

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

SERVING BRUNSWICK, LOVETTSVILLE, ROSEMONT, JEFFERSON, BURKITTSVILLE



VOLUME 2 NO. 12

WWW.BRUNSNEWS.COM

DECEMBER 2024

FREE

Hometown Holidays on December 7

By DIANE ELLIS

If you ask Santa Claus where he wants to be on the first Saturday in December, he is sure to mention Brunswick and its Hometown Holidays event.

Saturday, December 7, begins with a Santa breakfast at the fire hall, train rides with Santa in the afternoon, a holiday marketplace, a jingle bell run, and a parade where Santa gets to ride on the fire truck. At dusk, Santa and Mrs. Claus light Brunswick's Christmas tree and greet children.

Breakfast with Santa — This family tradition is at the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company, 1500 Volunteer Dr. from 9–11:30 a.m. (sensory hours for those needing a quieter visit are 8–9 a.m.). A hearty breakfast is available and Santa will pose for pictures. Breakfast costs \$14 adults, \$8 children 6–10, and free for ages 5 and under.

Santa Train Rides — A special train with Santa on board leaves the Brunswick Station at 1 p.m. and again at 3 p.m. and travels

to Shenandoah Junction, W.V. and back. Tickets must be purchased in advance at Eventbrite.com at a cost of \$14.64. Children 2 and under are free if sitting on a lap.

The Brunswick Ambulance Company will sell food from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Railroad Square parking lot near the train station.

Holiday Marketplace — Vendors will sell an assortment of locally made products geared for the holidays — crafts, baked goods, fruits, nuts, honey, hot cocoa, hot cider and more. The outdoor market will be set up in Martin's Creek Parking lot on East Potomac Street from 2–7 p.m. The market is organized by Brunswick Main Street and features many of the vendors who participate in the seasonal farmers' market.

Jingle Bell Run and Santa Stroll — This is a fun run and walk starting at Square Corner Park at 3 p.m. Dress in festive attire and help the Food Bank by contributing a can of food or cash. Santa and Mrs. Claus will join the walk

and Santa will carry plenty of jingle bells.

Parade — The parade starts at 4 p.m. on the west side of town and runs down West Potomac Street to the Square Corner. The parade is short but noisy, with fire engines, floats, police cars and other vehicles joining the procession. When it reaches Square Corner Park, Santa will descend from the fire engine to greet his fans in the park.

Christmas Tree Lighting and Photos with Santa — Following the parade, people will meet in Square Corner Park for the annual community tree lighting. The park will be festive with lights decorating all the trees and holiday music played from the park stage. Santa Claus leads the tree lighting ceremony and with a flick of a switch, the tree will be lit. Santa stays to help decorate the tree by calling on individuals in the crowd to place ornaments on its branches. Santa's long day in Brunswick concludes with a stage appearance where he sits with children and photos are taken. ■



Brunswick Community Christmas tree lighting in 2023.

DIANE ELLIS

Holidays in Lovettsville



By ABBIE RICKETTS

There are quite a few holiday-inspired fun things to do in the town of Lovettsville the weekend of December 7 & 8.

A Christmas Market for gift and décor shopping, along with food and drink, will be at the Lovettsville Game Club. Enjoy a cocoa crawl at participating businesses. Join in the lantern workshop at the Lovettsville Community Center, followed by a parade to the annual tree lighting. There is a menorah lighting on December 26 and "Berserkle in the Squirkle" on New Year's Day. For more details, read below:

December 7 & 8: Annual Christmas Market at the newly renovated Lovettsville Game Protective Association facility hosted by The Lovettsville Game Protective Association and the Lovettsville Lions Club at 16 S. Berlin Pike on Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

and Sunday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. The Game Club will serve traditional German food and drink.

December 7: The Town of Lovettsville Cocoa Crawl, 2–5 p.m. Stroll around town visiting participating businesses to sample and purchase hot chocolates and cocoa-inspired products. More information is at facebook.com/LovettsvilleVA.

December 7: The Lovettsville Community Center's Lantern Decorating Workshop (all ages), 5:15 p.m. Glow sticks will provide safe illumination for the Lantern Parade. To register <https://bit.ly/4eyyd2V>.

December 7: The Lovettsville Community Center's Lantern Parade (all ages) to Zoldus Square (Squirkle), 6:15 p.m. Meet at the Lovettsville Community Center, 57 East Broad Way, with your own lantern or newly crafted lan-

tern. You do not need to register for the parade. All are welcome!

December 7: The Tree Lighting at Zoldus Square at 6:30 p.m. will feature Santa and the Lovettsville Elementary School Chorus singing holiday songs. Families can visit Santa, receive a gift from his elves, and enjoy the festive tree-lighting ceremony. More information is at facebook.com/LovettsvilleVA.

December 7: Rise Against Hunger event at the Lovettsville Volunteer Fire & Rescue located at 12837 S. Berlin Turnpike.

December 26: Lovettsville Menorah Lighting (2nd Night) at the Town of Lovettsville Zoldus Square. Time is TBD, but updates will be shared on the town's Facebook page: facebook.com/LovettsvilleVA.

January 1: Berserkle on the Squirkle. Registration begins at 10 a.m., and the 5K race starts at 11 a.m. Celebrate the New Year with this fun, family-friendly 5K where no one actually counts your laps! Participants are encouraged to bring an unwanted but in-good-condition gift to be re-gifted as a race prize and wear a festive outfit or costume. More information is at facebook.com/LovettsvilleVA. ■

Railroad Square Apartments Welcomes Residents

By ABBIE RICKETTS

In a recent interview with C.J. Tyree of Taft-Mills Group, developer of Railroad Square Apartments and the Mommer's Building, the following updates were provided.

Have residents begun moving in?

The first residents began moving in the week of Nov. 4 and move-ins continue. We are still working through some final punch list items and cleanup on

the construction side. We believe that all units in the new construction building will be ready for occupancy by December 1.

Will there be an open house?

We will re-visit an open house in the spring.

How many applications were received?

I do not have the current number, but we received more ap-

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 17

Winter Skiing



JOHN GAMES

PLUS: POTOMAC STREET MILE, SMOKETOWN'S NEW OWNERS, CEMETERIES, TRANSMISSION LINES, WREATHS, AND MORE

*****ECRWSS****

Local Postal Customer

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

BRUNSWICK NEWS

Railroad Square CONTINUED



Railroad Square Apartments

Continued from page 1

lications than we have units. That does not mean all units are leased. Applicants go through a criminal background check, credit check, and income verification process. Some applicants are only interested in bedroom counts that are no longer available. We currently have some 2 bedroom units still available and encourage anybody who is interested to apply.

What is the status of the Mommer's renovation?

The Mommer's renovations should be complete by March 1, 2025. During construction we discovered that the foundation walls did not have footers and were in bad condition. We have worked with our structural en-

gineer and contractor to design a new foundation system. That plan is in review at Frederick County. We expect to have both the first floor retail and the two apartments in that building complete by March 1.

Anything else you would like to add?

We encourage anyone who is interested in being a resident to go to www.residencesatrailroadsquare.com to get the most up-to-date information about the project. Pictures, floor plans, a virtual tour, and the application are available on the website. While our 1 and 3 bedroom units are all leased, there are still 2 bedroom units currently available. We expect that all units will be leased by the end of December.

Brunswick-area Voters Lean Democratic in Presidential Vote

By MARK ROHNER

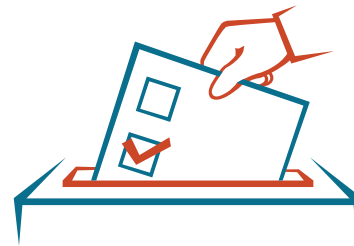
Brunswick-area voters leaned Democratic in the 2024 presidential election, but they split their tickets in the down-ballot races for Congress.

The results in the Brunswick precincts closely mirrored the vote county-wide, where Democratic and independent registrations have gained in recent years at the expense of the once-dominant Republicans, according to figures from the Frederick County Board of Elections.

In the presidential race, the Democrats improved their margins over Donald Trump compared with four years ago. In the Brunswick city precinct, voting at Brunswick Middle School, Kamala Harris outpolled Trump 52% to 45%. Her 196-vote margin in the precinct was better than Joe Biden's 156-vote lead over Trump in 2020.

The picture was similar in the outlying areas that make up the

precinct voting at Faith Baptist Church on Jefferson Pike. There, Harris won with 50% of the vote to Trump's 46%. Four years ago, Biden and Trump were essentially tied in this precinct, which takes in the newer Brunswick neighborhoods of Brunswick Crossing and Galyn Manor, as well as Knoxville, Petersville, Rosemont and New Addition.



County-wide, Harris beat Trump 53% to 44%. Although Trump won both the popular vote and the electoral vote nationwide, the president-elect has seen his support erode in the Brunswick area as well as Frederick County as a whole. In 2016, Trump carried Frederick County

and both Brunswick-area precincts by comfortable margins.

In the congressional races, Brunswick supported former Republican Governor Larry Hogan for Senate and Democrat April McClain Delaney for the District 6 seat in the House of Representatives.

In the Brunswick city precinct, Hogan beat Democrat Angela Alsobrooks 53% to 43%. But Brunswick city voters supported McClain Delaney over Republican Neil Parrott 55% to 45%. The results were similar in the outlying precinct, where Hogan outpolled Alsobrooks 55% to 41%, while McClain Delaney beat Parrott 52% to 47%.

Hogan lost to Alsobrooks statewide, while McClain Delaney won in the 6th district.

Voter turnout in the Brunswick city precinct was 2,907, or 72% of registered voters. In the outlying precinct, the turnout was 3,199, or 80 percent.

SPOT THE BOT WINNERS!



The November issue of the Brunswick News-Journal had an article written by an Artificial Intelligence. A contest was held asking readers to "Spot the Bot" and win a gold (colored) \$1 coin. Pictured are three of the Bot Spotters: Alyssa Theodore, Evelyn Stephenson, and Hailey Barchacky. There were two other winners: Carlo de Vera, and Mike Dodge. They all successfully spotted the article: "Asteroids and Comets" by Ima Roe Bot.

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.

So Be It Now APIARY

near Burkittsville
For prices or to order, Text or call **301-371-4591** or email scottiedie@icloud.com

Quart jars for HOLIDAY BAKING available now!

We've got Lanternfly Honey this year: it's darker with smoky notes

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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

Covering events, culture, economics, environmental issues and lots of other stuff 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):

Julie Gourley	Abbie Ricketts
Jean Doyle	Julie Maynard
Bill Cauley	Jana Wagoner
Mark Rohner	Laura Dvorak

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



C.M. Bloomers Florist & Gifts

for everyday and your Special Days

Designing Quality Flowers for all occasions for over 30 years in Brunswick

76 Souder RD; Brunswick Md 21716
301-834-8200 ~ 1-800-352-8833
www.cmbloomersflorist.com
Monday-Friday 9-5:30; Saturday 9-2:30



JEFFERSON FAMILY DENTISTRY
301-834-8804
for your appointment

HAWKINS LANDSCAPING INC (301) 898-3615



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 50 years
www.hawkinslandscaping.com

State Farm

Chris Lucas
Agent

201 E Potomac St
Brunswick, MD 21716-1623
Bus: 301-696-1515
chris@lucassf.com

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
State Farm, Bloomington, IL

BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL

Mayor and Council November Update

By JULIE GOURLEY

There is a lot going on in the city with the holidays coming up and decisions being made about two potential annexations.

Vista Pointe, Cooper Farm Proffers Changed

City officials announced changes to the "proffers" (city requirements of developers when land is annexed into city jurisdiction) for both developments.

The main change is the city capping the number of houses that can be developed per year at 75 for each development (150 total). The cap is intended to prevent too much disruption in town and too rapid an increase in population. Both developers objected to the cap saying that it is not economically feasible. The city agreed to discuss this further.

Another change is removal of the 10% affordable and multi-family units requirements for the Cooper development. Natelli Communities said that it cannot meet that requirement because multi-family buildings requiring elevators are too expensive to build and could not be sold or rented affordably. As a result, the city reduced the overall number of housing units from 600 to 550. Pleasants Development has not ruled out the requirements for Vista Pointe.

Another change is that Cooper Farm will likely be the location of the new senior/community/recreation center. The city had originally sought conveyance of the 21-acre parcel in Rosemont owned by Brunswick Crossing LLC that runs along Route 17, but that parcel will not work for this type of building. That parcel will be "dedicated" to the city by Brunswick Crossing LLC after the last house is built there. The city now wants to put the senior center on four acres at the corner of Route 464 and Frazer Road.

Volunteers for Commissions and Committees

Mayor Brown made a plea to the public for volunteers for the city's commissions, committees and task forces. He emphasized the need for these commissions: economic development, ethics, finance and utility, parks and recreation, as well as the equity and inclusion task force. Sever-



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

al people answered the call and were sworn in at the Nov. 19 meeting:

- **Equity and Inclusion Task Force:** Teresa Naylor, Donovan Fox, Joy Roe
- **Planning Commission:** Lee Thomas-Palmer, alternate commissioner
- **Economic Development Commission:** Julie Gourley
- **Finance and Utility Commission:** Donovan Fox, David Meeske, Lee Thomas-Palmer, Julie Gourley

Any Brunswick resident interested in serving should contact Carrie Myers in city hall at (301) 834-7500.

The mayor presented plaques to former council member Walt Stull and former mayor Carroll Jones for their many years of dedicated service to the city. Both have served the community in a number of volunteer capacities.

Council Liaison Reports

The council members re-started at this meeting their written reports on the activities of the groups to which they serve as liaisons. Council member John Caves noted that the History Commission holds the only complete collection of the Brunswick Citizen newspaper (1974-2020). The commission has obtained funding to digitize about half of the total and is seeking funds to complete the rest. The collection is open to the public by appointment.

Council member Angel White reported that 128 children in Brunswick are registered for the Community Christmas this year. The city donated \$500 to BEACON to purchase gift cards. Members of the public can donate gift cards and/or money to BEACON (www.BrunswickBEACON.org) before December 13 when gifts will be distributed. Children can be registered through the Salvation Army Angel Tree (<https://saangeltree.org>).

org) before December 13 when gifts will be distributed. Children can be registered through the Salvation Army Angel Tree (<https://saangeltree.org>).

Code of Ordinances Re-Write

The council approved a \$199,989 contract for Renaissance Planning to assist the city in re-writing the code of ordinances which was last updated in October 2020 but has not had a major overhaul since the 1960s.

In response to a concern about cost overruns, Planning Director Bruce Dell said that the contract is a fixed price and that any overruns would be sent to the council for a decision. Some of the work will be done in-house to save money. The code will need to incorporate many new items including state laws, accessory dwelling units, Air BnBs and more.

Dell also noted that Taneytown city staff have asked to come to Brunswick to learn from Brunswick's experience.

In Other News...

- Brunswick and Frederick Police Department narcotics officers arrested a Brunswick resident who had a large quantity of various drugs. An 18-year-old female was arrested without bond for a stabbing in Brunswick on Nov. 18; the victim was in stable condition at press time. BPD officers also made an arrest for violating a protective order. The American Legion post held a fundraiser for the BPD cadets that garnered \$600.
- Councilmember Andy St. John expressed concern that the empty lot downtown could be filled with apartments. Planning Director Dell said that the city has ideas for what it wants there and that any proposal for apartments would be bound by

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Advocating for Brunswick with State and County Officials

I wish everyone a happy, safe and joyous holiday season. I hope it is filled with opportunities to make memories with your family and friends.

As Mayor, I have remained committed to staying engaged with our local, county and state officials to ensure Brunswick's needs are heard and addressed. Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a county-wide meeting with the Frederick County state delegation to discuss the upcoming Maryland General Assembly legislative session. During this meeting, I emphasized several key issues that are important to our community.

Sidewalks. First and foremost, I stressed the need for assistance with sidewalk repairs, replacements, and additions where they don't currently exist. Improving our sidewalks is crucial for enhancing multi-modal connectivity, making our community more walkable, and providing safe routes to school – especially along State Highway routes.

Brunswick High School. I used this platform to continue advocating for the replacement of Brunswick High School. Our students deserve a modern, safe learning environment, and I will keep pushing for the funding needed to make this a reality.

Rail safety and improvements. This remains a top priority for our city. The ongoing issue of train blockages is a concern for everyone, and I'm pleased to report that we've applied for multiple grants to support improvements at our crossings, including the addition of a pedestrian bridge.

Infrastructure. Beyond these specific projects, I highlighted our broader infrastructure needs, such as state funding for water line re-lining and replacement, a new water storage tank to replace our 100+ year old reservoir, and repairs to the Kaplon building. These investments are vital for the health and well-being of our residents and the long-term sustainability of our city.

In addition to the county-wide legislative meeting, Brunswick



recently participated in the Maryland Department of Transportation's Consolidated Transportation Program meeting. This annual gathering brings together state leaders to discuss transportation needs across Frederick County. I took this opportunity to advocate for the addition and improvement of acceleration lanes along Route 340 at the MD 17 (Brunswick exit) and MD 180 (Petersville exit). I'm happy to report that these projects remain on track and haven't been impacted by state transportation budget cuts. As we have more details on timelines, I will be sure they are shared with you.

I remain committed to staying engaged and advocating for the resources and improvements we need to enhance the quality of life in Brunswick.

Expanding MARC train service along the Brunswick Line is another key priority. Adding mid-day and weekend service would greatly enhance the reliability and accessibility of public transportation, benefiting commuters and giving our community a significant economic boost.

As Mayor, I remain committed to staying engaged and advocating for the resources and improvements we need to enhance the quality of life in Brunswick. I will keep working closely with our county and state representatives to move these initiatives forward and ensure our voice is heard in Annapolis. ■

— Nathan Brown

the city's zoning requirements including ground floor retail.

- The Council passed a resolution prohibiting parking in cul-de-sacs with islands inside Brunswick

Crossing, the only place in town with them. The city said it will not allow future cul-de-sacs to have islands. ■



31 E Potomac St. | Brunswick, MD

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

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*

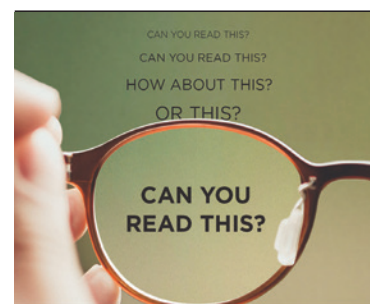
BENJAMIN WEISER, D.D.S., P.A.
FAMILY DENTISTRY

BRUNSWICK SHOPPING CENTER
64 SOUDER RD.
BRUNSWICK, MD 21716

TEL: (301) 834-6700
FAX: (301) 834-5225

weiserdentalchoice@gmail.com

Now offering in-house membership plans!



Thinking about an eye exam?

Give us a call!

301-834-6400

www.brunswickpublicspectacle.com

New since 2020
Glaucoma management
OCT retinal scanner.

Brunswick Family Vision Center
Carolyn V. Ormes, O.D.

15 E. Potomac Street
Brunswick, MD 21716

Help Wanted!

Optician

Please call!

BRUNSWICK NEWS

50 Years of The Learning Tree

By JEAN TOLEMAN

Many in the Brunswick community attended The Learning Tree when they were young. Many have children, grandchildren, maybe even great grandchildren who spent their early childhood days at the little day care at 607 East D St. The center is about to celebrate its 50th year, an accomplishment that started from humble beginnings.

Around 1969, VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) came to Brunswick to assess needs for the lower income community. The need overwhelmingly was day care, so mothers could go out to work. Over the next several years, VISTA volunteers came and went, providing guidance on starting and building a day care center, but it was a core group of African American women from Brunswick, Burkittsville and Knoxville who had the energy and conviction to keep the ball rolling.

The group incorporated into a nonprofit in order to raise funds and build the center. The original board included Lucille Gilbert, president; Lillie Morris, vice-president; Patricia Smothers, secretary; Virginia Joy, assistant secretary; Thearl Dykes, treasurer; and Frances Henderson, assistant treasurer. These women plus many other volunteers stuck with the project over the five years it took to bring the day care to opening day.

Finding a Building

According to Lillie Morris, the group was unable to find a suitable building in town. "Many owners were not very receptive to our idea," as told in the Brunswick History Commission's book Brunswick: 100 years of Memories. Judy Wolf, one of the



Thearl Dykes (left), VISTA worker Joe McClintock, and Lucille Gilbert (right) inside the newly constructed day care in 1974. From The Brunswick Citizen, Vol. 1, #43, Nov. 7, 1974.

board members in the 1970s remembered, "The board went to the local bank to get a loan but the bank turned them down because they had no credit."

Cynthia Smothers, an early board member, remembered, "We looked for a standing building to use as a center, but nothing was appropriate. Neal & Ellen McNeal, the VISTA workers at that time, had purchased two lots and we bought one for \$2,000 to build on. We did a big mailing campaign to raise money." They applied for grants and received them from Frederick Community Action, The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and the town of Brunswick.

Olivia Robbins, another early board member, recalled, "The African American community was the big force in the creation of the day care. A lot of volunteer hours

were spent on bake sales, bingo, dances and dinners along with a mailing campaign to raise money." Along with fundraising, the volunteers were learning how to start and operate a day care.

Much of the work of constructing the building and the grounds was done by volunteers. VISTA workers, community volunteers, Brunswick town employees, Frederick National Guard and even inmates from the Frederick County jail all worked on the project.

Opening in 1976

The doors to the center finally opened in January 1976. By this time, not one of the original volunteers still had children young enough to attend the center.

The first teacher was Fran Hardiman, who had originally been a VISTA volunteer in Brunswick, Georgia. The first cook was Jackie Dorsey of Knoxville. Much of the maintenance and grounds work was done by volunteers, especially for the playground.

Wolf had been involved with founding a day care on Capitol Hill in the early 1970s before moving to the Brunswick area. She was very impressed by the board of The Learning Tree and their philosophy. "What I really agreed with was the sliding scale fee plan. That is what we had done on Capitol Hill," Wolf said. She went on to say, "My family and one other were the only ones paying full fees. I think you had to be making over \$20,000 a year."

Smothers' granddaughter and great-granddaughter both attended Learning Tree. Robbins said, "It was a good place that provided secure care for the children."

In 1978 the United Way started supporting the center. Wolf stated, "They had a lot to do with the day care's success. They provided needed money which saved it." In the 1990s the day care relinquished its non-profit status.

Today, the Learning Tree is going strong. Still in its original building with a sunny playground, it provides before and after school programs as well as day care for children ages 2 to 15 with hours 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. ■



The Learning Tree Early Learning Center as it looks today on East D Street.

Jefferson Ruritan Club

Country Breakfast

Sat. December 7, 2024

7:00 am – 11:00 am

Adults \$14

Children 6-10 yrs. \$7; under 6 yrs. Free

Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fried country ham, pudding, hominy, sausage gravy, coffee & juice

4603B Lander Rd., Jefferson, MD

BEHIND THE BADGE

The Police Vest is a Heavy Load to Carry

"Behind the Badge" is an ongoing series of profiles on Brunswick Police Department (BPD) officers to help people in our community know the officers a little better and feel more comfortable interacting with them.

By JULIE GOURLEY

Ever wonder what all that stuff is on the modern police vest? You've seen the vest on Brunswick police officers and in photos of officers in this newspaper's "Behind the Badge" series. We also wondered what's in those vests, so we asked the police department for the rundown.

Brunswick police officers wear "MOLLE" vests, which stands for "modular, lightweight, load-carrying equipment." They are bullet-proof and can weigh up to 50 lbs. fully loaded with equipment and ballistic panels (metal or ceramic bullet-proof panels that slide into the vest.) Former chief Milt Frech approved the upgrade from an older style vest to the MOLLE which is more comfortable for officers to wear, especially when seated in their vehicles.

The main benefit of the MOLLE-style vest is that it shifts the weight of equipment from the police officer's hips and lower back to the abdominal and chest areas, which reduces lower back pain and pain from equipment jabbing into the skin and muscles. Sitting is also less constrained.

Each piece of equipment is fastened to the vest and is easily removed. The ballistic (bullet-proof) material is in the front and back and wraps around underneath and behind. At the top of the back side is an open collar known as a "drag point" that can be used to pull the officer out of a difficult or

incapacitating situation.

Older style ballistic vests are worn underneath the shirt separate from the equipment belt that is worn around the hips and lower back. Brunswick Police Chief Kevin Grunwell and Captain Andy Crone wear the older style vests because they spend more time on administrative duty indoors than patrol officers.

MOLLE vests are tailored to each individual officer to ensure a perfect fit. They must be replaced every five years (or sooner if damaged) because the materials used in them, such as Kevlar, degrade over time from exposure to environmental factors like moisture, sunlight and regular wear and tear which can compromise their ability to stop bullets and other projectiles.

Here is Corporal Brandon Smith's vest. As the canine (K9) officer, he has one additional piece of equipment: an electronic dog "whistle" that sends a light ping to his K9 partner Kyro's electronic collar signaling him to return to Corporal Smith.

As you can imagine, lugging around an extra 50 or so pounds of dark material can be quite hot in the summer. Turns out it's possible to attach a hose to the MOLLE vest and blow in cool air, though only some officers actually do that. Unsurprisingly, Corporal Smith prefers working outdoors in the cooler weather months.

Now you know! ■



Key to the tools on Corporal Brandon Smith's vest above:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| A Radio | G Body-worn camera |
| B Flashlights | H Taser |
| C Oleoresin capsicum spray | I Electronic K-9 'whistle' |
| D Extra bullet magazines | J Handcuffs |
| E Service weapon | K K-9 leash |
| F Phone | |

JEAN TOLEMAN

JULIE GOURLEY

Shopping Local for the Holidays

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

The holiday season is well underway. Stores are becoming busy as shoppers seek special gifts for friends and family. Local stores could be the place to find those special gifts.

Located in downtown Brunswick, **Ampersand** has two floors full of unique second-hand treasures of every imaginable style. This is the place to stop for an unusual gift. Old-fashioned holiday decorations can be found here as well. Hours are Friday 12-4, Saturday 11-5, Sunday 12-4 at 230 W. Potomac St.

Antiques and Ole Stuff on East Potomac Street also has a broad selection of second-hand items and antiques. Many charming items that can't be purchased new any longer but are still loved by so many can be found here. The large store is open Thursday-Sunday 11-5 at 25 E. Potomac St.

Potomac River Interiors is a new shop downtown that offers home decorating and gift items in addition to interior design services. Located at 30 W. Potomac St. in the Newberry building, the store also offers classes in various types of handcrafts. Hours are Thursday-Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-7.

CM Bloomers at the Brunswick Shopping Center has many beautiful gift items in their shop sure to please those looking for an exceptional gift. They have everything from home décor items to house plants as well as holiday decorations. Holiday floral gifts can also be ordered for delivery. Open Monday-Friday 9-5:30, Saturday 9-2:30.

The **Brunswick Heritage Museum store** has many items the history and train buff would love. There are many train-themed items for children. The Museum



Holiday display at CM Bloomers Florist & Gifts in the Brunswick Shopping Center.

is open Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 1-4.

For the cigar lover in the family, stop in **Travelin' Brothers Cigars** and buy your special person the finest of cigars at 302 W. Potomac St.

Create a gift basket of special beers from **Smoketown Brewing Station** or buy that special bottle of wine from the **Corner Store** or **Jerry's Liquors**, both located downtown, or **Tri State Liquors** on Souder Road and **Brunswick Liquors** on Jefferson Pike.

For the fisherman in the family, **Smoketown Bait and Tackle** is a must stop to find the perfect gift. The friendly shop is open Wednesday-Friday 10-5, Saturday 7-5, Sunday 12-5 at 27 W. Potomac St.

Ace Hardware at the Brunswick Shopping Center has products for the grill chef ranging from top of the line grills to accessories and a large selection of spices and marinades. Or maybe a family member needs a chain saw or other tools.

Farm and Home Services on Souder Road has bird feeders,

bird seed, pet items and gifts for gardeners. **H. C. Summers** in Jefferson also carries many gift items for the gardener and pet lover. Give a holiday meal with fresh meat, poultry or oysters from **Hemp's Meats** in Jefferson.

Gift cards at local businesses are always appreciated. There are plenty of options at local restaurants, bakeries, car repair shops, nail and hair salons, and more. Give a gift certificate to try yoga at **Roots and River Yoga** or a massage at **Five Dances Wellness Center** both in downtown Brunswick.

Shop local and help support local businesses. See what special gifts they might have that someone who is loved may enjoy and treasure. ■

Bridgeway Bikes Now Open

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

The new bike shop in downtown Brunswick is open and serving cycling customers. Bridgeway Bikes owner Eirik Harteis said he has been excited to meet a lot of people and begin building a bicycling community in Brunswick and surrounding areas.

Extensive array of bikes available

Harteis has made a great effort to appeal to different types of cyclists by carrying an extensive variety of bicycles including those made for riding on trails like the towpath, road bikes for street riding, electric bikes, children's bikes, mountain bikes and more. He caters to both new and experienced cyclists with a broad range of bikes available.

In October, he saw increased traffic in his shop from the towpath and he mentioned the diversity of people who stop in, some from other states and countries as well as both younger and older people. Riders who are on gravel or hybrid bikes, which are the bikes of choice for the gravel-based towpath, have stopped in to visit and get bike repairs needed to continue their journeys. Many of his customers are from Brunswick and Lovettsville.

A bike mechanic has been hired. Harteis' long-time colleague, Merlyn, has been busy servicing bikes and overhauling them. Merlyn also builds bikes.

Bike rentals are now available



Eirik Harteis, owner of Bridgeway Bikes, with the Brunswick Bear.

at the shop. One of the most popular bikes to rent is the UX model. It has a carbon belt drive rather than a chain and has no derailleur so people like to give it a try.

In January of the coming year, Harteis will host a series of Bike 101 classes. They will be listed on the shop's website at bridgewaybikes.com and their Facebook page. On February 2, Harteis will be at the Brunswick Library offering a workshop.

The shop's hours are currently Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The address is 5 West Potomac St., #1, and the phone is 240-931-7758.

20th Annual Potomac Street Mile



Runners take off for the 20th Annual Potomac Street Mile held on Nov. 9. About 30 runners of all ages participated in the race that honors former Brunswick Police Chief Milton Frech, Jr.

BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2024

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Maryland State Citations	18	158	14	213
Maryland State SEROS	8	59	3	23
Warning Citations	72	779	60	760
Parking Citations (paper)	8	58	0	47

CRIME REPORT				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Calls for Service	811	8,863	806	10,204
Homicide	0	1	0	0
Rape	0	2	0	3
Robbery	0	1	0	0
Assault	5	72	8	132
Breaking & Entering	0	8	0	9
Theft	3	36	5	28
Auto Theft	0	2	0	4
Adult Arrests	7	75	6	90
Juvenile Arrests	0	24	3	33

OTHER INCIDENTS				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Motor Vehicle Accidents	11	123	8	101
Emergency Evaluations Mentally Ill/Suicidal Persons	9	76	12	57
Overdoses	0	10	0	6

YTD = year to date PY = previous year 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)

Christian Community Church

Independent, Bible-based, Holy Spirit led church where the truth of scripture is lived!
Come experience the love & friendship of fellow believers.

Every Sunday

* Bible study & fellowship: 9 am

* Worship service: 10 am



St. Paul's

12623 Harpers Ferry Rd. Hillsboro, VA
christiancommunityatstpauls.com

BRUNSWICK NEWS

POETRY AT BEANS IN THE BELFRY



Friday, Nov. 8, saw a very popular event at Beans in the Belfry — a public reading by local poets. From 6–9 p.m. over 20 poets from Brunswick, Frederick and around the county read their works. More than 50 people attended the event which was organized by Rachel Wilson, a director of the Brunswick Arts Council, and Wayne Drozynski, Brunswick Line Poetry.

New Owners Plan Changes for Smoketown Brewing

By SCOTT NORRIS

Ammy Dudrow and Todd Vaughn have taken ownership of Smoketown Brewing Station, located in the old fire hall, a Brunswick landmark. The purchase includes the Smoketown building and neighboring parcels as well as the parking lot across Potomac Street.

Smokestack Black IPA wins award

Smoketown Brewing Station will retain its name, and the current line of lagers, pilsners and ales will remain unchanged. There are plans for small scale limited runs of new brewed beverages. Dudrow reported that since they took ownership, they submitted Smokestack Black IPA, an old favorite of Smoketown customers, in the Maryland Craft Beer Competition and it won a gold medal for specialty IPA. It was the only gold awarded to a Frederick area brewery.

There has been no major change in staff, which helped with the transition. The head of production, Greg Nichols, and Head Brewer Brandon Harmon stayed on to continue applying their expertise. There are plans to expand staff and, for the time being, trim food offerings from the kitchen. An overhaul and update of food options is planned, but all menu changes must be cleared first by the health department.

Efforts are underway to redesign the interior. Walls have been painted and new furniture is in the works. There are also plans to expand and improve the brewery equipment to give Har-

mon more flexibility and range in product development.

Dudrow and Vaughn have plans to make regular use of the 8,000 square foot Cannon's event space on the second floor. They have already refinished and polished the floor and hosted a comedy night that they said was successful and had a large audience. Several new events have been booked and will be advertised as the dates approach. Musical entertainment is planned for Friday nights as well as weekly trivia competitions in the first floor area.

Dudrow grew up in Frederick County and has a degree in business. Vaughn has been a Maryland resident for 20 years, studied music in college and was the deputy editor of PC Gamer magazine.

Former owner Dave Blackmon's efforts over the years yielded a steady flow of customers from the C&O Canal towpath and the Brunswick campground. Dudrow and Vaughn are working to continue that connection and regularly see bicyclists and hikers stop in for a beer and bite to eat.

Seeking an event manager

Dudrow reported that the most immediate challenge they face is hiring growth-oriented staff to fill out their work team. In particular they are looking for an event manager for both upstairs and downstairs activities, as well as bartenders with interest in the community. Dudrow and Vaughn said they are excited about their future in Brunswick. ■

Senior Happenings

By JEAN DOYLE

The Winter 2025 Activity Guide (January-March) will be available the week of December 11. Registration opens on Monday, Dec. 18. Check out all the activities and programs offered for this winter. Registration instructions are included in the guide.

Trips Offered in December:

Saturday, Dec. 21—Annual Holiday Spectacular by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at the Joseph Myerhoff Symphony Hall. The performance features special guest artists, sing-a-longs, and tapdancing Santas. Time 11:30 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m., leave from Frederick Senior Center, 1440 Taney Ave., Frederick. Cost \$70 per person plus cash for driver tip. Register by Friday, Dec. 6.

Friday, Dec. 27—Celebrate New Year with Lunch at Hickory Bridge Farm, Gettysburg. Enjoy a family style meal in a restaurant located in a 165-year-old barn. Transportation is included, leaving from Frederick Senior Center at 10:15 a.m., return approximately 3 p.m. Cost \$55 per person. Pre-register by Friday, Dec. 13. Register for trips at: <http://frederickcountymd.gov/3cartstores.com> or call 301-600-7020 for more information.

Special December Events:

Friday, Dec. 8—Celebrate the Season Luncheon and Music. Brunswick Eagles Club, 401 Central Ave., 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Enjoy a traditional turkey meal, convivial company, and oldies music featuring Rearview Mirror. Cost is \$5 per person. Register in advance at eStore: <http://frederickcountymd.gov.3dcartstores.com>. Limited transportation available for \$2.

Monday, Dec. 16—Golden Tones Concert and Lunch. Frederick 50+ Senior Center, 1440 Taney Ave., Frederick. Lunch served at noon and performance at 2 p.m. Lunch & Concert \$12 per person suggested contribution. Concert only is free, donations gratefully accepted. Pre-register for both at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/DAI or VirtualSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Brunswick Senior Center Highlights

Thursday, Dec. 19—Holiday Meal. Special menu at noon at the Brunswick Senior Center. Register a week in advance by calling 301-834-8115. Voluntary contributions toward meal cost are appreciated. Meal cost is \$6.

Tuesday, Dec. 31—Noon's Eve Meal. Special menu at noon at the Brunswick Senior Center. Register a week in advance by calling 301-834-8115. Voluntary contributions toward meal cost are appreciated. Meal cost is \$6.

Don't forget all the usual activities at the Brunswick Senior Center

Lunch Out with Friends—Friday, Dec. 13

Stitching Post Yarn Arts Group—Mondays at Brunswick Library, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Blood Pressure Checks and Safety Presentation—1st Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Weis Market Nutritional Talk—Thursday, Dec. 19 at 1–2 p.m.

Brunswick exercise classes continue through December with Line Dancing, Strength and Stretch Hybrid, and Pickleball.

Virtual Program of Note:

Tuesday, Dec. 17—HUD approved counseling for Reverse Mortgages. The City of Frederick offers this HUD counseling to clarify and answer myths and rumors about Reverse Mortgages. The presenter is Steve Rose, Housing Counselor, City of Frederick Housing & Human Services, Virtual, free, pre-register, 2–3 p.m. at VirtualSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Reminder for all Frederick County Residents age 60+ with an income below \$1600/month: You are eligible for free Monthly Distribution of seasonal produce, canned goods, and shelf stable products. 3rd Friday of each month, starting at 12 noon, at Frederick 50+ Senior Center, 1440 Taney Ave., Frederick. Call 301-600-1234 for more information.

Volunteers are needed the third Friday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Frederick Senior Center. Help support Groceries for Seniors food distribution. For more information contact Casi Chandler at 301-600-3524 or cchandler@frederickcountymd.gov. ■



RHP
Your Whole
Real Home
House Approach
Performance

Heating and Cooling
Home Testing and Air Sealing
Filtration and Humidification

System Upgrades, Service, Maintenance, Duct Cleaning, Air Cleaners and Purifiers

See Website for Savings
Realhomeperformance.com **240-439-8577** Knoxville MD MDHVAC 12460

Peace of Mind Heating & Safety Inspection

\$129. Heating System Check

\$129. Dryer Vent Safety Inspection & Cleaning

Make Sure Your System is Safe and Operating as it was Designed?

Stay **Warm** This Winter with



Firewood

Selected hardwoods cut, split and delivered to your home.
Call Mike now to stock up

301-834-4158

\$230/cord \$120/half cord



Little Red Barn

4610 Lander Rd.
Jefferson, Maryland
301-378-8100
LittleRedBarnIcecream.com



Ice cream favorites, sandwiches, soups, coffee, and more!

Open:
Monday–Thursday 11 am – 8 pm,
Friday and Saturday 11 am–9pm
Sunday 1 pm–6pm



Jacqueline DESIGNS
WINDOW TREATMENTS

Where function meets fashion for your windows!
Shades • Blinds • Shutters

COMPETITIVE PRICING  FREE ESTIMATES

Serving Brunswick & Lovettsville Since 1992
contact@jdwindowtreatments.com

301-606-0253
540-874-2522



Brunswick Holiday Event Calendar



DECEMBER 7TH

- 8AM - 11:30AM** BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - BRUNSWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT
8 AM - 9AM SENSORY HOUR & 9 AM- 11:30AM
- 11AM - 5PM** AMBULANCE COMPANY FOOD SALE - RAILROAD SQUARE
- 12:30PM - 4:30PM** LETTERS TO SANTA - SANTA MAILBOX RAILROAD SQUARE
- 1PM & 3PM** SANTA TRAIN RIDES - RAILROAD SQUARE
- 2PM** BRUNSWICK HERITAGE HOLIDAY WALK
BRUNSWICK HERITAGE MUSEUM
- 2PM - 7PM** HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE - MARTIN'S CREEK PARKING LOT
- 3PM** JINGLE BELL RUN AND SANTA STROLL - SQUARE CORNER PARK
- 4PM** HOLIDAY PARADE AND TREE LIGHTING
WEST POTOMAC STREET TO SQUARE CORNER PARK

DECEMBER 14TH

- 6AM - 11AM** BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
BRUNSWICK VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE AND RESCUE
- 11AM - 6PM** BRUNSWICK ART MARKET - SMOKETOWN BREWERY
- 12 PM** WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA & PULLING FOR VETERANS
OLD BERLIN CEMETERY
- 2PM - 4PM** KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY - VISIT WITH SANTA AND MRS CLAUS
THE AMERICAN LEGION - STEADMAN - KEENAN
- 5 PM - 8 PM** LUMINARY EVENT - PARK HEIGHTS CEMETERY
- 6PM** BRUNSWICK ART MARKET AFTER PARTY - SMOKETOWN BREWERY

DECEMBER 21ST

- TIMES TBA** STORY TIME WITH SANTA - BRUNSWICK HERITAGE MUSEUM

DURING DECEMBER

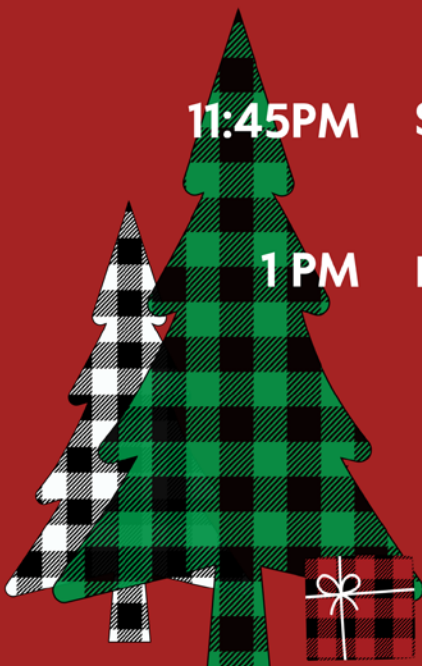
- TBA** SANTA VISITING BRUNSWICK ON FIRETRUCK
DATES AND ROUTE IS WEATHER DEPENDENT
PLEASE CHECK FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES

DECEMBER 31ST

- 11:45PM** SCOTTISH FIRST FOOTING - SQUARE CORNER PARK

JANUARY 1ST

- 1 PM** FREEZIN FOR A REASON - BRUNSWICK FAMILY CAMPGROUND



BRUNSWICK NEWS



PHOTOS BY ELLIS BURRUSS



Victoria's Community Christmas Town

The school where Victoria Ahinful teaches in Montgomery County does a lot of paper lamination. "Miss Vicky" noticed that there was an abundance of plastic left over when the laminated objects were trimmed. Imagination and creativity took over. The result is an amazing Christmas display in her garage in Brunswick Crossing.

The whole display was constructed over a year using the leftover laminator trimmings, styrofoam packing material (which her neighbors give her), and hundreds of pictures of people carefully trimmed from magazines and stiffened with the laminator plastic.

It is an amazing, detailed display and well worth seeing. You can do that between November 2 and January 10 at 708 Canal Town Street in Brunswick Crossing. The display is in the garage which faces Towpath Alley. It's open 5:00 to 9:00 pm, but if you want to schedule another time or learn more, you can email Victoria at VAhinful@yahoo.com.



Brunswick Food Bank Installs New Equipment

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

The Brunswick Ecumenical Assistance Committee On Needs (BEACON) received a \$25,000 grant last July from the Community Foundation of Frederick County, in partnership with Frederick County Government, to purchase new equipment for the Brunswick Food Bank.

In the grant application BEACON provided details on how the program alleviates food insecurity, how it determines project outcomes, and its evaluation tools and processes.

New refrigerators, freezers

With the award, leaders of the food bank purchased seven new refrigerators and freezers, each 21 cubic feet in size, that can be switched from refrigerator to freezer with the touch of a button depending on the donations received at any given time. Remodeling and additional shelving was added as well. The purchase will enable the organization to stock

more cold and frozen foods. The grant also funded new signage to assist clients.

The Brunswick Food Bank has served the community since December 1978 by providing food to those in need based on family size and specific needs.

The Food Bank works closely with Brunswick's Emergency Relief Fund, local schools and fraternal organizations to help families with additional needs.

Making donations

For more information about BEACON or to make a donation, go online to brunswickbeacon.org/donate/. BEACON operates its programs through donations and grants.

Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off any day during the week at 601 E. Potomac Street. Food Bank volunteers request that donations be placed in the two plastic bins on the front porch. The bins are emptied several times a day by Food Bank volunteers. Expired food cannot be accepted. ■

Museum Restoration Nears Completion as it Welcomes Holiday Visitors



The scaffolding is gone from the front of the Brunswick Heritage Museum as renovations are nearly complete.

By **JEAN DOYLE**

Holiday time at the Brunswick Heritage Museum is always festive, and this year is no exception. If you have been on downtown Potomac Street, you may have noticed that the scaffolding is gone from the front façade of the Museum, and the building is returning to its charming look of the early 1900s.

The Museum is now waiting for the return of the front windows that are being remade by an historical restoration company. This will help bring back the original look of the Red Men's Hall, named after the Improved Order of Red Men who constructed the building around 1904.

Another major project that

has been completed is repair of the Museum elevator. These repairs have taken much longer and cost much more than originally anticipated, but the repairs are now complete and the elevator is back in working condition. The elevator has passed all required inspections and has been re-certified, making the Museum's upper floors accessible to all visitors again, just in time for the holidays.

Santa's visit

Santa will visit the Museum on Saturday, December 21, for Storytime with Santa from 1-3 p.m. Kids of all ages are invited to see Santa, listen to story time and make a holiday craft. The model trains on the third floor will also be running throughout the holidays and the Museum store will

be open. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 1-4 p.m. on Sundays.

The Museum will be decked out for the holidays, even though the windows are still covered over and won't have the usual holiday scenes displayed. It is always worth the trip to the Museum to see the holiday decorations. Museum volunteers are hopeful that the new windows will be installed before the end of December.

Small group tours during the holidays

Although the Museum will be open just the usual Saturday and Sunday hours, Museum Board president, Julie Kloetzli, said that she will open the Museum for small group tours during the holiday season. Email Julie at JulieK@MHSYS.net to set up a group tour.

As the Museum has done in previous years, it will be closed from January to March. During this time the volunteers will be busy doing necessary maintenance and repair work on the model railroad, as well as general cleanup and updating of Museum displays. With the grand re-opening next March, the structural work and brick repair, as well as the restored front windows, should all be completed. The Brunswick Heritage Museum will open its 51st year with a restored façade honoring the building's early 1900s beginning.

The Brunswick Heritage Museum is located at 40 W. Potomac Street and is online at brunswick-museum.org and on Facebook. ■



Brunswick Food Bank's new freezers and refrigerators purchased through a Frederick County Community Foundation grant.

ABBIE RICKETTS

National Wreaths Across America Comes to Brunswick



By WAYNE ALLGAIER

A wreathmaker from Massachusetts wanted to donate his unsold wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery in 1992 to recognize military veterans. He received permission and continued to place wreaths on the graves of veterans there every year. As the popularity of the program grew and expanded to other cemeteries, he and some associates formed a non-profit organization, Wreaths Across America, to promote their efforts.

In 2022, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers placed more than 2.7 million sponsored veterans' wreaths on headstones of our nation's service members at 3,702 participating locations.

Two years ago, a local veteran support organization, Pulling for Veterans, wanted to participate in this program. They were told there was an 8-year waiting list, but they could join immediately if they wanted to expand the program to a new cemetery.

Park Heights Cemetery and Old Berlin Cemetery

Michele Payton, Director of Outreach for Pulling for Veterans, whose own father suffered from PTSD as a result of his military service, approached Park Heights Cemetery, where her father is buried, to seek participa-

tion in Wreaths Across America this year. Recognizing that there are 251 veterans buried in that cemetery, the Board of Directors unanimously supported the idea.

The Old Berlin Cemetery, where five Civil War veterans are interred, will also be included in the wreath laying.

A brief ceremony will be held at Park Heights Cemetery on Saturday, December 14, at noon, following which wreaths will be laid on the graves of each veteran. This will be followed by a short trip to the Old Berlin Cemetery where the Civil War veterans will be similarly honored. This event coincides with the annual placement of luminaries, which will be visible in the two cemeteries that evening until 8 p.m.

Sponsoring a Wreath

Those wishing to sponsor a wreath in honor of a loved one or to make any other donation to support this program may do so at wreathscrossamerica.org/MD0644P or make checks out to "Wreaths Across America at Pulling for Veterans," P.O. Box 4101, Frederick, MD 21705.

The cost of each wreath is \$17, of which \$5 will go to Pulling for Veterans, a support and educational group for veterans dealing with PTSD and their families. Learn more about them at pullingforveterans.org. ■

Boy Scouts Earn Merit Badges

By ADAM PARDE

As the weather gets colder, Boy Scout Troop 277 continues to participate in many events. At their fall Court of Honor, the boys were presented with awards they had earned from hard work related to specific skills. These awards were presented as merit badges vital to achieving the highest rank of Eagle.

Merit badges and award recipients

Merit badges and awards were given to: James Best for electronics, environmental science, geocaching and landscape architecture; Nicholas Cronkite for search and rescue, shotgun, environmental science and landscape architecture; Grant Hough for camping; Kyle McGann for kayaking, first aid, archery and landscape architecture; Simon McGilivray for environmental science, kayaking, game design and moviemaking; Julian O'Toole for first aid and landscape architecture; Adam Parde for moviemaking, environmental science, camping, chemistry and family life. The

total number of merit badges earned was 23.

Fall camporee

A few boys attended the fall camporee which was a backpacking-themed campout where they brought their own backpacking packs and carried them around for a whole day to simulate what hiking with them would feel like. Many informative things were learned at the stations provided, such as how to filter water and properly navigate trails. All of the boys who attended participated in a skit at the end of their fun weekend.

Troop 277 meetings

Troop 277 meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at Merryland Park at 7 p.m. and is open to boys 11-18 years of age. Scouts provide a great opportunity for boys to experience outdoor activities and develop leadership skills. For more information, email Scoutmaster Zumbach (zum50@hotmail.com) or go to beascout.org and look up Troop 277. ■

Brunswick's Veterans' Day Parade

PHOTOS BY BILL CAULEY



Col. Christopher M. Chung, Garrison Commander, Fort Detrick (left), Jack Myers (center) and Anthony Woods, Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, talk things over prior to the start of opening ceremonies at Brunswick's 92nd Annual Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, Nov. 10.



The Fort Detrick Color Guard presents the colors.



World War II veteran Jack Myers, 101, sings the National Anthem.



Anthony Woods delivers the keynote address.



Awaiting the start of the parade.

OPINION

PUBLISHER'S EDITORIAL

Looking Forward to 2025

Yes, there are some good things to look forward to in the coming new year.

To the joy of many, and to the disappointment of almost as many, the elections of 2024 are done with. So, where does that leave us for 2025?

In downtown Brunswick the opening of the Railroad Square apartment building could have a beneficial effect on the surrounding community. The 45 apartments provide needed homes for families and single people. Those new residents will be within easy walking distance of restaurants, retail businesses and services that will benefit from the new surge in customers.

That's something to look forward to.

In Jefferson, the new Valley Elementary School should be completed in time for the 2025-26 school year. The current 55-year-old school is being replaced by a larger, more energy-efficient and accessible building.

That's also something to look forward to.

And in Lovettsville the new County Station 12 will be completed and occupied by the Fire and Rescue Company. The shopping center should be fully occupied in the early part of 2025. Now the community can purchase groceries and other retail services that previously were miles away.

That also is something to look forward to.

AND.... it's even possible that the repaving of Petersville and Souder Roads could be completed by 2025.

So, there's lots to look forward to in the New Year. ■



WRITERS WANTED!

The Brunswick News-Journal is looking for Reporters/Writers for these areas:

School News

Frederick County school system and the 4 schools in Brunswick and Jefferson

Lovettsville News

General news reporting and feature writing

These are volunteer positions.

Work on your own time.

It's a great way to be involved in your community!

Interested?

Write: Editor@BrunsNews.com or call: 240-409-7476



Holidays are coming!

We help with stress and anxiety!



and we take insurance!

Book your FREE CONSULT

301-834-7411

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Food Drive Hindered by Weis

Boy Scout Troop 277 thanks everyone who contributed food and money to the annual Scouting for Food Drive on Nov. 16. The boys especially thank Papa John's Pizza for allowing them to set up a table in front of their store.

The troop collected about 300 pounds of food for the Brunswick Food Bank, including a \$75 Weis gift card. Although we appreciate the donation, we were very disappointed that Weis would not let us set up a table in front of their store as we have done for the last five years. Last year we collected 3,000 pounds of food. The Weis on Jefferson Street in Frederick had a food drive in September and 23,000 pounds of food was purchased and donated. We cannot understand why the Brunswick store—or corporate office—isn't as accommodating. In our view, shoppers buy more items, giving Weis more sales and profit, and donate them to the food bank. Everyone gains. It sounds like a win-win to me.

For a store that claims to be community-minded, this is sad. Thank goodness there were people who saw our table and were generous in their donations. Hopefully, we will have better results next time.

— Anne Zumbach, Scoutmaster, Troop 277, Brunswick

Why the Electoral College has Merit

In the November edition of the Brunswick News-Journal, a summary of a presentation by Lauri Gross from the Frederick County League of Women's Voters was published. In her talk she urged that we abolish the use of the Electoral College (EC) in selecting a president. However, her talk did not include the reasons why the electoral college was created and why it is still important today. Your readers should be exposed to reasons why it is still an effective way of electing our president.

The EC came about through a compromise worked out by our founding fathers between those who wanted to elect a president by a vote in Congress only and those who wanted to use direct popular vote. It is important to note that we do not have a "pure democracy." We have a "representative democracy" guided by the Constitution. We elect people to represent us. We are a union of states, not a centralized European style of government.

A pure democracy, Ben Franklin said, "is like two wolves and a lamb voting on what's for lunch. You don't want to be the lamb." The EC protects the rights of the minority in having a voice. Richard Posner, a retired federal judge and legal scholar, wrote in an article, "In Defense of the Electoral College," that the EC process helps to ensure that all parts of the country are involved in selecting the president. James Madison worried about what he called "factions" or groups who have a common interest in one issue, dominating the vote and violating the rights of those with a minority view.

The founders did not set up the EC with an assurance that the winner would also be the winner of the popular vote. The point of the EC is to preserve the sense of the people and give more say to the minority. Still, in 92% of our presidential elections the popular vote winner has also won the electoral college.

Lauri noted that in 2000 and 2016 the popular vote winner did not win the electoral college. However, in those years the popular vote winners, Al Gore and Hillary Clinton, had over 50% of the country supporting other candidates, with 51.6 % and 51.9% in support of someone other than the popular vote winner. In these two cases, the EC matched the sense of the nation to support someone other than the popular vote winner. The winner takes all is not mandatory by law, and electors are not forced to vote for the person who wins a state's popular vote.

Jennifer Raceras, with the Women's Law Center, stated that in most elections, using the EC, victories have been perceived as decisive, even when the popular vote looks close. The winner of a close election is clear when using the EC. It tends to avoid litigation and costly, time-consuming recounts. The EC requires a candidate to have broad appeal across the country. If the EC is abolished, how will 50 states agree on the rules in using popular voting? Using the EC encourages a diverse coalition of voters. For example, the Native American population is extremely important in small western states, so their votes carry much more weight when in their state rather than being mixed into the national total vote.

There is a need for changes in the voting process. We need a more informed electorate through education, more free speech and less censorship, more fact checking and less media bias, and more ways to get out the vote. Just getting more than 60% of eligible voters to the polls would be a big step in reaching a more valid outcome.

— Lee Zumbach, Knoxville

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.

PERSONAL & BUSINESS INSURANCE

SERVING FREDERICK RESIDENTS SINCE 1990

Auto • Home • Life • Health

Sally Arnold & Associates

**301-662-2246
519 N. Market St,
Frederick**

www.SallyArnoldInsurance.com



FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

December is a time of celebration, gratitude and anticipation for the future. It's an opportunity to take stock of what we have achieved and set our sights on new goals we aspire to reach in the coming year. As 2024 draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the year and all we have accomplished as a community.

While Frederick County faces challenges, we have also seen countless examples of resilience, compassion and progress. Together, we have strengthened the bonds that make our county a place where people can thrive.

As we gather to celebrate the holiday season, let us remember those in our community who are in need of support. The spirit of service and kindness defines this season, and I encourage everyone to look for ways to lift up those around us.

Town Hall Meetings on the Budget

Part of our preparation for the upcoming year includes setting priorities for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. I will be holding six town hall meetings in the coming weeks where the public is invited to attend and share feedback on budget priorities and concerns.

There will be one meeting in each of the County Council Districts and one general hearing. The schedule is as follows:

- **Dec. 4 at 7 pm:** Public Hearing at the Prospect Center in Frederick
- **Jan. 13 at 7 pm:** Twin Ridge Elementary School with Council Member McKay
- **Jan. 22 at 7 pm:** Oakdale Middle School with Council Vice President Duckett
- **Jan. 25 at 1 pm:** Walkersville Middle School with Council Member Carter
- **Jan. 27 at 7 pm:** Waverley Elementary School with Council Member Keegan-Ayer
- **Jan. 30 at 7 pm:** Middletown Library with Council Member Donald



County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

All meetings are open to the public. Those interested are welcome to join whichever meeting is most convenient. Attendees are not limited to the meeting in their home district.

Those who cannot attend in person may submit comments online at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BudgetPublicHearing. Additionally, each town hall will be recorded and posted online for later viewing on FCG TV.

I am looking forward to hosting these events, along with the County Council, so we can hear from and continue to meet the needs of our residents.

Business and Industry Cabinet

Another way Frederick County is working to meet the needs of its residents is through the newly revitalized Business and Industry Cabinet (BIC). The BIC will serve as an advisory board on matters related to sustainable and inclusive economic and workforce development, including strategic planning, marketing, and business recruitment, retention and expansion.

The BIC also will provide a forum for business leaders and government officials to share ideas, solutions and creative approaches to business and workforce topics and issues facing Frederick County.

Membership of the board will reflect the diversity of Frederick

County, including representatives of our key sectors like agriculture, life science and biotech, and manufacturing, as well as associated sectors like banking, law and nonprofits.

Restoring the advisory board was a recommendation of the community-led Transition Team. I look forward to hearing regularly from small businesses and major employers about economic trends and workforce opportunities they see in our county. Learn more about the BIC at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Boards.

Non-Profit Partnerships

In the upcoming year, I am looking forward to continuing to partner with local nonprofits to serve residents more effectively. These collaborations leverage our strengths, which results in improved services and stronger communities.

I recently announced the opening of the Fiscal Year 2026 Community Partnership Grant Program. This program awards competitive grants to local nonprofit organizations that serve the needs of Frederick County residents.

The application period for this year's grants is open from Nov. 25 until Jan. 8. Applications should focus on the areas of homelessness and housing solutions, quality of life, public health and supporting the arts. These areas are crucial for fostering a strong, thriving community where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

The spirit of service and kindness defines this season, and I encourage everyone to look for ways to lift up those around us.

Last year, we awarded \$1.2 million through this program. We saw firsthand the incredible impact that these organizations made. From providing stable housing to promoting health and wellness to enriching our lives with arts and culture, these programs foster resilience, bridge gaps, and bring innovative solutions that help our county thrive.

For example, in Brunswick, Mission of Mercy uses grant funds to provide free medical and dental services to people who have no insurance or are underinsured.

I encourage all interested nonprofit organizations to apply. For more details on the application process, please visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPG.

Together, through our shared efforts, we can continue to build a stronger, more vibrant community and make Frederick County a place where everyone can thrive. I am proud of what we have accomplished so far and am optimistic about the possibilities that lie before us. As we close out this year, I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and new year filled with promise and success. ■

Raucous MPRP Meeting Leaves Many Angry

Landowners Vow to Fight to the End



PATRICE GALLAGHER

The crowd at the firehall in Brunswick gathered to hear about the MPRP transmission lines.

By JULIE GOURLEY

The Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department was the venue for a heavily attended public meeting on the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP). The November 14 meeting, hosted by the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG), the builder of the 70 mile long, 500kV transmission line, started with a PowerPoint presentation on the basics of electricity delivery and the benefits to Maryland, followed by audience questions and answers.

Interruptions

A few slides into the presentation led to cries of "Boring!" and "No one wants to hear your presentation!" triggering cheers and clapping from angry attendees. One farmer at the back of the room yelled, "Just get to the point: are you going to use eminent domain to take our land?" The PSEG representatives had difficulty finishing their presentation and several times pleaded with the audience to stop interrupting.

Power for northern Virginia data centers?

Presenters were met with skepticism when explaining that Maryland would benefit from improved grid stability and reliability owing to increasing electrification across the state, electric cars, power plant closures and data centers. Audience members yelled that the real need for the MPRP is to power Northern Virginia's data center alley, and that Maryland was being used as a long "extension cord" from the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant in southern Pennsylvania near Baltimore to the Doubs substation near Adamstown to "feed Virginia's data centers." Indeed, from Doubs, its electricity will flow through transmission lines running under the Potomac River into Loudoun County.

Several questioners said they had attended the previous two sessions in Carroll and Baltimore counties where, they said, the crowds were equally outraged. Many talked about how long their farms had been in their families. Others asked for specifics

about compensation for not only land, but also for reduced or lost livelihoods. One person said that her brother was electrocuted by transmission lines when he was working on a construction job and had to have limb amputations. She said she would never allow transmission lines on her property.

Lisa Gaver, owner of Gaver Farm in Mt. Airy which is directly in the selected MPRP path, spoke at length about how the transmission towers and lines will destroy her business. She said that as an open farm, she gets thousands of visitors every year including families and lots of children. The viewshed would be destroyed and she feared that the public would no longer want to visit her farm with transmission infrastructure running through it. A nine-year-old girl whose family regularly visits Gaver Farm spoke confidently and thoroughly about the unfairness of the pathway and what it will do to the farm she loves. Her remarks garnered applause.

Alternatives to MPRP

When asked if additional lines could be added to existing towers, PSEG said that existing towers were not designed to carry more lines. When asked why they did not propose to bury the MPRP to protect the viewshed and eliminate public safety concerns with living near power lines, PSEG replied that there are no studies showing health problems from living near power lines. When asked why they did not pick a path using existing transmission rights-of-way, PSEG said that they picked one of the shortest routes and one that affected the fewest number of homes, which was their top priority.

PSEG representatives said they understood people's feelings, but pointed to First Energy, the parent company of Potomac Edison, as the entity that made the load predictions that led to PJM's (the regional transmission organization for our area) decision to build the MPRP. Neither First Energy nor PJM sent representatives to the meeting. ■



Brownsville
Church of the Brethren

Advent Services

Sunday morning worship
Dec 1, 8, 15, 22 @ 10am

Christmas by Candlelight
Dec 15 @ 6:30pm

Christmas Eve - Dec 24 @ 6:30pm

Join us for worship during this special season!



Peace Joy
Hope Love

1911 Rohrsersville Rd brownsvillecob.org

FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

Holiday Events in Jefferson



The Jefferson Christmas tree in 2023. This year it was lit on Dec. 1. Afterwards, the Jefferson Ruritan hosted Santa Claus at the Ruritan Building.

By JAMES ROSEBROCK

The holiday season is officially here in Jefferson, and our small community celebrates in a big way. Events hosted by local churches and organizations give everyone a chance to get into the holiday spirit. Below is a list of the events open to the public.

Sunday, Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. the annual Christmas tree lighting at Dunkin Doughnuts.

Santa visits on JVFC 20's Fire Trucks. Dates and locations are:

Saturday, Dec. 7, Cambridge Farms subdivision, Jefferson Pike from Old Holter Road to Pioneer Circle & Wye Creek.

Sunday, Dec. 8, Jefferson Pike from Old Holter Road to Rt. 340 PETERSVILLE Exit (including Southview Court, Woodbourne Manor and Copperfield subdivisions), Gene Hemp Road & Carone Drive.

Monday, Dec. 9, Roundtree, Springview, Horine Road, Horine Court, Lander Road to Sunrise Drive and Fry Road.

Tuesday, Dec. 10, Briercrest, Jane Ct., Coolcrest, Glenoble & Old Middletown Road.

Dec. 14 & 15, make-up nights for inclement weather or other reasons.

Private visits with Santa can be scheduled with the fire hall prior to Dec. 21.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Services:

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Jefferson United Church of Christ, 8 p.m. ■

Good Golly, it's Hoppin' Molly

OLD TIME STRINGBAND MUSIC BENEFITS BRUNSWICK FOOD BANK

By LAURA DVORAK

Hoppin' Molly raised the rafters in November during a Brunswick Food Bank benefit at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Point of Rocks. Musicians Kirk Evans (fiddle), Gina Faber (mandolin, guitar, bodhrán) and Jeff Chumley (banjo) delighted their audience with Appalachian dance tunes from rural areas.

First up, *Arkansas Traveler*. "Of all the tunes we'll play, you probably will recognize this if you watched Bugs Bunny cartoons," said Chumley. Sure enough, the tune conjured up *I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee...*

While many bluegrass tunes have straightforward meter, the group played Kentucky fiddler John Saylor's *Rose in the Mountain* with its "crooked" dropped beat, common in early blues music. "Sometimes a band will try to find the beat and get frustrated," explained Faber. "It's best to just surrender."

There was an old English step-dance, *Puff Adder Quickstep*, and a traditional tune familiar to many in the audience. One person shouted out the name: *The Girl I Left Behind Me*. Performers each contributed vocals. Chumley sang *Railroad Man*, a song he wrote. An African American spiritual, *Keep Your Hand on the Plow, Hold On* was sung by Faber. The earliest recording of that tune is from 1930. Then, the lively pentatonic *Old Aunt Jenny with Her Nightcap On* as well as a tune made famous in 1929 by the Carter Family, *God Gave Noah the Rainbow Sign*, was played.

Hoppin' Molly was recently heard playing at Lovettsville Co-op by Toni Lake, Senior Warden at St. Paul's, who asked if they would consider a concert in Point of Rocks. Whenever St. Paul's puts on a concert, the church pays the musicians, and all free-will donations get sent to a charity, Brunswick Food Bank, in this case. The November concert realized just over \$1,400 (including some from church members who could not attend), and the church intends to round that sum up to \$2,000, according to Rebecca Taylor, Outreach Coordinator for St. Paul's.

Hoppin' Molly (name derived from Evans' 3-legged dog) has performed with that moniker throughout the past year and has



What's a non-string instrument doing here? Played by Gina Faber, the bodhrán complements an Irish-sounding tune. Next to Faber, on fiddle, is Kirk Evans, with Jeff Chumley on banjo, right.

played "a lot of years together" prior, according to Evans. They hail from Lovettsville, Frederick and Charles Town and can be found at square/contra barn

dances and other events. On December 14, 2024, they will be part of the musical entertainment during Hillsboro Homes Walking Tour.

Helping the Newborn

By ELLIS BURRUSS

Frederick Health announced on Nov. 13 that its Family Connects service is expanding to include all Frederick County residents who are caring for a newborn, whether the baby was born at Frederick Health Hospital or not.

Frederick Health gets in touch with families shortly after a baby's birth to schedule a visit by a Frederick Health nurse when a baby is about three weeks old. If a specific concern arises between the time the family leaves the hospital and the three-week visit, a nurse may visit the family sooner.

NewbornVisit.com

To schedule a visit, go to NewbornVisit.com, or call 240-566-4240 to speak directly with a Frederick Health team member.

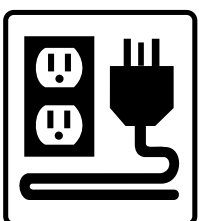
An example of a serious concern for mothers in the weeks after delivery is elevated blood pressure. This condition often has no overt symptoms but, if left unchecked, can have serious health consequences such as strokes. That is one of the things that the Family Connects service



checks on.

Experience has shown how impactful Family Connects is for families, with visits resulting in 50% fewer emergency room visits and overnight hospital stays in the first year of a baby's life and 30% fewer instances of postpartum anxiety and depression among mothers.

The Family Connects service also checks the health of the infant and talks with the parent about other services available such as material support and household safety, including diapers, lactation support or formula, car seats, cribs, strollers and food pantries. Families whose elementary school has a Judy Center are often referred to their young baby or toddler playgroups. Frederick Health believes that families appreciate these connections to local services.



RSE Ricketts Family LLC

RICKETTS
Electric

301-732-4889 • rickettselectric@comcast.net

Residential/Commercial



www.avsigns.net



www.creativeedgesigns.com



HEMP'S MEATS
Full Service Country



Butcher Shop Since 1849

Quality Products-Competitive Prices

Beef sides and quarters raised on our own farm

**PIGS FOR BBQ - FRESH CHICKEN
FRESH PORK - SEAFOOD AND MORE**

COME SEE OUR HANGING BEEF

301-473-5700

3740 JEFFERSON PIKE, JEFFERSON

Nailing the Holiday Wreath: Do's and Don'ts

By MARIANNE WILLBURN

As holiday projects go, making a wreath is a safe one. For one, there's no royal icing involved. Two, it's intended to look rustic. That's extremely encouraging for those of us who routinely create an island of misfit toys while aiming for perfectly iced cookies in shades of wild juniper.

And yet, there can exist a gap between "respectable effort" and "elegant showstopper." No problem. Once you understand three easy do's and their corresponding don'ts, you too can create a sophisticated holiday wreath, confidently yell "Nailed it!" and decorate your front door this year with a DIY project you can be proud of.

Tools & materials needed

Tools: gloves, lightweight florist's wire, sharp pruners and a wire wreath frame.

Materials: Split into three categories — assorted greenery, assorted luxury and assorted bling.

■ **Assorted greenery** — Think in terms of one main actor and two to three supporting roles. Use your strongest greenery in the main role — such as spruce or fir — and use sprigs of pine, juniper and cedar to complete the cast. Don't forget about the extras — accent greens that bring unusual color and texture: holly, boxwood, magnolia etc. Many of these you can find in your garden or the gardens of friends.

■ **Assorted luxury** — Everything from pinecones to pomegranates. Let your imagination run wild — raiding your fridge and cupboards just as much as your backyard. Tiny artichokes, wrapped bundles of cinnamon



A finished wreath

sticks, clove-studded clematines, holly berries and the seed heads of favorites such as teasel or grasses.

■ **Assorted bling** — Battery operated lights, ribbons, raffia, small ornaments, and if you can find a tasteful one — a garland.

Set out the materials you've gathered on a protected surface.

TIP #1

DON'T: Bend individual straight branches and attach them.

DO: Create small 'bouquets' in your hand with greenery, then wire those to your wreath form, overlapping them as you go.

Attach the end of the florist's wire to any part of the wreath form and set aside.

Use your pruners to cut five or six ten-inch tips from the greens and arrange them in one hand — start with one or two stems of the spruce or fir and back them with supporting greenery.

Fan the bunch in your hand

and place it against the wreath form. Wire only the ends to the form, wrapping the wire around the form and bunch ends several times. Do not cut your wire.

Repeat the bouquet-making, and this time, overlap the display ends of the current bunch over the cut ends of the first one, making sure to overlap them generously.

Continue this process until you reach the beginning of the circle. With your last spray of foliage, tuck the cut ends under the display ends of your first one, wiring tightly in place. Twist the wire to secure it and cut.

Hang up your wreath and look for rogue branches that need trimming or areas that could use extra foliage. Don't be too much of a perfectionist — messy bed head is endearing if the wreath is full enough. Tuck in accent greens to create yet another layer of wonderful.

If you've been generous with your bouquets and miserly with your spacing, you're currently looking at a wreath ten times better than anything you've attempted before. And we're not done.

Time to add a bit of luxury.

TIP #2

DON'T: Empty the contents of your craft box onto your wreath.

DO: Pick a few luxury items in varying size for maximum impact.

It is very easy to gild the lily, taking your wreath from Kate Middleton-sophisticated to Clark Griswold-tacky in the space of five minutes.

Think about the theme you are working towards. Natural? Exciting? Minimalist? Pick out things that go together and that are in scale with the size of the wreath itself, and use an easy hand in applying them. If you've been drinking alcohol during any part of the process (no judgment here — I was), stop at once, have a cup of coffee, and apply your clearest head to the proceedings.

TIP #3

DON'T: Add materials in circular patterns to create a big eyeball on your doorstep.

DO: Think in terms of grouping, triangles, odd numbers and a bit of asymmetry.

Objects grouped together create more impact than when they are separated and at regular intervals. For even better placement, think in terms of triangles superimposed on your circular wreath, and add objects at the apex of each angle. Odd amounts work best — 1, 3, 5, etc.

Now for a bow and other assorted bling. But resist the temptation to place them on the absolute bottom of the wreath. Instead, place them slightly off-center and group them with a few smaller objects.

As for a garland, the best ones are made of natural materials — and made by hand. Use an eve-

ning of binge-watching to string together cranberries, wooden beads or seed heads from the garden. Drape the garland on your holiday wreath like you were icing an elegant cake — in swirls and flourishes — allowing it to hang free of the wreath in places and give it an authentic sophistication.

It's your holiday wreath — have a blast with it; but remember that less is often more. ■

Marianne is a nationally award-winning garden author and speaker. She writes from Lovettsville, VA. Find more at gardenrant.com or mariannewillburn.com



Step 2



Step 3



Materials



Step 1

Get Ready for Christmas!!



Ropes



Wreaths



TREES!!

Mulch
Buy NOW before
Price increase!

....and more
for your holiday

D.R. Virts

Store: 301-969-6115
DR Virts: 240-285-7141
800 Petersville Road
Brunswick, MD
(at Center Street)
Open 8am to 8pm

IN THE KITCHEN

Tradition

We may not cook much any other time of the year, but December is when the recipe box comes out and we search for Grandma's Christmas cookies, the Hannah potato pancakes, the Kwanzaa stew.

This time of year is for cooking up trays of comfort foods. Forget the calories, let slide the fat, who needs fiber. We have the warm comforting taste and textures of the food made by our mothers, aunts, grandmothers and close friends. Their foods are the healing foods, the foods that lower our stress level, the foods we laugh and share memories over, at least for a couple of weeks each year.

So here is our December Recipe of the Month: Dig out one of your old favorites handed down to you from someone you love and make a big batch. Add an extra sprinkle of joy! Let us know how it comes out and Happy Holidays!

— Jean Toleman



WHAT'S THE WORD?

This month the word is **Gravy**

"A sauce made from the thickened and seasoned juices of cooked meat" OR "something additional or unexpected that is pleasing or valuable" can also mean graft or illicit income. (Merriam-Webster)



As in the first definition, the word has been around since the late 1300s from Old French *gravé*, *graué*, "seasoned broth or sauce." Originally a spiced stew.

Here's a recipe for rabbits in gravy ("Conyngys" are rabbits; "hakke hem in gobettys" means to cut into pieces):

"Take Conyngys, & make hem clene, & hakke hem in gobettys, & sethe hem, oþer larde hem & Rost hem; & þanne hakke hem, & take Almaundys, & grynde hem, & temper hem vppe with gode Freysshe brothe of Flesshe, & coloure it wyth Safroun, & do þer-to a porcyon of flowre of Rys, & do þer-to þen poudre Gyngere, Galyngale, Canel, Sugre, Clowys, Maces, & boyle it onys & seþe it; þen take þe Conyngys, & putte þer-on, & dresse it & serue it forth"

— Harleian MS. 279 (ab 1430), & Harl. MS. 4016 (ab. 1450)

— Ellis Burruss

Eating on a Budget

By CHRISTINA PELLETIER

Making a budget and sticking to it can be challenging, especially when it comes to food. With some planning and creativity, satisfying and healthy meals are achievable.

Plan Ahead

Packing a breakfast, lunch, or dinner can help stretch the budget, as eating out and relying on convenience foods can quickly add up. To start planning, take inventory of what you already have in your refrigerator, freezer and pantry so you can plan meals around those ingredients, especially produce that is wilting or items about to reach their expiration dates.

Once the meals are decided on, make a shopping list outlining exactly the products you need and how much. Check to see if any coupons are available for items on your list. If you have a smart phone, download the Weis Markets app, log in to your account, and "clip" the e-coupons directly to your Rewards Card.

In addition to coupons, look at the store circular and rewards to get automatic savings and accumulate points. Weis Rewards Points can be redeemed for various items throughout the year, such as a free turkey or ham. Rewards points can also be redeemed at Weis gas stations.

At the Store

Remember to take the grocery list with you and stick to it! This can help limit distractions that may sway you from the list of essentials. Store brands can offer high quality food at lower prices compared to national brands. While shopping, compare all options and prices.

While the pre-cut fresh produce is convenient, it may be more expensive because the work is done for you. Save money by cutting them yourself or purchasing the pre-cut frozen or canned version. In-season produce tends to be more abundant, therefore being a better deal. Frozen produce, seafood, and meats are just as nutritious as their fresh counterparts and are generally less expensive.

At check out, scan your Weis Rewards Card and any paper coupons you may have.



Vegetarian chipotle chili is a budget-friendly meal. Find the recipe at www.weismarkets.com/recipes/vegetarian-chipotle-chili/28278

Buying in Bulk

Buying in bulk may be more cost effective, only if you will use the item before the expiration date. Stock up on pantry staples when they go on sale such as pasta, rice, canned vegetables, or canned tuna since they have a longer shelf life. Bulk produce, such as large bags of apples or potatoes, can be the better option if you will use them before

they spoil. Purchase family-sized packages of fresh meat when on sale, then freeze the remainder of what isn't used.

For more information about eating on a budget and other nutrition-related topics, contact the Weis dietitians at weisdietitians@weismarkets.com.

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

Donna's House

OF HAIR & TANNING, LLC

Celebrating 46 years in business

We welcome the entire family:
Men, Women, & Children Walk-ins Welcome

Brunswick Shopping Center
72 Souder Rd., Brunswick • 301-834-7688

In memory of Roberta Mae Coulter, Founder.
1978-2014

During this holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. It is in this spirit we say thank you and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year filled with peace, love, health and prosperity.



With an average of 25 years experience, our tax pros are available virtually, via drop off, or in person to make sure your taxes are done right.



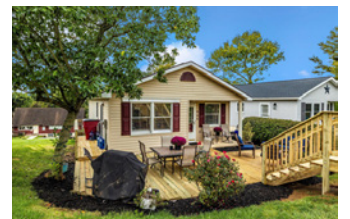
Make an appointment today.

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

Real Estate TeamsTM LLC



106 W E Street, Brunswick
2 BR 1 BA \$324,900



606 E. E Street, Brunswick
4 BR 3 BA \$359,900.

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



LOVETTSVILLE NEWS

Lovettsville Welcomes New Pharmacy



The ribbon is cut at Lovettsville Pharmacy. From left: John Magistro, Loudoun County, Virginia Economic Development; Town Councilmember Thomas Budnar; Town Councilmember Stuart Stahl; Kim Keith, Pharmacy Technician; Sue Smithson, Pharmacy Cashier; Mayor Christopher Hornbaker; Ram Neravetla, R.Ph, Pharmacist; Kiran Dharmala, Owner, Lovettsville Pharmacy; Sarah Moseley, Community Engagement & Development Coordinator; John Merrithew, Town Planner/Zoning Administrator.

By LAURA DVORAK

Lovettsville Pharmacy owner Kiran Dharmala was eager to cut the blue ribbon at a celebration for one of town’s newest businesses. Dharmala also owns Purcellville Pharmacy.

“The storefront in Purcellville was already built out when I set up business. However, this Lovettsville space is better structured for a pharmacy and more efficient,” he noted.

By the beginning of November,

the 1,500-square-foot space contained an impressive amount of the usual drug store items including eyeglasses, bandages and analgesics. The location is convenient for customers, particularly those using Medicaid for prescriptions. “Medicaid doesn’t work across state lines,” Dharmala said. “For example, Virginia customers with that coverage can’t get their medication at a Brunswick pharmacy.”

Another gain for customers became clear in the fall season when a local pharmacy had a week-long

wait list for flu vaccinations. Lovettsville Pharmacy was able to quickly administer the shots, according to Sarah Moseley, Lovettsville Community Engagement & Economic Development Coordinator.

Following the presentation of a Certificate of Recognition by Mayor Christopher Hornbaker, Dharmala expressed excitement for this new enterprise. “There’s so much love in this community,” he said, “as well as support. I am happy to be here.” ■

At El Pitayo Mexican Restaurant It’s All Relative

By LAURA DVORAK

El Pitayo is new to Lovettsville, but “we’re seeing a lot of familiar faces, especially those from Brunswick,” said Gabriel Rayas. The family-owned business has served up meals in Charles Town for 18 years at Mi Degollado Mexican Restaurant.

How many in the family? “There are a lot of us; it’s a big family, all living in Charles Town. We are really happy to see everyone here in Lovettsville,” said Rayas. “From the start we have appreciated your patience and support.” Rayas has a goal in mind for this new restaurant: be successful enough to allow his parents to retire. “They’ve

worked hard their whole lives.”

The restaurant names were inspired by two icons of Mexico’s State of Jalisco. Degollado is a small rural town and pitayo is a cactus with a distinctive fruit (in our markets it is called “dragon fruit”). “Many Mexican restaurants names are similar,” Rayas explained. “We wanted to choose different names.”

The interior of the restaurant is different as well, with brightly-colored carved wooden chairs and booths. Plans are cooking to include authentic specialty dishes periodically, perhaps menudo and posole. El Pitayo opens daily at 11:00 with lunch and dinner offerings and is located at 5 Town Center Drive, Lovettsville. ■



Cousins-in-law at El Pitayo Mexican Restaurant, Lovettsville, from left: Alejandro Castillo, Gabriel Rayas, David Rayas and Luis Morales. In foreground: Coctel de Camaron.

Treats for your

Holiday Table

\$10

OFF ANY PURCHASE OF \$60 OR MORE

OFFER VALID 12/1/24 THROUGH 12/31/24

Loettsville Cooperative Market

The Co-op

Locally Grown, Community-Owned

ALL ARE WELCOME! OPEN 8 TO 8 DAILY
11 Town Center Drive, Suite 150, Lovettsville,
540-579-8070 info@lovettsvillemarket.coop
www.lovettsvillemarket.coop

FEATURING:

- Seasonal & Local Wine & Beer Selections!
- Great Non Alcoholic Options!
- Gluten Free Sweets, Treats & Essentials, including Schar & Canyon Bakehouse!
- South Mountain Creamery Eggnog & More!



YEAR ROUND CHILDCARE

**GIVE US
A CALL!!**



**SANTA'S GIFT
TO YOU! FIRST
WEEK FREE
FOR NEW
ENROLLMENT**

THE LEARNING TREE ELC

**PRESCHOOL CARE
AGES 2-5 YEARS
LEARNING TREE ELC
607 E. D STREET
BRUNSWICK, MD 21716**

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL
CARE
BRUNSWICK ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

CONTACT US

**301-834-7577
learningtree60@yahoo.com**

DAY TRIPS FROM BRUNSWICK

Winter at New Germany State Park

By JOHN CAVES

Sometimes Brunswick gets decent snow. You might get lucky every few years and have enough snow built up on the canal towpath to take cross-country skis out on it. But don't count on it. If you want more reliable snow for winter activities in Maryland, go further west. New Germany State Park, about two hours' drive from Brunswick, is a great place to enjoy a day of winter activity outdoors.

The park is in a valley nestled between Meadow Mountain to the west and the foothills of Big Savage Mountain to the east. Poplar Lick Run, a gentle stream, runs down the middle of it and becomes a small man-made lake on the park's north side. The whole area is forested with a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees.

The natural setting works so well for skiing, in fact, that the first ski competition south of the Mason-Dixon Line took place there in 1941. During the 1940s and 50s, the area comprising the park and the surrounding Savage River State Forest was called the "Maryland Alps" and attracted German and Scandinavian skiers who were living in the Washington, D.C., area.

Downhill skiing ended in the Savage River area after the Wisp ski resort opened near Deep Creek Lake, but the park maintains an excellent system of cross-country ski trails. The



The main trail at New Germany State Park follows a calming, winding stream.

trails are suitable for both novice and experienced skiers.

One wide, flat trail goes along the valley floor and crosses Poplar Lick Run at several points. Other trails climb up the ridge and send you down fast, winding corridors through the woods. You can easily spend the better part of a day on them. If you do not own cross-country skis, you can rent a pair at the park's lake house or ranger station. Snowshoes are also available for rental.

Park staff keep the trails groomed regularly. When there is a good amount of snow built up, you can romp around off-trail with snowshoes or skis—but if you haven't broken trail in deep snow before, be advised that it is hard work! More so than downhill skiing or snowboarding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are good physical exercise. They may be less thrilling than hurtling downhill at high speed, but they can be more satisfying.

Meadow Mountain Trail and the 17-mile Big Savage Mountain Trail.

The park also has campsites with a bathhouse containing restrooms and showers. Nearby Big Run State Park has more campsites and access to the Savage River Reservoir, a larger lake.

Directions

To get to New Germany State Park, take I-70 west to I-68 near Hancock. Take I-68 past Frost-

burg, then get off at Exit 22 for MD Route 219/Chestnut Hill Road. Hang a left on the traffic circle; the gas station after you cross the overpass is the last one you will come across, so it is good to fill up there if your tank is low. Continue south on Chestnut Hill Road until you reach a T-intersection with New Germany Road, then turn left on it. After two miles, you will see a road going to park headquarters on your right: pass it and take the sharp left turn downhill immediately after McAndrews Hill Road. That is the park entrance. Continue for half a mile and there will be a parking lot to your right just after you cross Poplar Lick Run. The ski trail entrance is at the end of the parking lot, and the lake and lakehouse are on the other side of the road.

Make sure there is enough snow before you go. Updates are on the park website during winter (search "New Germany State Park" on dnr.maryland.gov). Park staff are pretty good about answering if you call the ranger station at 301-895-5453. The lakehouse is open in the winter only during weekends and holidays and if there is enough snow to permit skiing. There is no entrance fee for the park, but ski/snowshoe rentals are \$25 for the day. ■

John Caves travels both near and far. He enjoys the great outdoors and served on the Brunswick History Commission for several years before being elected to the Brunswick City Council.

Indoor Activity

Once you have your fill of outdoor activity, relax inside the park's lakehouse. Park staff keep a fire going there in the winter, and you can warm up with a hot beverage. The lakehouse has a snack bar offering warm and cold snacks. Showers are also available. If you are inclined to make a weekend of it, the park has 12 full-amenity cabins for overnight rental.

Other Seasons

There are other things to do in spring, summer and fall, or when there is no snow. The lake is open in summer for swimming and year-round for non-motorized boating (i.e., canoes and kayaks, which you can also rent at the lakehouse). The ski trails become hiking trails when there is not enough snow, and there are longer hiking trails on both of the mountains nearby: the 14-mile



Ski tracks in fresh powder.



Out on New Germany State Park's cross-country ski trail system.

**Holiday Hair?**

How about a nice haircut?



I can help with that
John the Barber

Brunswick Barber Shop
Brunswick Shopping
Center on Souder Road

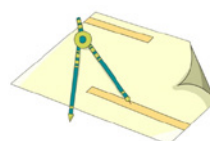
Appt. or walk-in
301-834-5420

CONSTRUCTION PLANS

for

Small Contractors/DIY Homeowners
Permit Plans/Design Assistance
Expert Project Advice

Scott Kline
(301) 788-8806
Brunswick, MD



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

TRAVEL, ARTS, CULTURE

Steel Stringed Serenade

Guitarist/Singer JP Jones at Lovettsville Library

By LAURA DVORAK

In early November, JP Jones eased into a litany of tunes at the Lovettsville Library. First up, *Too Late to Turn Back Now* (Cornelius Brothers and Sister Rose). Cradling his Martin SC10E acoustic electric guitar, its wide open tone thrummed throughout the library as he strummed. Jones' voice, a mellifluous tenor, made smooth the lyrics. He segued into *I'll Be There* (The Jackson 5), followed by *My Girl* (The Temptations) and *Everybody's Talkin'* (Fred Neil).

Jones' childhood was spent in Lucketts, Virginia, where when 10 years old, he began learning guitar using books and records. "I never had a teacher. I listened to the radio, to all types of music. Now I practice around three times a week for a couple of hours." He began singing early,



JP Jones performs at Lovettsville Library.

as well. "I'm still learning that," he added. "Vocalizing vowels and scales."

Next up: *Against the Wind* (Bob Seger). "That's one of my favorites," he noted. "I play a lot of

different artists," to which Substitute Librarian Elizabeth Cox responded, "I heard you at Purcellville Library and you were playing other songs. You have a really nice voice." Cox has the opportunity to catch an act multiple times as she moves throughout the Loudoun County library system.

After two train songs, *When My Train Pulls In* (Gary Clark, Jr.) and *There's a Train A Comin'* (Curtis Mayfield), the question: Are you partial to trains? Jones responded, "I do recall, when a youngster in Lucketts, hearing the Point of Rocks train whistle."

For Jones, music means "everything." Just like that train whistle memory, music "takes me back, remembering certain times. And it relieves stress, listening to all kinds of music." Learn more about guitar phenom Jones at jonesguitar.com. ■

Tara Roberts Zabriskie

Filmmaker Elected President of Brunswick Arts Council



Tara Roberts Zabriskie

By JEAN TOLEMAN

On a clear night, we see far fewer stars overhead than we did 20 years ago. Tara Roberts Zabriskie created a film, "Defending the Dark," in association with Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, that explores the effect of light pollution on life forms. Zabriskie is a documentary filmmaker who lives on Hoffmaster Road. She was recently elected President of the Brunswick Arts Council.

Zabriskie grew up next to where she and her husband Shawn now live. She and her siblings were homeschooled and given the opportunity to explore local hills, rivers and woods.

"When I was about 14, I was interested in still photography and entered pictures in the county fair. At around 16, I had my first exposure to video," Zabriskie said. "A homeschool mom had a video class and we made short videos. I liked the way it allowed the merger of storytelling through pictures."

Zabriskie went to Shepherd University where she majored in mass communications with a minor in photography. Before her senior year she took a year

off to hike the Appalachian Trail (AT). During this experience she had time to think about her senior project. Upon returning to school she, with her adviser, developed the idea for "Don't Be That Guy."

"It was a video on leaving no trace practices while hiking the AT," Zabriskie said. "Since the Appalachian Conservancy was right in Harpers Ferry, my senior advisor suggested I work with them to make it something they could use, and they would be the ones to give the grade. This experience gave me the confidence to work with organizations and partners."

The AT did use Zabriskie's video in their visitor center. Ten years later they approached her to update it, and it is still available on YouTube.

After college, Zabriskie moved to Utah where she worked as a ski instructor who also did video and photography. She supplemented this with corporate and individual jobs. In 2011 she started her production company, Moosey Productions Films. Her first clients were small businesses needing promotional materials, website building, and social media work.

A Passion for Nature

For "Defending the Dark: Preserving the Dark Sky of Maine," she was approached by people in Portland, Maine who were working on how light pollution impacts migratory birds. They helped her get funding.

She recently finished up work on "Buzzy on Native Plants," also a Maine project. "I am passionate about the effect climate change is having on insects and native plants," she said. "In the film, one sees how diverse native communities are more resilient to change." This film is an official selection for Maryland International Film Festival 2024.

Other recent projects include "Stellafane and Beyond," a film about a Vermont amateur telescope club; "John Muir's Story," about America's first conservationist; and "Healing Hands," the story of healing through ancient wisdom.

Last year, Zabriskie took six months off to travel around the world. She biked, hiked, and rode trains and camels across six continents. "This was a reset as I work to figure out what comes next," Zabriskie said. "What I want to move forward to and what to let go."

Promoting Local Arts

At the October meeting of the Brunswick Arts Council, Zabriskie was elected President. "I am excited to see the (local arts) community growing," she said. "There is already a lot of art happening here—we just need to get people aware, and both the artists and the audience to support it."

Tara Zabriskie offers her films to groups and communities in the hope that they will promote questions, discussion, and action. Whether she is traveling the world or working to promote the arts right here, her life goal is to "handle our world with care." Her web site, www.mooseyproductions.com, has clips of her work. ■

FILM REVIEW

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

Nowhere Special (2020) 1 hr 35 min

Written/Produced by Uberto Pasolini

Reviewed by LAURA DVORAK

Set in contemporary Northern Ireland, *Nowhere Special* was inspired by a true story. A 34-year-old father, John (James Norton), and his 3-year-old son, Michael (debut by 6-year-old Daniel Lamont), are an inspiration of flawless acting. In an interview, Norton admired Lamont's remarkable focus during filming. Lamont spoke of Norton's funny faces and his help with the lines.

The storyline could be unbearably sad but pushes through to something else entirely. How do you really know someone? How do you choose their best future? Michael wants a puppy. He loves his orange lorry, scrubbing it clean often. And he loves being read to by his dad, who worries over the best choice for a wholesome, nurturing home.

John hasn't long to live. Michael's birth mom left them, going "far, far away." Dad takes the boy to several home interviews, ultimately

wondering where Social Services finds those people. Michael tires of visits and inquires whether they are going to see any more new friends. In the lives of the haves and have-nots, John performs window cleaning services with



clear views into fine homes and things wealth can offer. He wants to open windows of love, security and all the best qualities for his son. He seeks perfection. In a simple yet profound a-ha moment, John's choice for a forever family resonates rock solid, thanks to the lad who loves a lorry. ■

OFF THE SHELF



The Rich People Have Gone Away

By Regina Porter (2024)

Reviewed by LAURA DVORAK

For best effect before reading, cue Dexter Gordon's "Scared to be alone," and give a listen. NYC — Broadway goes dark. Restaurants shutter. Mandatory masking. Citizens become stuck together or flung apart. Disinformation abounds about a virus no one wants or understands.

The privileged shelter in place; the poor wander streets and/or clean. Queues of people — not all homeless — stand in food drive lines, something not seen since the '80s. Indeed, "We

would not encounter such long lines again until November 4, 2020, when Americans came out to vote for the next president of the United States," observes one character.

Polyamorous Theo Harper is having a moment in the doorway — his preferred position — even as his bassoon-playing pregnant wife, Darla Jacobson, is missing. He is aware she is missing. So why is he in the doorway rather than traipsing through the woods looking for her?

The two went hiking upstate and argued. Did he kill her? Stash her somewhere? The three-part dramatic tale, which includes multiple characters with intertwined lives, has more twists and turns than San Francisco's Lombard Street and is delightfully unpredictable from beginning to end. As is life — especially life in NYC in September 2001, in the entirety of 2020 and multiple moments fore and aft.

Theo's Cream of Tartar concoction works well on stainless steel! Darla's realization of the importance of being able to view the horizon does, in fact, seem important—even critical, when one has gone missing. We may be out of the Covid woods in this moment, but the haunting persists. Hope helps these characters, like us, prevail. ■

IWW vs. Green Infrastructure: What Will CE Fitzwater Prioritize?

By JULIE GOURLEY

When Jessica Fitzwater was elected county executive in 2022, her transition team recommended that the county develop a “greenway corridors and infrastructure plan.”

Green Infrastructure Plan

“Green Infrastructure” — GI as it is commonly known — is a pillar in the county’s “Livable Frederick Master Plan” (LFMP) and refers to setting aside land for protecting habitats, biodiver-

Workplaces” or IWW for short (see the Brunswick News-Journal story in the August 2024 edition). A major goal of this plan is to better balance the property tax burden between homeowners (currently 78%) and the business community (currently 22%).

Fitzwater set up an advisory group for the IWW earlier this year, composed mostly of business interests. Early in the process of the group’s work, according to people who attended the meetings, county Division of Planning and Permitting Director Debbie Carpenter said that “we are not bound by the land use and zoning designations that exist today.” Dennis Supczynski of the Livable Frederick division also told the group that “everything is on the table” with respect to what the group was to look at, to attract employers to the county.

The group looked at land areas throughout the county, including land subject to various county protections, such as land west of I-270 within the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan and what had at one time been proposed and approved by the Planning Commission to be its regulatory overlay ensuring protection against development. (The Frederick County Council had voted down the protective overlay in 2022.)

The advisory group included business owners who own land within the areas the advisory group was considering, which appeared to represent a conflict

of interest. Some on the advisory group argued that the group’s work should not undo hard-fought protections that went into the Sugarloaf Area Plan.

Responses to the IWW process from the community

During the IWW advisory committee meeting period, a large number of local environmental, public interest groups, and individuals sought to have the county focus first on the Green Infrastructure plan, arguing that it made more sense to set aside protected areas before focusing on economic development, as the IWW advisory group was tasked with doing. Acknowledging the importance of economic development, they expressed their strong preference for re-developing existing industrial areas before looking into greenfields.

Eleven local groups sent a joint

The GI Plan sets aside land to protect habitats, biodiversity, ecosystem services, corridors for wildlife to safely migrate, and sufficient green space for public enjoyment.

letter to Fitzwater, the county council and the county planning commission which stated: “The IWW also contradicts the primacy of the Green Infrastructure plan and other important elements of the Livable Frederick Master Plan. IWW seems to be an attempted end-run around the county’s proper land use planning process.” The letter — and all public comments on the IWW process — can be found at www.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/353082/Investing-In-Workers-Workplaces-Public-Comment?bidid=

During public meetings regarding the IWW, county officials were questioned about the order of plan development and indicated that nothing would be finalized in the IWW plan before the GI plan is complete.

GI advisory group established

Fitzwater recently set up an advisory group for the GI plan composed mostly of environmentalists and conservationists. They were told at the outset that some LFMP plans are required by the state, such as the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) to qualify for Program Open Space funds.

It remains to be seen whether the relevant county officials will ensure that the GI and IWW plans co-exist peacefully.

To learn more about the Livable Frederick Master Plan and offer your comments and reply to the county’s surveys on the Plan, go to <https://frederickcountymd.gov/7977/Livable-Frederick-Planning-and-Design> ■



Frederick County’s Livable Frederick Master Plan can be downloaded online.

sity, ecosystem services, corridors for wildlife to safely migrate, and sufficient green space for public enjoyment, among other things.

Investing in Workers and Workplaces Plan

The transition team also made economic development recommendations, one of which became its own plan under the LFMP called “Investing in Workers and

Makers Market
Silent Auction

Local and Handmade

BRUNSWICK ART MARKET

DEC 14th
11am - 6pm

SMOKETOWN BREWING STATION

AFTER PARTY
WITH MUSIC BY MEMBERS OF THE PLATE SCRAPERS
FREE! 8-10 PM

BRUNSWICK ART COUNCIL

TINYURL.COM/BRUNSWICKARTMARKET

More info and vendor application

Scan HERE

The Day the Sun Stands Still



STRIPE MEDIA

By ABBIE RICKETTS

The Winter Solstice will be upon us this month. For the Northern Hemisphere, it occurs every year on December 21 or 22 (the Southern Hemisphere’s winter solstice occurs in June) and it marks the first day of winter.

This year’s Winter Solstice is on Saturday, December 21 at 4:21 a.m. (EST) according to the astronomical definition.

The word solstice is derived from the Latin sol (“sun”) and sistere (“to stand still”), because at the solstice, the sun appears to “stand still.” The seasonal movement of the sun’s daily path, as seen from Earth, pauses at a northern or southern limit before reversing direction.

Solstices are defined by solar declination—the latitude of Earth where the sun is directly overhead at noon. On Earth, solstices are twice-yearly occurrences in which solar declination reaches the Tropic of Cancer in the north and the Tropic of Capricorn in the south.

On the day of the winter solstice, the northern hemisphere is slanted as far away from the sun as possible, which means that

the sun’s path across the sky is as low in the sky as it can be. During the summer, the sun sweeps high in the sky, but during the winter, it curves lower, closer to the horizon.

Followers of many ancient traditions honored the winter solstice, which signaled the cold, winter season. Ancient cultures were at their most vulnerable in winter; both food and shelter were limited.

Perhaps the most famous mid-winter celebration is the Saturnalia of Ancient Rome. Saturnalia, a wild carnival, was celebrated the weeks leading up to the actual solstice. Pagans and neopagans, followers of early European religious traditions, still celebrate the winter solstice as a holiday called Yule. Others on the shortened day begin to seek a time for rest and spiritual reflection as they wait for longer days to come.

Stand outside at noon on the solstice day and look at your shadow. It will be the longest shadow cast all year.

The day after the winter solstice, the sun’s path begins to advance northward again meaning the days become gradually longer. ■

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

Brunswick's Hometown Holidays

Breakfast with Santa | 9-11:30am
SENSORY HOUR: 8-9AM
BRUNSWICK VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, 1500 VOLUNTEER DR.

Santa Train Rides | 1pm & 3pm
TICKETS ONLINE ONLY: [TINYURL.COM/2024SANTATRINRIDES](https://tinyurl.com/2024SANTATRINRIDES)

Holiday Marketplace | 2-7pm
MARTIN'S CREEK PARKING LOT, 100 E. POTOMAC ST.

Jingle Bell Run & Santa Stroll | 3pm
REGISTRATION AT 3:30PM IN SQUARE CORNER PARK
MINIMUM DONATION OF \$5 OR 2-3 CANS OF FOOD/FAMILY

Holiday Parade & City Tree Lighting | 4pm
PARADE FROM W. POTOMAC ST. TO SQUARE CORNER PARK
FOLLOWED BY TREE LIGHTING & PHOTOS WITH SANTA

brunswickmainstreet.org brunswickmd.gov

LOCAL HISTORY

The Friendly Ghosts of Smoketown Christmas Past

By PETER WENNER

In mid-October, Brunswick residents noticed a change at the foot of the bridge. The old Community Christmas Tree, which was dying, had been replaced with a new Virginia Pine. While not the same tree removed by the State Highway Administration during the traffic circle installation on Petersville Road, it brought sadness and fond childhood memories for those who grew up with a tall tree in that spot.

Brunswick Scout troops, parents took children to see the lighting of the tree, sing carols and sit on Santa's lap. Legendary Brunswick Fire Chief Sonny Cannon played Christmas music from his blue sound truck.

Each child would receive a "Christmas Box" containing an orange and candy prepared by members of various churches and community organizations. Rhonda Wenner Renn recalled "It was so much fun. We would wait in line to see Santa and walk up

magical during the B&O Railroad boomtown era, thanks to the efforts of the town elders. As life-long Brunswick resident Pat Keyser Smith put it, "Neighbors were really neighbors."

Christmas Season Started in December

Unlike today, when "Christmas Creep" advertising and point-of-sale displays appear before Halloween — a practice that began in the mid-1980s — the Yuletide season started after Thanksgiving.

In December, Brunswick was beautiful and festive, with colorful streetlights and illuminated trees brightening neighborhood yards. People looked forward to receiving Bob Grams' latest hand-drawn Christmas cards with names of friends and neighbors forming images of Santa Claus. It was a challenge to find your name!

Downtown shoppers eagerly anticipated the elaborate Christmas window displays at Kaplon's on West Potomac Street, where the drapes were kept closed to hide preparations and build excitement for the big reveal. Miss Fanny Kaplon designed these showcases from her observations of the grand department stores of New York City. On the designated evening, there would be several hundred people standing outside Kaplon's waiting for her to slowly open the windows one by one. Pat Smith remembered, "It was very sparkly. As young girls, we just thought it was glamorous."



A Bob Grams' Christmas Card. Bob became a noted sports cartoonist with the Baltimore News-American.



A 1956 photo of the first Community Tree after the dedication of the Potomac River bridge.

Originally a cut tree placed by the Brunswick Rotary Club after the 1955 Potomac River Bridge dedication, a permanent one was planted there in the mid-1960s. For many children, it was the largest Christmas tree they had ever seen. Lovingly decorated by

steps to get to him. I had to wear my good winter coat to see him. Then we would go to Horines for ice cream no matter how cold it was outside."

Memories are often gilded, but golden in our mind's eye. Christmas in Brunswick seemed

On East Potomac Street, the Lace Store's second floor Christmas Playland thrilled children from the Great Depression era until the early 1950s. Store manager Frank Sapp wouldn't let anyone up there until several weeks before Christmas. Doris Kelley Barker remembered, "It was a small attic room with a green tree with balls and lights and a snow yard under it. They had an electric train running, and you could purchase it there. They had doll buggies, big trucks for boys that they could sit on, and quilts for dolls. It was lovely to me."

In the 1960s when Eleanor Weitzel was a staffer, J.J. Newberry's promoted a Christmas Shopping Jamboree featuring a drawing for three people to win all their shopping items for free.

In 1954, Sonny and Louise Cannon purchased the Imperial Theater and made several modifications, including the removal of the orchestra pit to install an elevated platform. During the holiday season, a decorated tree was raised and displayed until the movie began. Unfortunately, segregation was a reality at the time; Santa visited Black children one morning in December and White children in the afternoon.

By the 1960s, children of all races celebrated joyfully together at the Community Tree next to the bridge.

Neighborhood Christmas Celebrations

Before the Potomac River bridge was dedicated in 1955, Pat Smith remembered a community tree in an empty lot at the foot of West B Street, where carnivals took place in the summertime. There was often a brightly lit tree near the tank in Veterans Park on A Street, alongside the "Peace on Earth" display, which continues

today. For several years in the 1950s, the Charles Harrington family decorated a huge pine tree in their yard at 605 N. Maple Avenue where neighborhood children performed "The Christmas Story," recited the "Night Before Christmas," and sang carols. Afterwards, Santa greeted the kids with "Christmas Boxes." In a touching memory, Jo Jamison recalled the Harringtons' son Dave watching the festivities from his window while he was confined to bed due to polio.

Out on Shady Lane in Petersville, which was home to many Black families who worked and attended school in Brunswick, Tony "Mr. Shorty" Jackson always decorated a tree in his backyard, which Velva Cooper said delighted the neighborhood children and is still remembered.

Playing Santa Claus

According to Donna Dawson Poffinberger, "What signaled the start of Christmas for my family was when Santa's red suit mysteriously appeared in a box at the door of my dad's dry-cleaning business (Shelley's Cleaners) on Petersville Road.

Some local men who played Santa in the 1950s and '60s at celebrations around town were Paul Weitzel, Lawrence "Finks" Heffner and Floyd Smith. Pat Smith remembered, "We had a (Christmas) bazaar at the Methodist Church, and I have a picture of Floyd in his Santa Claus suit holding his year-old son. There was Stephen sitting on his father's lap and he didn't know it was his daddy."

White Decembers

Although rare now, December snowfall happened more frequently. It was often cold enough



Brunswick children meet Santa under the community tree in December 1964. From the Blade-Times.

BLAIR HARRINGTON

BLADE TIMES

Christmas Ghosts CONTINUED

KIM MYERS



Wenner's Hill neighborhood Christmas Tree at 605 N. Maple Avenue in 1959 (on the right).

for children to go ice skating on frozen water in the canal ditch at Lock 30, as well as ponds behind Brunswick Elementary School and the Watson home in Rosemont.

Sledding on Brunswick hills was not for the faint of heart, especially if you braved the treacherous slope down Brickyard Hill. In the World War II era, the town would block A Street from Grace Church at 2nd Avenue to the bottom of "High School Hill" at 4th Avenue for sledding. Pat Smith remembered: "We would sled ride down the one hill and with all the momentum, go halfway up the other hill."

The old peach orchard on the Wenner farm, located off North Maple Avenue, where the townhouses are today, was another popular sledding spot. Boys would build bonfires in oil barrels at both ends of the run. Brenton Barger fondly remembered a big snow in 1953 when William "Pink" Nalley hitched a horse to a sleigh adorned with bells on its harness. He offered rides to any child who gathered at the corner of North Maple and G.

Christmas Eve

Most local churches conducted "Midnight Mass" the night before Christmas to formally ring in the day. Brenton Barger loved the Grace Episcopal Church services where he sang in the choir. "Gene Miller (Brunswick High School music teacher) was our director. We had a great bunch of guys from the BHS Glee Club."

Traditionally, Christmas trees were not brought into homes and trimmed until Christmas Eve, the end of the advent season and the

start of the 12 days of Christmas-tide.

Remembering Christmas in the 1930s and '40s, Pat Smith recalled "We always had a live Christmas tree at our house, but we never decorated the tree as a family. It wasn't done until we went to bed. My brother and I would go to bed and then the next morning around 6 o'clock, we would go downstairs and there was that tree all sparkly and lit up with a Lionel train running around."

Christmas Day

We'll conclude with a story from Doris Barker, set during the Great Depression. It highlights the sense of security children experienced while growing up in Brunswick during that time. Doris shared a Christmas tradition where she and her girlfriends, Phyllis Long and Shirley Foster, would walk across town from their homes on Delaware Avenue to admire the gifts Santa had brought for their friends.

After visiting Gloria Custer, who lived at the corner of North Virginia Avenue and West B Street, Doris recalled, "The three of us would walk to New York Hill and visit Jackie Moler, see hers, and then to Ernestine Wenner's house. We started out about 10:30 a.m. and left New York Hill around 2:30 p.m. and walked home. At all those houses, we ate homemade cookies, cake, drank root beer. We were so full, the walk helped us eat Christmas dinner."

Peter Wenner is Secretary of the Brunswick History Commission and curator of the Smoketown History page on Facebook. ■

MER KAPLON PHOTO COLLECTION



A typical 1930s Christmas scene at the Danner family home on B Street.

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

100 Years Ago
from The
Valley Register

Compiled by
Julie Maynard

December 5, 1924.

\$15,000 FIRE LOSS NEAR PT. OF ROCKS

No Stock in Buildings

Fanned by a strong northwest wind, fire of undetermined origin last Monday afternoon swept the farm known as the old Kanawha Hall homestead property, near Point of Rocks, owned by Harry C. Hickman, and tenanted by Chas. D. Hickman, with a resultant loss approximated by the owner of at least \$15,000.

Starting about 4 o'clock, the flames swept with undiminished fury until they consumed the large bank barn, cornhouse and granary, a quantity of fencing, a shed used for stock protection and a milk shed. In addition, 260 barrels of corn, the entire crop of fodder, between 40 and 50 tons of hay, and a straw rick were destroyed and a quantity of farming implements were damaged beyond repair. The corn was stored in the cornhouse which adjoins the granary and the hay in the loft of the barn.

Mr. Hickman is at a loss to determine how the fire originated. After finishing milking about 4 o'clock, Mr. Hickman left the barn and went elsewhere and no strangers were seen on the premises. A short time later the barn was noticed in flames and despite the efforts of a hastily summoned fire fighting brigade, little could be done to hinder the progress of the flames. The prevailing northwest wind fanned the flames until the vicinity became a veritable furnace, it was said.

A number of persons remained on the scene throughout the night to extinguish sparks and to prevent a possible outbreak, which it was feared might get into the woods and sweep toward Point of Rocks, placing that town in considerable danger.

Harry C. Hickman, owner of the farm, stated his loss is at least \$6,000, while the loss to the property and the crops owned by Chas. Hickman is established at about \$9,000, little of which is covered by insurance.

Fortunately no stock was housed in the doomed buildings and the wind was from such a direction that at no time was the farm house in danger. The property is located near St. Paul's Church, and is one of the best known in the southern section of the county.

Surprise Donation Party.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, eight auto loads of members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, of Neersville, Va., came to the Lutheran parsonage at Burkittsville, this valley, and surprised Rev. H. C. Erdman and family. They brought with them large supplies of provisions, such as potatoes, apples, vegetables, canned goods, poultry and groceries. Several hours were spent very pleasantly at the parsonage. Rev. Erdman has been acting as supply pastor of the Neersville congregation.

Death Claim Paid.

John G. Shaff, recording secretary of Jefferson Council, No. 127, Jr. O. U. A. M., has received from the National Council funeral benefit department a \$500 death claim due Mrs. Medora I. Doty, on account of the death of her husband, Walter C. Doty.

Under an engraved photograph of "Principals in Ohio Furnace Mystery" is this caption: "Shown are Rev. C. V. Sheatsley, Lutheran Minister of Columbus, O., who found the partly cremated body of his wife burning in the furnace at their home; the wife who burned, and one of the sons who first discovered the body but went away to play without telling anyone. The theory advanced by the minister that Mrs. Sheatsley was a religious fanatic and threw herself into the roaring furnace is disbelieved by authorities. She was a small woman, but could she have crawled through the 14-inch furnace door?"

Washington County

Residents along the roads from Weverton and Brownsville and Yarrowsburg will shortly be supplied by electric current from the plant of the Harper's Ferry Electric Light and Power Co., at Harper's Ferry.

Gov. Ritchie last Friday signed orders for the parole of Luther Brill, Raymond Pomeroy, Wm. Fraker and Harry Ditmer, convicted of assaulting and tarring and feathering two Western Maryland Railway shop employes during the strike in July, 1922, in Hagerstown. ...

December 12, 1924.

To Connect Maryland With Three States By Bus Lines.

Maryland will soon be linked with three other States by bus lines operating on a regular schedule, if the plans of the Blue Ridge Transportation Co., now operating between Hagerstown and Baltimore, and other nearby points, is allowed to mature.

With fine roads linking all the important cities and towns within a radius of several hundred miles, it has long been apparent that a move of this kind could not be far off. ... Already the corporation has absorbed independently operated lines in the Baltimore-Frederick and Hagerstown district, and has signified its intention of acquiring, through purchase, the permits of other small operators in other districts. ... There are whispers in transportation circles that the corporation, backed by its enormous resources, eventually will establish a north-and-south coastal route, as well as short east-and-west chains....

President Coolidge Passed Through Brunswick.

President Coolidge passed through Brunswick on the Capital Limited Thursday evening of last week, about 4.15 o'clock, en route to Chicago. The President carried out his plan for economy riding in the regular Pullman coaches in preference to the usual special car provided for the Chief Executive in making long trips.

16 Pages This Week

"The Register" is issued this week in two sections, each eight pages. Thus a paper of double its regular size is offered our readers. The reason will be apparent at a glance. With Christmas only two weeks off, a great many advertisers are taking advantage of the enormous pulling power of "The Register" as an advertising medium, and have taken this means of presenting their wares to the public. ...

December 19, 1924.

T. D. Arnold, of Burkittsville, killed six large hogs, averaging 426 pounds each; the heaviest weighing 815 pounds.

Five suspicious looking boys in an automobile were taken into custody in Hagerstown Tuesday, and after a grilling, one boy admitted he had stolen his father's car and had picked up the other boys en route. They said they were on their way to Chicago. A sign on the car read: "Make or Break."

Richard Gross, 20, Sharpsburg, was the victim of a peculiar accident when an old revolver he had been showing to friends was suddenly discharged after young Gross had laid it on the counter in his father's store. A rubber band, which held the trigger, being weakened from age, snapped and the bullet entered the young man's temple, causing death in a short time.

Advertisement: The Obender-Dronenburg Co., 24-26 East Patrick street, suggested several Christmas gifts including: Book Ends \$3.50 ("Always a delightful gift, and an extra special value for Christmas shoppers;") (Easy Chair for Dad \$29.98 ("There's solid comfort in this handsome chair, which is upholstered in genuine leather, with adjustable back;") 100-Piece Dinner Set Only \$24.98...

December 26, 1924.

Guyton—House

Miss Velma Guyton, daughter of Mrs. Elmer Guyton, near Knoxville, and Mr. Lee House, Burkittsville, were married on Tuesday morning last, at 9.30 o'clock, at the home of the bride, by Rev. Erdman, pastor of the Burkittsville Lutheran church. Only the immediate families were present. The bride was attired in a blue velvet dress, trimmed in white fur, and carried a bouquet of pink roses. The happy young couple are on a wedding trip to Washington, D. C., and points in northern Virginia.

WANTED—Clerks, Railway Mail, 18-35, \$133 mo. Experience unnecessary. For free particulars coaching, write to R. TERRY (Formerly Civil Service Examiner), 2564 Barrister Bldg, Washington D. C. 12-19-3t

WANTED—Highest cash prices paid for Skunk, O'Possum and other furs.—CHESTER YOUNG, Frederick, Md. Phone No. 1812 F-14, Frederick. 12-12-6tp.

WANTED—A quantity of good lard.—VALLEY BAKING CO., Middletown, Md. 8-8-4f

WANTED—A middle-aged lady to act as housekeeper.—WALTER L. PHILLIPS, Knoxville, Md. 12-12-4t

SPORTS AND NEWS

Brunswick High School Winter Sports Schedules 2024-25

Boys' Basketball

Dec. 6.....	at Smithsburg.....	7 p.m.
Dec. 10.....	Southern Garrett.....	7 p.m.
Dec. 13.....	at FSK.....	7 p.m.
Dec. 17.....	Williamsport.....	7 p.m.
Dec. 20.....	at Boonsboro.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 2.....	at Fort Hill.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 3.....	at Walkersville.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 7.....	Smithsburg.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 10.....	at Middletown.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 13.....	at Winters Mill.....	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 14.....	at Catoclin.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 24.....	Clear Spring.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 28.....	at Williamsport.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 31.....	Catoclin.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 4.....	Walkersville.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 7.....	at Clear Spring.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 11.....	Middletown.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 14.....	Tuscarora.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 20.....	Liberty.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 21.....	Boonsboro.....	7 p.m.

Girls' Basketball

Dec. 6.....	Smithsburg.....	7 p.m.
Dec. 13.....	FSK.....	7 p.m.
Dec. 17.....	at Williamsport.....	7 p.m.
Dec. 20.....	Boonsboro.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 3.....	Walkersville.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 7.....	at Smithsburg.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 10.....	Middletown.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 14.....	Catoclin.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 17.....	St. James School.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 21.....	Frederick.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 24.....	at Clear Spring.....	7 p.m.
Jan. 31.....	at Catoclin.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 4.....	at Walkersville.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 7.....	Clear Spring.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 11.....	at Middletown.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 14.....	at Tuscarora.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 20.....	at Liberty.....	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 21.....	at Boonsboro.....	7 p.m.
Feb. 24.....	at TJ.....	7 p.m.

Note: JV basketball game is played before varsity game.

Wrestling

Dec. 5.....	Tri-Match, multiple schools.....	5 p.m.
Dec. 6-7.....	at Boonsboro Tournament.....	TBA
Dec. 12.....	Middletown.....	6 p.m.
Dec. 16.....	at Frederick.....	6 p.m.
Dec. 18.....	Tri-Match, multiple schools at TJ.....	5 p.m.
Dec. 27-28.....	at Tuscarora Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 6.....	Jefferson.....	6 p.m.
Jan. 8.....	at Boonsboro Duals.....	6 p.m.
Jan. 10-11.....	at C. Milton Wright Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 13.....	at FSK.....	5 p.m.
Jan. 15.....	Liberty.....	6 p.m.
Jan. 22.....	Tri-Match, multiple schools.....	
	at Catoclin.....	5 p.m.
Jan. 29.....	at Williamsport.....	6 p.m.
Jan. 30.....	Oakdale.....	6 p.m.

Swimming and Diving

Dec. 5.....	TJ (Middletown).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 9.....	Catoclin (Middletown).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 20.....	at Middletown.....	6 p.m.
Jan. 6.....	at Urbana (Middletown).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 9.....	Oakdale (Middletown).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 14.....	at Walkersville.....	6 p.m.
Jan. 22.....	at Frederick (Middletown).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 24.....	Tuscarora (Middletown).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 30.....	Linganore (Middletown).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 6.....	FCPS Diving Championships.....	
	at Walkersville.....	6 p.m.
Feb. 8.....	FCPS Swimming Championships.....	
	at Walkersville.....	10 a.m.

BHS Sports: Fall Seasons Come to End

By BILL CAULEY

It was a tough ending for three fall sports teams at Brunswick High School.

Boys' Soccer

Perhaps the toughest loss came in boys' soccer, where the Railroaders were on the cusp of winning a third Class 1A state championship in the last four years.

Brunswick, the No. 5 seed in the state tournament, was facing No. 3 seed Liberty High, from Eldersburg in Carroll County, in the state championship match at Loyola University's Ridley Athletic Complex in Baltimore. Instead, the Lions dealt the Railroaders a heart-breaking 2-1 (5-3 penalty kicks) loss.

The match had been tied 1-1, at the end of regulation and through two 10-minute overtime periods, sending things into a penalty-kick shootout. Liberty's William Paucar converted the deciding penalty kick.

What made this particular match even more challenging for Brunswick was it had to play one man down due to a Railroader player being disqualified, due to receiving a red card penalty. In spite of having to play one man short for the final 35 minutes of

regulation play, the Railroaders' Chase Malone scored the tying goal with three minutes left in regulation.

Liberty had led earlier in the match, 1-0, thanks to a converted penalty kick in the first half.

Brunswick's boys ended their season at 14-3-2.

Girls' Soccer

The Railroaders' girls' soccer team was hoping to get a chance at its first Class 1A state championship in school history, but Brunswick's bid to advance to the championship match was stopped short by Wicomico County's Mardela High on Saturday, Nov. 9, at Glen Burnie High in Anne Arundel County.

The Warriors defeated the Railroaders 2-1 in a tight match.

Football

Brunswick's football team has been through a very trying season. Following a huge win over the Walkersville Lions, Railroaders' coach Jerry Smith was relieved of his duties by school officials for the remainder of the season.

The reason for Smith's departure remains unknown. Frederick County Public Schools officials have declined to give an official

reason, citing personnel confidentiality policy.

With junior varsity coach Scott Tilles promoted to acting head coach, the Railroaders pressed on, finishing the season at 6-3. Brunswick won its first-round Class 1A North playoff game, shutting out Baltimore County's Loch Raven High, 36-0, on Friday, Nov. 8.

Moving on to the second round of the playoffs, the Railroaders traveled to Boonsboro to take on the once-beaten Warriors. Boonsboro, which had defeated Brunswick during the regular season, ousted the Railroaders from the playoffs on Friday, Nov. 15, 34-22.

Senior quarterback Ethan Houck, who has committed to play football at Liberty University (Lynchburg, Va.) next fall, scored all three touchdowns for the Railroaders against the Warriors. He finished the game with 132 rushing yards.

Sam Verosto kicked a 25-yard field goal in the game for Brunswick.

What's Next

With Brunswick's boys' soccer team losing in the Class 1A state championship match, the fall sports season is now in the books. Winter sports programs at Brunswick High begin this month. ■

BHS Cross Country Ends on a High Note

By LEE ZUMBACH

With exception of the Covid restriction seasons, the Brunswick boys' and girls' cross country teams have been consistently represented in the State of Maryland 1A cross country meet, held at Herford High School year after year.

This year was no exception as the boys' team placed a strong 3rd in the west regional and with that moved onto the biggest meet of the year, the state meet, where they placed 5th out of 19 schools.

The varsity level team that ran in the regional and state meet was composed of six juniors and two freshmen. There were 138 boys competing from all over Maryland. Brunswick's top runner was junior Asher Adelman. Asher placed 4th with a time of 16:49 over the challenging 3-mile course.

He was closely followed by Simon McGillivray in 17:11 for 8th place. Simon is a junior. Next came Griffen Adelman, a freshman runner for BHS, in 38th place with a time of 18:15. Griffen was the 4th place freshman in the race. The fourth runner for the team was another junior, Jonah Miller in 47th place with a time of 18:31. Junior Adam Parde had a time of 19:07. That was over 1 minute faster than his regional time. Seth Crawford came in 78th place in a time of 19:31, a minute faster than he ran the course last year. Rickey Riley suffered a bad ankle sprain in practice 10 days before the state meet, but made a strong recovery and was able to run on the course with a time of 19:40, a very good time for a freshman.

The team has been running very consistently all season and usually placed near the top in all large meets and won the South Hagerstown Invitational. "This is one of the youngest teams that Brunswick has ever entered into the state meet, but they showed that they belonged in the state meet by running so well and defeating 14 other schools," said coach Lee Zumbach.

"The future looks bright for this group as we expect that they will only improve with a good summer of running and come back next fall to challenge for the top spot and championship," said coach Anne Zumbach. One of the teams that Brunswick defeated in the state was rival Boonsboro, which placed 7th in the race. Hartford Tech, a large 1A school, won the meet with Smithsburg in the runner up slot.

Brunswick receives Sportsmanship Award

A very nice honor was paid to Brunswick, as they were awarded the 1A State Sportsmanship Award. This plaque goes to the school that demonstrated the highest level of positive sportsmanship during the season and in the state meet. The Brunswick runners and parents have shown this high level of sportsmanship this year and thus received the prestigious award.

JV Team

All season, Brunswick had a very strong JV team, lead by junior Collin Aldridge. The girls' team was small in number but they improved all season and came close to going to the state meet with a 6th place finish out of 10 teams in the regional. The girls' varsity team had 5 freshmen runners out of 10 girls on the team. Vivian Alexander, Shelby Kenawell, Kate Virgilio, Haddie Shullenbarger and Maren Clatworthy were all freshmen who made great progress. Caroline Teague, Kaitlyn Heck and Delaney Yablon were the juniors and Lexy Partyka and Ella McMonagle were the seniors.

The coaches thank the many parents who helped make the season work well. ■



The Brunswick boys' varsity team at their end-of-season pizza party. Left to right: Adam Parde, Seth Crawford, Rickey Riley, Simon McGillivray, Asher Adelman, Griffen Adelman, Jonah Miller. Brunswick placed 5th out of 19 teams in the meet and the boys' and girls' teams were also awarded the state sportsmanship award plaque for displaying a high degree of sportsmanship throughout the season.

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.affordablebeds.us

Students of the Month at Brunswick High School



Back row from left: Sullivan Givens, Henry Settle, Mason Galloway. Middle row from left: Taylor French, Skyla Stokes, Lilliana Mills, Shae Bastian, Clare Lukes, Gabrielle Woehrle, Principal Eric Schwarzenegger. Front row: Bryan Hiheglo

One student was nominated by each department at Brunswick High for October "students of the month." A small celebration was held on Nov. 4. The honorees are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Career and Technical Ed — Clare Lukes | Social Studies — Mason Galloway |
| English — Sullivan Givens | Visual & Performing Arts — Shae Bastian |
| Math — Skyla Stokes | World Languages — Lilliana Mills |
| Physical Education — Henry Settle | CTE — Bryan Hiheglo |
| Science — Taylor French | Media — Gabrielle Woehrle |

ROTARY DONATION



Smoketown Rotary Club donated \$1,250 for the purchase of turkeys for the BEACON organization's Thanksgiving food baskets. Rotary President Lois Jarman is shown presenting the check to Leslie Gum of BEACON.

IN MEMORY Dora Lee Banks

Dora Lee Banks, age 81, of Frederick, Maryland, passed from this life on Monday, November 4, 2024 at Northampton Manor Health Care Center in Frederick.

Born on October 14, 1943, in Leesburg, VA, she was the daughter of the late Robert F. and Ruth Henrietta (Bascue) Folk.

She was a 1962 graduate of Frederick High School. Mrs. Banks was a FCPS employee for 20 years as an instructional assistant and executive/administration secretary for the Marriott Corporation. She also worked on Capitol Hill as an executive secretary.

Her true passion, for over 20 years, was the instructional teacher's assistant for the disabled. She was also campaign manager for a congressional race in Pittsburgh. She loved spending time with her family and her beloved son, David. The beach was one of her favorite places to visit with her son and grandson.

Mrs. Banks is survived by her children, Toni R. Banks of Brunswick and David M. Banks of Frederick; grandchildren, Michelle L. McClafferty of Kearneysville, WV, Sabrina R. Currence of Brunswick, Jonathan H. Currence, Jr. of Frederick, and Donald A. Currence of Brunswick; and great-grandchildren, Aralynn Serenity Rene Stotler of Kearneysville, and Brent William Davis of Wardensville, WV.

A celebration of Dora's life journey took place at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 15, 2024



Dora Lee Banks

at Stauffer Funeral Home, 1100 North Maple Avenue in Brunswick. Pastor Steven Rose officiated.

The family received friends from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home in Brunswick.

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

CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS IN THE AREA

Milltown Creek Farm
38757 Householder Rd.
Lovettsville
Milltowncreekfarms.com
Cut Your Own

Dreamland Christmas Tree Farm
2700 Sumantown Rd.
Middletown
Dreamlandchristmastreefarm.com
Precut and cut your own

Darlene's Christmas Trees
5139 Doubs Rd., Adamstown
facebook.com/darleneschristmastrees/

Precut Trees

D.R. Virts Flower and Garden Center
800 Petersville Rd., Brunswick
301-969-6115
Precut trees and wreaths

Boy Scout Troop 766
Jefferson Ruritan Center
4603 Lander Rd., Jefferson
Thursday/Friday evenings
Saturday/Sunday 10 am-7 pm

Grant Awarded for Middle School After-school Enrichment



On November 27, the Community Foundation of Frederick County announced grant awards. One of them is for the Boys and Girls Club of Frederick County: including \$20,000 to expand middle school after-school educational enrichment programs in Brunswick, which has no comparable services or programs available. (See the Council report on page 3 of the November Brunswick News-Journal.)



Frederick Primary Care Associates

BRUNSWICK AND JEFFERSON

Come see us for comprehensive Family Practice services, both in office and via Telehealth.

Our providers treat all ages, from newborn to geriatric and everything in between.

Whether you need a Physical, Pre-Operative Clearance or Chronic Disease Management — we are here for you!

We also offer same day and walk in appointments for all acute conditions.

Call 301-834-7188 or visit fpcanet to schedule your appointment today!

Meet our new providers accepting new patients

For any acute problem that occurs outside of office hours, the FPCA After Hours Clinic is available at the Ballenger location:

Monday through Friday 5:30-8:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday 8 AM-4 PM

FPCA BRUNSWICK
610 Ninth Avenue
Brunswick, MD 21716
M-Th: 7:30AM-7PM
F: 7:30AM-5PM

Walk In Lab Services
7:30AM-11AM and
1:30PM-3:00PM

FPCA JEFFERSON
4014 Mountville Road
Jefferson, MD 21755
M-F: 7:30AM-5PM
Walk In Lab Services
7:30AM-12PM



Steffanie McCombs, CRNP



Heather Jones, CRNP



Joseph Asuncion, MD

Wishing for a
Happy Holidays and a
Healthy New Year
for all of our community



ALL ABOARD BRUNSWICK

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

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

Holiday Cookie Platter Fundraiser

By December 1, pre-orders only. Pick up platters on December 14 Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance 200 W. Potomac St.

Teens Community Service Project

(ages 11-18) December 5, 6-7 pm Brunswick Library

Twins Community Service Project

(ages 8-13) December 5, 6-7 pm Brunswick Library

Meet a Firefighter: A Sensory Program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

December 6, 11 am-noon Brunswick Library

Breakfast with Santa

December 7, 8-9 am (sensory hour); 9-11:30 am Brunswick Fire Department

Ambulance Company Food Sales

December 7, 11 am-5 pm Railroad Square parking lot

Letters to Santa

December 7, 12:30-4:30 pm Santa Mailbox, Railroad Square

Santa Train Rides

December 7, 1 & 3 pm Railroad Square, Train Station

Brunswick Heritage Holiday Walk

December 7, 2 pm Brunswick Heritage Museum

Holiday Market Place

December 7, 2-7 pm Martin's Creek Parking Lot

Jingle Bell Run and Santa Stroll

December 7, 3 pm Square Corner Park

Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting

December 7, 4 pm West Potomac Street to Square Corner Park

Build a Bridge

(ages 5-10) December 10, 4:30-5:30 pm Brunswick Library

Teens Beeswax Candles

(ages 11-18) December 12, 6-7 pm Brunswick Library

All You Can Eat Breakfast with Santa

December 14, 6-11 am Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance 200 W. Potomac St.

Brunswick Art Market & Silent Auction, Local Handmade

December 14, 11 am-6 pm After Party 8-10 pm Smoketown Brewing Station

Pet Photos with Santa

December 14, 11 am-2 pm Smoketown Rotary Club at H.C. Summers in Jefferson Donation requested

Kids Christmas Party, Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus

December 14, 2-4 pm American Legion

Luminary Event

December 14, 5-8 pm Park Heights Cemetery & Old Berlin Cemetery

New York City Holiday Bus Trip

December 15, \$90/person Smoketown/Potomac Valley Rotary Club Tickets at Eventbrite.com

Games & Puzzles

(ages 5-10) December 17, 4:30-5:30 pm Brunswick Library

Light Up Brunswick Holiday Decorating Competition

Dec. 19 deadline to enter Dec. 20-22 judging Brunswickmd.gov/specialevents

A Legacy of Memories: Creating Your Personal Memory

December 19, 2-3 pm Brunswick Library

Teens Design a Cookie Cutter!

(Ages 11-18) December 19, 6-7 pm Brunswick Library

Sonic Party for Teens!

(Ages 11-18) December 26, 6-7 pm Brunswick Library

Read with a Dog

(ages 0-10) December 28, 10:30-11:30 am Brunswick Library

New Year's Eve Techno-Glow Dance Party

(ages 5-10) TIME CHANGE December 31, 3-4 pm Brunswick Library

Scottish First Footing

December 31, 11:45 pm Square Corner Park

Freezin' for a Reason

January 1, 1 pm Brunswick Family Campground

RECURRING

Worship Service

SUNDAYS, 9 am traditional 10:30 am contemporary Jefferson United Methodist 3882 Jefferson Pike

Worship Service

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

Baby Storytime

MONDAYS, 10:30 am ages 0-24 months with caregiver Brunswick Library

Manly Movie Night

MONDAYS, 7-9 pm, BYO drinks Traveling Bros. Cigars 302 W. Potomac St.

Toddler Storytime

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

Chair Yoga

TUESDAYS, 2-3 pm Roots & River Yoga 17 W Potomac Ave. Pre-registration and pricing: RootsAndRiverYoga.com/event

Shuffleboard & Cornhole

— \$2 TUESDAYS, 4:30-6 pm Parks & Recreation Building, Brunswick Elementary School

Table Top Tuesdays

TUESDAYS, 6-8 pm (3rd Tues. Dungeons and Dragons) BYO drinks Traveling Bros. Cigars 302 W. Potomac St.

Preschool Storytime

WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 am 3-5 year olds with caregiver Brunswick Library

School & STEM Skills

WEDNESDAYS, 11:15 am 3-5 year olds with caregiver Brunswick Library

Valley Quilters

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

Ladies' Movie Night

WEDNESDAYS, 7-9 pm BYO drinks Traveling Bros. Cigars 302 W. Potomac St.

Musical Storytime

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

Worship Service

SATURDAYS, 6 pm Jefferson United Methodist 3882 Jefferson Pike

Games Club of Maryland

3RD SATURDAYS, 12-7 pm Smoketown Brewing Station

BULK TRASH DROP-OFF

Saturday, December 14 Public Works (600 Petersville Road) 8am-3pm

Non-acceptable items: construction & building materials, explosives & ammunition, yard waste, gasoline or oil, basketball poles, hazardous waste, dead animals, paint, fencing, propane tanks, feces, household trash, concrete materials, automobile parts, dirt, rocks, sod.

NO cardboard, paper, books, or other single-stream recyclable materials.

Proof of Brunswick residency required.

More info: www.BrunswickMD.gov/publicworks See Bulk Trash at the bottom.



THE **CROSSINGS**
thecrossings.cc

Feeling lost? Searching for guidance and answers to life's toughest questions? Discover hope and clarity at The Crossings Church. Join us and find the answers you've been seeking.

GUIDING PEOPLE to
FIND and FOLLOW Jesus

**Sundays at 11:00 am at
The Steadman-Keenan American Legion Post 96
18 S Maple Ave in Brunswick.
(301) 834-8611 | thecrossings.cc**

