement.
- 6. Commit yourself to quality.
- 7. Be decisive even if it means you'll sometimes be wrong.
- 8. Stop blaming others. Take responsibility for every area of your life.
- 9. Be bold and courageous. When you look back at your life, you'll regret the things you didn't do more than ones you did.
- 10. Take good care of those you love.

Adapted from H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

1631 Jefferson Pike, Knoxville, MD 21758
301-969-0088

Airport, Cruise, & Train Terminals

Corporate Accounts, Meetings & Conferences

Wedding Transfers & Shuttles

Bachelor / Bachelorette Parties

Winery / Brewery Events & Birthday Celebrations

Funerals & Memorials

Nights on the Town

Concerts & Sporting Events

ON THE TOWN Limousines, Inc.

info@OnTheTownLimousines.com

www.OnTheTownLimousines.com

301-695-5466

Licensed & Insured

PSC #3186

DOT Authorized

01273192

State of Maryland

Best of Weddings

2024

SEDANS • SUVs • VANS • LIMOUSINES • MERCEDES SPRINTERS • LIMOUSINES

PARTY BUSES • WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE & EXECUTIVE MINI-COACH BUSES

MOTOR COACHES • TROLLEY

THE LEARNING TREE



**EARLY LEARNING CENTER
& BEFORE & AFTER CARE PROGRAM**

Where Learning
and Fun
Come Together!

- MAIN CENTER**
607 E D. Street
Brunswick, MD 21716
- 301-834-7577**
- learningtree60@yahoo.com**

AGES 2-12 YEARS OLD



THE LEARNING TREE MAIN CENTER

- ★ Ages 2-5 Years Old
- ★ Kind, Caring, and Experienced Staff
- ★ Fun, Educational Curriculum
- ★ Safe and Nurturing Environment



BEFORE & AFTER CARE PROGRAM

- ★ Located at Brunswick Elementary School
- ★ 400 Central Ave Brunswick, MD 21716
- ★ Before School, After School
- ★ Homework Help & Fun Activities

★ **EXCELS LEVEL 3**

★ **OPEN MONDAY – FRIDAY
6:30 AM – 6:00 PM**

**ENROLLING
FOR FALL NOW!**

★ **CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A TOUR
AND SECURE YOUR SPOT!** ★

A safe, caring, and educational environment where your child can grow and thrive!



Wild Fatigue: A Case for Chaos and Order

By MARIANNE WILLBURN

In a gardening age of wild, new wild, post-wild, or re-wild, the new radicals may begin to seek more order. I know I am.

‘Tidy’ isn’t popular in modern gardening circles — perhaps because it’s forever attached to the millions of non-gardeners being ‘neat’ with electric-green lawns and foundation shrubs and never-used outdoor kitchens. Through the power-networks of housing associations, they have been known to wage war against the gardener who cares about those strange green objects that grow outside.

I’m leaving these people aside for the moment — actually, to be more precise, inside, where they normally reside. Instead, I’m talking about gardeners, and the delicate, beautiful balance of chaos and order that, kept balanced, breathes both energy and stability into gardens.

Wild weary

The tremendous push towards wild over the last two decades can leave the semi-skilled gardener feeling unsettled on a late summer afternoon. ‘Wild’ pardons all manner of sins on paper or on Instagram, but in an Eastern temperate forest ecoregion on a hot summer’s day after a thunderstorm, the reality of ‘wild’ is overwhelming.

Saplings and vines encroach from the woods; poison ivy and goldenrod find a rhizomatous foothold in ‘low maintenance’ perennial beds; lines blur and textures homogenize quickly.

Though the new-wild movement has been disseminated far and wide as the new-normal, not everyone has the skill to manage ‘wild’ in a way that feels curated and comforting. Often it is only the blade of the mower or the string of the trimmer that draws the line between ‘garden’ and ‘wild.’

In many prairie-style gardens made so popular by the wilding movement (whether in the Pacific Northwest or on the Eastern Seaboard), textures that blur together and then into the surrounding area can feel visually exhausting and overwhelming, even to gardeners who take great joy in the complex systems that surround them.

A need for order

I am finding it interesting lately that in my most manic

moments — when I have been travelling extensively, or preoccupied for too long with matters at home, it is that very sense of chaos that compels me to walk past the extensive naturalistic parts of my garden that echo frenetic energy, and instead head towards the more ordered part — the kitchen garden.

This area is surrounded by a board fence, painted black and originally constructed to protect the vegetables from deer. In time, it also provided rest and respite from the wilder planting style that fully surrounds it.

Here I attend a small collection of hardy succulents, slowly and deliberately weeding carpet spurge and clover from between tight clusters of Sedum and Sem-pervivum.

The raised vegetable beds set in geometric patterns are carefully curated. Flopping leaves of chard are removed to make way for fresh new foliage; yellowing tomato foliage is clipped and escaping stems are pushed back into their support cages to keep walkways clear.

I clip wayward stems of the tall verbena that are not fulfilling their purpose as colorful vertical accents, and I de-brown the two rectangular perennial borders that flank the raised beds. If the gravel pathways have begun to sprout seedlings, I scuff them with a stirrup hoe, and rake the resultant pristine gravel like a Zen Buddhist.

In short, I manicure. Sharp lines. Precise strokes. Open spaces. And it feels quietly euphoric to step back when I’m done and experience a sense of short-lived control. In that head-space I can wander my curated wilder garden feeling more settled and calm, and dip into the wonder without feeling smothered by it.

The raw energy of a garden comes from the beautiful chaos of its complex systems — but translating that energy to human scale takes more than curating the wild. It also takes cultivating pockets of tidy: places that offer contrast, rest and balance.

That shouldn’t be radical — good garden design needs both. ■

Marianne is a podcaster at The Garden Mixer and contributing editor for GardenRant. She writes from her home and garden in Lovettsville, Virginia.

Knoxville Farm Provides a U-Pick Experience

By PAIGE TRENDELL

At Realtime Farm Nursery & Gardens in Knoxville, customers can pick the produce they buy and often sample directly from the plants. This is one of the benefits of growing organic produce, according to Kumar Bonla, who operates the farm with his wife, Revathy Bonla.

“You know where you are getting your vegetables from, and being organic, you can taste right away at the farm,” he said.

The 13-acre farm, located at 846 Jefferson Pike, encompasses fields of produce, greenhouses and flowerbeds, along with 200 free-range chickens. The chickens produce around 100 eggs daily, according to Revathy Bonla.

Over 40 types of produce

This year, there are over 40 types of produce. Some are more familiar to the Brunswick area, such as potatoes, tomatoes, peas and peppers. Others, known as the “specialty” crops, are most commonly grown in India, where Kumar and Revathy Bonla are from.

Customer Nirnanjan Adusumali said he enjoyed picking his own produce at Realtime Farm during his most recent visit. “You feel the freshness of the vegetables. When you cook and eat [them], you know the difference,” he said.

Realtime Farm is about halfway through earning its USDA Organic Certification – a three-year process.

Even though they started the farm in 2021, Kumar and Revathy Bonla have decades of agriculture experience. Kumar Bonla grew up on a farm and said he has been interested in farming since childhood.

Revathy Bonla earned her PhD in plant science and currently works as a plant science researcher. “Agriculture is my passion. I like growing vegetables and experimenting with the plants,” she said.

Organic and regenerative practices

Realtime Farm participates in regenerative agriculture. Re-



Avighnya Beloor (right) hands a chicken to her friend Tanushritha Bonla (left) at Realtime Farm on Aug. 15, 2026. Both girls are members of a gardening 4H club that planted their own crops at the farm.

vathy Bonla said this includes their organic practice of not using chemicals, pesticides or synthetic fertilizers, as well as protecting soil nutrients and encouraging pollination.

Not only is the produce organic, but most of the specialty plants have medicinal value. Many of them provide the daily value for certain vitamins and minerals, according to Kumar Bonla.

“If you take these vegetables on a regular basis, you don’t need to depend on vitamins,” he said.

One of their popular crops, bitter melon, is high in Vitamin C and can help lower blood sugar, according to a 2025 Healthline article. As the name suggests, bitter melon is a large, pill-shaped gourd with a bitter taste.

Moringa, a leafy plant that is often added to dishes as a powder, is known as “the plant of life.” It is rich in calcium,

protein and vitamins A and C, according to a 2022 study published in Plant-Based Diets and Their Antioxidant Role in Human Health. Red sorrel and malabar spinach are other superfoods popular with customers. Revathy Bonla said customers receive nutritional information and recipes for purchased produce.

A family enterprise

Even though running an organic farm has its challenges, one of the benefits has been working together as a family. Kumar and Revathy Bonla have two daughters who often help with the plants and chickens. “We didn’t think our kids would be so into it,” Kumar said.

He encourages others in the community to visit and pick produce with their families. “Come here, pick your own vegetables... [and] know where you are getting your vegetables from.” ■



A view inside one of the greenhouses at Realtime Farm. Owners Revathy and Kumar Bonla hope to use the greenhouses to help them produce crops year-round.

Thinking about an eye exam?
Give us a call!
301-834-6400

Brunswick Family Vision Center
Carolyn V. Ormes, O.D.
15 E. Potomac Street Brunswick, MD 21716
www.brunswickpublicspectacle.com

Help Wanted: Optician – Please call us!

GARDENING SHOULDN'T BE BORING.

NOW ON
YouTube

STIRRED UP BY
LESLIE HARRIS
&
MARIANNE WILLBURN

THE
GARDEN MIXER
A GARDEN PODCAST

HAWKINS
LANDSCAPING INC.

(301) 898-3615

**Voted Best
Landscaping Company
11 years in a row**

Our mission is simple: to turn your outdoor spaces into living works of art that reflect your dreams

8408 Links Bridge Road; Thurmont, MD 21788
Serving Frederick and surrounding Counties for 51 years
www.hawkinslandscaping.com

LOCAL NEWS

Maryland General Assembly Candidates on the Ballot Nov. 3

By MARK ROHNER

Brunswick area voters will elect at least one new representative to the Maryland General Assembly on Nov. 3.

Republican Del. Barrie Ciliberti, 90, is retiring after representing Maryland's District 4 since 2015. The two other delegates from District 4, Republicans Jesse Pippy and April Miller, are seeking re-election. A third Republican in the race is Jason Keckler.

Pippy, a lawyer, has served in the House of Delegates since 2019 and has been minority whip since 2023. Miller has been a member of the House of Delegates since 2023. An optometrist, she served on the Frederick County Board of Education from 2010 until 2018. Keckler is retired after serving 22 years as a Frederick police officer and six years on the Maryland Parole Commission.

Democrats seeking the three District 4 seats are Jerry Donald, Andrew Duck and Alleria Stanley. Donald, a teacher in Frederick County, is running for the House of Delegates after serving the maximum three terms on the Frederick County Council. Duck, a retired military intelligence officer who served in Bosnia and Iraq, ran unsuccessfully for a District 4 House of Delegates seat in 2022. Stanley is retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service, including combat duty in Afghanistan. She is a member of the Frederick County Human Relations Commission.

In the race for state senator from District 4, Republican incumbent William Folden, a U.S. Army veteran and former law enforcement officer, is running for a third term. He is opposed by Democrat Lara Westdorp, a former Congressional staffer who most recently was chief of staff for State Sen. Ron Young.

The Brunswick News-Journal posed two questions to the General Assembly candidates. Here are their answers.



STATE SENATE

William Folden (R)

What conditions should the state place on further data center development? Should the state put a moratorium on data center construction for one year?

Maryland's economic growth should never come at the expense of our communities, natural resources, or infrastructure. While data centers promise investment, they also place significant demands on our electric grid, water supply, transportation network, and neighboring communities. These impacts deserve careful scrutiny before additional projects move forward. Maryland should establish clear statewide standards requiring independent assessments of energy and water use, protections for grid reliability, meaningful community engagement, environmental safeguards, infrastructure improvements, and full transparency regarding taxpayer incentives. Developers must also demonstrate lasting public benefits that outweigh the long-term costs to residents.

Given the many unanswered questions surrounding these projects, I support a one-year moratorium on new large-scale data center approvals. A temporary pause would give lawmakers, state agencies, utilities, local governments, and community stakeholders the opportunity to develop a comprehensive framework that protects Maryland's resources and ensures any future development is truly in the public interest. Our responsibility is to put Maryland residents first by making thoughtful, informed decisions not rushing into projects with lasting consequences.

Does Maryland need stricter campaign finance regulations and ethics rules for public officials?

Marylanders deserve a government they can trust. I support strong ethics standards, transparency, and strict enforcement of the campaign finance laws already on the books. Before creating more regulations, we should focus on making sure existing laws are enforced fairly and consistently. Public officials should be held accountable, conflicts of interest should be disclosed, and taxpayers should have confidence that decisions are made in the public's best interest not for political donors or special interests. We should strengthen transparency where needed while avoiding unnecessary regulations that make it hard-

er for everyday citizens, grassroots candidates, and small donors to participate in the political process.

Lara Westdorp (D)

What conditions should the state place on further data center development? Should the state put a moratorium on data center construction for one year?

Let's all keep in mind that under current state law local jurisdictions have authority over land use decisions. So, a statewide moratorium, established by the Maryland General Assembly (MGA), may not be legal. Measures the MGA can take:

- Repeal the 2020 tax exemptions for data centers (SB397/CH640).
- Reinstate the Public Service Commission requirements for data center backup systems (2024 SB474).
- Require data centers to be self-sufficient in their water and power consumption.
- Require data centers to cover expenses for public water usage, road maintenance, pollution monitoring, and fire & safety equipment and training.
- Require data centers to offset their electrical use with solar or wind power generation fed back into the electrical grid.
- Require Tier IV or better standards for their diesel generators.
- Expand funding for state rural and agriculture preservation programs.
- Require data centers provide for public schools and facilities within 1 mile of a data center the installation and maintenance of: (1) HEPA-only filters and MERV 13+ filters in heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system; (2) air quality sensor network that monitors particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide; (3) sound levels below 45 dBA or 55 dBC.

Does Maryland need stricter campaign finance regulations and ethics rules for public officials?

Yes.

Skip stronger campaign finance regulations and let's make substantive democratic changes to how Maryland elects its representatives. Starting with public financing for all elections. This would severely limit how much could be spent on a campaign, the funding sources, and enable qualified non-millionaires to run for office. The current notion that viable candidates are those who can raise money shifts the focus from whether the candidate is actually qualified to do the job. Furthermore, we need to add rank choice voting, term limits,

and limit elections to 8 weeks for the primary and an additional 8 weeks for the general election. All of these measures will level the playing field for true representation of all people in our elections.

We also need to fundamentally rethink Maryland Ethics rules and how they apply to elected officials. We the People own our government, we pay for the salaries of our elected officials, and our vote is essentially the job performance report on each elected official. So, it's common sense that substantiated charges and guilty findings against elected officials, whether human resources complaints, felony charges, ethics charges, or House/Senate sanctions, should be made available to the public.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Jerry Donald (D)

What conditions should the state place on further data center development? Should the state put a moratorium on data center construction for one year?

The state should require data centers to provide the electricity and water needed to run a data center. This would push them to be much more efficient by switching to using things like dielectric fluid technology, which is more efficient but costlier to build.

I voted against the expansion of the data center overlay and I wanted stronger regulations on how high and how close to residential areas data centers should be. It's nice to see other candidates and public officials coming around to my point of view.

Yes, a moratorium for a year is a good start.

Does Maryland need stricter campaign finance regulations and ethics rules for public officials?

I would like to have a campaign system where candidates have equal amounts of money and we have multiple debates and forums for the public to meet the candidates.

Unfortunately, Supreme Court decisions have made spending by anonymous groups so prevalent that I'm not sure how changing Maryland's laws would improve anything.



As for ethics laws, at the County level it is pretty strict. At the state level it would not hurt to review what we have and consider if it's in need of change.

It is at the national level that the ethics rules really need to change. Congress members should not be trading stocks with information unavailable to the public. Presidents should not make billions of dollars while in office. Our founders would be appalled.

Andrew Duck (D)

What conditions should the state place on further data center development? Should the state put a moratorium on data center construction for one year?

I support putting a moratorium on data center construction for one year, but that is not even near sufficient. It is merely a temporary smoke screen.

We should begin by repealing the 2024 legislation (SB 474/HB 579) that exempted data center generators from environmental and safety regulations. Data centers should not get special treatment.

They should follow the same laws as everyone else. DO NOT BE FOOLED. The incumbents all co-sponsored that legislation. They claim to want to block the data centers, but they caused the problem.

We should restrict approval of additional data centers until we have sufficient electricity and water to operate them, not just for one year. Our utilities should invest in clean energy sources with large scale energy storage built into the grid. We should support rooftop solar for residential homeowners.

We need to regulate Artificial Intelligence. We should enact legislation to protect individual privacy, make all user agreements revokable, and ensure that people own the right to their image, likeness, and data. We should use anti-trust laws to break up the Big Tech monopolies to provide competition.

Does Maryland need stricter campaign finance regulations and ethics rules for public officials?

Yes. Maryland should ban corporate donations to political campaigns, as is the policy for federal offices. I have chosen not to accept any corporate contributions. I support restoring the Fairness Act to require equal time for all candidates, to eliminate the advantage of excessive campaign spending.

If it is self-evident that all of us are created equal, then it should be self-evident that



LOCAL NEWS

Maryland General Assembly Candidates on the Ballot Nov. 3 CONTINUED

money is not speech, corporations are not people, and that no one — not billionaires, not data centers, not elected officials — are above the law. Every citizen should have as much right to speak as a billionaire.

Currently billionaires can spend unlimited funds to drown out any other speech. It is no longer one person, one vote. It is one dollar one vote.

Corporations are not people. Currently corporations can spend unlimited funds to enable them to make more money, crowding out the speech of real people.

The law should apply to everyone equally. Data centers should not be excepted from regulations, and Big Tech companies and the President should have to follow the law like everyone else.

People feel that the government no longer works for us. We need a change.

Jason Keckler (R)

Jason Keckler did not respond to multiple attempts to reach him.

April Miller (R)

What conditions should the state place on further data center development? Should the state put a moratorium on data center construction for one year?

Yes, Maryland absolutely needs a moratorium on hyperscale data center construction. In fact, I have repeatedly fought for a two-year pause to give our state time to implement comprehensive, protective siting standards.

During the special session, I cross-filed a two-year moratorium bill with Senator Lewis-Young, but legislative leadership refused to allow it a hearing or a vote. I subsequent-



ly drafted floor amendments to pause development until state guidelines are established and to force the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to evaluate the cumulative environmental impact of diesel generators on these campuses. Both efforts were blocked by leadership.

We cannot allow unchecked development to outpace regulation. Moving forward, the state must implement strict conditions on data center development, informed by the cautionary lessons of Loudoun County and the forthcoming Maryland Data Center Study.

Specifically, the state must establish guidelines that guarantee: (1) An absolute prohibition on placing data centers on our rural legacy land.(2) Mandatory environmental, noise and vibration protections for schools and neighborhoods near proposed hyperscale data centers. (3) Rigorous, cumulative impact evaluations for power usage and emissions and protection for our water resources.

It is time for state leaders to start proactively protecting Maryland's communities and natural resources before the damage is irreversible.

Does Maryland need stricter campaign finance regulations and ethics rules for public officials?

Yes, Maryland urgently needs stricter campaign finance and ethics rules. The hyperscale data center crisis in Frederick County demonstrates exactly why the public is losing faith in our political process. When major infrastructure decisions are driven by special interests and heavy lobbying instead of community input, the system is fundamentally broken.

The weaponization of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) and secret Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) by elected officials is entirely unacceptable. Public servants cannot hide negotiations regarding issues like pub-

lic land and power grids, for example, from the constituents they serve.

Jesse Pippy (R)

What conditions should the state place on further data center development? Should the state put a moratorium on data center construction for one year?

The state should implement a statewide moratorium on data centers until further notice. Our citizens have had enough with data centers. I introduced a data center moratorium for Frederick County earlier this year, but it did not receive the full support of our Delegation: Pippy proposes data center moratorium bill for Frederick County | Data Centers | fredericknewspost.com



Does Maryland need stricter campaign finance regulations and ethics rules for public officials?

I believe Maryland should implement stricter campaign finance laws. Our citizens deserve leaders they can trust. I have and will continue to support legislation that increases ethics rules for all public officials.

Alleria Stanley (D)

What conditions should the state place on further data center development? Should the state put a moratorium on data center construction for one year?

Maryland must enact a one-year moratorium on all new data center construction. Pausing approvals gives state leaders, county officials, and local citizens vital breathing room to craft deliberate, effective legislation rather than reacting to aggressive corporate expansion. This pause will allow us to establish strict state conditions for any future development.

First, data centers must zero out their impact on our power grid. Tech companies must bring their own clean energy assets or fund grid capacity upgrades directly at their own expense. Second, the state must mandate zero water contamination and enforce maximum water recycling requirements. Protecting regional watersheds and private wells near Adamstown and Knoxville remains a paramount priority. Third, developers must utilize every available method to eliminate air and noise pollution. Regulators must mandate quiet, zero-emission battery arrays instead of fossil-fuel backup generators and enforce strict decibel limits at property boundaries.

Taking time now to draft comprehensive rules ensures industrial technology serves Marylanders safely without threatening energy affordability, clean water, or community peace. A one-year moratorium gives us the power to put human health, environmental sustainability, and local accountability at the very center of state law.

Does Maryland need stricter campaign finance regulations and ethics rules for public officials?

Maryland requires significantly stricter campaign finance laws and public ethics rules to safeguard our democracy. Unchecked campaign spending

drowns out the voices of everyday residents in towns like Brunswick, Adamstown, and Knoxville. To ensure fair elections, Maryland must mandate immediate disclosure of all digital political advertising, dark money contributions, and independent expenditure campaigns. Transparency allows voters to follow the money and evaluate who funds political messaging.

Furthermore, state ethics laws must require full financial transparency from public officials, including detailed disclosures of personal investments, gifts, and secondary income sources. We must empower the State Ethics Commission with stronger enforcement authority and meaningful financial penalties to hold violators accountable.

When public officials operate under strict ethical guidelines, they make decisions based on the public good rather than private enrichment. Strengthening campaign finance limits and closing statutory loopholes will ensure that legislative priorities reflect genuine community needs. By elevating transparency and demanding strict accountability, we can rebuild trust in state government and give local voters the strong, independent representation they deserve in Annapolis. ■





Five Dances
Wellness Center

Massage Now Available!

Meet our two new massage therapists:

<u>Sammie</u>	&	<u>Nicole</u>
<u>Saturdays</u>		<u>Tuesdays</u>
10-3		10 - 7

Book relaxation today at 301-834-7411
or office@fivedanceswellness.com

8 S Maryland Ave
Brunswick, MD



Real Estate Teams LLC



SOLD

224 Tamarack Way
Brunswick MD
\$389,900 4 BR 2 BA



Hubert R. Brown, III "Huey"
Local, Honest, Experienced
huey@hueysells.com
www.hueysells.com
301-695-3020 (Office)
301-748-3802 (cell)
301-834-4048 (Local)



SOLD

523 W Potomac St.
Brunswick, 3 BR
1 1/2 BA \$287,900

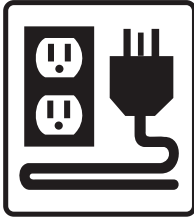


SOLD

8914 Gloria Ave.
Middletown
3 BR 2 BA \$489,900

100's OF HOMES SOLD IN THE LOCAL AREA!

RSE Ricketts Family LLC



RICKETTS
Electric

301-732-4889 • rickettselectric@comcast.net

Residential/Commercial



AIRPORT VIEW
SIGNS
FREDERICK, MD

www.avsigns.net



CREATIVEEDGE
SIGNS & GRAPHICS

www.creativeedgesigns.com

LOCAL NEWS

County Executive, Sheriff in High-Profile Races

By MARK ROHNER

Two of the most high-profile Frederick County races highlight contentious issues — data centers and immigration enforcement — that have energized voters nationwide.

Incumbent County Executive Jessica Fitzwater, a Democrat, is defending her record on data center development, including support for additional acreage in the overlay zone that allowed expansion of the data center campus near Adamstown. Fitzwater, who supported the overlay zone, in July announced a temporary freeze on new data center approvals

She is being challenged by former Frederick Mayor Jeff Holtzinger, a Republican who opposes further data center development beyond currently approved projects, at least for the time being.

In the Sheriff's race, Republican incumbent Chuck Jenkins faces a fourth challenge from Democrat Karl Bickel, a former Frederick County deputy sheriff and former U.S. Justice Department official. They have clashed over Jenkins's support for so-called 287g agreements allowing local law enforcement to partner with federal immigration authorities. Jenkins was among leaders of an effort by Maryland sheriffs to stop legislation outlawing the agreements in the state.

Here are answers from the county executive and sheriff's candidates to questions posed by the Brunswick News-Journal answers.



COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater (D)

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

Over the past four years, we regulated data centers more heavily than any other industry because we don't want to experience the unchecked growth that happened in northern Virginia. We did it the Frederick County way — by bringing people together, having honest conversations, and making decisions that prioritize our health, safety, and quality of life.

The data centers currently under construction were approved before I was elected. When I became County Executive, I convened a workgroup that held eight public meetings, and I paused data-center related rezonings for over a year while the workgroup listened to residents. We adopted the workgroup's recommendations and passed stronger laws requiring setbacks, screening, and design standards and regulating sound, light, and vibration to limit the impact of data centers on the Adamstown community.

We fought sprawl by limiting development to the area in and around the old East Alcoa site, where data centers are already being built. Moving forward, I will fight to further limit data center development, reduce the amount of water data centers are allowed to use, increase data center taxes, and require developers to make additional direct investments in schools, parks, and agricultural preservation.

What are your plans to expand affordable housing options in Frederick County?

Families are working harder to make ends meet, and I am focused on making Frederick County more affordable for everyone. For too long, our Board

of County Commissioners let developers build acre upon acre of McMansions, which priced people out of the market. Those days are gone. With nearly 1 in 5 households spending more than 30% of their income on housing, we must prioritize projects that help working families and older residents.

As county executive, I am using existing assets to build housing — including workforce housing on county-owned land near the intersection of US-15 and US-40 and senior housing at the Taney Avenue Senior Center and Montevue. I increased funding for our Housing Initiative Fund, which supports homebuyer assistance and senior housing rehabilitation programs.

Housing isn't the only area where residents need help. I announced a pre-K scholarship pilot program to help families with childcare, and I worked with our County Council to expand our senior tax credit. Moving forward, I will continue to implement our plan to build new homes, increase funding for affordable housing, preserve existing housing, and update building and zoning policies to streamline development.

W. Jeff Holtzinger (R)

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

At this point in time, no. There are too many outstanding questions as to adequate public facilities to serve more data centers and as to the impacts on the surrounding areas and neighborhoods. An extremely important issue is to get answers to any required water use for cooling or otherwise for any more data centers. Frederick County has limited additional water supply to allocate and the Potomac River is not an unlimited resource.

Additionally, the county government needs to have a better understanding of how sustainable the anticipated property tax revenue stream will be from these data centers and how these data centers will impact county residents' electric bills and the potential strain on electric service in the county. There

are too many unanswered questions and unresolved issues to proceed with any further data center development.

What are your plans to expand affordable housing in Frederick County?

The county has very limited tools to address affordable housing other than providing heavily subsidized housing which shifts the costs to other county taxpayers. One potential tool is to encourage Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and make the process more streamlined to get approval for ADUs. The county will also need to advocate with the Frederick County Health Department to make its process in connection with ADUs more customer friendly.

Another is to provide more incentives to developers to build affordable units. This may include increasing the fee in lieu of amounts to make it more optimal for developers to build the units rather paying the fee. Another is to provide an expedited time frame for approvals for developments that include substantial affordable housing units. Requirements for development approvals for developments with substantial affordable units could also be relaxed. However, this would likely involve reducing requirements for adequate public facilities, which would likely cause negative impacts on existing surrounding neighborhoods. Therefore, this is the least desirable option. It is a difficult balance to achieve.

Finally, reducing the property tax burden on property owners will help. Increasing the property taxes every year has made the county less affordable.

SHERIFF

Chuck Jenkins (R)

Five of the largest Maryland counties (Baltimore, Montgomery, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Howard) have

their own police departments. Should Frederick County continue with the current system of electing the chief law enforcement officer? Why?

Yes, the current system best serves Frederick County citizens. One of many distinct advantages of a sheriff over an appointed county police chief is having direct accountability to the voters. Sheriffs answer directly to the public they serve rather than local politicians. Politicians will potentially influence the actions and decisions of a police chief, not a sheriff. A sheriff cannot be fired abruptly by a council, county executive, or manager but can be voted out. The sheriff has the autonomy to prioritize and direct agency focus and resources rather than political agendas.

A sheriff has the authority to make independent administrative, budgetary, and operational decisions that best serve the constituents. The sheriff is highly visible with town halls, public events, and programs that build public trust. A sheriff possesses the ability to provide constituency driven service to intervene in any situation and resolve that situation quickly. That ability best serves the interests of the citizens. I have learned through my 20 years as sheriff, that there is no elected official closer to the people than the sheriff.

Frederick County should never diminish the office of sheriff by creating a county police department and the cost to taxpayers would be enormous.

What role, if any, should local law enforcement have in enforcing federal immigration laws?

Local law enforcement (sheriffs) and corrections could and should play an important role in assisting the Department of Homeland Security/ICE in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. Laws passed by the Maryland Legislature in 2026 prohibit sheriffs and jails from working with ICE under any 287g program agreement and prohibited any cooperation



OFFUTT, HORMAN, BURDETTE & MAY PA
Attorneys at Law

GEORGE T. HORMAN
and CHRIS MAY



Attorneys
Estate Planning
Estate Probate
Real Estate
Corporate Law
Collections
Family Law

301-662-8248
gth@ohblaw.com
cmmlawatt@netzero.com
221 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Holiday Bazaar

Homemade Gifts, Creative Crafts,
Holiday Decor and more!

14 November 2026 10 am - 4 pm

The American Legion Post 96 – Memorial Hall
18 S. Maple Avenue – Brunswick, MD 21716

Crafters and Vendors
Wanted!

For details and information, contact:
Darby Sinclair – Phone: 301-606-8840
Email: darbydozier@gmail.com

Proceeds benefit
Operation Happy Holidays
at Fort Detrick



MULCH & MUMS

2 Cu.ft. for
only \$4.00

\$5 to \$15
Come and get 'em!

Chrysanthemums!
Perennials - they come back
every year

D.R. Virts

800 Petersville Rd Brunswick, MD
(at Center Street) 8 am to 5 pm
Store: 301-969-6115 DR Virts: 240-285-7141
Cash and credit cards accepted

County Executive, Sheriff in High-Profile Races CONTINUED

or sharing of information with ICE by passing the “Community Trust Act”. The passing of both laws has made Maryland a sanctuary state for criminals and less safe. The Sheriff’s Office is currently in compliance with Maryland law.

Local sheriffs and corrections should be able at minimum to cooperate and share information with ICE regarding criminal illegal aliens in custody, prior to their release. Without 287g, criminal aliens cannot be identified upon arrest, so there is no access to databases or way of knowing where the criminals may be from or their criminal history, placing county residents at risk.

If allowed by law, I would

cooperate to extent possible with ICE to report and hand over criminal illegal aliens to their custody. Over 18 years, the 287g Program in Frederick County has facilitated the removal of 1,184 criminal aliens. Frederick County residents are safer because of 287g.

Karl Bickel (D)

Five of the largest Maryland counties (Baltimore, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Anne Arundel, Howard) have their own police departments. Should Frederick County continue with the current system of electing the chief law enforcement officer? Why?

Particularly in light of the

current sheriff’s previous indictment for a federal crime, which would have called for the firing of a police chief, an at will employee, for cause, or the firing of a rank-and-file law enforcement officer following an administrative hearing, the issue is worth serious deliberation.

The only prerequisite to run for sheriff is an age and residency requirement, woefully inadequate for the selection of a chief law enforcement officer. The current sheriff would not pass a



background investigation for federal employment, and even a convicted felon can run for sheriff. Forming a county police department is a political decision to be made on its merits by the county council following their due diligence, and with community input. It is worth considering.

Some time ago I developed a White Paper on the feasibility of a county police department for Frederick County. Interested parties can request a copy at Bickel4Sheriff.com.

What role, if any, should local law enforcement have in enforcing federal immigration laws?

To the detriment of our county, under the current sheriff there has been considerable political theatre surrounding the

enforcement of federal immigration laws punctuated with misinformation and fear mongering.

The sheriff is obligated, by oath, to follow the laws promulgated by the state legislature, and with the advice of Maryland’s Attorney General, concerning the enforcement of federal immigration laws. The sheriff’s office has no direct role in the enforcement of immigration laws beyond cooperating with immigration officials the same way the sheriff’s office cooperates with other federal agencies like the FBI, DEA, ATF, etc.

If elected, I will follow the law and the advice of our Attorney General regarding any limits surrounding cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials. ■

HEMP'S MEATS

Full Service Country Butcher Shop Since 1849

Quality Products - Competitive Prices

Chef Brody Says

“Get your
QUALITY BEEF - FRESH CHICKEN
FRESH PORK - SEAFOOD AND MORE
at Hemp's!”



Chef Brody 301-473-5700 3740 JEFFERSON PIKE, JEFFERSON

Brunswick Porch Sitters

Join Us !! **Wednesday,
September 9, 2026**

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

(NO politics, though!)

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

10:00 am at the
City Park Building
655 East Potomac St

Rumor Control Headquarters

Sponsored by the
Brunswick Area Rec. Council





Frederick County Parks & Recreation FALL RECREATER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Join us this fall for exciting programs the whole family will love!



Scan code to explore our 2026 Fall RECREATER Program Guide & Sports Leagues Guides!

View online or find a location to pick up a printed copy.



301-600-2936
RECREATER.COM

  @frederickparksandrec

C. M. Bloomers Florist & Gifts

*Flowers for every day
and your Special Days*

*Designing Quality Flowers for all occasions
for over 32 years in Brunswick
also a great place to find a gift, home decor
for all seasons, plants and so much more*

301-834-8200 * 1-800-352-8833
76 Souder Road; Brunswick, MD 21716
www.cmbloomersflorist.com



Sen. Folden sponsored bill allowing Adamstown Data Center to move forward

State Senator Bill Folden (District 4) was among Maryland elected officials who sponsored the bills that exempted data center diesel generators from state approval.

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals –

3 Definition of Generating Station

4 (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)

SENATE BILL 474

(4lr4580)

C5

ENROLLED BILL

— Education, Energy, and the Environment / Economic Matters —

Introduced by The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators

Augustine, Bailey, Beidle, Brooks, Carozza, Charles, Corderman, Ferguson,

Folden, Gallion, Hershey, Hettleman, Lam, McKay, Ready, Rosapepe,

Waldstreicher, and West

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals –

3 Definition of Generating Station

4 (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)

5 FOR the purpose of altering and establishing the definition of “generating station” for the

6 purpose of exempting the construction of certain generating facilities used to produce

7 electricity for the purpose of onsite emergency backup and certain test and

8 maintenance operations from the requirement to obtain a certificate of public

9 convenience and necessity or certain other related approvals under certain

10 circumstances; altering the distribution of income tax revenue from corporations that

11 is attributable to certain data centers; and generally relating to generating stations.

HOUSE BILL 579

C5

4lr4581

CF SB 474

By: The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Allen, Amprey,

Anderton, Bagnall, Bhandari, Boyce, Buckel, Conaway, Crutchfield,

Edelson, Fennell, Grossman, Guyton, Harris, Henson, Hill, Hornberger,

Jackson, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, D. Jones, Kaiser, Kaufman, J. Long, Love,

McCaskill, Miller, Munoz, Pasteur, Patterson, Phillips, Pippy, Pruski,

Reilly, Roberson, Roberts, Rogers, Rose, Ruff, Simmons, Simpson, Spiegel,

Taveras, Taylor, Toles, Tomlinson, Turner, Valderrama, Watson, Williams,

and Wu

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

In August 2023, the Public Service Commission (PSC) denied Aligned Data Centers’ (ADC) request to install up to 168 diesel generators as backup power for a proposed data center site in Frederick County.

ADC announced it would not proceed with its project due to the PSC’s decision.

Then in January 2024, Senator Folden sponsored SB474 to allow the Adamstown data center to bypass the Public Service Commission’s review and approval, enabling the data center to proceed.

Leadership Matters: Lara Westdorp offers solutions to reduce the harmful impacts of data centers

- Repeal the exemptions for data center diesel back up systems to meet the Public Service Commission requirements.
 - Repeal the tax exemption on the sale of personal property for data centers.
 - Require all data centers in Maryland to use at least Tier IV diesel generators.
 - Require data centers to be self-sufficient for water and power consumption.
- Establish state of the art monitoring of air and aquifer quality near a data center.
 - Expand funding for state rural and agriculture preservation programs.
 - Require data centers to provide solar or wind power generation back into the electrical grid.
 - Require homeowners compensated for damages to their property, wells, and land.



YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE!

WESTDORP4SENATE.COM

By authority of Friends of Lara Westdorp, Mollene Fisher, Treasurer



TRAVEL, ARTS, CULTURE

DAY TRIPS FROM BRUNSWICK
Devil's Backbone County Park

By JOHN CAVES

If Annapolis and Allegany County were both a bit far afield for a day trip, this month brings a destination closer to home: Devil's Backbone County Park in next-door Washington County. Located a short distance outside Boonsboro, and about half an hour from Brunswick, it's a good place to take the kids and enjoy a low-key afternoon during the last few weeks of warm weather.

The park is situated around a bend of Antietam Creek. The upper part of the bend contains a small dam that likely powered a mill built in the 1820s, although the mill itself is long gone. Now, the dam divides a calm, upper portion of the creek from a flowing lower portion and creates a small waterfall that is fun for kids to watch. A footbridge spans the creek below the dam, connecting the main park area to a wooded ridge on the other side.

The right bank of the creek (as viewed when looking downstream) has the amenities one would expect at a county park: a parking area, a pavilion, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, and a playground. The playground doesn't have climbing equipment, but it has swings with a



People relaxing and fishing near the dam.

good view of the creek, as well as a merry-go-round piece of equipment where kids can grab onto a rope with a small seat and ride around in a circle.

When you cross the footbridge to the other side, there is a short path along the lower part of the creek and a field next to the pond formed by the dam. The field is good for kiddos

to run around in, but be forewarned that it can get pretty muddy, as it's part of the dam's floodplain. The path leading up to the dam has a railing, but you should also keep an eye on little kids to make sure they don't get around the other side of it, which isn't hard to do.

Where the path ends and opens up onto the field above the dam, there are steps that take you onto a short trail up and along the ridge overlooking the park. It is not a long walk—the trail comes back down on the far side of the field—but it provides a neat vantage point to see the creek and dam from above.

The calm water above the dam is also good for fishing. On any given day, there are a number of anglers along the creek. The park's website also advertises canoe access to the creek, presumably for the calmer, deeper section above the dam.

Although the park's main draw is a scenic and recreational spot, it has a bit of Civil War history. Eight days after the

Union victory at Gettysburg, General George Meade convened his generals at "Antietam Bridge"—named for the still-standing stone bridge that you drive over today to reach the park—to decide whether to attack Robert E. Lee's army again before it slipped across the Potomac into Virginia. Meade's corps commanders opposed launching

the assault due to the Confederate force's entrenchments, and Meade hesitated, allowing Lee to escape the next night.

Directions

To get to the park from Brunswick, take U.S. 340 west and MD 67 north to Boonsboro. Go left at the traffic circle and through downtown Boonsboro before turning left again onto Lappans Road (MD 68) at the traffic light. Then, continue along Lappans Road until you cross the stone bridge over Antietam Creek, and the park will be immediately on your right.

Parking is unlikely to be an issue unless it's an exceptionally nice day and you get there fairly late. The park has no entrance fee, but there is a reservation system for the pavilion. You can book it by calling the Washington County Parks Department at 240-313-2700.

There are several places in Boonsboro to get a meal, though you could also pack a lunch. You probably won't end up spending the whole day at Devil's Backbone Park, but a trip there is a relaxing, fun way to spend a few hours with family and friends or in quiet solitude with a fishing pole—as good a way as any to kick off the fall. ■



The footbridge over Antietam Creek.



The pond formed by the dam on Antietam Creek.

Art Auction Raises Funds for Downtown

By DIANE ELLIS

An art auction event at Lockhouse Gallery raised \$3,000 for the Brunswick Main Street program on Aug. 15. More than a hundred people attended the auction and came to hear Brazilian guitarist Fabio Mendonca perform bossa nova music.

The gallery was standing room only and many people gathered next door at Messy Bee Studio to view more art and enjoy a generous spread of food and refreshments at the free event.

The auction offered original paintings and prints, locally crafted fine jewelry, handmade wood boxes, and other art items. Gallery owner Kimberly



Gallery owner Kimberly Yourick shows one of the auctioned paintings titled "Passage" by Kevin Bain.

Yourick was very pleased with the turnout and the auction bids and donations.

Lockhouse Gallery is donating all of its proceeds from the event to help fund beautification projects downtown. Yourick said one project needing funding is soft lights to hang in the downtown area, creating a festive atmosphere, especially during the holiday season.

Lockhouse Gallery is located at 17 W. Potomac Street and represents over 30 artists. More information on the artists is at lockhousegallery.com.

Brunswick Main Street is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Use the QR code to donate to their downtown beautification projects. ■



Brazilian guitarist, Fabio Mendonca



TRAVEL, ARTS, CULTURE

“The Theater, the Theater, What Has Happened to the Theater?”

(Lyric from “Choreography” by Danny Kaye)

By JEAN TOLEMAN

Theater created by local people for a live audience is an amazing experience — both for the performers and the audience. While our high school and middle school put on wonderful shows each year, it wasn’t too many years ago that Brunswick also had its own theater. Is there a chance “Broadway” will return to Brunswick?

Early Theaters in Brunswick

At the turn of the 20th century, there was an Opera House in Berlin, between the tracks. It was called the Kamberger Opera House, and in 1905 it was the tallest building in old “Berlin,” hosting traveling shows that toured the country.



A publicity flyer for the Kamberger Opera house, 1905.

In 1912, the Imperial Theater was built on West Potomac Street for the growing railroad town. Primarily a movie theater, the Imperial also held stage shows and events. According to Jody Brumage, curator at South Mountain Heritage Society, when the Imperial opened, it featured a Wurlitzer organ, rotary stage, and beautiful tile floors. In the mid-50s, the theater began to add sound effects produced behind the curtain. At



The Opera house was the tallest building in old Berlin. Here it is after a fire in 1914.

Christmas, the stage was used to display a Christmas tree, which could be lowered when movies were shown. The building was undergoing renovations when it collapsed in 1963.

Brunswick Community Theater

In 1991, members of a Brunswick book club discussed ideas for a community theater. Lovettsville resident, Michael Hulett, who had a background in theater, wanted to start a theater group. When the topic was broached at the book club, enthusiasm from the group was such that they decided to produce a show and see how the community responded.

Some well-known local folks were involved in this maiden production including the former editor of the Brunswick Citizen, Peter Maynard, museum curator Eleanor Milligan, Chuck and Betty Hedges, Clay Carey, and Lou Pineda, a local teacher.

Their first production was “Our Town” by Thornton Wilder, a show that required minimal set and props. According to Hulett, it was a great success and they made enough money to cover the cost of the show plus more. In a newspaper article from 2001, he said they had to spend the leftover money

somewhere, so another show was planned.

The group produced two shows a year for about 10 years. For the first few years the productions were held in the fellowship hall of the First Methodist Church on Maryland Avenue. When the new community building at Brunswick City Park was built, one of its purposes was to house the theater company. The group even held a Mystery Dinner Theater at Beans in the Belfry, according to Catherine Tynan. The com-

left the organization.

Brunswick Theater Today

This past July, the Brunswick Arts Council held two theater classes for youth. Amanda Hoppe of The Creative Mind Artist Studio, led the classes. She is planning other classes throughout the year for both adults and children.

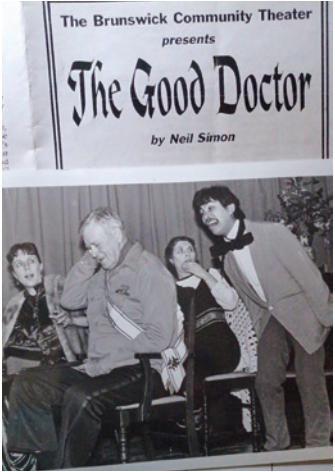
Taylor Martin, Toast Worthy Theater Company, and Smoketown Brewing held auditions for “A Christmas Carol: Drunk After Dark” last month. The



The Imperial in rack and ruin before being torn down.

munity theater existed without grants and subsidies, totally grass roots. “Cheaper than the movies,” Clay Carey, one of the founders, said at the time.

In 2004, with people still interested in involvement with theater, but not able to commit to as many full productions, the group started a monthly Readers Theater. They met at the community building to read a script aloud, each taking on the vocal role of a character or characters. As many as 15 people would show up to enjoy the experience of theater without the stress of memorizing lines or committing to a show. After about 15 years, the theater group faded away as people



“The Good Doctor” with Julie Maynard, Charles McLane, J. Toleman and Lou Pineda, Brunswick Community Theater, 1994.

show will be performed over two weekends in December on the stage in the renovated upstairs at Smoketown, the former fire hall stage.

Have you ever thought about being involved with a show? Rick Weldon, former City Administrator of Brunswick and current President and CEO of Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, encourages everyone to partake in this experience at least once. “The experience of memorizing lines and movement, character study and bringing a character to life on-stage is exhilarating and incredibly rewarding,” he said. Weldon started his post high school acting career in Brunswick playing Teddy in “Arsenic and Old Lace.” Weldon continues his theatrical hobby with over 20 productions to his name.

“A Christmas Carol: Drunk After Dark” will be performed over two weekends in December at Smoketown.

Lois Jarman, who will direct the upcoming production at Smoketown, was also very involved with the Brunswick Community Theater back in the day and is excited about live theater returning to Brunswick. She said, “The experience of putting on a show is life enriching, as many of the relationships developed during the entire process are often lifelong. I have so many friends from my years in the theater with whom I remain in contact still today.”

She is excited about working with Amy Dudrow and Todd Vaughn at Smoketown Brewing, saying “they have done a brilliant job developing it as a performance venue.”

Can Brunswick support live theater again? With people participating in show productions as well as attending the performances, it just might happen. ■



“Blithe Spirit” with Rick Weldon, J. Toleman and Chris White, Brunswick Community Center, 1995.

BNJ Travels

Joelle Barrick, a PE teacher at Brunswick Elementary, and her husband Jason, a retired firefighter, recently traveled 10 days through Alaska. One stop included hiking to the Exit Glacier at the Kenai Fjords National Park. The trip was to celebrate their anniversary and Joelle’s recent success in beating breast cancer.

ENVIRONMENT & SCIENCE

600,000 Mosquitoes Recently Released in DMV

By DR. KATHY HEINSOHN

Not sure who caught the Fox-5DC news on July 28, as it was mostly preempted by the tornadic storms in our area. But if you did, you may have questions about why a local DMV company would have released over 600,000 mosquitoes at a customer’s property.

The DC area company Bee Safe did this release at the end of June and is now offering customers this residential mosquito control service. The released mosquitoes were all male and had been inoculated with a gut bacterium called *Wohlbachia* that, when the male mates with a female, renders her eggs inviable (i.e. they do not hatch). This is an innovative biocontrol means of reducing Asian Tiger (*Aedes aegypti*) mosquitoes, which can carry deadly diseases such as Dengue, Zika, Chikangunya, and Yellow Fever.

Two important things: one, male mosquitoes don’t bite (they spend their time resting, mating and feeding on nectar), and two, a female mosquito (and most female insects) once mated are mated for life. The male’s spermatophore (package of sperm) remains in her ovaries to fertilize future eggs as well as current ones. If she mates again with a different male, the newer sperm packet will be used. The female insect catalogues the received sperm so that first in is last out but, if in an environment where there are no males, she remains mated for life. This is an evolutionary adaptation for hostile places such as deserts or for short-lived adult insects (a day or less) to ensure successful passing on their DNA.

High cost of biocontrol

These biocontrol treatments are not cheap, and I’ve anecdotally heard they may sell for as much as \$1,000-plus to customers. It is a very innovative idea, but to do this at a single customer’s property is not overly effective, in my opinion. If a whole community is involved or a municipality, it can have major impact on both mosquito and disease reduction, and has been successfully used in places like Singapore, parts of Mexico and Colombia, and at test sites in Florida. EPA approves this technique in the USA, but states and local governments may have additional regulations making it harder for companies to provide this service.

The gut bacterium *Wohlbachia* used for the inoculation occurs naturally in 6 out of 10 insects and is harmless to humans, animals and the environment. When the mosquito dies, the gut bacteria do as well.

The mosquitoes must be mass-reared in a lab, and the resulting eggs are inoculated with the bacterium. When the adult emerges, the males and females are culled out. The females are destroyed. The males

are shipped and used for this biocontrol pest management service. Because of the specificity and time constraints of lab rearing mosquitoes, the price tag can be dramatic.

Other mosquito control measures

My view is this should NOT be considered a standalone mosquito management treatment for a residential customer, so other pest management and homeowner measures to reduce mosquitoes remain crucial. The main thing homeowners can do is to “Tip and Toss” standing water every 7–10 days to disrupt mosquito lifecycles; on average it requires 7–10 days for eggs to develop into adults, but can take as few as 4 days in warmer temperatures, or as many as 18–30 days or more if temperatures are cooler.

Where is water standing in your yard? You need not look far. Trash/recycle lids that are off and turned over, pet water bowls, bird baths, kiddie pools, tire swings, toys in the yard, bottle caps and cans are all likely candidates for holding stagnant water. A single bottle cap can hold over 500 eggs, and if conditions are favorable, a single tablespoon (about 15 ml) of water can produce 200–300 eggs (blog.entomologist.net).

Other standing water areas of concern include abandoned swimming pools, backed-up gutters in need of cleaning, boats, tarpaulins, chain link fence poles with no caps, tires used in bulkheads and landscaping, ditches, ungraded

land on property that allows water backup puddling and pools to accumulate, and naturally occurring tree holes.

Typically, when a large municipality/region is dropping these *Wohlbachia* infected male mosquitoes, it is done at once in a mass batch, and in areas where females have been surveilled prior (and usual-

ly females carrying disease, prompting it in the first place).

If surveillance isn’t done properly, the customer may be being scammed a bit— does the customer even have *Aedes* mosquitoes on their property? And if they do, these *Aedes* would very rarely contain disease, although they would certainly be day feeders.

Ongoing climate and habitat changes, and people traveling around the world getting infected with diseases and bringing them back, could create a reservoir of disease for biting mosquitos— but if this occurs, municipal public health agencies would hop on it immediately! ■

OFF THE SHELF

The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water (2011)

By Charles Fishman

Reviewed by JULIE GOURLEY

A book about water? How boring! Hardly. In “The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water,” author Charles Fishman takes a deep dive into something practically no one thinks much about. But the moment you delve into this 313-page text, you’re caught and will read to the end.

Published in 2011, some of the information might be dated, but the basic premise is still current: water is not in short supply over the globe, but managing it is a major failure in much of the world. He explains that all of the water that ever existed on the planet is still here; in fact, the raindrops that fall on your head may have been consumed by Jesus or Aristotle or your great great great grandmother. It’s all here. It’s just that it’s not always where, and in what form, we would like it to be.

Fishman takes the reader through several water crises around the world, starting with Las Vegas in the 1990s when it came scarily close to running completely out of water. It took a tough, persistent water czar to turn such an enormous problem around. Next, he takes the reader to Galveston, Texas where in 2008 Hurricane Ike all but destroyed the island’s water and wastewater infrastructure, triggering a three-week boil water order for those who still had running water.

Australia had been in a “Millennium” drought from 1996 to 2010 and finally had to resort to using ultra-clean wastewater for drinking water in some areas. Overcoming the “yuck factor” was anything but easy.

And for reasons Americans could never understand, the residents of Delhi, India do not want indoor running water and would rather wait in long lines at public pumps to get what they need for cooking, drinking and bathing, all while disposing their raw sewage and untreated municipal and industrial waste in the Yamuna River, one of the most polluted in the world.

Another little-known fact is that water is free almost everywhere in the world. The water bill you pay every month isn’t the price of water; it’s the price of cleaning and treating it, the infrastructure to move it, maintenance, and labor costs for running the system. The water itself is free — and that’s a major problem.

Fishman argues that if water had a price per gallon from the tap or going down the toilet, people would stop mindlessly using and wasting it. Indeed, in the crisis areas he writes of, water conservation is now in the DNA of the local populations who’ve come so close to losing this precious natural resource.

In this time of proliferating data centers and their enormous water demand, this book is an important read. ■



Rooted in Service

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

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

Protecting Brunswick’s Future

RESPONSIBLE GROWTH & ENERGY

Large-scale development must pay its fair share. Families should not be left carrying the cost of new demands on our power grid and infrastructure.

PROTECTING OUR WATER

The Potomac and our local water resources are vital to Brunswick. I will support responsible water planning and strong protections as our region grows.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

I will support workforce housing, first-time homebuyer opportunities, and solutions that help longtime residents and seniors remain in the communities they helped build.

INVESTING IN BRUNSWICK

Brunswick deserves continued investment in MARC service, infrastructure, downtown businesses, and the resources working families rely on.

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



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

ENVIRONMENT & SCIENCE

Sepsis: Know the Signs, Act Fast

By ISABELLA MAXEY,
FREDERICK HEALTH

The immune system helps defend the body by preventing and fighting infections and diseases. But sometimes, the body can have an extreme response to an infection, triggering a chain reaction that damages healthy tissues and organs. This is called sepsis.

Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and toxic response to infection and can kill in less than 12 hours. Over 350,000 adults in the U.S. die from sepsis each year. Like a stroke or heart attack, sepsis requires immediate medical attention.

This Sepsis Awareness Month, learn the signs of sepsis so you can recognize them and seek medical attention quickly.

What causes sepsis?

Sepsis is the body's overreaction to an infection. An infection can come from anywhere in the body and can be caused by a number of sources, including undercooked meat, a cut that is not cleaned properly, or food contaminated with a parasite. It can also occur when a sickness, such as a common cold, the flu, or another virus, develops and worsens quickly.

When the body detects an

infection, the immune system sends cells and chemicals to fight it. Sometimes, this response becomes uncontrolled and spreads throughout the body. Instead of targeting only the infection, it can cause widespread inflammation, disrupt blood flow, and damage health tissues and vital organs such as the lungs, kidneys, and heart.

Who's at risk?

Anyone can develop sepsis. Be especially aware of the risk if you or someone in your care:

- Is age 65 years or older
- Is pregnant or has recently given birth
- Is caring for a child younger than 5 with infants ages 0-12 months being especially at risk
- Has a chronic medical condition such as diabetes, lung disease, cancer, and/or kidney disease
- Has a weakened immune system
- Recently experienced a severe illness, had surgery, or were hospitalized
- Has previously had sepsis

The best treatment is preven-

tion. To reduce your risk of sepsis infection, be sure to manage any chronic conditions or illnesses properly with the help of a primary care provider. They can create a personalized care plan to set your lifestyle up for success and avoid complications from any diseases or conditions.

Stay up to date on vaccines and screenings, and engage in behaviors that prevent infection. This includes washing your hands, fruits and vegetables thoroughly, keeping cuts clean and covered until healed, and making sure your meat is cooked all the way through.

What are the symptoms?

If you or a loved one has an infection, be on the lookout for a combination of sepsis symptoms and seek medical care immediately if they develop. Sepsis can progress rapidly. The sooner treatment starts, the better the chance of recovery.

Use the "TIME" acronym to help remember the symptoms:

"T" is for Temperature: A body temperature higher or lower than normal can be a sign of sepsis.

"I" is for Infection: You may have signs around the affected

area or symptoms like fever, fatigue, and pain for a generalized infection. It is possible to have an infection and not know it!

"M" is for Mental decline: Watch for a sudden change, such as becoming confused or severely sleepy.

"E" is for Extremely ill: A person may experience severe pain or discomfort, shortness of breath, or feel sicker than they have ever felt.

When it comes to sepsis, remember TIME.

Sepsis symptoms in children

The symptoms in children can differ from those seen in adults, so it's important to know the difference. Almost half (20 million) of all estimated sepsis cases worldwide occurred in children under 5 years of age, according to the World Health Organization.

Your child may have sepsis if they present the following symptoms:

- Skin that feels unusually cold
- Bluish or very pale skin
- Fever or a temperature lower than normal
- A rash that does not fade when pressed on

- Very fast or rapid breathing
- Seizures
- Lethargy or difficulty waking up
- Little or no urine output

In infants, additional signs may include not drinking or feeding, repeated vomiting, or fewer wet diapers than usual.

If you suspect sepsis—

If you observe two or more of these symptoms, don't wait. Immediately go to the Emergency Room or Urgent Care and tell your provider: "I'm concerned about sepsis."

Treatment depends on the infection and the patient's condition but may include antibiotics, intravenous (IV) fluids to help keep blood pressure at a healthy level, and other supportive care. Rapid treatment can help keep organs functioning properly and improve the chance of recovery.

If you are displaying signs or possible symptoms of sepsis, seek medical attention immediately! And always remember "TIME" so you can identify sepsis as soon as it starts.

For more information about sepsis, visit frederickhealth.org/Sepsis. ■

DON'T BE FOOLED!

The incumbents in District 4 support the data centers.

They sponsored the legislation to exempt data centers from Environmental and Noise regulations.

They are acting like they oppose the data centers, but it is only performative. Del. Miller's bill would not stop the data centers – It was submitted too late, with no chance of passing. Del. Pippy's "moratorium" proposal is only a temporary smokescreen. He has gotten thousands of dollars from the data center interests. He is working for them, not us.

Authorized by Friends of Lara Westdorp, Mollene Fisher, Treasurer; Friends of Andrew Duck, Mike Reid, Treasurer; Citizens for Alleria Stanley, Louisa Conklin, Treasurer; Citizens for Jerry Donald, Camden Ranor, Treasurer



Folden,

Pippy,

Miller,

SENATE BILL 474

C5

(4lr4580)

ENROLLED BILL

— Education, Energy, and the Environment / Economic Matters —

Introduced by The President (By Request - Administration) and Senators

Folden, Gallion, Hershey, Hettleman, Lam, McKay, Ready, Rosapepe, Waldstreicher, and West

HOUSE BILL 579

4lr4581

CF SB 474

By: The Speaker and Delegates Allen, Amprey, Anderson, Bagnall, Conaway, Crutchfield, Fennell, Grossman, Hornberger, Johnson, S. Johnson, D. Jones, Love, Munoz, Pasteur, Patterson, Pruski, Reilly, Roberson, Roberts, Rogers, Rose, Ruff, Simmons, Simpson, Spiegel, Taveras, Taylor, Toles, Tomlinson, Turner, Valderrama, Watson, Williams, and Wu

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals – Definition of Generating Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)

VOTE for Change

Brunswick's 2026 Distinguished Citizens

By WAYNE ALLGAIER

The Mayor and Council of Brunswick, along with the Brunswick History Commission, are pleased to announce the 2026 Distinguished Citizens who are honored for their contributions to the Brunswick community over the course of many years. This year's honorees are listed below with brief biographies. Their full biographies and related information can be found at Brunswickmdhistory.com.

These individuals will be honored at a special luncheon at the Eagles Club on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 27. The public is invited to attend. Tickets can be ordered online at brunswickmd.gov/specialevents by clicking on "Distinguished Citizens Luncheon." The admission fee of \$20 covers the cost of the meal. Doors will open at 1:00 p.m. with lunch and program beginning at 1:30.

Angela Diane "Angie" Weddle Armstrong

Angie's community involvement started at a young age. When she was nine years old, she could be found helping in the kitchen alongside mem-



bers of the Brunswick Eagles Auxiliary long before she was eligible for membership. Since joining, she has served in several offices of the local organization, including several terms as Madam President. At the age of 29, she became president of the State Eagles Auxiliary.

Angie is well known for her involvement with Wednesday night Bingo. Over the past 15 years, she has helped transform it into far more than a weekly gathering. This event, along with other Eagles activities, provides significant funding for charities, families, and individuals in need throughout the Brunswick Community.

When the Eagles were faced with the loss of their non-profit status and liquor license in 2017, it was largely through Angie's tireless efforts with federal and county agencies that they were able to restore both.

Angie is the youngest of four children, all of whom share her deep connection to service and community through the Eagles.

Professionally, Angie worked more than three decades at Ft. Detrick as a Supervisory Human Resources Specialist for the Department of the Army.

Robert Whittaker (Bob) Dozier

Robert Whittaker Dozier was born in 1947. He attended Montgomery County public schools, graduating in 1965.

In 1967, Bob entered the U.S. Army. He served 11 months as an infantryman in Vietnam where he was wounded three times, received three Purple Hearts, and recovered in five



different hospitals on his way to returning home. In 1969, following his military service, Bob worked at three jobs daily in order to take his mind away from his war experience. Eventually he went back to school, and in 1975 Bob graduated with an education degree from Jamestown College in North Dakota. He taught math and physical education there before returning east five years later.

Bob moved to Brunswick in 1985. He coached youth basketball and baseball for 30 years and served as Chaplain for American Legion Post 96 from 2010 until 2026. He has spent countless hours visiting hospitalized veterans across the region and also spends his time speaking at schools to youth groups about character building. He also raises money for a wide range of local and national causes by running the popular weekly bingo events at Post 96.

Bob and his wife Brenda have four children and seven grandchildren.

Dan Roe

Dan Roe was born in New Jersey, but spent his formative years in Colorado. He then spent 30 years working in marketing, sales, and business development



for General Electric and a few different software companies. As retirement approached, he found an environment reminiscent of his Colorado upbringing in the new development of Brunswick Crossing, where he is able to enjoy walking around the community and on the C&O Canal towpath, as well as hiking on the Appalachian Trail.

It didn't take long for Dan to get involved in the community. In 2014, within a year of his arrival, he organized a group of volunteers to landscape and maintain the neglected Kim Weddle Park. In 2015, he joined the Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group, which he chaired from 2020 to 2024. To

cap it off, Dan was appointed to the Brunswick Planning Commission in 2015 and became chairman in 2022, in which capacity he continues to serve today.

Beyond Brunswick, Dan volunteers with his wife Rosanne at the Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., where he helped rebuild the museum's volunteer program after the pandemic.

Initially unsure what to think about Brunswick, Dan is now proud to claim it as his home.

Richard "Dick" Goodrich

Dick was raised in Brunswick with his sisters, Barbara and Donna. He had the distinction of attending all three elementary schools: West End, East End, and the new consolidated school on Central Avenue.



After graduation from Brunswick High School, Dick found employment with PEPCO as an office clerk, later moving to IBM and Lockheed-Martin. But his real desire was to become a CPA. He became a Certified Maryland Tax Preparer in 2016 and used his skills to assist many elderly citizens and nonprofit organizations to prepare their tax returns at no charge.

Dick began playing baseball at age 12, and as an adult he coached and/or managed several teams, including the Little League team that went to the National Championships in Williamsport in 1986.

Dick was elected mayor of Brunswick in 1990. In addition to tightening up the budgetary process of the city, he was instrumental in obtaining a new water plant, transferring the City Annex Building on Park Avenue to the City, building a new community center at City Park, and purchasing a new ladder truck for the fire company.

Dick married his high school sweetheart Pat Dinterman in 1963. They have two children and one grandson.

Doris Kelley Barker

Doris was born and raised in Brunswick. As a young child, she learned to play the piano and shared that talent as a pianist in the First Baptist Church and later in Faith Baptist Church. She was active in Brunswick High School theatrical productions and, as an adult, she played a leading role in the seven-day pageant celebrating Brunswick's Diamond Jubilee.

Doris first met Charles Wayne Barker during elementary school. Their friendship blossomed and they were mar-

ried in 1950.

Doris graduated from Strayer Business College in Washington, D.C., and began working for noted Washington attorney Joseph M. Creed. When Wayne joined the Navy during the Korean War, they moved to



Florida. On their return to Brunswick, Doris resumed her employment with Mr. Creed. Several years after their son Kevin was born (1957), Doris sought employment closer to home and was employed at the fledgling Eastalco Aluminum Company near Buckeystown. She retired in 1986.

Doris served as secretary of Brunswick's first library board, was PTA president, was on the building committee for the new Faith Baptist Church, and has been a member of the Order of the Eastern Star since age 18.

In 2010, the Barkers moved to Myrtle Beach, where she remains as one of the last vivid storytellers of Brunswick's B&O Railroad boomtown era.

Frank Strakonsky, Jr.

Frank was born in Chicago, where he worked for a furniture company until he joined the Army at the onset of WWII. He was assigned to Ft. Detrick in Frederick, and on weekends he and his buddies would go



to Brunswick for entertainment. It was there that he met Brunswick native Betty Lou Cornelius. On February 17, 1946, Frank received his honorable discharge from the Army, and the following day he and Betty Lou were married. They would eventually have three children: Frank, Gary, and Terri.

With his clerical experience in the Army, Frank got a job as a clerk on the railroad. He initially commuted to the Washington Terminal, but eventually got a job in the Brunswick caller's office. He retired after working the night shift for 31 years.

Frank won his first bid for City Council in 1966 and was re-elected in four subsequent elections, serving a total of 20 years. His "hands-on" approach was apparent when it snowed, as he rode with the Public Works guys as they cleared the streets. He was involved in the procurement of several public facilities, as detailed in his full biography on the History Commission website.

Frank was also a member of

several service organizations. He loved his family, and he loved Brunswick – the parades, the ball games, and everything Brunswick.

Gene and Mary Lou Green

Gene Green was born and raised in Lovettsville, Va. Mary Lou Jenkins was born and raised in nearby West Virginia. They met at a concession stand at the Shenandoah Downs Race Track where she was working, and one year later they were married. They made their home in Rosemont and would eventually have two children, Jeanne and Bryan.

Gene worked in the B&O car shop. For 21 of his 45 years as a railroader, he was chairman



of Local 125, Brotherhood of Railroad Carmen. Because he knew the rule book in and out, he was able to help many railroaders and their families to obtain their deserved benefits.

He also knew the rules of baseball, which he had been deeply involved in since his youth. Anyone who tried to argue with him came out as the loser. His illustrious career as coach and manager is detailed in his full biography on the History Commission website.

Mary Lou became employed by the Commission on Aging in 1976, then as coordinator of Brunswick's Senior Citizen Center in 1980. In 1987, she went to work for the Circuit Court of Frederick County and was appointed Jury Clerk in 1999. Simultaneously, she was involved in her children's sports and served on the Petersville Luther Chapel Council.

Together, Gene and Mary Lou worked in Guest Relations at the Great Frederick Fair.

Gene passed away in 2022, and Mary Lou later moved to Williamsport.

Lillie Morris (1947–2014)

Lillie Hardy was raised in the Black community on H Street during the era of segregation and attended the one-room



Black elementary school on I Street. She then attended the integrated Brunswick High School where she graduated in 1965.

Lillie dedicated 40 years to Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS), including 25 years at her alma mater, Brunswick High School, where she served as a teacher's assistant

Continued on page 28

LOCAL HISTORY

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

100 Years Ago
from The
Valley Register

Compiled by
Julie Maynard

August 20, 1926.
Dogs Kill 15 Sheep.
One night last week, strange dogs got into a flock of sheep belonging to Mr. George V. Arnold, near Burkittsville, and killed six head. Last Sunday the dogs returned and killed nine more. All the sheep were bitten in the throat.

Entertainments.
Mrs. David Young, of near Burkittsville, entertained the Ladies Aid Society of the Burkittsville Lutheran church, on Wednesday afternoon of last week, at a business session and social meeting. Ice cream, cake and iced cocoa were served by Mrs. Young.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice H. Bealer, of Gapland, entertained at a church dinner on Sunday last, the following guests: [Mullendore, Poffenberger, Bealer, Dean, Rice, Zecher, Guyton, Hoffmaster.]

Brunswick Takes Lead in County League Race
Brunswick stepped into the lead in the race of the Frederick County League baseball pennant here on Saturday afternoon last, defeating the Middletown club by a score of 3 to 2 in seven innings, while Emmitsburg was handing at 7 to 1 defeat to the Thurmont club, at Emmitsburg. Both of the games were broken up in the seventh inning by a heavy down-pour, which had threatened to step in throughout the afternoon.

Manager Remsberg took the hurling assignment for the local club and was opposed by Merri-man, the ace of the Railroader pitching staff. While Remsberg had everything practically his own way until the seventh, he weakened at this stage and the Brunswick club chased over their entire three runs. When the game was stopped, Middletown had two men on base, none out, and the heaviest part of the batting order swinging their war clubs. If Jupiter Pluvus had but held off for one more inning, in all probability the locals would have completely reversed the standing of things.

August 27, 1926.
Washington county is not immune from the divorce evil which is widespread through the United States, England and France. Records at the office of Clerk of Court Edward Oswald [Wash. Co.] show 32 suits for divorces were filed since June 1, while a petition for annulment of a marriage and two suits for alimony were presented to the Circuit Court.

“Sheik” of Screen Dies in New York / Rudolph Valentino Wages Losing Fight Following Operation for Ulcers and Appendicitis. ...

Car Skids from Road
While returning to Brunswick from the baseball game played in Middletown, the Nash automobile of Mr. Charles Utterback, of Brunswick, skidded on the wet pike, while making a turn on the Burkittsville road, left the road, and came to a stop at the foot of a high embankment. No one was injured and the machine was but slightly damaged.

September 3, 1926.
READING NOTICES
I will operate my cider mill each Tuesday and Thursday until further notice. E. P. GAVER, Harmony, phone Middletown 58-F22.

Peaches For Sale. White or yellow, fine for canning, at my place, along State road, south end of Baseball. The peach with a flavor. F. W. MARTZ

Follow the Crowd to Brunswick. Great Labor Day Celebration. Games, Contests, Races in morning; Baseball, Brunswick vs. Woodsboro, in afternoon; Dance in evening. 9-3-1t-51

FOR SALE—12 H. P. Gasoline Engine, good condition. A Bargain; Fairbanks-Morse, Type N. Have electrified.—J. P. KARN & BRO., Brunswick, Md.

FOR SALE—My farm, along the State road near Brunswick, two-thirds of which is within the corporation limits, containing 160 to 164 acres, all of which are tillable. All buildings are in fine condition and a new barn has recently been built. For further information, apply to CHAS. W. SHAFER, Middletown, Md.

September 10, 1926.
Playing is no longer play; it has become work.

Fine Peaches
Mr. Wilmer Moser, of near Jefferson, presented “The Register” with a fine bushel of Alberta peaches last Tuesday. They are the largest peaches we have seen this year and are delicious. If anyone can show us larger ones we will gladly give them credit, but so far these are easily the nicest we have seen. We thank Mr. Moser for his thoughtfulness and generosity.

Upon Beds of Suffering
Mrs. David Arnold, of near Brunswick, who has been seriously ill at the home of her sister, Mrs. Romer Toms, with typhoid fever, is now much improved.

Celebration a Big Success.
Brunswick’s big Labor Day celebration was a tremendous success. Thousands of people from nearby and distant points thronged the valley town and a real celebration was staged. Athletic contests featured the day. The baseball game which was to have been played between the Brunswick and Woodsboro teams of the County League had to be postponed on account of rain, but all of the other events went off as scheduled. ...

September 17, 1926.
TWO PRISONERS ESCAPE FROM THE COUNTY JAIL

Held in the Frederick county jail awaiting the action of the grand jury, Wilbur Willard, charged with robbing the Lander [??? store owned by???] Poffenberger, and “Humm” Hurd, charged with bigamy, escaped from the institution on Tuesday last, shortly after three o’clock. Hurd was captured shortly afterward near the Frederick Baseball Park by Dick Potts, a trusty at the jail, and returned to the custody of Turnkey William Kolb.

The men made their dash for freedom when William Angevine, a barber, was leaving the jail after performing tonsorial work on one of the prisoners. As he and the turnkey were passing through the door to the main corridor, one of the jail-breakers pushed him, causing him to fall against Turnkey Kolb, who topped over a bench.

Kolb grabbed both men, one in each hand. Willard got away and ran through the front door to the street. He slipped a sweater he wore and escaped through a basement door. No trace of Willard has been found by the authorities, who are conducting a search.

Jefferson Pastor Welcomed.
On Wednesday evening, the two congregations of the Jefferson Reformed charge gathered in the Sunday School room of the Jefferson church, and gave a splendid reception to their new pastor, Rev. Atwill Conner, and his family. A good literary and musical program was rendered, with Harry Pennell presiding. Interesting addresses were made by Rev. Charles D. Schaeffer, of Frederick, and Rev. R. L. Lang, pastor of the Lutheran church at Jefferson. Rev.

Mr. Conner responded to their words of welcome and thanked the people for their cordial greetings. Refreshments were served and the remainder of the evening was spent socially.

Lawn Party at Burkittsville.
An enjoyable 1 pound social was held Thursday evening of last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel S. Guyton, north of Burkittsville. About 116 persons attended, and during the evening games were played and refs served. Those present: ...

Waiter—“Was your knife dull, sir?
Customer—“A little, but it’s alright now—I stropped it on the steak.”

September 24, 1926.
SMUT CAUSING HEAVY LOSS
Smut is causing a heavy loss to Middletown Valley wheat growers this year. The disease seems to be generally prevalent about Middletown and especially bad in the vicinity of Brunswick, Petersville and Burkittsville. Some farmers have wheat so badly affected they are having difficulty in disposing of their crop at all, while others are taking from 10 to 20 cents per bushel cut in the price.

It is said one farmer brought two bushels of wheat to Middletown to sell, and one of the dealers refused to buy it all, on account of the smut. As wheat is selling for \$1.20 per bushel, this means a clear loss of \$2,000 for this farmer alone.

The disease is caused by spores which develop in the grain and are easily carried over from year to year in the seed wheat. Mr. F. W. Oldenburg, crop specialist of the University of Maryland Ext Service, will be in this vicinity on Monday and Tuesday next, Sept. 27 and 28, and give demonstrations in the treating of seed wheat for smut. [Demonstration sites included] the farm of Dr. N. E. Kefauver at the fountain, on the state road; in the Burkittsville school building; and in Farmers’ Cooperative Association Building at Brunswick.

Drive for 1,000 New Members
According to an announcement recently made by authorities of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Y. M. C. A., a drive for 1,000 new members will be launched in the near future. Details of the proposed canvass for members will be arranged at a meeting of the board of directors at an early date.

It is believed the new members can be obtained with the proper amount of exertion on the part of the backers of the association, and the increased membership will enable the organization to make considerable improvements to the property and to enlarge the program of its activities.

The association hopes to be able to put on an enlarged program of activities next year. H. S. Bickel is general secretary of the Brunswick Y. M. C. A. and will have general charge of the drive for new members.

FOR SALE—Night hunting dogs, from excellent hunters. Will hunt possums, skunks, raccoons, etc. Cheap to a quick buyer.— EMMERT J. BOYER, Middletown.

WANTED—Tenant, Needwood Forest farm, between Petersville and Burkittsville, 187 acres. New dwelling, good buildings. Vacancy April, 1927.—Apply JOSEPH LEE, Burkittsville, Md. Phone, Brunswick 109-F5.

NOTICE. A Chicken and Waffle Supper is to be held in the Parish Hall, Burkittsville, by the Ladies Aid Society of the Lutheran Church, on Oct. 9, 1926. Supper, 40c. 10-1-2t-61

Brunswick’s 2026 Distinguished Citizens CONTINUED

Continued from page 27
in the science lab and taught horticulture.

She was also a cheerleading coach, having been the first Black cheerleader when she was a student. After retiring from FCPS, Lillie became certified in drug counseling, continuing her lifelong mission of helping others.

Lillie founded the Minority Essence Club at BHS, which hosted annual MLK Day celebrations and other events. She was also one of the founders of the Learning Tree Day-care Center which provided much-needed childcare for Brunswick families. She was a life-long member of the AME Church, serving in many positions there.

Lillie Hardy married Leo Morris, Sr., and together they raised three children: Leo Jr., Michelle, and Melissa. Following her untimely passing in 2014, more than 700 people attended her funeral, a testament to the countless lives she touched.

Roger Dawson

Roger Dawson was raised in Brunswick as one of seven children and graduated in 1982 from Brunswick High School, where he was a standout multi-sport athlete. He continued his



participation in baseball during his further educational years at Frederick Community College and Shepherd College, where he earned his B.S degree in secondary education and met his future wife, Deanna. Roger later earned a Master’s Degree at Western Maryland College.

Roger has spent over three decades with Frederick County Public Schools in a variety of educational and student-support roles. Today, he continues to serve Brunswick High School as a Behavioral Health Specialist.

Over the course of his career, he has become one of Maryland’s most accomplished high school coaches. Roger has led Brunswick High School baseball to seven state championships — four as head coach and three as an assistant coach. He founded and led the Brunswick Orioles organization for older athletes, which became one of the nation’s most successful baseball organizations. He was a scout for the Baltimore Orioles for 24 years, and for three years was a scout for the San Diego Padres. However, Roger’s greatest legacy can be found in the countless lives he has touched through coaching, teaching, and mentoring, particularly here in Brunswick.

Tommy Thompson

Not much is known about Tommy Thompson’s youth. After his sister — who was 16 years older than he — got married, Tommy was raised as a single child and was perhaps a little over-protected by his mother. One person who was acquainted with him from



church described him as being “delightful, jolly, fun, handsome — a joy to be around.” After high school, Tommy joined the military and served honorably in the Korean War.

Tommy’s personal interests included electronics and amateur radio. He also obtained his pilot’s license and was a member of the Brunswick Moose Club. He married Mary Virginia “Ginny” Burger later in life, and they had no children.

Tommy joined the Brunswick Police Department as Assistant Chief in 1967 and six years later was appointed Chief. Among his accomplishments as Police Chief was the modernization of communications between police headquarters, the police cars, and other city locations. As police chief, he was much involved in work with juveniles; he personally saw to it that several young men were housed and cared for until longer term arrangements could be made for them.

Unfortunately, Tommy’s later years were marked by poor health, so much so that he was not able to tend to his duties as Police Chief for the last six months of his career. He finally retired in January 1977, and died ten months later on November 30, 1977.

William Waltman Wenner Sr. (1810-1910)

W.W. Wenner, known affectionately as “Uncle Billy,” lived his entire life in the Federal-style family home of Woodbine, just



north of Lovettsville. Although he never actually lived in Brunswick, his contributions were significant in the early development of this town.

In addition to farming, Wenner, along with his brother-in-law Joseph Waltman, controlled the ferry across the Potomac to Berlin (later Brunswick) from the 1830s to the 1850s. This was the primary route by which farmers, merchants, travelers, and goods moved between Loudoun and Frederick counties.

Continued on page 29

Cricket Finds a Home in Brunswick

By SAMMY JOSEPH

Cricket, a sport beloved across South Asia, has found an unlikely home in the heart of Western Maryland. Brunswick, a town renowned for its baseball history, is also home to the Frederick Cricket Premier League Fall 2025 champions. The “Brunswick Boyz,” relatively new to the cricket scene, recently topped the league’s standings, ahead of teams from Frederick, Jefferson and Urbana.

The Brunswick Boyz started with humble beginnings among a group of friends and local cricket enthusiasts, united by their passion for the game, according to Ugandhar Yarra, a member since the club’s inception in the Spring of 2025. As interest grew, more players from the Brunswick community joined, transforming the small group into a close-knit team, ready to prove themselves in local leagues and eventually being sponsored by local establishment Smoketown Brewing.

“Our biggest strength has always been the friendship, commitment and support we have for each other both on and off the field,” said Yarra.

Yarra describes the cricket community in Brunswick as “growing and very passionate,” attracting players from many different age brackets and skill levels, all sharing the same love of the game. There is much support among players and teams, all working to help others improve at the game and enjoy their time on the field. In Brunswick, cricket has become more than just a sport; it’s a way for people to build relationships, stay connected, and bring the local community together, according to Yarra.

“It’s more than a team, it’s my neighborhood, it’s my friends... the boys are my friends and they’re everything to me,” said Sandeep Dharmarajula, captain of the Brunswick Boyz.

The first season

The Brunswick Boyz made

Continued from page 28

During his lifetime, Waltman acquired substantial land holdings adjacent to Berlin. When he died in 1870, this property was inherited by Wenner. In 1890, the same year the B&O began construction of its great freight yard, the 80-year-old Wenner laid out the “W.W. Wenner Addition” which covers much of Brunswick’s west end, including property for the West End Elementary School. He later sold a large tract of land on the east side of Brunswick to the Real Estate and Improvement Company, a B&O subsidiary, which then resold property for railroad worker housing. As a result, much of Brunswick’s current downtown area can be traced back to W.W. Wenner.

He died in 1910 at the age of 100. His descendants have continued the legacy that he started. ■

COURTESY OF BRUNSWICK BOYZ CRICKET TEAM



The Brunswick Boyz cricket team celebrates after a victory.

their debut in the local cricket scene in Spring 2025. The Frederick Cricket Premier League was comprised of 10 teams from Frederick County. After a slow start that saw them finish 10th, the fledgling team rebounded in Frederick’s fall league, capturing the trophy in just its second tournament appearance. For the Boyz, the championship marked an unexpectedly successful beginning to the team’s first season.

“That was when we formed the team, and that was our first season. And we ended up being the winners,” said Akshay Bandari, another member of the team.

Dharmarajula described the team finding success not through their stars, but through their depth, with different players stepping up when the team needed them most.

“That’s a great thing about this team. We don’t know who will perform best each day, but it’s going to be someone,” said Dharmarajula.

Second Brunswick team develops

The Boyz aren’t the only cricket players in town. The sport has become especially popular within the Brunswick Crossing community, where many of the team’s players live, supporting another team called the Brunswick Chargers. Many are neighbors, almost 40 to 50 in the same community, according to Bandari.

But as cricket’s popularity grows in Brunswick, players say the town’s facilities have struggled to keep pace.

“We don’t need stadium stuff. We don’t need seating. Just a proper cricket field. Just a simple field,” said Bandari.

The Brunswick Boyz have been creating their own makeshift cricket fields out of baseball fields in local places like Othello Park. A traditional cricket field requires a 360-degree oval shaped boundary with a 22-yard central pitch at the middle, quite different from baseball.

Growing interest in local cricket

Tournaments in Frederick

County attract players from multiple surrounding states. That growing demand has helped fuel a proposal for a 10,000-seat

cricket stadium in Frederick by The Washington Freedom. The City of Frederick recently began the approval process.

For the players who have helped establish cricket in Brunswick, the goal isn’t just to build a facility for themselves. It’s to make sure the next generation has somewhere to play and improve.

“In the future, kids from the next generation can get trained, and they might even one day win a World Cup for us,” said Yarra.

The Boyz are currently competing in the Frederick Cricket Premier Summer League, where they hope to bring another trophy back to Brunswick and more popularity to the sport. ■

Sammy Joseph is a journalism student at the University of Maryland, College Park, with a passion for sports and broadcast journalism. He works in sports production as a member of the broadcast staff for Big Ten Plus at his university.

BHS 2026 Fall Sports Schedules

Football

Sept. 4	at Williamsport	6 p.m.
Sept. 10	at Tuscarora	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	Boonsboro	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Smithsburg	6 p.m.
Oct. 2	Allegany	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	Middletown	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 16	South Carroll	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 23	at Walkersville	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	Catoctin	6:30 p.m.

Boys' Soccer

Sept. 5	Brunswick Mixer	10 a.m.
Sept. 8	Frederick	7 p.m.
Sept. 11	at Tuscarora	5 p.m.
Sept. 15	at TJ	7 p.m.
Sept. 17	at Boonsboro	6:45 p.m.
Sept. 22	Williamsport	7 p.m.
Sept. 24	Catoctin	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	South Carroll	1:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Walkersville	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	Clear Spring	7 p.m.
Oct. 8	at Smithsburg	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Middletown	7 p.m.
Oct. 15	Linganore	7 p.m.

Girls' Soccer

Sept. 5	Brunswick Mixer	Noon
Sept. 8	at Frederick	7 p.m.
Sept. 10	Tuscarora	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	TJ	7 p.m.
Sept. 17	Boonsboro	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Williamsport	7 p.m.
Sept. 24	at Catoctin	6:45 p.m.
Sept. 26	at South Carroll	1:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	Walkersville	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	at Clear Spring	6:45 p.m.
Oct. 8	Smithsburg	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	Middletown	7 p.m.
Oct. 15	at Linganore	7 p.m.

Flag Football

Sept. 5	at Frederick	10:45 a.m.
Sept. 9	at Tuscarora	6:45 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Boonsboro	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	Linganore	2:15 p.m.
Sept. 23	Urbana	5:15 p.m.
Oct. 7	Middletown	5:15 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Williamsport	6 p.m.
Oct. 14	at South Hagerstown	6 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Walkersville	6 p.m.

Field Hockey

Sept. 11	at TJ	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	at St. James School	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	Tuscarora	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Linganore	4 p.m.
Sept. 26	Oakdale	3 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Catoctin	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 30	TJ	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Urbana	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	Middletown	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Frederick	4 p.m.
Oct. 14	Walkersville	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	Catoctin	5:30 p.m.

Volleyball

Sept. 10	at Tuscarora	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	at New Life	4 p.m.
Sept. 17	Boonsboro	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Williamsport	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 24	at Catoctin	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	Walkersville	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	at Frederick	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	Clear Spring	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 8	Smithsburg	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	Middletown	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 15	at Linganore	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	TJ	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 27	at Oakdale	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 29	at South Hagerstown	7 p.m.

Golf

Sept. 2	Catoctin	3 p.m.
Sept. 8	Multi-team match at Clustered Spires	2 p.m.
Sept. 10	at Tuscarora	3 p.m.
Sept. 17	CMC Golf at Black Rock	9:30 a.m.
Sept. 22	FCPS Championships at Clustered Spires	9 a.m.
Oct. 1	Regional Golf at Black Rock	10 a.m.
Oct. 7	Middletown	3 p.m.
Oct. 14	Frederick	3 p.m.

Cross Country

Sept. 5	Zumbach Invitational	9 a.m.
Oct. 3	Keyser Invitational at Boonsboro	10 a.m.
Oct. 9	at TJ	4 p.m.
Oct. 16	CMC Championships at Boonsboro	10 a.m.
Oct. 22	FCPS Championships at Catoctin	1 p.m.

COMMUNITY

RE-ELECT
RENEE
KNAPP
County Council At-Large

✓ STRONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
✓ SUPPORT SENIOR SERVICES
✓ HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



www.knapp4countycouncil.com



By Authority of Friends of Renee Knapp, Christopher Knapp, Treasurer



Vote for integrity, accountability and transparency

Vote for professional leadership

Vote Bickel for Sheriff

Bickel4Sheriff.com

Authority: Friends of Karl Bickel, Marc Weinberg, treasurer

Alleria Stanley

Nominee for Maryland House of Delegates • District 4

Want to Be Our Neighbor? Be a Good One.

Frederick County is a beautiful place to call home. Growth should never come at the expense of the families, farms, and communities already here.



Growth Should Not Come at Our Expense

POWER: Pay your fair share of the infrastructure your enormous clean and renewable energy demand requires. Frederick County families should not be left carrying the cost.

WATER: Protect our water supply. Prioritize closed-loop cooling, responsible water use, and proper wastewater treatment.

AIR + NOISE: Minimize pollution and neighborhood disruption with cleaner backup-power solutions and strongest air and noise protections.

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

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

How Did We Get Here?

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

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

PERSONAL & BUSINESS INSURANCE

Serving Frederick Residents Since 1990

Auto • Home • Life • Health

301-662-2246

519 N. Market St. Frederick

www.SallyArnoldInsurance.com



Blinds, Shades and Shutters

Your Home Comfort Is Our Mission

ROOM TOO HOT OR COLD? FURNITURE/FLOORS FADING?
SUN GLARE ISSUES? PRIVACY CONCERNS?



LOCAL AND FAMILY OWNED-- FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATES
Serving Brunswick & Lovettsville Since 1992

contact@jdwindowtreatments.com

301-606-0253

Affordable Sheds & Garden Products LLC



Wooden & Vinyl Storage Sheds
Run-In & Shed Row Barns
Modular Barns • Pole Barns
Coops • Garages • Playhouses
Gazebos • Kennels • Lawn Furniture

Karen & Keith Lawson
540-822-4524
703-861-4424
11750 Berlin Turnpike
Lovettsville, VA 20180

On-Site Installations
Custom Sizes & Kits Available
www.affordablesheds.us

ALL ABOARD BRUNSWICK

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

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

Burkittsville Walking Tour
September 5
9–10 am
Tour begins at 3 E Main St
Free–will donations
benefit the South
Mountain Heritage
Society

Labor Day 1K/5K Race
September 7
8 am
Othello Regional Park

Patriot Day Ceremony
September 11
8:30–11 am
Town Square Park
Lovettsville, VA

Summer Cruise–In
September 12
9:30 am–12:30 pm
Roy Rogers
28 Souder Rd
Benefits The Leechel
Reynolds Charitable Fund

Rubber Duck Derby & Cornhole Tournament
September 12
10 am–5 pm
Brunswick
Municipal Pool
99 Cummings Dr
Fundraiser for Our
Dream Pursuits, Inc.

Pilates and Pints
September 12
11 am–noon
Smoketown Brewing
223 W Potomac St

Paranormal Investigation
September 12
6–10 pm
Brunswick Heritage
Museum
40 W Potomac St

Open Mic w/ Jacob Rockwell
September 16, starting at
5:30 pm
Smoketown Brewing
223 W Potomac St

Books & Brews Book Club
September 20, 4–6 pm
Smoketown Brewing
223 W Potomac St

Auction
September 25
starting at 3:30 pm
Petersville Ruritan Club
3816 Petersville Rd

River’s Edge Endurance Challenge
September 26, 8 am
Brunswick Middle School

Lovettsville Oktoberfest
September 26
10 am–5 pm
Zoldos Square and nearby
streets

Brunswick Class of 1986 Reunion
September 26
6–10 pm
Jefferson Ruritan
4603B Lander Rd

Potomac Pickin' Party — Bluegrass!
September 27
2–6 pm
Smoketown Brewing
223 W Potomac St

Fall Community Yard Sales
September 25–27
At participating houses
in Brunswick and
Knoxville
[brunswickmd.gov/](http://brunswickmd.gov/specialevents)
specialevents
for sign–ups and sale
listings

Distinguished Citizens Luncheon
September 27
1–3 pm
Brunswick Eagles Club
401 Central Ave

RECURRING

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

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

Trivia Night
THURSDAYS
6–8 pm
Smoketown Brewing
223 W. Potomac St

Brunswick Main Street Farmers Market
Second and last FRIDAY
4–7 pm
Martins Creek
Municipal Parking Lot
100 E Potomac St

Connect & Create
SECOND SATURDAYS,
1–3 pm
Smoketown Brewing
223 W. Potomac St

Games Club of Maryland
THIRD SATURDAYS,
12:30–7 pm
Smoketown Brewing
223 W. Potomac St

SAVE THE DATE

Lovettsville Community Yard Sale
October 3
8 am–12 noon
Game Club
16 S. Berlin Pike
To sign up for a spot,
contact Alex Cassidy
301–471–8706

Brunswick Railroad Days
October 3 & 4
10 am–5 pm
Downtown Brunswick

National Jousting Tournament
October 10
all–day event
breakfast starts at 8 am
Petersville Ruritan Club
3816 Petersville Rd

JFK Run Day Breakfast
November 21
6–10 am or until sold out
Brownsville Church
of the Brethren
1911 Rohresville Rd
(Rt. 67)

LOCAL WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

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

Jefferson United Methodist Church
SUNDAYS, 9 am
3882 Jefferson Pike

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

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

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

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

Grace Episcopal Church
SUNDAYS
11 am
114 E. A Street

CHECK THIS OUT!
September events at local libraries
***Libraries closed 9/6–9/7 for Labor Day**

Brunswick Library
915 N. Maple Avenue

ADULTS (18+)

Adult Adaptive Program: Let’s Get Moving
September 1, 1–2 pm

Medicare 101 Workshop
September 11
10:30 am–2 pm

Hidden Lakes: Watercolor Landscapes
September 13
2–4 pm

Adult Adaptive Program: Go Team Therapy Dogs
September 18
11 am–noon

Fall Bird Walk at Othello Regional Park
September 19, 9–10 am

Save Your Garden Seeds
September 20, 2–4 pm

Memory Cafe
September 25
11:30 am–1 pm

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimers
September 27, 2–3 pm

TEENS (grades 6–12)

Teen Time: Window Decorating
September 3, 6–7 pm

Teen Time: Poet–Tree Leaves
September 10, 6–7 pm

Teen Time: Tea & Journals
September 17, 6–7 pm

Teen Time: Civic Engagement for Teens
September 24, 6–7 pm

TWEENS (grades 3–8)

Tween Time: Butter Slime
September 3, 6–7 pm

CHILDREN (grades K–5)

Elementary Explorers: Design a Restaurant
September 1
4:30–5:30 pm

Elementary Explorers: Rainbows
September 8
4:30–5:30 pm

Elementary Explorers: Dot Day
September 15
4:30–5:30 pm

Story Explorers
September 21, 1–2 pm

Elementary Explorers: Amazing Mazes
September 22
4:30–5:30 pm

Read to a Dog
September 26
10:30–11:30 am

Elementary Explorers: National Family Day
September 29,
4:30–5:30 pm

RECURRING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Voting Basics with the League of Women Voters (Adults)
September 2, 5:30–6:30 pm

20th Anniversary Celebration (all ages)
September 19, 1–2:30 pm

C&O Canal Migratory Bird Walk (all ages)
September 23, 6–7 pm

Drop–in Saturdays: Builders, Gamers, Crafters (all ages)
September 26, 11 am–noon

Toilet Training workshop (ages 0–5, adults)
September 29, 11:30–noon

Window Art Community Workshop (ages 8+)
September 30
5:30–6:30 pm

RECURRING

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

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

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

Messy Monday
Mondays, 10 am–noon
Get ready to make a mess!
Join us weekly to create
art, play with sensory toys
and have fun. For all ages
with a caregiver.

Family Storytime
Tuesdays and
Wednesdays, 10 am
Interactive stories and
movement. For ages 5 and
under with a caregiver.

Teen Takeover
Wednesdays, 5–8 pm
Bring your friends and
take over the library for a
free–time hangout with a
rotating series of gaming,
crafts, movies and other
activities.

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

Little Artists
Fridays, 10 am–noon
Explore a variety of art
styles and crafts. Activities
are geared for different
ages and abilities that
encourage developmental
skill building. Get creative
(and maybe a little messy).

Business Expo is Back Nov. 5th

The Greater Brunswick Area Business EXPO is back on Nov. 5 for its 11th year. It will be held at the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company from 5-8 p.m. Exhibitor registration is now open.

All area businesses and non-profit organizations in Brunswick, Jefferson and Lovettsville are invited to exhibit. Tables and chairs are provided, just bring your display. Volunteers will help you unload and load. Sales are allowed.

Sponsored by the Greater Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce (GBACC), partnering with the City of Brunswick, the EXPO provides a way to showcase products or services directly to consumers.

By exhibiting at the EXPO businesses can:

- Make a one-on-one connection with customers.
- Provide a hands-on demonstration of products and services.
- Reach consumers from multiple media markets in one place.
- Let the workforce know you are hiring.
- Network with other area business owners and local officials.

Visit www.gbacc.net to register your space at the EXPO. For questions, email admin@gbacc.net or abbiericketts@comcast.net.



SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

SATURDAY, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Lovettsville Oktoberfest is a celebration of everything that makes Lovettsville special, our community, our businesses, and our traditions! We look forward to celebrating another wonderful Oktoberfest with you!

WHAT TO EXPECT

German-Style Food

Enjoy a variety of delicious offerings from local civic organizations and town businesses.

All-Day German Competitions

Participate in exciting activities such as Stein Hauling and Hoisting, and our famous Wiener Dog Races!

Kinderfest

All day family fun and activities.

Craft Vendors & Local Businesses

Explore a diverse selection of handmade crafts, gifts, and specialty goods from local artisans and vendors.

Young Entrepreneur Vendor Area

Support the next generation of business owners as young entrepreneurs showcase their products.

Live Music & Entertainment

Enjoy performances from German bands, talented local musicians, and entertainers throughout the day.

LEARN MORE AT

WWW.LOVETTSVILLEOKTOBERFEST.COM

