

# BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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JANUARY 2025

FREE

## What's Going On with Downtown Parking?

By JEAN DOYLE

The old parking meters downtown are gone and new parking signs are being installed. They say "2 Hour Parking, MON-SAT, 9AM-5PM." The parking is free, but only for two hours. No meters or kiosks, no credit cards or quarters required. The two-hour parking limit allows shoppers to come and go to stores and restaurants – that is, if they can find a place to park.

Parking in downtown Brunswick is in transition as city officials begin a new parking program. The plan has been a long time coming, but is finally ready to be rolled out. A committee of volunteers from the community and a local business, as well as city officials worked on this plan for many months.

Roll out and implementation was delayed as the city worked on methods of enforcement. It is now ready to go, and should finally remove the ambiguity over parking regulations in the downtown.

Julie Martorana, City Administrator, reports that the official roll

out date is February 1, 2025.

### The Park Mobile App

Between now and February 1 new parking signs will be installed throughout downtown that will include the Park Mobile App QR code. Before parking downtown, drivers will need to download the App to their cell phone to access a parking spot. The App provides two hours of free parking. It will send a reminder to your phone when your time is about to end, and you will be able to add time.

During the initial roll out period, February 1 - March 31, 2025, the Brunswick Police Department will issue warnings, not tickets, for parking infractions.

### Alleviating Congestion for Street Parking

The question of where business owners, employees and residents park has also been considered. The city will send out letters and applications to those meeting the criteria for a permit, allowing them to park in designated ar-



New signs are downtown for 2-hour free parking.

reas, while reducing congestion in prime street parking areas.

Also, the city is evaluating the best spots to locate two handicapped parking spaces so they are accessible to restaurants and shopping. Residents of Railroad Square Apartments have a connected lower-level park-

ing garage and some designated parking spots near the building, so those residents should not be competing for available street parking.

In addition to the street parking, there are two municipal lots, at Martin's Creek and at S. Virginia Avenue. The lot at S. Vir-

ginia Avenue is scheduled to be upgraded by 2026 with new EV charging stations.

### Enforcement Starts in April

April 2025 will be the start of enforcement of the parking regulations for downtown. From April 2025 through April 2026 the city and the parking committee will be monitoring how the system is working, listening to suggestions and comments from the community.

City Administrator Julie Martorana offered these words of hope, "The City of Emmitsburg has been using the Park Mobile App for their parking for about a year. Their mayor reported that there was a lot of grumbling at first, as people got used to the system. But now most people love the system."

For the coming year, parking will be free downtown, and there should be parking spaces available for shoppers and restaurant patrons. The downside will be getting used to the Park Mobile App. ■

## Historic Bell Removed

The bell was made sometime between 1899 and 1908 at the American Bell Foundry Company in Northville, Michigan. Located 30 miles northwest of Detroit, the company had a long history of making bells for churches, schools, farms and factories.

What is interesting about this bell, it has two clappers. The clapper is the metal part shaped to hit the inside of the bell to create the sound when the bell is rung. According to the Bodet Campanaire web site, a company that restores bells and bell towers, the clapper makes up about 4% of the bell's weight, providing optimal sound quality. This bell had both the internal clapper and an external bell strike, which must have been added later. While the bell is what is moved to make the clapper strike with the internal clapper, in the external version, only the clapper moves.

The bell will remain in its new home permanently, according to David Gowda, the new owner of the church. He and his investment company bought the church in the fall. "The bell still works," Gowda said, "We hope it can be rung on special city occasions."

What is to become of the church building? Gowda indicated a strong desire to preserve as many of the First Baptist

*Continued on page 2*

By JEAN TOLEMAN

For the first time in over a hundred years there is an empty space in the bell tower of the First Baptist Church on A street. The large steel alloy bell that hung there, pealing out its resonate song on Sunday mornings, for historic events, for tragedies and celebrations, has been lowered back to earth.

In the last week of November there was a large crane, almost 200 feet tall, reaching skyward to harness the 1200-pound bell and gently lower it down onto its new home, a concrete slab on the front right of the church. The bell tower surely gave a sigh of relief as this weight was removed from its shoulders.

ERIC STUYCK



## Lovettsville Game Club Renovated



December 7 was the first day open since the renovation work at the Lovettsville Game Club. Their annual Christmas Market was held and a large crowd turned out to shop for the holidays.

KATE BAKER

### IN THIS ISSUE

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### The Restaurant at Potomac Crossing



MARK ROHNER

**PLUS: US 340 INTERSECTIONS, MAISON BAKERY, ROBOTICS, WINTER BIRDS, NEW COMPUTER HELP COLUMN, AND MORE**

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# BRUNSWICK NEWS

## Church Bell CONTINUED



Workmen lower the First Baptist Church bell to the ground.

Continued from page 1

Church's historical features as possible. Unfortunately, modern building codes prevent many of these from continuing in their original role, even though they have stood the test of time over the past 115 years. Initial renovation is on the bell tower with a new roof. "It was in very poor condition and at risk of collapsing," said Gowda.

When asked about the stained-glass windows, which are in every window of the church, Gowda sighed, "Unfortunately, due to

building codes they have to be replaced but we will definitely use them somewhere in the renovations."

Brunswick is very positive toward repurposing its old historic buildings. Working with the city, two architects and the community, Gowda hopes to find a new life for the church that maintains its significant role in the city's skyline and meets the needs of the city and its citizens. As for the bell, there is hope that it will ring over the city again someday. ■

## Distinguished Citizens for 2025: Nominees Sought

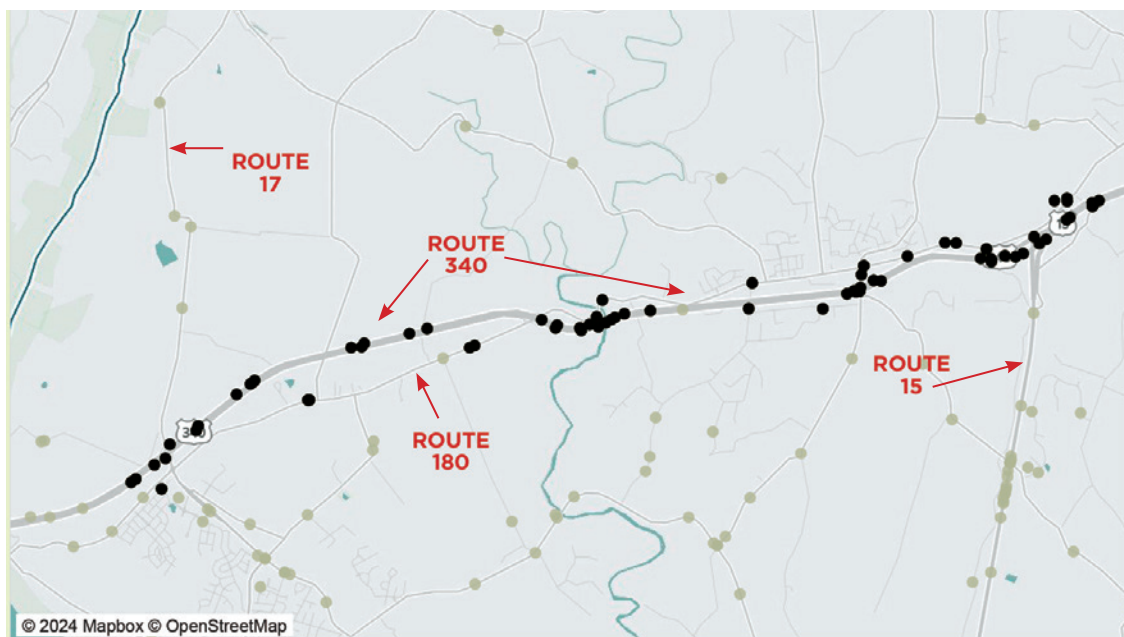
The Brunswick History Commission is seeking nominations of individuals to honor this fall at the annual Distinguished Citizens Luncheon. Every year, several individuals who have made significant contributions to Brunswick, whether living or deceased, are given special recognition by the History Commission and the Mayor. A list of past honorees can be found at: [www.brunswickmdhistory.com/index.php?title=Category:Brunswick\\_Distinguished\\_Citizen](http://www.brunswickmdhistory.com/index.php?title=Category:Brunswick_Distinguished_Citizen).

If you have someone you would like to nominate, we invite you to submit their name, a

little bit about why you feel they should be recognized, and your contact information to: [history-commission@brunswickmd.gov](mailto:history-commission@brunswickmd.gov). Honorees will be selected from the names submitted.

The deadline for submission is Friday, January 31. ■

## Improvements Planned for US 340 Interchanges



Clusters of injury accidents at interchanges along U.S. Route 340. Data is from the Maryland State Police and covers the period Jan. 1, 2020–Dec. 31, 2023. Each dot represents a personal injury or fatal accident.

By MARK ROHNER

Most Brunswick-area drivers know first-hand how scary it can be to try to merge onto U.S. Route 340 from either of the two local interchanges, at MD Routes 17 and 180.

At both locations, drivers can quickly run out of on-ramp while looking over their shoulders to spot oncoming traffic. To make the maneuver even more challenging, there are obstructions at both locations impeding a clear view of traffic on 340 from the on-ramps.

Compared with U.S. 15, U.S. 40 or I-270, U.S. 340 is not one of Frederick County's hot spots for auto accidents, according to data from the Maryland State Police. But the data do show clusters of injury accidents at interchanges along 340.

Design work is underway for improvements to both interchanges, as well as at the 340 interchange with northbound U.S. Route 15, Shantee Felix, media relations manager with the Maryland State Highway Administra-

tion, said in an e-mail.

The work will entail lengthening the on-ramps to conform to national standards, along with "stormwater management and drainage enhancements, as well as updated pavement markings and lighting," Felix said. She said design work is expected to be

complete by spring 2025.

Brunswick Mayor Nathan Brown said he was told in a recent meeting with Maryland Department of Transportation officials that the 340 project will not be affected by state transportation budget cuts. ■

# BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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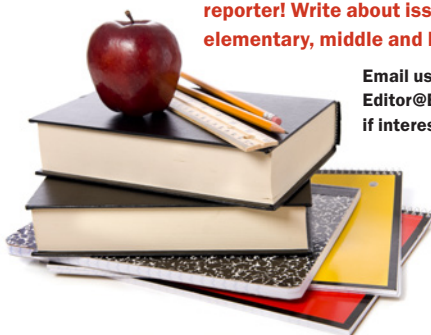
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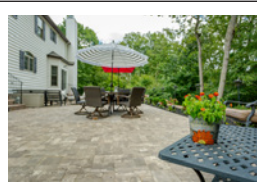
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## BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL

# Mayor and Council December Update



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

By JULIE GOURLEY

A few more Brunswick residents answered the call to volunteer to help advise the city on key issues. Rebekah Kuperus was sworn in to the Economic Development Commission and Daniel McManus was sworn in to the Equity and Inclusion Task Force.

Christmas tree curbside collection will take place on the first two Saturdays this month, January 4 and 11.

### FY24 Audit Results

Representatives of DeLeon and Stang, the audit firm the city has used for at least 20 years, gave a nearly perfect report on the city's financial and administrative position with only two very minor accounting errors that were actually caught by the city before the firm pointed them out.

The key takeaway is that the city's coffers are \$3.68 million greater than FY23, owing to increases in tax revenues, intergovernmental revenues (e.g. state, county monies), service charges (e.g. water and sewer), and other sources (e.g. Brunswick Crossing tap fees). The financial position at the end of FY24 was strong.

In a related development, the city was asked by the state to present how it spent its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that arose out of the COVID pandemic. The reason is that city hall was so efficient and effective in spending the funds on time and within the requirements that attached to the funding that the state wants to showcase our success and help other municipalities. All ARPA funds must be spent by September 30, 2026.

There is a total of \$204,809 in remaining ARPA funds that will be spent on residential sewer line cleanout access points for

all homes without them. Once completed, likely in FY26, all Brunswick ARPA funds will have been expended in whole well before the deadline, with many positives to show for the \$6,397,713 Brunswick received.

### Hotel Tax Revenues — Where Do They Go?

When you stay in a hotel have you ever wondered where the hotel room tax you pay actually goes? Turns out those funds go to the affiliated Main Street programs across the state. Brunswick Main Street was the top recipient of these funds this year at a whopping \$60,000.

Brunswick Main Street's three focal areas are outdoor recreation, the arts and heritage tourism. Marketing these areas is how some of the hotel tax monies were spent. Main Street uses online platforms and regional publications for promoting Brunswick, the downtown kiosks for helping visitors get around, and the three Yiftee gift card programs.

The Yiftee "Meet Me on Main Street" gift card supports local businesses in Brunswick, Middletown, New Market, and Thurmont. Main Street's recent buy-one-get-one free Yiftee "Buy Local" and "Buy Brunswick" gift cards (for use in Brunswick only) sold out in 72 hours.

### Shirley Shores Honored

It was announced at the meeting that Brunswick's very own Shirley Shores was honored by the Community Foundation of Frederick County for her decades of work with Brunswick local charities (see details in the box on page 11). The Council added its congratulations. ■

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

### Understanding the Annexations

As your Mayor, I'm excited to welcome a new year with our amazing community. This past year has brought so much progress to our city. As we embrace 2025, I'm committed to building on our motto of "Big Town, Small City" — maintaining our close-knit community feel while advancing the opportunities and quality of life for all our residents.

It is with a sense of responsibility and commitment to our community's well-being that I address the topic of the recent annexations under consideration. Understanding the complexities and the benefits of these developments is crucial for us all, but can be a bit complicated to navigate.

### The Cooper Annexation

The land known as the Cooper property was originally annexed into the City of Brunswick's boundaries over a decade ago, with plans at that time for the property to be a residential development.

The initial agreement included a 10-year moratorium on any development. With this moratorium expiring in 2018, there has been renewed interest from the property owner to sell the property and move forward with development. Although the current property use is agriculture, it is zoned as residential and therefore taxed at the county and state level as such.

As part of this original annexation, a smaller piece of the Cooper Farm, approximately 24 acres, was not originally annexed into the city boundary. Since this property was privately owned at the time of the original annexation, there are several possible reasons that this 24-acre tract was not included in the annexation. For example, the owners may have wanted to retain this tract for future use. In any annexation there is a need not to create an enclave that would isolate the property from any future connectivity, and at the time of the original annexation there was no contract to purchase any part of the Cooper Farm.

The new potential property owner and developer has reviewed the original annexation agreement and decided to submit a new annexation to include most of these 24 acres into the overall development and city boundary.

The potential development on the Cooper property could include up to 550 age-restricted



residential units, offering new housing opportunities for our growing community.

### The Vista Pointe Development

Moving on to the Vista Pointe development area, this comprises three distinct properties: the Daugherty property (113.5 acres), the Ferris property (57 acres), and the Brylawski property (15 acres). The Daugherty property has been part of Brunswick since 1994. We are now considering the annexation of the Ferris and Brylawski properties, which are located along MD Route 180, approximately ½ mile south of Monocacy Crossing Parkway.

This development has the potential for 660 age-restricted residential units, further expanding our housing capacity.

### How These Developments Impact Local Services

One critical aspect of these developments is the impact on local services, especially our schools. It is well known that Brunswick Elementary School, although brand new, is already currently operating over capacity. However, the addition of age-restricted housing within these developments means that the number of school-aged children will not increase, thereby mitigating some of the strain on our educational resources.

Moreover, our Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) ensures that we carefully consider the number of children that new developments might bring to area schools, the impact of the additional housing on water and sewer capacity, and the impact on roads. This ordinance is a tool we utilize to manage and plan for the growth of our community in a responsible manner.

Age-restricted housing has proven to have a lower impact on these critical public facilities. Typically, households in age-restricted communities don't have school-aged children, and with a lower occupancy load per household the demands on water and sewer are less. The impact on

road networks is also diminished especially during the crucial peak commuter times. While it is important to note these advantages, age-restricted housing also brings some possible increased demand for services such as medical and emergency services.

### Proffers

The concept of proffers is also essential in these discussions. Proffers are commitments made by developers to provide specific benefits as part of the annexation agreement. These can include infrastructure improvements, community amenities and other enhancements that serve the broader needs of Brunswick residents.

Given that annexation is viewed as discretionary for governments to consider, proffers typically only come up during annexation discussions and not during other more typical development plans and discussions with already existing tracts of land in a city boundary. It is through these proffers that we ensure that the impacts of new developments are balanced with tangible benefits for our entire community.

Some examples of proffers being currently considered are land for a new community/senior center; road, sidewalk and lighting improvements; indoor and outdoor recreational amenities and parks available to all residents; the types of housing included in the development; and capacity fees to ensure water and sewer availability to the development. Development without carefully crafted proffers can lead to adverse impacts on community.

Without these annexations, both projects could still proceed with fewer housing units. For instance, up to 300 residential units could be built on the Daugherty property alone, and 500 units on the Cooper property, without the need for additional annexation. However, this would mean missing out on the proffers that are critical for mitigating the impact on our community and ensuring we receive the necessary infrastructure and amenities.

In conclusion, the annexation process allows the city and its residents input into how these developments are built and how their impact is managed on our community. While no solution is perfect, it is imperative that we utilize all available tools to manage our city's growth in a way that benefits all residents. These annexations, supported by the proffers from developers, help us achieve a more balanced and sustainable development plan on these parcels of land. ■

— Nathan Brown



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**BRUNSWICK NEWS**

# Bells? Yes, We Have Bells!

(OH, NO! ANOTHER BNJ CONTEST!)

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In the icy air of night!  
While the stars that oversprinkle  
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Edgar Allan Poe was probably not thinking of Brunswick when he wrote that, but we do have our own population of bells.

Can you identify the bells pictured below? Jean Toleman took these photos in December of bells in Brunswick, Knoxville, and Petersville.

If you can identify the building or location of each bell, you can win a more-or-less shiny gold (colored) \$1.00 coin to spend as you please.

Please submit your identifications to [editor@BrunsNews.com](mailto:editor@BrunsNews.com) before January 15, 2025 to be eligible for our lavish prize. ■



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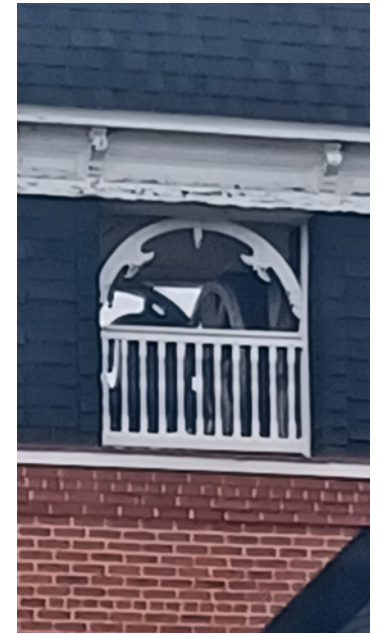
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Number 3



Number 4



Number 5



Number 6



Number 7



Number 8



Number 9



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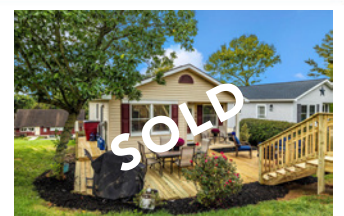
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## Police Cadets Receive Promotions

BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPT.



Cadet Sergeant Emma Palmer, center, flanked by family members along with BPD Chief Kevin Grunwell (left) and BPD Cadet Program Director Officer Chad Marshall (right).

By JULIE GOURLEY

On November 19 the Brunswick Police Department (BPD) celebrated the promotions of eight cadets who have been in the program successfully for a full year.

Brooks Campbell, Michael Cunanan, Landon Gum, Sierra Hester, and Haily Kraft were promoted to the rank of Cadet First Class.

Lily Palmer and Braylen Richmond were promoted to the rank

of Corporal. Lily's twin sister Emma Palmer took the highest promotion to the rank of Sergeant. These three cadets went through a special process to determine their readiness for promotion that included a written essay and an oral interview in addition to a review of their performance and attendance records.

BPD Officer Chad Marshall and BPD Captain Andy Crone are pleased with this year's class of cadets and with the success of the program. ■

## Maison Bakery Opens in Brunswick

By ABBIE RICKETTS

Emma Tilman is exuberantly passionate about her chosen path in life, becoming a baker and owning her own bakery. The newly opened Maison Bakery's young co-owner's original path was music, but her interest changed to baking and experimenting with manipulating ingredients in recipes.

Instead of music, she pursued culinary and pastry degrees. She began her career in a hotel kitchen in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she met her husband Matt who is her partner in Maison. They live in Brunswick with their two-year-old son Nathaniel they call 'Natty.'

Maison is French for "home." Emma and Matt want customers in their bakery to feel an ambience like home. Matt is a graduate of Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte that is known for its culinary programs. He has a background in hospitality and customer service and ensures that customers feel at home in the bakery.

Emma oversees recipe development and baking. The couple moved to Washington, D.C. in 2017 and then to Frederick where they both worked at the famed Volt restaurant. She was also employed at the Wine Kitchen as a pastry chef. Matt encouraged her to follow her baking passions, and Emma found a location in Brunswick at 318 Petersville Road, in the building of a former bakery, to start her business. Both Tilmans have years of culinary experience; Matt Tilman has 23 years of culinary experience and Emma has nearly 12 years.



ABBIE RICKETTS

Emma Tilman removing freshly baked crusts for quiche from the oven.

### Variety and Seasonal Flavors

The bakery offers a varying selection of goods including scones and muffins, biscuits, quiche, cookies, hand pies, sourdough loaves, baguettes, macarons, cakes and more. The items change frequently. Flavors vary seasonally with stronger spices such as cardamom in the fall and lighter spices in the spring. A changing variety of cake slices

are offered. day, making the bakery a popular stop for visitors to and from the canal or to grab one on the way to work.

Maison is a tea lover's delight, offering nine fancy teas that include black tea, herbal tea and green tea. Flavors include names such as Milky Caramel, Be Bold, Lady Lemonberry and more. Tilman hopes to increase to 14 teas in the near future. All tea is locally sourced. Coffee is also offered.

### Ice Cream and Custom Cakes

In the future, the Tilmans are planning to serve ice cream as they expand the offerings and open the back patio for customers. There is currently an Air BnB in the basement of the building. They are also planning to offer custom cakes after the first of the year and have an artisan cake designer who will be assisting.

Emma Tilman mentioned the outpouring of support from the community since they soft-opened in mid-November. The official ribbon cutting was held December 18.

Current hours are Wednesday – Saturday 8–3 and Sunday 8–1. There is ample parking in front.

The Tilmans will be offering new items and different flavors of current items from time to time. Visit the website for a current menu at <https://www.maisonbrunswick.com/> ■

### BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Maryland State Citations	28	186	14	213
Maryland State SEROS	3	62	3	23
Warning Citations	45	824	60	760
Parking Citations (paper)	0	58	0	47

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Calls for Service	663	9,526	1,109	11,312
Homicide	0	1	0	0
Rape	0	2	0	3
Robbery	0	1	0	0
Assault	4	76	8	138
Breaking & Entering	0	8	0	9
Theft	2	38	5	28
Auto Theft	0	2	0	4
Adult Arrests	11	86	6	90
Juvenile Arrests	1	25	3	33

OTHER INCIDENTS				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Motor Vehicle Accidents	20	143	8	101
Emergency Evaluations Mentally Ill/Suicidal Persons	3	79	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)

ABBIE RICKETTS



A slice of Hazelnut Opera Cake on display.



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# BRUNSWICK NEWS

## GBACC Gives Back



GBACC President Sheila Gray, Brunswick Heritage Museum President Julie Kloetzli and GBACC Treasurer John Gonano.

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

The Greater Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual "GBACC Gives Back" holiday reception on Dec. 5 at the Brunswick Heritage Museum. Local restaurants catered the well-attended event.

Four local nonprofit organizations were chosen to receive this

year's awards of \$300 each: Brunswick Heritage Museum, Brunswick Ecumenical Assistance Committee on Needs (BEACON), Jefferson Food Bank, and Western Loudoun Food Pantry.

Museum President Julie Kloetzli led a tour of the Museum. Ed Waters, Jr. ran the model trains to the delight of attendees. ■



GBACC President Sheila Gray, Karen Blank and Nick Augustino of Jefferson Food Pantry, and GBACC Treasurer John Gonano.



Wayne Allgaier (center) receives a check on behalf of BEACON.

## Senior Center Happenings

By **JEAN DOYLE**

Winter Activity and Enrichment programs begin the week of January 6. There is still time to register for activities. Look for the Winter 2025 Guide on the Frederick County Division of Aging and Independence website for registration instructions.

### Trips Offered in January and February

**Friday, Jan. 24 — Gettysburg Beyond the Battle Museum.** The Museum tells the remarkable story of Gettysburg civilians and their experiences before, during and after the Civil War. Time: 8:45 a.m.-approximately 3:30 p.m. Leaves from the Frederick Senior Center. Cost \$35 per person; bring \$ for lunch. Register by Friday, January 10.

**Thursday, Feb. 6 — The Simon and Garfunkel Story.** Enjoy a performance at the Luhrs Center, Shippensburg, Pa. The show traces the life and time of the influential '60s act with video projections along with live performances of the greatest hits. Time 5:15 p.m. to approximately 11:30 p.m. Leaves from Frederick Senior Center. Cost \$75 per person. We are not stopping for dinner, so bring a snack for the ride back. Register by Friday, Jan. 17.

Register for trips at: <http://frederickcountymd-gov/3cartstores.com> or call 301-600-7020 for more information.

### Brunswick Senior Center Highlights

**Thursday, Jan. 16 — Special Lunch Bunch Meal Luncheon.** Stuffed chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, apple pie. Reserve special meals a week in advance by calling 301-834-8115. Voluntary contributions toward meal cost are appreciated. The meal cost \$6.00.

**Tuesday, Jan. 14 — Rumba/Cha Cha Dance Lesson.** Time 6 p.m., learn basic steps for these two dances. No partner needed. Held at the Brunswick Eagles Club, 401 Central Ave. Cost \$5, pre-register at 301-834-8115.

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

**Lunch Out with Friends — Thursday, Jan. 30 at Roy Rogers.**

**Book Club — Last Tuesday of the month, 2 p.m. at the Brunswick Library.** January: The Secret Book & Scone Society by Ellery Adams.

**Monthly Dinner Dance — Thursday, Jan. 9** at the Brunswick Eagles, 401 Central Avenue. Dancing @ 2:00, meal at 4:00. \$12 per person, paid reservations due 1 week in advance, call 301-834-8115 for information.

**Blood Pressure Checks and Safety Presentation — 1st Tuesday at 11 a.m.,** January topic is "Staying Warm As We Age."

**Weis Market Nutrition Talk — Thursday, Jan. 23, 1-2 p.m.,** Topic is "Smarter Snacking," free, pre-register at 301-834-8115.

**Kitchen Kapers — Wed., Jan. 15, 1:45 p.m.,** Virtual, Free, pre-register at 301-834-8115. Ham & potato breakfast casserole.

**Kitchen Klub — Wed., Jan. 8, 2-3 p.m.,** social time for discussing favorite recipes, cooking for 2 tips, sharing techniques. Free, pre-register at 301-834-8115.

**Circle of Friends Memory Café — Friday, Jan. 24, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** Gather for socialization and education for people with early-stage memory loss, families and friends, Free, pre-register.

### Brunswick Exercise Programs

**Mondays, 10-11 a.m., Line Dancing,** held at the Brunswick Eagles Club, 401 Central Ave., \$35 for the quarter, pre-register.

**Tuesdays, 9-10 a.m., Strength/Stretch,** hybrid program held at the Brunswick City Park Building, \$35 for the quarter, pre-register.

**Wednesdays & Saturdays, 9-11 a.m., Pickleball,** held at the Brunswick City Tennis and Pickleball Courts, Free, all skill levels welcomed.

### Virtual Program Highlights:

**Great Decisions 2025 — Mondays,** for 8 weeks, starting Feb. 3, 10:30-12:00 noon. America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Each class begins with a short video on the topic of the week, followed by group discussion. Discussions are moderated. Held in person at Frederick Senior Center and Virtual. Cost \$5, Briefing book \$35. Pre-register.

**New Advances in Alzheimer Treatment — Wed., Jan. 22, 11 a.m.-noon,** Free, pre-register. Learn about a new treatment approved by the FDA, presented in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association and the Division's Caregiver Support.

Register at: <http://frederickcountymd-gov/3cartstores.com> ■

## Historical Signs Installed Downtown

By **JOHN CAVES**

Historical signs designed by the Brunswick History Commission were installed downtown on December 12. They provide a glimpse into the rich history of five sites in Brunswick:

**1. The old East End School,** a former elementary school that is now an apartment building on the first block of 6th Ave. The sign is near the City Park building.

**2. The site of the Roundhouse and Coal Tipple,** once crucial parts of the B&O rail yard. The sign is on the railroad side of the 200 block of East Potomac Street.

**3. The "Town Between the Tracks,"** now the MARC parking lot, where much of Brunswick's



The "Town Between the Tracks" is described in a sign located on the train viewing platform at the foot of Maryland Ave.

downtown was located before about 1920. The sign is on the train viewing platform at the foot of Maryland Ave.

**4. The Horine Building,** the prominent building across from

Square Corner Park. The sign is across the street in the park.

**5. The view of downtown from East Potomac Street** as it changed over the decades. The sign is in front of Antiques N' Ole Stuff.

The History Commission researched and designed the signs in order to fulfill their mission of making Brunswick's history accessible to the public. The project was funded through a generous donation by the late Elizabeth and Emory Frye. The City's Public Works Department installed the signs, and Antiques N' Ole Stuff graciously agreed to have one outside their storefront.

The History Commission encourages residents and visitors to go downtown and give the signs a read. ■



Workers from Brunswick Public Works install a sign in City Park commemorating the old East End School, shown in the distance.

PHOTOS BY WAYNE ALLGAIER

## November Students of the Month at Brunswick High School



Back row left to right: Mr. Schwezenneger (principal), Carter Vinar, Lindsay Pearre, Victoria Christman, Marcos Colon Rios, Atley Shafer. Front row left to right: Jonas Price, Audra Asbury, Rowan Downey. Not pictured: Catherine Rizzo.

These are the Brunswick High School Students of the Month from each department in November:

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Audra Asbury</b> — World Languages | <b>Lindsay Pearre</b> — Career and Technology   |
| <b>Victoria Christman</b> — Science   | <b>Jonas Price</b> — Visual and Performing Arts |
| <b>Marcos Colon Rios</b> — Media/FCVS | <b>Carter Vinar</b> — Physical Education        |
| <b>Rowan Downey</b> — Social Studies  |   |
| <b>Atley Shafer</b> — English         |   |
| <b>Catherine Rizzo</b> — Math         |   |

## Brunswick Robotics Teams Make an Impressive Start to the Season

The Brunswick High School robotics teams, Minerva's Mechanics and Apollo's Architects, kicked off their season with a strong showing at a Dec. 8 regional competition. Competing against teams from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, the Brunswick teams demonstrated creativity, technical skill and teamwork.

Minerva's Mechanics, the school's flagship team established in 2016, earned the prestigious Innovate Award from a field of 35 competitors. The award recognizes a team that demonstrates imaginative, inventive and elegant design solutions, emphasizing creativity and robust engineering in the FIRST

Tech Challenge.

Apollo's Architects, established in 2021, also performed admirably, gaining valuable experience as they look to build on this strong start.

"Our students have worked incredibly hard this year," said Casey Day, a Brunswick High teacher and one of the program's coaches. "It's amazing to see their dedication and problem-solving pay off in competition." The team's next competition will be January 25 in Moorefield, WV. Both teams are working to fine-tune their designs and programming to improve for the next competition.

The program has grown to include over 30 students, supported by Day, parent-coach Robert

Errett, and several community mentors. Despite their growth and success, the teams receive no funding through the school system as extracurriculars. Instead, they rely on sponsorships and donations to fund their robots and competition fees.

Brunswick Robotics is deeply grateful for the support of local sponsors, including the Brunswick Eagles, the Eagles Auxiliary, and Jefferson Family Dental. They welcome new sponsors and donors. More information can be found on their website, <https://tinyurl.com/BrunswickRobots>.

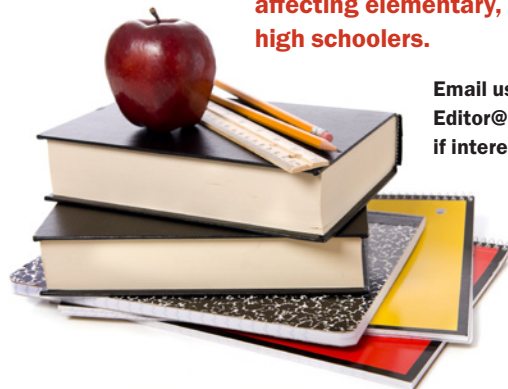
With a strong start to the season, the Brunswick Robotics teams are eager to continue competing and inspiring others to pursue STEM innovation. ■



Minerva's Mechanics wins the Innovate Awards. Pictured L to R: Eli Knowles, Brett DeMarco, Lucas Errett, Frank Mignoga, Haze Jeffrey, Parth Patel, Eden Evans, Lexy Partyka, and Akshaini Pallikonda.

### We need an education reporter!

Contribute to your community by writing about events and issues affecting elementary, middle and high schoolers.



Email us at [Editor@BrunsNews.com](mailto:Editor@BrunsNews.com) if interested.

## Silent Auction Benefits Brunswick Library

By DIANE ELLIS

The Friends of the Brunswick Library is holding the "Not Quite Burns Night" Silent Auction in January. The popular auction is back for its ninth year with an online event that runs from Jan. 12-22 and culminates with an evening event at Smoketown Brewing Station on Jan. 22.

### Donations being collected currently

The library friends are currently taking donations of all sorts: household items, gift cards, experiences, handmade items, antiques and more. If it's an item someone might buy, it could mean money for the local library. Donations can be dropped off at the library any time they're open.

### Auction to be held online and live

The online auction will run on Facebook every day from Jan. 12-22. It can be found at [Facebook.com/NQBN2025](https://www.facebook.com/NQBN2025). New items will be added almost every day of the auction.

The live event at Smoketown Brewing Station is Jan. 22 from 6-9 p.m. There will be a display of the auction items and final bids can be made. The event will also feature trivia contests, a kilt contest, poetry readings and Scottish music.

### Why poet Robert Burns?

Auction organizer Allison Wilder explained why the auction is named after Scottish poet Robert Burns, "'Not Quite Burns Night' was born of a suggestion from former board member Kelly Fowler

The event will also feature trivia contests, a kilt contest, poetry readings and Scottish music.

to celebrate Burns Night as a fundraiser. We settled on an event that was 'not quite' authentic — no haggis or Scotch, but a nod to the great poet in a

fun way. We always hold it on the Wednesday before Burns' birthday (the traditional Burns Night), in part because it's 'not quite' the real deal and also it's

Money raised by the auction goes toward library programming, supplies, equipment and more.

a nice way to get some traffic to our host, Smoketown Brewing Station, mid-week in January."

Wilder said this is year nine for the auction and they have raised over \$20,000 for the library over these years. She added, "We're aiming for the biggest one yet!"

Friends of the Brunswick Library raises money for special projects specifically for the Brunswick Library. Money raised by the auction goes toward library programming, supplies, equipment and more. ■

*Not Quite Burns Night*  
a fundraiser by the Friends of the Brunswick Library

Jan 22, 2025  
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Trivia, Kilt Contest, Poetry, and Scottish Music

Browse the items available in our ONLINE auction!

## BRUNSWICK NEWS

# Lead Water Lines Program

## City Needs Help from Owners of Older Homes

By JULIE GOURLEY

**D**o you live in Brunswick and own an older house? If so, the city needs your help so it can help you.

A small number of older homes in Brunswick (those built before 1986) could have lead water service lines. The service line is the pipe owned by homeowners that connects the individual home to the city-owned water distribution main, which is NOT made of lead. Other older homes in the city could have copper water service lines that are soldered with lead.

**A small number of older homes in Brunswick (those built before 1986) could have lead water service lines.**

There is a new federal mandate to remove all lead water pipes and lead solder from all homes in the United States. Brunswick Public Works and Utilities departments have begun the long process of removal and replace-



ment. This starts with identifying pipes in all of Brunswick's older homes.

All owners of homes built before 1986 received a flyer with their July water bills containing a request to identify the home's water service line type and upload a photo showing the metal.

It contained a link to an online survey where the information was to be submitted.

The city stresses that there is no lead in Brunswick's drinking water. There have been a number of phone calls to the city by worried residents after receiving the city's first notice to owners of older homes asking homeowners to locate their water line and scratch it to reveal and identify the metal. There is not now, nor has there been for decades, any significant amount of lead in the drinking water as tested at the water treatment plant on East Potomac Street.

Even in homes that may still

**The city stresses that there is no lead in Brunswick's drinking water.**

have a lead service line and those that have lead solder, it is unlikely that there is any significant lead contamination. Over time, water pipes of all kinds become coated with minerals and other solids that are not removed at the treatment plant, and the coating protects against lead leaching into the water.

### Is Lead in the City's Water Infrastructure?

No. The U.S. EPA banned the manufacture, distribution and use of new lead-based public water infrastructure in 1986. The ban did not require the removal of existing in-use infrastructure, but there have been no city-owned lead pipes in use in the water distribution system for decades.

The 1986 ban did not apply to the removal of household service lines that connect individual homes to the water distribution main. Any homeowners in Brunswick that have re-plumbed their service lines in the intervening years would not have lead pipes.

EPA's 2024 lead and copper regulation now requires all lead removal from public drinking water systems, including resident-owned water service lines. The new regulations arose from the Flint, Michigan municipal water disaster several years ago.

### How Does Lead Get into Drinking Water?

As a soft metal, lead deteriorates quickly relative to copper, steel and other metals. Also, low pH (acidic) water can cause lead to leach at levels that can be hazardous to health. The current EPA regulatory limit for lead in drinking water is 0.015 mg/liter, or 15 ppb (parts per billion).

Water utilities that still have lead-based infrastructure treat for any lead in the water by adjusting the pH upward (less acidic) to prevent its dissolution and leaching. They can also add corrosion inhibitors such as polyphosphate that binds to the lead ions in the water and coats the pipe's interior, protecting against lead contamination.

There is no detectable lead in the Potomac River and Yourtee Spring water supplies, and Brunswick Utilities continuously monitors for all regulated pollutants including lead.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service banned lead shot for hunting waterfowl nationwide in 1991. Lead fishing sinkers that weigh less than one ounce and lead "jigs" (lead-weighted hooks) were banned for use in Maryland's inland waters several years ago. According to Brunswick Utilities, any sinkers and jigs that remain in the Potomac River would be so degraded by now and/or washed down river that they would not contribute significant lead levels to the raw water anywhere along the Potomac.

### Health Effects

Brunswick Utilities sent a second mailing to all owners of older homes that contained

a flyer on the health effects of lead exposure, steps to take to reduce the risk of lead in drinking water, and getting children tested if you believe you may have a lead water pipe. According to this flyer,

"Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior

**Lead pipes, any older pipes that may have lead impurities, and lead solder will be replaced at no cost to the homeowner.**

problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems."

### What Can Owners of Older Homes Expect Next?

If you responded to the call to identify your water pipe's metal, you are finished for now. If you did not, Brunswick Utilities will still accept your online survey response and prefers that homeowners do the water line identification themselves as it saves time and money for the city. The link to the survey is on the city's website (Brunswick-md.gov) under "Utilities" and at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FFQNNY6>. If you prefer, the city will contact you to set up a time to enter your home and do the identification.

**Brunswick Utilities continuously monitors for all regulated pollutants including lead.**

If the city cannot tell whether you may have lead solder or an older galvanized pipe that could have zinc coating containing small amounts of lead impurities, the next step could be digging down to the pipe to examine it. Lead pipes, any older pipes that may have lead impurities, and lead solder will be replaced at no cost to the homeowner.

The entire process that began earlier this year will take several years to complete, including obtaining funding. ■

## Santa and the Mayor



Brunswick Mayor Nathan Brown (in reindeer hat) welcomed Santa Claus to Hometown Holidays in Square Corner Park on Dec. 7.



# Winter Birding on the C&O Canal

ALL PHOTOS BY JAMES ROSEBROCK



White-crowned Sparrow

Story and photos by  
**JAMES ROSEBROCK**

In the winter, it can be difficult to justify going outside. The temperature drops, the vibrant foliage disappears, and colorful songbirds we're used to seeing in the spring head south for warmer climates. Tens of millions of birds who visit us from May to October to breed and rear their young leave, a sure sign of the disappearance of summer in just a few short weeks.

**With the loss of tree foliage in winter, birds can't hide in tree canopies, making them much easier to see.**

Spring offers a huge incentive to get outside and see the birds, but in winter the appeal literally flies away. Even so, winter has its benefits for birdwatchers.

While it's commonly known

that birds head south for the winter, did you know species of birds like Kinglets, Sparrows, Raptors and a huge variety of waterfowl land along the C&O Canal in winter? Why do these birds arrive here? For the same reasons the other songbirds head south, to seek warmer weather from their arctic and sub-arctic breeding grounds.

Over 184 miles of canal, preserved and accessible, are a perfect place to go out and spot these winter visitors. Most of the C&O Canal offers numerous environments to see the best variety of birds, all in one place. Flitting through the mixed forests that surround the towpath you can find every single species of woodpecker in our range, including the smallest species in America, the Downy, and the largest, the Pileated, and everything in between.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, who is also a member of the woodpecker family, is an exclusive winter visitor and can be found scaling trees, drilling a pattern of small borings to release sap, and trapping insects for it to come back and eat later.

Another exclusive benefit of wintertime bird spotting is that

it's much easier. With the loss of tree foliage in winter, birds can't hide in tree canopies, making them much easier to see.

While winter can make exploring outside not so fun, the birds offer an incentive to get out there. With dozens of new species calling the C&O Canal their winter home, and many different environments to maximize the variety of species, it's much easier to justify a walk down the towpath, or visit a new area of the park previously unexplored. Birds provide the spark to get out there and enjoy the outdoors, so good luck, and enjoy the new opportunities winter birding on the C&O Canal has to offer. ■



Brown Creeper

**Most of the C&O Canal offers numerous environments to see the best variety of birds, all in one place.**



White-throated Sparrow

**Species of birds like Kinglets, Sparrows, Raptors and a huge variety of waterfowl land along the C&O Canal in winter.**



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



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## OPINION

### PUBLISHER'S EDITORIAL

## Recycling Roads

ELLIS BURRUS



Smoothing the way.

The re-paving of Petersville and Souder roads has been disruptive to hundreds of people who travel those paths every day. During the past two months, the businesses along those roads have also suffered. There has been grumbling.

But take a step back and look at what has been accomplished: a major industrial task involving the removal and replacement of tens of tons of asphalt has been done while traffic has continued to flow. Yes, there have been delays, but the roads were not closed. The analogy of rebuilding an airplane while it is flying comes to mind.

The whole process is surprisingly precise. When the old top layer is first milled off, the resulting surface is very flat and regular. The edges are sharply defined, the grooved surface is flat within fractions of an inch. This is accomplished by a multi-ton milling machine grinding up the old asphalt and loading it into a truck. The old asphalt is very hard. If you've ever fallen off a bicycle you will recognize that.

A few inches of a "patching layer" is then applied and compacted. Surprisingly, that layer is then milled up again because its purpose of repairing any flaws in the base layer is accomplished.

Isn't that wasteful? Not really. The old asphalt and the "patching layer" are taken back to the plant, reheated to 300 degrees and its tar and aggregate content adjusted. Road asphalt is recycled at a greater rate than any other material in the U.S.

Next, when the temperature is above 40 degrees and the ground is dry, a "tack" layer of hot tar is sprayed on the base layer and then immediately the new final or "wear" layer is applied and compacted with repeated heavy, vibrating roller passes.

Sure, there is inconvenience while the work is going on. But consider what we get in return: another 20 or so years of smooth riding that is not degraded by hot OR cold OR stormy weather or anything else nature throws at it. Also, a closer look at the process can provide a better understanding and appreciation of another aspect of our society that we often take for granted.

In the case of Souder Road, delayed by cold weather and rain, it would have been preferable if the work could have started a few weeks earlier when, we may recall, the weather was warmer and drier, but weather is always unpredictable. ■

#### How to send a Letter to the Editor

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Checking In on Brunswick from Afar

I had recent occasion to download a copy of the latest issue of the newspaper. There I saw many familiar photos and many names of persons and places that I left behind. I did note with interest that The Residences at Railroad Square have opened their doors and the first new tenants are moving in. How exciting! Congratulations, I saw what a struggle it was to do something useful with that parcel of land Colonel Sims unloaded not too long ago. I miss the earnest endeavors of all of you to balance respect and reminiscence of the past with hope for the future.

My new wife and I are vacationing in the Islands of Fernando de Noronha, enjoying fine beaches and sunshine, delicate ecology. I don't regret my choices and love the silent sounds of the wind and the hummingbirds in the morning in place of all the traffic and sirens and helicopters that I knew before, but I cannot deny that once in a while I still wake up in the middle of the night wondering where is the lonely, longing sound of that long distance coal train coming out of the mountains down the main line.

I have long since abandoned hope that I would ever have another conversation in English with another native speaker. But if you happen to remember me with any interest or are merely curious, you can follow pretty closely what I am doing and enjoy the intense beautiful landscapes and people with my photo diaries posted in albums on the Internet site of Flickr.com.

Best wishes and Feliz Natal,

— John Tucker, Fernando de Noronha

*Mr. Tucker moved from Brunswick to Brazil two years ago.*

### OPINION

## A Cigar with Madame Justice

By ARIEL GONZALEZ

As I sat in my Tahoe, looking at the empty park bench in front of the old police station, slowly puffing a cigar, an epiphany struck me like lightning. Suddenly, the bricks started to shine, the windows rattled, and the white columns took a new shape. Yet, like a blur, my vision was gone.

Going through the archives of Brunswick history, I see that this place was not the first police station nor the last. For thousands of years our brethren of the badge housed themselves in places where they imagined what the ideal society should be. The very roots of their work and the complexity of their jobs are: Serve and Protect.

On my last visit to the Milton E. Frech Operations Center, I heard a distant echo of literature, history and other works. The assistant chief took me in for a long conversation.

"What is justice?" For our police department, it is so much more than preventing crime and disorder. It is seeking public agreement for what is just.

Once upon a time, four part-time officers, including officers from Frederick on a part-time basis, silently patrolled the quiet streets of our fair city, knowing police protection would allow us eight hours of peace and calm at night. As we dreamt in our beds, the words Consistency, Continuity, and Technology flashed like the reds and blues on top of cruisers as reminders of growth, development, and professionalism, reiterating the BPD's history and its current ongoing mission. I would stay up at night and wonder why these officers push themselves to exhaustion.

Then, as I scroll through the historical pictures, I see two leaders: Thomas Thompson and Milton Frech. As some of us remember (and know), these police chiefs worked and stayed on the job far longer than God or their health allowed them.

Sitting there, I was amazed at their devotion to duty, until I came across a statement from the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, "These hometown heroes make 'sacrifices' that keep our businesses and families safe." For officers, I only imagine the choice of sacrifice was due to virtues like courage, wisdom, moderation, and the redefinition of justice displayed repeatedly.

How does justice begin? In Brunswick, community service is the calling card when officers shed their uniforms in favor of plain clothes, a baseball cap and glove as they take city youth to a Frederick Keys game, ride in the Little League parade, pass out candy with Police Cadets, or have Chief Grunwell give awards for the Special Olympics. Behind the façade of authority, they are regular people with families. They have hearts like Corporal Cline and Officer Marshall joining "Shop with a Cop" to bring cheer to families who couldn't afford Christmas dinner or presents under a tree. Justice is grace, love and respect.

Then, I remember my conversation with the assistant chief who, in detail, said that his goal is to develop a career department where, unexpectedly, 18 people are, all at once, hosting training in criminal investigations, self-defense martial arts, weapons training, and emergency medical services. It seemed like a flash bang blew up near my ear. These officers are everywhere – ready to deal with murder, stabbings, drug overdoses, domestic violence, organized crime, and narcotics trafficking.

How do these officers do it? To quote Officer First Class Eric Bittner, "Don't make excuses and blame others for your bad decisions. Own your mistakes and learn from them."

That is their strict brand of justice. Our mayor and council look for cops who are exemplary professionals and specialize in assorted services. The essence of this department's image over the last 20 years is their prioritized abundant courtesy and communication with residents.

Driving away from the old police station, I said, "These guys need to write their history, but what is more, this old building should be their hall of fame... their museum..." As I put out my cigar, the bricks started shining again, the windows rattling, and the white columns looked like it was reaching out to me, thanking me for taking a little time to study its history and the people it housed.

I smiled and remembered the roots and complexity of the police force: SERVE AND PROTECT; they need to etch those words on the columns. ■

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## FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

## FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Happy New Year! As we begin 2025, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve Frederick County. The start of the new year is a time for renewal and recommitment to the goals and values that make our community a special place to live, work and visit.

I am inspired by the energy and dedication of our residents, businesses and community partners who work tirelessly to keep our neighborhoods vibrant, inclusive and full of opportunity. This year, I look forward to building on our progress and seizing new opportunities to ensure our county thrives.

In the coming year and beyond, I will continue to advance the values of inclusion, sustainability and accountability as we work together to fulfill our vision of a unique and vibrant community where everyone can live, work and thrive while feeling a strong sense of place and belonging.

Partnerships are critical to our county's success, and our most important partnership is with the residents of Frederick County. You have a voice in shaping decisions that impact your community, and I hope to hear from you throughout the year. Whether it's maintaining our roads, supporting our schools or protecting the natural beauty of our county, every decision should start with input from the people who live here.

### FY 2026 Budget Hearings

You are all invited to share your priorities for the fiscal year 2026 budget at a series of upcoming town hall meetings. Thanks to everyone who came to the public budget hearing I hosted in December. If you couldn't attend that meeting, there are still opportunities to have your voice heard. I will hold five town hall meetings (one in each of the County Council Districts) in the coming weeks



County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

where you can share your budget priorities and concerns.

#### The schedule is as follows:

**January 13 at 7 PM (District 2):** Twin Ridge Elementary School

**January 22 at 7 PM (District 4):** Oakdale Middle School

**January 25 at 1 PM (District 5):** Walkersville Middle School

**January 27 at 7 PM (District 3):** Waverley Elementary School

**January 30 at 7 PM (District 1):** Middletown Library

All meetings are open to the public. Those interested in attending are welcome to join whichever meeting is most convenient. Those who cannot attend in person may submit comments online at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BudgetPublicHearing](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BudgetPublicHearing).

I look forward to hosting these events with the County Council.

### Neighborhood Action Plan

I am excited to share that people who live along the Route 40 corridor on the west side of the City of Frederick will soon have new ways to help shape the future of their neighborhoods.

Frederick County is working with the City, Frederick County Public Schools, and local organizations to develop a Neighbor-

hood Action Plan. The goal of the plan is to reduce childhood poverty by increasing investments in the area and improving economic mobility. Part of the plan will develop a Community Voice Committee to identify what specific resources residents need.

The effort is being funded by a \$300,000 grant from the State's ENOUGH program. ENOUGH stands for Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households.

The ENOUGH program was launched by Governor Wes Moore as a first-of-its-kind, community-based strategy to address concentrated child poverty in Maryland. The program is part of a \$20 million historic investment to support communities as they develop solutions to deeply rooted challenges. The County's Division of Family Services and Local Management Board received one of the program's inaugural grants last month.

By giving us better tools to fight concentrated poverty, the ENOUGH initiative will take us one step closer to making our vision a reality for all residents. To learn more about this initiative, contact the Division of Family Services at 301-600-1200 or visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ENOUGH](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ENOUGH).

I am grateful to Governor Moore for helping us reach people where they are. I also appreciate the Governor's support for other initiatives happening in Frederick County that are helping residents, businesses and visitors.

### Downtown Frederick Hotel and Conference Center

Last month, along with the City of Frederick and state and local officials, Frederick County hosted Governor Moore at a groundbreaking ceremony for the future hotel and conference center in downtown Frederick.

While this project is primarily being funded privately, a portion of the funding will come from the State, Frederick County and the City of Frederick.

The long-planned Downtown Frederick Hotel and Conference Center is an economic development project of the City and County to bring needed lodging, meeting space and jobs to our community. The economic impact of the project is estimated to be over \$61 million in new spending annually and over \$4 million in state and local tax revenue.

This project has been a long-standing economic development priority for our local businesses and Chamber of Commerce, and this investment shows that the Governor understands and values the essential role Frederick County plays in Maryland's economy.

I look forward to seeing the progress on this project and other initiatives in 2025. Throughout the year, there will be more opportunities for you to get involved and stay connected. From town halls to public meetings to community events, there will be plenty of ways to make your voice heard and contribute to our County's shared progress.

Thank you for your engagement and partnership. Let's make 2025 a year of growth, collaboration and success for everyone. ■

## News from Legislators in Annapolis

**Editor's note:** During the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly, the Brunswick News-Journal will publish a monthly update on issues of local interest before the legislature. This will include reporting from the nonprofit news site Maryland Matters. We have invited our local lawmakers to contribute to this monthly column.

By MARK ROHNER

### Data Centers

When the Maryland General Assembly convenes on Jan. 8, data centers and their power supplies will be front and center.

At a lawmakers' forum in Frederick on Dec. 7, State Sen. Karen Lewis Young (D-Frederick County) outlined an agenda for dealing with the two issues in the upcoming session.

### When the Maryland General Assembly convenes on Jan. 8, data centers and their power supplies will be front and center.

"Many of you sent us emails regarding data centers and other energy-related issues," she said. "I know you have serious concerns about this."

Lewis Young, whose district includes the City of Frederick, said she is working with three other senators, Benjamin Brooks (D-Baltimore County), Katie Fry Hester (D-Howard and Montgomery counties), and Chris West (R-Baltimore and Carroll counties), on a package of bills on data centers and power transmission lines to serve them.

One measure would call for "a comprehensive study of both the risks and opportunities of data centers," she said. Another would "require future data centers to co-locate their energy supply on campus."

On transmission lines, "you will see a bill that requires transmission line requests to first look at existing rights of way. You will see at least two bills that deal with eminent domain, either totally elimi-

nating it or severely restricting it."

Another bill would require the Maryland Public Service Commission to delay any decision on power line applications until May. "That will give the General Assembly an opportunity to legislate that would address many of the issues that you have raised to us."

### Budget Deficit

(The following is from Maryland Matters. For more, see <https://marylandmatters.org>)

Lawmakers and Gov. Wes Moore (D) are staking out budget positions with less than a month before the start of a 2025 legislative session that will likely revolve around an "enormous" budget problem.

A debate over taxes, the economy and business climate, and education will all dovetail into efforts to solve billions in projected deficits over the next five years.

"We haven't seen a budget deficit like this since the Great Recession. We have big discussions on education, which coincide with the budget issues we're facing," House Minority Whip Del. Jesse T. Pippy (R-Frederick County) said on Dec. 13 to county officials attending the Maryland Association of Counties winter conference in Cambridge. Layered on top, Pippy said, is "an energy crisis in our state. We're still dealing with the impact of inflation. At the end of the day, all of these things have impacts on everyday, hardworking Maryland taxpayers. It's becoming simply unaffordable to live in our great state."

The state faces a projected \$2.7 billion deficit for the coming budget year. By fiscal 2030, that projected deficit explodes to almost \$6 billion — nearly all of the shortfall in the outer years is driven by costs related to implementing the education reforms in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. ■

## Community Foundation Honors Shirley Shores

Shirley Shores received the Wertheimer Award for Volunteerism from the Community Foundation of Frederick County at the organization's Annual Meeting in late November.

### Long time community activist

She is best known for her work as the BEACON treasurer and administrator of the Emergency Relief Fund, positions she has held since 2006. She volunteered for 20 years with the Brunswick Food Bank and delivers meals to Brunswick House. Shores served on the board of the Frederick County Coalition for the Homeless and as a Trustee of the Community Foundation. She is an active member of Grace Episcopal Church.

The Community Foundation of Frederick County is sponsoring scholarships to help pay for spring athletic and sports activities and camps. The scholarships are available to students in kindergarten through grade 12. The scholarships are funded by The



Shirley Shores

Luke Clemens Bartlett Memorial Athletic Scholarship Fund, one of more than 815 component funds of the Community Foundation.

The application and related information can be found at [ScholarshipsFrederickCounty.com](http://ScholarshipsFrederickCounty.com). The online application is open through Jan. 31, 2025. Scholarships support participation fees only, and payment will be made directly to the youth athletic organization and/or as a reimbursement to the parent/guardian with proof of payment. Applicants must be a Frederick County resident.

## WHAT DOES DOWNTOWN MEAN TO YOU?



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## COMMUNITY INTEREST

Computers have become an essential part of our lives. As much as we try to keep up with developing technology, these #%\*\$&!! things keep changing. Fortunately for our readers, **John the Computer Guy** has offered to write this computer column intermittently to address some of the questions that keep coming up. If you have a specific question, send it to [Editor@Brunnews.com](mailto:Editor@Brunnews.com) and we will run it by him.

### Passwords and Passkeys — Oh my!

You may have encountered a pop-up message when you logged into one of your favorite web sites asking if you would like to create a passkey. What the heck are passkeys, you might ask.

We all know passwords and have heard the many warnings not to reuse passwords, not to use simple passwords, and to avoid passwords using common words. Some have heeded the warning but most of us (the writer included) have not. Passwords are a big pain and no matter how much we try to do the right thing, the possibility of messing up is high.

And then there is the problem of keeping track of all your passwords; a password manager helps but also has drawbacks. Most of us struggle along. But there is hope in a new technology being embraced by the likes of Apple, Microsoft and Google, to name a few of the big players. The new authentication throws away passwords and uses a new token called a passkey.

Passkeys are an attempt to bring a solution to this issue by having the whole password exchange take place out of sight and out of mind. You won't typically need to see the passkey or if you did it would look like this:



AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDvntkE-q0eq8/GTsv3CrJ6HtSoxndkLaH/QuDE4jZSJ6UZZyJmerl4pmdSoK3QHbx44PkWxoffdZkyZruIJPhUdI7xxGG/J9TdJLkN6LToCuTfvepXK9b/dVRUIN/O10pdf2yeKn-d1EvXT80h27QPQCdzToJmVDFtZoHgIrAIDHnYhjPuex-OOB9s1sto1kWZuhZX63kEIOvCG2a0zq6mOlk5e2Xq8Qf/ODg6NjwRo76+guHimxXRJ1NAhC5r7ZDnnOz8lj/Ruy3n0Zsy-5HjVVOIbfthjUjxepaC5UCRGLCNQq9ThA6F7dw3xqPJ24xnCF/youijlo4svXi87B47N

Not something you are likely to write down, let alone remember. Passkeys get stored for you and preserved by each web site. Even if the web site is compromised, the passkey is not stored on the website so it cannot be stolen.

If you use modern connected devices from Apple and Google, the passkeys will synchronize across devices and, where supported by the device, use biometric (fingerprint of face image) authentication to allow you access. Each web site has its own passkey, so the problem of reuse is no longer an issue. When things work, they work well and you don't have to enter anything.

But passwords you have used in the past are still usually available as a way to access the site. Some sites also use multi-factor authentication such as a number sent to your email or phone. These secondary authentications continue to work as before. If you want to understand how passkeys work under the covers, you can find much information on the web by reading about passkeys and the organization that is behind this effort called the Fido Alliance (<https://fidoalliance.org>).

Now you know what that popup means and you should go ahead and have a passkey created. You will then enjoy access to your favorite web sites and won't need to enter a password. ■

*John the Computer Guy worked in the IT industry most of his life and is semi-retired. He is experienced with computers of all sizes and flavors, providing tech support to everyone from major corporations and governments with large databases to individuals with Windows, Macs and iDevices. He lives in Jefferson with his family who know him as "help desk."*

## The Restaurant at Potomac Crossing Opens

FORMER SITE OF GUIDE HOUSE GRILL AND CINDY DEE REVIVED

By MARK ROHNER

A new restaurant is up and running at the former location of Guide House Grill on Keep Tryst Road in Knoxville.

The Restaurant at Potomac Crossing opened in November and is serving breakfast, lunch and dinner Thursday through Sunday. Dinner menu items include prime rib daily after 4 p.m., crab cakes, fresh fish, "mountain man meatloaf" and much more.

The restaurant has been renovated inside and out, with a new bar, restrooms, kitchen, and custom tables and chairs. Something new is a room for private parties, seating 16 people. Currently, the restaurant doesn't serve alcohol while awaiting approval of its liquor license application.

Executive Chef William Walden said the restaurant is aiming at the same clientele that Guide House attracted, including rafters and kayakers on the Potomac River and hikers on the Appalachian Trail and C&O Canal towpath.

"I want it to be approachable," he said. "What I want to do with the place is have a diner by day and a gastropub by night. You come in and you'll have an incredible piece of fish. You'll have a beautiful salad. You might have some calamari — marvelously eclectic and anything that's fresh and seasonal."

Walden, 57, is a Brunswick resident and a classically trained chef who most recently was executive chef at Historic McFarland House in Martinsburg, West Virginia. He previously operated La Fleur de Lis restaurant in Lovettsville, his hometown, and was a chef at top restaurants in the Washington area, including L'Auberge Chez Francois in Great Falls, Virginia, and dining places in Boca Raton, Florida.

"I've been cooking since I was eight years old," he said.

Walden said he was approached by owner George D. Heffner of Charles Town, West Virginia, about opening a new restaurant in the former Guide House space. "His father and mother were my good customers at the restaurant in Lovettsville," Walden said.

Heffner said he had begun renovations and was looking for a



The Restaurant at Potomac Crossing is at 19112 Keep Tryst Road, just off Rt. 340 in Knoxville.

tenant for the building when he and Walden connected. "I hope we can take it to the next level," Heffner said. He said he was pleased to be able to add breakfast to the menu. "That's something that was missing," he said. Heffner said a grand opening is planned for mid-January, once the restaurant has its liquor license.

Though the restaurant has been open only a month, it's already attracting good crowds, Walden said. On a recent Saturday he said, "The place was packed." Among them were the former owners of Cindy Dee, a restaurant that occupied the space before Guide House.

Right now, the restaurant staff are anxiously awaiting approval of their liquor license. "The shelving's lovely. It's waiting for the booze to get here," Walden said.

The Restaurant at Potomac Crossing opens for breakfast at 7 a.m. Thursday through Sunday. It stays open until 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and until 8 p.m. other days. Wednesday hours are planned starting this month. ■



Chef William Walden

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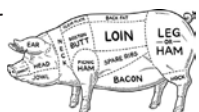
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# Seed Starting: Plan and Organize Now for a Calm Season Later

By MARIANNE WILLBURN

For gardeners who grow few plants from seed, or who only grow the seeds that they can scatter with a drink in their hands in spring (preferably from the deck), the process may feel complicated and time consuming.

Sure, time is money, but if you've been watching prices sharply increase for tiny tomato seedlings and been frustrated by the loss of cheap 6-packs in nurseries and big boxes, you may be wondering if seed starting is the way forward.

**The good news is that this month is a time for planning, not planting.**

Buying individual kale plants in 3-inch pots for \$3.29 when you can get a packet of 100 seeds for the same price is incredibly motivating. So is finding that your favorite tomato is not being carried by the nurseries this year and having to slice something inferior onto your BLT.

## Relax. You've Got Time.

Unless you are hard core and have relatively unusual seeds that need to start cold stratification in January, the good news is that this month is a time for planning, not planting. It's time to browse the catalogs, check the seeds that you have, and give yourself an ordering cutoff date so you don't wake up at the end of March empty handed.

For some of your cool season crops such as kale or broccoli, seeds ordered in January and planted in trays in February, will give you respectable seedlings to plant out in March. If you're a fair-weather gardener, and tomatoes and peppers are your thing, you won't need to start seeds until the beginning of March for our area.



Use a container to hold and organize your seed collection and make dividers with labels to group the different types of seeds.

## Direct or Indirect?

Whatever you're planting, get organized the moment the seeds hit your mailbox. Take some time to think about whether you are direct sowing (straight into the ground) or indirect sowing (into a pot for transplant later).

Most plants do well indirectly sown (with the exception perhaps of root vegetables). This is generally preferred for plants that need more protection, more warmth, or extra time to germinate. Direct sowing is often preferred when larger quantities of a vegetable are required (such as lettuce or chard). It might mean later vegetables, or seedlings lost to insects, weather, or birds; but it could save you some hassle.

## Now, Get Organized

The following Grab & Sow method (I should totally trademark that) for getting your seed packets organized — and more importantly, keeping them organized — has really worked well for me over the years. My aim is to do almost all the thinking at one time and then allow myself to go on autopilot for the season — grabbing only the seeds I need on the date I need them.

First, you'll need an airtight rectangular container to hold and

**The following Grab & Sow method for getting your seed packets organized — and more importantly, keeping them organized — has really worked well for me over the years.**

organize your existing seed collection. If you've got old seeds, check the germination rate by sealing 10 seeds in a Ziploc bag with a damp paper towel. If only 4 germinate, you've got a 40% germination rate and may want to buy new seeds or sow double what you think you'll need.

## Divide Your Seeds for Easy Browsing

Make some 3x5" dividing cards out of an old manila folder (so they stand way up above the seeds) and on the top edge, categorize these dividers with a sharpie marker. Years ago, my

labels consisted of three divisions: Vegetables, Flowers, Herbs. Now they are more specific: Tomatoes, Brassicas, Greens, Peppers, Perennials, Annuals etc...

"File" your seeds appropriately and keep your filing cabinet somewhere cool and dark and where you can access it the minute new seeds come in the door.

## Create This Season's Grab & Sow Organizer (patent pending)

Once all your seeds have arrived and been 'filed,' take an hour on the weekend to pull the packets you're growing this year. Be honest with yourself.

Now to make your actual Grab & Sow Organizer. I use a rectangular plastic container and 3x5 cards which are reusable year after year, but if you're not sowing many, you can use large paper envelopes to hold each week's seeds.

Write a number on the top of each card or envelope that represents how many weeks before your last frost date it is. I usually go up to 12, but I'm indirectly sowing cool season vegetables and flowers.

On a separate piece of paper, write down the dates that the number corresponds to this year

so you can clearly see (for instance) that if it is February 8, you are 12 weeks before the first frost. February 15 would be 11, etc. etc.

## Sort Your Seeds by Week Numbers

Read the info on the packet and keep a good seed book handy for extra information. I recommend Sibley's Herbs and Vegetables from Seed, but your local extension office can give you more regional advice.

Decide if you are planting the seed directly or indirectly. Put a big "D" or "I" on the top of the packet with your marker and then figure out where to slot them, Week 12 or Week 4? Stick the seeds behind that divider and do the next packet. And the next.

For instance, peppers are usually started indoors (indirectly) eight weeks before first frost. Write "I" on the packet, find the divider that reads 8, and slot the seeds into place behind it.

## Feel Exceptionally Organized

When you have finished, you'll have something that instantly tells you what you're planting this week and how you're doing it. It'll also tell you when, exactly, you need to get started so the season doesn't get away from you.

Each weekend, grab the seeds that correspond to the date, plant them (that's a column for another day) and refill the packet in the big container. If you're sowing more in a couple weeks for succession planting, pop the packet behind a divider two weeks from now.

## Think Once, Plant Efficiently

Seed starting doesn't have to be chaotic or anxiety-inducing. Or complicated. Thinking ahead in January will pay rich rewards when the season picks up in a couple months. ■

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

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## IN THE KITCHEN

## Soup's On



Carolyn Hunger in front of her soup party table.

By JEAN TOLEMAN

It's cold. It's dreary. It's the let-down after all the holiday hustle and bustle. What a great time to think SOUP — comfort and warmth in a bowl.

Jefferson resident, Carolyn Hunger, knows about soup. She has been holding her annual January soup party for the past 14 years.

## How it all started

"It started," she said, "when a friend offered to make osso buco, a traditional Italian soup. She ended up not being able to do it, but I went ahead and invited a few friends over and made three kinds of soup for a January get together." Those three soups have grown into ten or more, with friends bringing everything from appetizers, soup, bread and desserts. Hunger said she varies the soup she makes each year, but a favorite is "pear and blue cheese soup" (see recipe).

Since the time humans gained control of fire and created water-proof vessels, soup has been a part of our diet. The first soups may have been "stone soup." Hot stones were heated in a fire, then put in a hide or bark container of liquid. The word "soup" comes from the French "soupe," and goes perfectly with the German origin word "sop" — a piece of bread to soak up soup.

Every culture has a favorite soup. Whether "aguadito," a Peruvian green soup, to borscht, the classic beet-vegetable soup of Eastern Europe, to egg drop soup of every Chinese restaurant, to lentil soup of the Middle East. Humans love soup. It was and still is a great way to make a little bit of nutrition go a long way. A scrap of meat and some vegetables that are past their prime can give their last bit of nourishment to the soup pot and be expanded from an unappetizing meal for one to a very satisfying meal for many.

## Local restaurant options

Soup options at local restaurants vary from canned to freshly homemade. Here in Brunswick, if you are craving a good hearty soup for lunch try the lentil or Moroccan bean soup that Potomac Street Grill simmers up. The new downtown deli, Whistle Punk Farm Deli, frequently offers soup, all homemade. Beans in the Belfry offers homemade

soup on weekends, and their hearty chili is always available.

## Soup is Healthy!

Soup can provide a health boost to one's diet. This time of year is very drying. Central heating systems dry out the air, and cold air outside holds less moisture. We may not feel thirsty, but our fluid needs are as high as ever. Soup provides a comforting source of liquid.

Have you made a New Years resolution to eat better or to lose a couple of pounds? Research shows eating soup tends to lower one's overall caloric intake. Studies (Pubmed, Apr. 28, 2014) have shown people who consume soup on a regular basis have a lower caloric intake than those who do not consume soup. They also tend to have a better diet quality due to the intake of more vegetables, protein and fiber and an increased feeling of fullness.

What about that old wives' tale that chicken noodle soup is good for colds? Science has proven that those "wives" were right on! Multiple studies have shown beneficial effects for colds and flu. A study published in National Center for Biotechnology Information, Oct. 2000, found chicken soup inhibited inflammatory response and symptoms in upper respiratory tract infections.

Soup is not only good for us, it is good for our environment. Making a big pot of soup is a great way to use up those bits and pieces of food left in the refrigerator that otherwise would go into the compost or the trash. This helps reduce food waste.

Put those bones from turkey or beef into water and gently cook for an hour or so to make a great broth that provides collagen, a protein that helps maintain healthy joints and skin elasticity. Vegetable scraps, skins of onions and potato, carrot tops, wilted celery, mushroom stems can also be cooked down for 20 to 30 minutes to make a broth, releasing their nutrients into the water and leaving just the tough fiber to be discarded.

## Soup-making Tips

Unsure about making homemade soup? Try these tips from the Harvard Medical School:

**1. Choose the right base.** Use broth as the liquid, preferably a

By CHRISTINA PELLETIER

Meal preparation involves planning and preparing a set number of meals for either a few days or a week at a time. This technique can have many benefits including saving time, brain power and money if done consistently. It encourages the individual to think about and plan meals and snacks, making it easier to achieve goals and form healthy habits.

## Plan in Advance

Take time to plan meals for the next few days or week. Check the pantry, refrigerator and freezer, then make a shopping list of ingredients still needed. Find what works best for you whether it's one big shopping trip and preparing meals in large batches all at once, shopping multiple times throughout the week and preparing a few meals at a time, or a combination of a large shopping trip and preparing a few meals at a time throughout the week.

## Optimize your Grocery Shopping

Look for ingredients that can be used in multiple dishes to

low-sodium broth with between 140–200 milligrams of sodium per serving.

**2. Use a variety of vegetables** — green, red, yellow — make it a rainbow. The more colors, the more nutrients.

**3. Build it up.** After vegetables, add a protein such as beans, chicken, fish or beef. Make it quick by using precooked chicken or canned beans.

**4. Make it whole.** Tossing in whole grains rounds out the nutritional value of the meal. Use grains, such as whole barley, farro, brown rice or whole grain pasta. These add texture and are good sources of prebiotics, foods that help promote a healthy balance of beneficial bacteria and microorganisms in your gut.

Other ingredients to add are spices and herbs. They increase flavor, allow for the use of less salt, and increase satiety as well as having their own health benefits. Some of these include cinnamon for lowering blood sugar, sage for its impact on brain function and decreasing nausea, cayenne pepper's anti-cancer fighting properties, rosemary's benefit in allergies, and garlic's heart health factors.

So, pick a dreary cold day this month, pull out those leftovers that have been haunting the refrigerator and try creating a hearty, comforting homemade soup. The house will be filled with the moist, warm essence of something yummy, the refrigerator will be cleansed and you will be able to sit down to a bowl of comfort. Don't forget the bread to "sop" up the drips! ■

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

## Meal Prep 101

stretch the dollar and reduce food waste. Consider purchasing commonly used items in bulk to reduce costs further. This may include pasta, rice, and other grains, canned fruits and vegetables, or frozen seafood. Having pantry staples can reduce the time spent grocery shopping if many of the ingredients needed are already on hand.

## Cook in Batches

Doubling recipes is an easy way to meal prep without much extra brain power. Making separate components of meals such as rice or roasted vegetables in large quantities can save time and add versatility to the ingredients, as they can be used in different ways. Portion out the extra food into individual servings for easy grab and go meals.

## Label and Organize Meals

Use leak-proof and microwave safe containers to store pre-portioned meals. Glass containers are durable, versatile, and many are also oven safe. To make meal-time hassle-free, label each container with the dish name and date of preparation. This will

help keep track of meals and promote food safety. Many meals, especially soups, stews and casseroles, can be frozen to extend their shelf life.

## Be Realistic

Use familiar recipes that you already include in your weekly rotation. When starting out, choose one meal to prepare in advance. For example, make a large batch of overnight oats or egg muffins to have for breakfast. Not every component of a meal has to be made beforehand. Steam-in-a-bag vegetables, microwaveable rice, or a rotisserie chicken can all be nutritious additions to any meal.

Set goals for what you are looking to get out of meal prepping, which may include eating more vegetables or reducing sodium intake. Use a formula, such as a whole grain + vegetable + protein, to help guide your meal preparation and see how your favorite recipes fit.

For some meal preparation recipe inspiration, visit [weismarkets.com/recipes](https://weismarkets.com/recipes). ■

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

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## Pear &amp; Blue Cheese Soup

SERVES 6  
PREP TIME: 15 MIN.  
COOK TIME: 30 MIN.



## Ingredients

8 oz. Blue Cheese  
6 medium D'Anjou pears, peeled & cored, cut in pieces  
1 onion, diced  
2 cloves garlic, chopped (or 1 tsp. minced garlic)  
32 oz. chicken stock or broth  
4 oz. (½ stick) salted butter  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour

## Directions

1. Soften onion and garlic in butter over low heat for 5 min. being careful not to color.
2. Chop pears; add to butter mixture and heat for about 2 min.
3. Stir in flour to make a roux. Cook about 1 min. Add chicken stock and stir until smooth. Bring to boil. Simmer for 20 minutes.
4. Crumble blue cheese and save some for garnish. Add cheese to liquid and mix.
5. Serve with sprinkles of crumbled blue cheese on top.

From A Taste of Killarney compiled by Jane Bergin

Do you have a favorite recipe to share with the community? Send it to "Recipe of the Month" at [editor@BrunNews.com](mailto:editor@BrunNews.com)

### Lovettsville Fire and Rescue Station 12 Close to Completion

PHOTOS BY KATE BAKER



Kate Baker first started photographing Lovettsville Fire and Rescue Station 12 when the site was just a pile of dirt to where it is now, nearly complete.



### Caleb's Keys

Local Jazz Pianist Performs at Lovettsville Library

By LAURA DVORAK

Years ago, grandmother's piano led the curiosity-seeking and longing spirit of Caleb Nei into a world of improvisation. Musical studies followed, including classical training in college. Over the years, Nei's passion for improvisation held steadfast. Now he teaches music, performs at his church and has a regular gig at a restaurant in Leesburg, among other venues.

"My assignment, today, is to play jazz and holiday music," he explained, during the noon-time concert inside Lovettsville Library. Nei settled into tunes from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, as well as American Songbook classics, including *Emily, I Fall in Love Too Easily, Almost Like Falling in Love*, and *What Is this Thing Called Love?* Then, *Winter Wonderland*, and a more contemporary tune, *Momma's and the Poppa's Dream a Little Dream of Me*, and *Christmas Waltz*.

Nei's newest EP, titled *For The Children*, includes tunes reimagined from his previous compositions on *Wordless Flight*. The EP incorporates sounds of carillon bells (University of Denver), and an old-time radio soundscape — thanks to the sustained notes of an electric guitar. Nei downloaded strings to include in one of the tunes but didn't care for the outcome. Fortuitously, he discovered "a girl named Sam," barrister at a Millwood, Virginia, coffee shop. He wrote the parts for the string section, "learning as I went," and Sam immediately got to work recording on her viola, violin and cello.

His next goal is creating a podcast that will assist musicians in ear training through the use of solfege. Where improvisation is key, solfege offers a roadmap to navigate through complex chord progressions and modulations, helping to weave melodic lines cohesively and spontaneously.

Find Caleb Nei and bassist Kevin Johnson at *Travinia Italian Kitchen* at the Village in Leesburg most Tuesday and Thursday nights beginning at 5:30 pm. Check out Nei's website at [calebnejazz.com](http://calebnejazz.com). ■



LAURA DVORAK

Pianist Caleb Nei jazzes things up at Lovettsville Library.



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## DAY TRIPS FROM BRUNSWICK

# Sugarloaf Mountain

By JOHN CAVES

Many people who grew up in Frederick or Montgomery counties have fond childhood memories of Sugarloaf Mountain. Fortunately, it hasn't gone anywhere—it is just a half-hour drive from Brunswick and, despite occasional rumblings about the mountain's private owners shutting down access, it remains open to the public. A day trip to Sugarloaf is a way to relive those youthful memories, make new ones for your kids, or just get outside for a pleasant hike and a great view.

Sugarloaf is a monadnock, meaning it stands alone outside of a mountain range. It may have been a particularly large peak back when the Appalachians were as tall as the Rockies, leaving its remnant after millennia of erosion. That lone remnant is not very tall today, but tall is relative when the surrounding area has nothing bigger than rolling hills.

As a result, Sugarloaf has been considered a landmark since at least the early 1700s, when the first map of it was sketched by a Swiss explorer. It served as an observation post during the Civil War and changed hands between Union and Confederate troops.

Chicago businessman Gordon Strong bought land around the mountain in the early 20th century, and in 1946 he established Stronghold, Inc., a nonprofit whose mission is to maintain Sugarloaf for public "enjoyment and education in an appreciation of natural beauty." Stronghold continues to manage the mountain today.

### Hiking and Rock Climbing in Sugarloaf

Enjoyment of Sugarloaf's natural beauty often takes the form of hiking. The mountain has trails of varying length and steepness. The Green Trail, a quarter-mile



Ready to hit the trail.

path which begins at the West View parking area, is the easiest way to the top. Its lower part has an abundance of large rocks that kids enjoy climbing on, and a stone staircase takes you up the steep final section. From the summit, you can see Frederick and, in the distance, the Potomac River

Gap (Brunswick is shielded from view by Catocin Ridge). The Red Trail provides a gentler way down the mountain, and you can hang a left on the Blue Trail to return to the parking lot. The whole short hike is only about a mile.

For a longer hike, the five-mile Blue Trail traverses the foothills on the back side of the mountain and has several good overlooks. The seven-mile Yellow Trail loops around the base of the mountain and is open to horseback riders year-round. It is also open to bicyclists in the summer.

Sugarloaf is also a great location for rock climbing. There are several cliffs that are frequented by climbers, whether Boy Scouts learning to rappel or free climbers clambering up a rock face. Parents should keep the steep drops in mind, however, and keep an eye on their kids to make sure they don't clamber over a rock that has a 50-foot drop on the other side.

### Viewpoints and More

Even without hiking or climbing, Sugarloaf can be a pleasant day trip. Two viewpoints are easily accessible by car. The East View parking area has picnic tables and an excellent overlook, from which you can see the Washington, D.C. skyline and—on a clear day—even Baltimore. The West View area has a stone blockhouse that, contrary to popular belief, was built in the 1930s rather than during the Civil War. The inside is closed, but you can

visit the vineyard, which offers tastings and tours and is also an event venue.

### Getting There

Getting to Sugarloaf is easy and scenic. Take MD Rte 464 (Point of Rocks Road) to US Rt. 15, go south on 15 and then left onto MD Rt. 28 (Clay Street) at the traffic light before the Point of Rocks bridge. Follow MD 28 through Point of Rocks and around the bend at Tuscarora. At the T-intersection with Buckeystown Pike (MD 85), turn right to cross the Monocacy River and into Montgomery County. Turn left onto Mt. Ephraim Road before the underpass in Dickerson, and continue straight when it becomes Sugarloaf Mountain Road. You wind up at a five-way intersection that looks like a large cul-de-sac, with the Sugarloaf Mountain entrance on the left.

Beyond the gate is a stand with maps and brochures and a box for donations. There is no entrance fee, but Stronghold asks that you leave a donation of \$5 or more. To find parking, continue along the one-way road up the mountain. It will bring you first to the East View parking area, and then to a fork. Going right at the fork brings you to the West View area, while going left takes you to the Strong Mansion and off the mountain. The exit drops you at a T-intersection with Comus Road; turn left to return to that five-way intersection, from where you can retrace your route home.

Parking on Sugarloaf is usually tolerable, but it can get crowded on days with good weather and in summer. Arriving early helps. ■

*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.*

## 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.*

### Hundreds of Beavers (2022) 1 hr 48 min

Directed by Mike Cheslik

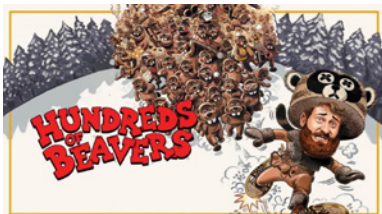
Reviewed by LAURA DVORAK

Finally, a film that makes hearing devices unnecessary. This black/white non-dialogue (not a silent film, as there are sound effects and many a hmmm...) comedy reminiscent of 20s and 30s films is set in 1800s Wisconsin.

Applejack-loving Jean Kayak (Ryland Brickson Cole Tews) is a clever, cold man on a mission, who experiences mind-boggling mishaps in the frigid forest. All creatures conspire: wolf, squirrel, raccoon, rabbit, frog, fish, woodpecker, grub, fly, dog and, of course, hundreds of beavers. There are icicles, burrs and barbs.

Kayak falls in lockstep with a master trapper for a spell, befriends an Indian fur trapper and does repeat business with the local merchant, while cozying up to the furrier who has well-developed and interesting talents involving pole and knife.

To be certain, Wisconsin is likely one of the last places to anticipate a launch, but *Hundreds of Beavers* is a tail-slapping rendezvous with all things unexpected. What's a boy applejack-loving scout to do? ■



The East View overlook.



The stone blockhouse near the West View parking area.

## TRAVEL, ARTS, CULTURE

## The “Everyone Can Write Poetry” Poet



Wayne Drozynski at Beans in the Belfry.

By JEAN TOLEMAN

There are times when we need to express ourselves creatively. For many it is when they are young. Some continue on this path and make it a career. For most, the art, the poetry, the “great novel” falls by the wayside as they move into adulthood. They may return to it when careers settle, children are grown, and finances are secure. But for some, that creative process needs to express itself daily, no matter how complicated and busy life gets.

This has been the case for Brunswick resident, Wayne Drozynski. Writing poetry has been a need in his life since he was a child. When asked when he started writing, Drozynski said he couldn’t remember, “I went to my 50th grade school reunion a

few years ago and an old friend said he always remembered me for my writing. That worked for me because it is the cheapest way to do art.”

Many of us may know Drozynski for his community poetry events that include the recent Pour Over Poetry at Beans in the Belfry, the poetry readings at the Wine and Chocolate Walk Brunswick Main Street held years ago or the Poetry Slams at Beans in the Belfry. Drozynski not only writes poetry, he promotes the belief that everyone can write poetry. The proof of this has been his Kitchen Table Poetry, which he started back when he lived in Tacoma Park.

**A Working Class Family**

Drozynski grew up in Pittsburgh in a working class family of 10; he was the oldest. To earn

money for his education at LaSalle College in Philadelphia, he worked as a bricklayer during the summers and after college. He got a BA in English. He said he was told by a workmate to “see a guy in DC” who was from Pittsburgh and worked for Amtrak. “I was hired off the street by the legendary trainmaster, Lennie Grzeshewicz, and became an engineer.” He ended up working on the railroad for 30 years.

Drozynski said this was a perfect job for his writing passion. “Waiting to catch a train gave me time to sit and write. A poet knows from day one he is never going to make any money, so you know to go get a railroad job,” Drozynski said.

**Settling in Brunswick**

In 2001 Drozynski moved to Brunswick because it was affordable and, because of the railroad, he could catch a ride into work. He started having people come over to his house to write and create. “A dear friend noted the quality of light on the south facing hill behind my house,” Drozynski said, “The quality of the light in this particular place and town was how the name Slant Light Poetry evolved.”

Slant Light Poetry of Brunswick brought creative writers together and they did events in Brunswick and Frederick. “Gradually, the group became more Frederick oriented, so I let it go,” Drozynski stated, “They continue as Slant Light Frederick and here in Brunswick we have started Brunswick Line Poetry. Line is for the railroad line.” The group brings people together to share their work.

Drozynski is very committed to promoting poetry in Brunswick and enjoys working with other mediums, meshing the written word with the visual. In 2017 he worked with other poets on the Ekphrastic show at Kelly Phoebus’ Gallery 505 exhibit on Poetry and Abstract Art. In 2019 he worked with dancers in Embodiment Poetry and Dance. His next collaborative project? “I would love to do something with poetry and tattoo art.”

**Everyone Can Do Art**

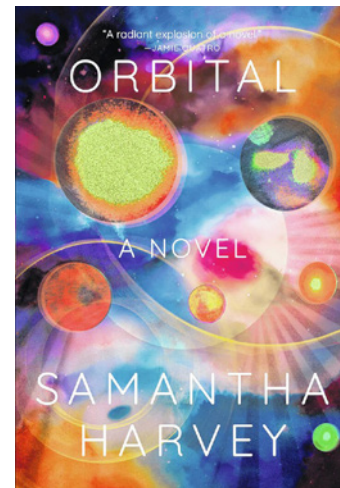
Drozynski stated he has never published his poetry. He is truly an “everyone can do art” kind of guy. “I want to get regular people involved; everyone can journal; everyone can come home and sit around the kitchen table and write.”

What draws Drozynski to poetry? “I love exploring the process of writing and how that process changes — how to adjust and what those adjustments yield.” The process can be emotionally difficult at times. “Due to some physical changes, I have had to adjust. What is poetry when there is no right-hand margin? How to write when short term memory has been impacted? The change in the process also wants to be a poem.”

**If poetry is your muse, consider joining Drozynski at his kitchen table. Contact him at [brunswicklinepoetry@gmail.com](mailto:brunswicklinepoetry@gmail.com) or Brunswick Line Poetry on Facebook. ■**

## OFF THE SHELF

## Two Award-Winning Books on Space Travel and Residency

**Orbital**

By Samantha Harvey (2024)

Reviewed by LAURA DVORAK

NASA hopes the International Space Station (ISS), with its five partner agencies, will fly through 2030. To date, Russia has not committed to the station beyond 2028. Sci-fi *Orbital*, winner of the 2024 Booker Prize, follows a day in the life of four astronauts from America, Italy, Britain, Japan and two cosmonauts from Russia traveling in the 26-year-old space station. “Two women, four men, one space station made up of seventeen connecting modules, seventeen and a half thousand

miles an hour.”

Ascending, descending, together they experience sixteen sunrises and sunsets, extraordinary sights. “They don’t know how it can be that their view is so endlessly repetitive and yet, each time, every single time, newly born.”

The small novel, written as finely as a musical score, lends a sense of floating through timelessness. One curious fallout from floating non-stop is disorientation. “They cling to their twenty-hour clock because it’s all the feeble little time bound body knows...the mind is in a dayless freak zone, surfing earth’s hurtling horizon.”

During daylight Earth appears uninhabited. At night, humans make their presence known through illumination. “The lights of Salalah on the Arabian Sea, electric screech in soft swirling desert, and a minute later Abu Dhabi, Doha, Muscat would have bejeweled the far coast but time is up—the sun is coming one more time and a shank of silver skewers open the night.”

Let there be light. So it goes, this elegiac story of humanity, both earthbound and Earth loosed. ■

**A Cicada Shell**

Abandoned partway up something.

Whatever kind of soul that was  
came out of me green winged  
and sputtered off.  
Like a little biplane  
towing away a sign.

I look like an old man’s thumb  
super glued to a tree. I feel like  
a balled up lunch bag  
stuffed in a chain link fence.

After all the years of eating roots  
and spitting out the dirt  
we become the verb for up  
and pilgrimage the closest vertical.

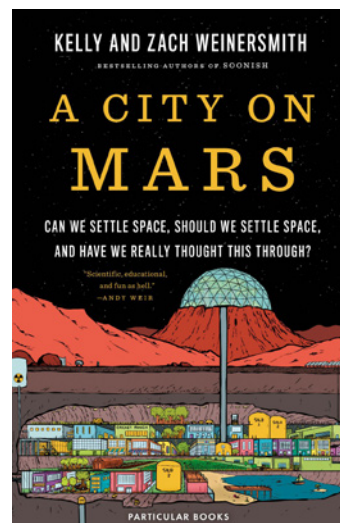
Funny how such a quest  
lends itself to epic verse,  
or worse, epic philosophy.  
Given all the Windx in the world,  
Even the smallest brains can’t keep  
their simple windows clear of it.

After which here you are.  
A hook-footed hexiplegic  
attached to some indifferent hickory.

A pair of RayBans  
without the eyes inside. So  
mine will not be the generation  
that gets to see how everything turns out.

And I am split wide open up the back.  
But I can taste the morning colors now,  
the very day inside the hollow  
where my curiosity used to be.

WAYNE DROZYNSKI

**A City on Mars:****Can We Settle Space, Should We Settle Space, and Have We Really Thought This Through?**

By Kelly and Zach Weinersmith (2023)

Reviewed by LAURA DVORAK

Winner of the 2024 prestigious Royal Society Trivedi Science Book Prize, *A City on Mars* was written by the Weinersmiths, biologist Kelly and cartoonist Zach, who live on an old farm in Virginia. Over four years they researched how humans might settle space. The

book poses practical questions about the efficacy of settling off earth somewhere such as Earth’s Moon and Mars.

Elon Musk’s space ambitions aside, the authors’ repeated refrain is to consider “wait-and-go-big.” Or even “wait-and-gonowhere.” They believe “Mars can be ours” somehow, someday, earned by way of knowledge, responsibility and peace.

Myriad topics are explored, including self-care (physiology, psychology, procreation); habitats off-world, creating human terrariums; space law, including the Outer Space Treaty (“Great for Regulating Space Sixty Years Ago”) which forbids nations from claiming outer space but says naught about multinational agreement among multiple nations; the birth of space states and Commons; the wild west of Company Towns—for better or worse, and space autarky.

*A City on Mars* is a light-heartedly complex and fascinating publication. After all, “What other endeavor requires you to understand everything from orbital mechanics to ecology to history, law, and war?” ■

## The Entomology Traveler: A Cultural Exchange with Bees and Honey

By DR. KATHY HEINSOHN

I am just back from an 18-day trip to Nepal and Bhutan. It was definitely a bucket list trip that I'd been planning for over five years. Yes, I flew by the famed Mt. Everest, but that was not my destination.

No, I wanted to see Kathmandu, go on a safari in Chitwan National Forest in the south of Nepal on the Indian border, and then travel to the country of Bhutan to explore their concept of gross national happiness (the only country to have this and also the only one with a negative carbon footprint). I told the travel agent I also wanted to meet some local beekeepers along the way if possible.

In the hills above Kathmandu, I got my wish! And what a cool cultural exchange for me, a beekeeper and entomologist from here in Brunswick! I met the owners of Mountain Bee Concern, PVT, LTD. outside of Kathmandu in Lalitpur. When our driver took us (a guide, my cousin and me) outside of the city, we started climbing the hills on dirt paths in our 4-wheel drive Kia and were going through areas of abject poverty.

Nepal is the tenth poorest country in the world. The area around Kathmandu is still recovering from the 2015 earthquake and the more recent unusual monsoon and flooding of late October that carried the ramshackle lean-tos, which count as homes, and small cars, motorcycles, bikes, market shops and their goods, people, dogs, and cows away and down the river. Inches of mud, now caked, dry and dusty, was everywhere.

### Finding the Beekeepers

So, it was a bouncy ride, and this bee business is not well advertised or seen from the ruts in the road! But the GPS said we were there. We got out and dodged the oncoming motorcycles and school buses (they drive on the left side like the British!) and walked over to a blooming yellow field of mustard plants. The flower blossoms were loaded with honeybees.



The manager of the company watches as Dr. Kathy (in her bee hat and veil) lifts a frame covered with honey bees from the hive.

This field was wedged between several ramshackle houses and up the street there were gated entries to concrete block homes. We walked up to one with a barking street dog outside and on the gate was a small sign, "Mountain Bee Concern, PVT, LTD." Our guide rang the bell.

Out of the open-air shop popped a small Nepalese gentleman and his wife and an employee who manages this place. A child followed. I immediately saw a hive near the entry, a hive on the side, and about four hives on the balcony above us. It was sunny and the bees were all heading out to the golden mustard blooms across the street.

Our guide had called ahead to say we were coming, "a beekeeper from America wants to visit you!" Everyone was extremely excited and welcoming and ushered us into the shop. The guide, driver and my cousin sat on a broken sofa against the wall, while I eyed all the many plastic bottles of honey types on shelves near the counter. I went into my backpack and pulled out two small 2.0 oz. jars of local Brunswick honey which I had brought with me as gifts to various people I visited. (I was grateful the

jars had survived in my suitcase and made it through Nepalese customs!)

The three beekeepers' eyes got very wide. They smiled and picked up my honey jars and eyed them and the obvious difference in color to their own honeys, which are all primarily darker. Honey in Brunswick is mostly locust, wildflower and clover and is exceptionally light colored. So, then the gentleman said to our guide something in Nepalese, and I was being offered a hat with a veil with Sanskrit writing on it. He motioned for me to follow. I tried to put the veil on. My big American head is larger than the average Nepalese head, but I balanced the hat on my head as best I could.

### Inspecting the Hives

I followed him over to the mustard field, around the corner, and back toward a warehouse full of wooden pieces. In front of the warehouse on either side were about 30 beehives. He went over to one and motioned for me to come. He popped the lid off and lifted a burlap covering to reveal the frames below buzzing with honeybees, which were much smaller in size than mine and much darker striped to the point of being black.

I asked are these *Apis mellifera*? He nodded yes. I asked Italian race; he shook his head "no." But I could not make out what race they were. Mine are Italian. His bees were very gentle and at this much higher altitude, only interested in the mustard patch next door, not at all aggressive.

He had no gloves on and no bee suit and no smoke, just the hat and veil. He reached in and pulled out a frame and motioned for me to do so too. I did. We were looking for the queen. She wasn't on either of those two frames, but we soon found her on another one. She looked healthy, as did her workers. There was a lot of mustard pollen and honey stored in the combs on the frames and lots of brood (eggs and juveniles).

He put the hive back together and then gave me a tour of the area with all the wood pieces. He

## RECYCLING TIP OF THE MONTH

Oh, you sweet, sweet, whipped cream can. You champion of midnight fridge raids, you procurer of Hallmark hot chocolate moments, where one person takes a sip, getting just a small amount of whipped cream on their nose while their crush playfully wipes it away (they call that the Belgium dip). You secret keeper of holiday tears, how did you end up like this?

No, you aren't trash. You have value, and you are recyclable. You don't belong amongst the twine, the grounds, and the wrappers. You belong in the blue bin.

That's right, aerosol cans not marked as HHW can be recycled here in Frederick County! This includes whipped cream cans, sunscreen cans, hairspray, and similar products ... Just make sure they are empty and put them right into your blue bin!

Honor the memories and put these items where they deserve.

For more information about what is or isn't recyclable, you can call Frederick County Division of Solid Waste and Re-



cycling at 301-600-2960. You can also find them online at [FrederickCountyMD.gov/Recycle](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/Recycle), on Facebook and Instagram by searching "@FrederickRecycles" and/or downloading the free "Recycle Coach" app, which will remind you of your collection day, which for the Brunswick Area is "Red Tuesdays."

**This tip provided by the Frederick County Division of Solid Waste and Recycling. ■**

collects wood and puts all of his materials together himself, like all beekeepers did in the old days. So, his hives are slightly different sizes. (The recent floods had yielded a lot of wood for future use.) Then he showed me where he melts and pours wax to make the foundation for each frame. (I was embarrassed to tell him I use plastic foundation for my frames for convenience.) He also showed me his nice big electric solar(!) extractor; I have a very small hand cranked one!

### Fresh Honey and Hot Tea

We walked back to the shop and the employee was told something and ran over to their house next door. The wife pulled out a big plate and a large knife and while we had been over at the other hives, she had been inside a nearby hive out front and pulled out a frame of honey and was cutting chunk honey and comb onto the plate for us to sample. The employee returned with hot tea and served us each a glass. We all smiled as we sampled fresh honey and hot tea! They made photos and we made photos.

They gifted each of us a bar of honey soap and I purchased several types of their honey offerings and hoped they would make it in my suitcase back through U.S. Customs. The chunk honey we tried was mustard and was delicious.

I also bought the following varieties called Jamun (Java plum), Butter tree (Chiuri tree which produces latex and is still given as a dowry by many Nepali families), High altitude (Himalayan wildflower mix, where the bees



The manager's wife cuts a chunk of comb honey off a frame and serves the fresh mustard honey (sweet and dark) with hot tea.

are not hived but frames hang from tree limbs and cliffs freely), and Mad honey (Rhododendron). I also got creamed mustard honey.

All of the honey varieties there are touted as being highly medicinal. The Mad honey I had heard of before. Rhododendron and azalea flowers produce a toxin (grayanotoxin) in the nectar that bees incorporate into the honey. If you eat too much of it, or get it from a hive after heavy rains, you will get drunk or could even die! It supposedly has some hallucinogenic effects.

Now that I am home, I'm starting to taste them all (they made it through customs!) but being very cautious about the Mad honey. I guess I shouldn't drive after eating it. I came home with the soap, a new hat and veil with Sanskrit writing on it, several jars of honey and a wonderful cultural exchange experience!

*Dr. Kathy Heinsohn has a Ph.D. in Structural and Urban Pest Management from Purdue University and is a Board Certified Entomologist (B.C.E.) and local beekeeper. ■*



Close-up of honeybees on a frame at Mountain Bee Concern.

## LOCAL HISTORY

# TALES FROM The Merryland Tract—Part 3

## Ceres Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

BY ABBIE RICKETTS

Along Gapland Road, not far past Burkittsville and half-way up South Mountain, sits a small African American Methodist Episcopal church and cemetery called Ceres Bethel. The abandoned sanctuary still stands albeit in very poor condition from age and vandalism. In the front grounds of the property along the road is a cemetery with burials dating back to 1870, although there is a recorded 1862 burial of an unknown soldier reportedly buried "150 yards north of the church along the road next to a log according to old records."

Graves in the cemetery date from 1870–2020 and it is the final resting place for some prominent African-Americans from Frederick County. The one-story frame church was constructed in 1870, according to the corner stone. The church has been vacant since 1984 but burials have continued there with the most recent in 2020. There have been 16 recorded burials since the church closed its doors.

Ceres Bethel AME Church was an active congregation of free blacks in 1858 when it acquired the parcel of land where it is currently located. The congregation stayed together throughout the Civil War and by 1870 was fi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELINE BUTLER

This historic photograph was taken in Ceres Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church during World War I. There is a corp of African American Red Cross nurses shown in the back rows. Some of the people in this photo are buried at Ceres Bethel. Among those pictured here are: Melvin Jones, Raymond Jones, Thomas Woods, John Butler, Pete Walker, Harris Scott, Leroy Spriggs, George Brooks, Calvin Holland, Sam Streams, Maxwell Smallwood, Melvin Johnson, Foster Henderson, Mike Gordon, Albert Smothers, Teresa Allen, Katheryn Holland, Rebecca Brooks, Kathryn Smothers, Nellie Streams, Rebecca Holland, Molly Bruner, Madora Holland, Lizzie Holland, Yvonne Jackson, and Altie Whalen.



Ceres Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church as it looks today on Gapland Road.

has its own storied history of intrigue and even murder. A disturbed woman named Martha Rose from the Gapland area was staying with Charles Lucas, a sergeant in World War I. Apparently, he felt sorry for Martha and allowed her to stay in his home.

Lucas had just completed service in the Army and came home to Burkittsville. Martha's husband, Daniel Rose, was away in the service during that time which was 1933. For reasons unknown, Martha killed Charles Lucas with a hatchet to the head and he died on June 13, 1933. She was sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary and was released upon serving her sentence.

Martha's husband Daniel, having just come home from serving in the army himself, met his death by hatchet on Sept. 1, 1939. Martha received a death sentence for his murder, which

was later commuted to a life sentence. Well known Frederick doctor Ulysses S. Bourne pled for mercy for Martha as he believed she suffered from psychosis of some type. Both Charles Lucas and Daniel Rose are buried at the cemetery, but the fate of Martha Rose is unknown.

### Disease and Death

As in other cemeteries, death certificates of young deceased often listed various diseases of the past as the cause. This story is from The Daily News (Frederick, MD), Friday, September 25, 1891:

Mr. Elijah Butler, a likely young colored man about 21 years of age, son of Robert Butler, residing along the mountain near Burkittsville, died on Friday last from typho-malaria, and was buried Sunday morning at the A.M.E. church, near Burkittsville. The deceased had been in the employ of Mr. John J. Hightman for some time past, and was

highly respected in the community. His funeral was largely attended and a great many white persons were present.

### Veterans and Other Prominent People

There are ten war veterans laid to rest in Ceres Bethel Cemetery. Among them are two Civil War veterans. Pvt. Joseph Bruner served in Company D of the Maryland Regiment. He died in 1930 at the age of 80. Edward Hicks served in the Union Army. He died in 1914. Born in 1834 in North Carolina, Hicks died at Montevue Hospital in Frederick. His stillborn son lies at rest near him.

Other veterans are Pvt. Foster Henderson, WWI Maryland 333rd Labor Bn QMC; George Henderson, WWII, died in 1980 at age 60; Pvt. Theodore Henderson, U.S. Army, died 1974; John W. Johnson Jr., WWII, died Sept. 1965; Sgt. John Raymond Jones, WWII, 324th Service Bn QMC, died Sept. 1949. His funeral was said to be one of the largest ever held at Ceres Bethel. He was found deceased of natural causes in the cab of a B&O engine while working on the railroad. He was buried with full military honors.

PFC. Albert Lucas was a WWII veteran. He died in 1988. Sgt. Charles E. Lucas was a World War I veteran and served in the U.S. Army. He was murdered in 1933.

Richard Henderson, a well-known citizen of the Burkittsville area, is interred in the cemetery. He passed in 2010. Many local residents remember him as one of the best baseball players to come from the area.

nancially able to build a church building. According to Preservation Maryland, "Today this church stands as an example of rural church architecture and as a testament to the size and influence of the African-American community in the area in the late 1800's."

### Vandalism Strikes Church

Since being featured in "The Blair Witch Project," the infamous movie filmed in the Burkittsville area and released in 1999, the church has attracted ghost-hunters and others who have vandalized the building. There is no current congregation to maintain the building. Volunteers have made attempts to secure the building and make repairs but vandalism continued.

Frederick historic contractor Anthony Owen completed donated repairs some years ago to stabilize and seal the structure. The cemetery is maintained and the property mowed regularly. The African-Methodist Episcopal Church of Washington, D.C. owns the property.

The Ceres Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was listed as an Endangered Maryland site in 2014.

### Murder and Intrigue

While Ceres Bethel AME Church is known for its role in the Blair Witch movie, it also

## MURDER CHARGE FOLLOWS DEATH

Negro Woman Accused Of Taking Life Of Charles Lucas.

## HATCHET WOUNDS FATAL

A warrant, charging Mrs. Martha Rose, about 35, colored, near Burkittsville, with the murder of Charles Lucas, 54, colored, of the same vicinity, was issued this morning at the order of State's Attorney Walter K. Sinn, following the death of the colored man at Montevue hospital.

Lucas died at 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon from lacerated wounds inflicted May 25 at his home on the road between Burkittsville and Gapland. Two days after the affair, Mrs. Rose is alleged to have confessed to Sheriff Charles W. Crum, Deputy Sheriff B. Frank Doll and James A. Jones, Superintendent at Montevue, that she wielded the hatchet which inflicted the wounds after a trivial quarrel, during which Lucas kicked her.

Physicians were amazed that Lucas lived as long as he did. He suffered gaping wounds across his forehead and along the side of his face from the hatchet and had been expected to succumb momentarily since he was first taken to the Frederick City hospital, following the affair. About a week ago he was removed to Montevue hospital, where he died. Because of his condition, officials were never able to obtain much information from him regarding the hacking.

Justice Guy K. Motter, acting coroner; State's Attorney Sinn and Dr. E. P. Thomas went to Montevue hospital Tuesday evening and viewed the body. Dr. Thomas said death was due to a fractured skull as a result of the injuries inflicted by the hatchet.

Newspaper story on Martha Rose charged with murder of Charles Lucas.

FREDERICK DAILY NEWS

## Wife Held In Negro's Death

Body Of Daniel Rose, 50, Found On Top Of Gapland Mountain.

The mutilated body of Daniel Rose, 50, colored, of Burkittsville, Frederick county, was found yesterday in a shallow grave atop South Mountain near Gapland, Washington county, and immediately Frederick county authorities launched an investigation into his death. Rose was missing about ten days.

A flock of buzzards directed Ab Lucas, brother-in-law of the murdered man, to the grave. Martha Rose, 40, wife of the slain

HAGERSTOWN DAILY NEWS

## Wife Held In Negro's Death

(Continued from Page 1) with whom she had been living at the time.

No charge has been placed against the woman. When taken into custody she denied knowing the whereabouts of Rose, who she claimed left home August 31.

Ab Lucas told officers that he was attracted to the top of the Gapland mountain near the war correspondents' monument by circling buzzards which had partially uncovered the body.

Cursory examination disclosed that Rose evidently was hit in the head several times with a hatchet or axe.

Authorities learned that Rose returned only a short time ago from California where he had served in the Navy. They also learned that

Newspaper story on Daniel Rose murder.

## Merryland CONTINUED



Sign at Knoxville Reformed Cemetery.

## Knoxville Reformed Cemetery

The Knoxville Reformed Cemetery sits high on a mountaintop overlooking the Potomac River. The first trip up there causes one to be full of wonder at the elevated location and rather steep road called Cemetery Circle to get to the top. There are 1161 memorials in this somewhat isolated cemetery located in the town of Knoxville.

The mountaintop is referred to as Cemetery Hill. Although there were a few earlier burials here, the cemetery was first established in 1851 with the construction of a new stone church for a German Reformed congregation.

According to the South Mountain Heritage Society website, "In 1864, Rev. Staley bought the nearby Tyrconnel Farm (on Rt. 17) and established Saint John's Female Seminary. In 1867, the Knoxville congregation was reported as active at the meeting of the Synod under the leadership of Rev. Staley. He set to work raising funds to complete the still unfinished church. In 1870, a part of the church property was laid out in lots and sold to form a cemetery, the beginnings of the present Knoxville Reformed Cemetery. The sale of these lots was used to benefit the completion of the Reformed Church and Rev. Staley reported in 1876 that this was accomplished." There are nine recorded burials older than the 1870 date.

## Prominent People Buried Here

The earliest burial was Ellen Porter who lived from 1806-1809. The most recent burial was in



Abner Merriman gravestone.

December of 2023. There are no other Porters buried here.

Many prominent Brunswick area names are represented in the early burials of the 1800s – names such as Merryman (Merriman), Himes, Leopold, Moss, Lakin, Schamel, Fry, Virts, Cooper, Darr, Danner, and Eakle to name a few. Many have descendants buried here in later years. There are a number of war veterans buried in this cemetery.

There is an Elias Bruner recorded as buried in this cemetery. He shares the same birth date of October 14, 1756, and date of death, June 28, 1826 as Elias Bruner who is buried in Wolfsville. He is the only Bruner listed as buried in Knoxville Reformed Cemetery.

Joseph Alexander, 1818–1865, owned a property listed as one mile west of Knoxville. The property was about 40 acres with a house, and he and his wife Sarah called it Fielderia Manor. He and his wife found eternal rest in the mountaintop cemetery and their manor was eventually sold.

Abner Merriman, born in 1815 and buried in 1899, was a highly respected citizen of the area. He married Caroline Carlisle on April 8, 1939. He appears to be one of the first Merrymans to begin using the Merriman spelling version of the name. Some of the earlier burials there used the spelling Merryman. He retired from his mail delivery post which was the Knoxville to Olive route after 16 years of service. He was replaced by Alfred Gwinn, the first African-American to be hired in such a position. Mr. Gwinn was mentioned in a newspaper article as working the route and being buried at Mountain Cemetery.

## Maintenance Now Done by Volunteers

The cemetery slipped into disarray after the church closed its doors, but a volunteer group has taken over maintenance in recent years and the grounds are presently maintained, mowed, and trimmed.

Donations are needed to maintain the cemetery. Donations can be mailed to: Knoxville Reformed Cemetery, PO Box 51, Knoxville, MD 21758, or sent electronically to: [www.venmo.com/KnoxvilleReformedCemetery](http://www.venmo.com/KnoxvilleReformedCemetery) ■

The *LATEST* from the *LAST*  
C.E.N.T.U.R.Y100 Years Ago  
from *The Valley Register*Compiled by  
Julie Maynard

January 2, 1925.

## Upon Beds of Sickness.

Mrs. Wm. S. Routzahn, who has been for some time past been confined by illness at the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Glenn Routzahn, Broad Run, this valley, was brought to her home here Tuesday. Mrs. Routzahn's condition is now improving steadily.

Mr. George Shafer, of Burkittsville, was taken to the Frederick City Hospital on Wednesday morning, suffering from an infected hand, caused by the accidental sawing off of one of his fingers.

## McDade—Stunkle.

Miss Ida McDade, of near Broad Run, and Mr. Luther Stunkle, of near Brunswick, were married Wednesday at noon at the Lutheran parsonage, Frederick. They will reside on the groom's farm, near Brunswick.

## National Park Site Selected for East.

A commission appointed recently by Congress to select a site in the eastern section of the United States for a National Park, similar to the Yellowstone reserve in the West, has returned a recommendation be instituted for all that vast section of land comprising the Shenandoah Valley, and extending from Waynesboro, Pa., on the north practically to the North Carolina line on the south. The creation of a national park in the Shenandoah Valley will undoubtedly benefit Frederick county to a considerable extent, owing to the amount of tourist traffic that will pass on the way to the scenic wonder in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia...

## Lutheran Sunday School Observes "White Christmas"

The Burkittsville Lutheran Church Sunday School observed what, for want of a better name, is called "A White Christmas." In the rear of the pulpit platform, a large arch was placed on top of two tall pillars. This was covered with evergreen, laurel and cedar. In the top of the arch was hung a large white star, electrically lighted. Between the pillars and below the star was placed a large white cross illuminated with red lights. In the front corner was placed a large tree, decorated with white and tinsel. All this made the church very beautiful.

The "White Christmas" consisted of each class doing some service, or giving gifts to others.

The primary class went around on Sunday afternoon before Christmas and sang carols for the sick, aged and neglected. Each person visited was given an orange and a box of candy. ... Two adult classes united in supporting an Armenian orphan for one year, amounting to \$60. ... The boys class, taught by Arthur Hightman, sent a barrel of potatoes to the Gospel Rescue Mission, at Washington, D. C. ... At the Sunday School Christmas service, held Friday night, one member of each class told what the class did, then laid the record at the foot of the white cross. ...

January 9, 1925.

Little hope is now felt by the family of Chas. W. Moore, Sandy Hook district, that he will be found alive. Moore has been missing from his home for over two weeks. He was traced to the bridge at Harper's Ferry, where he left a taxi driver who had taken him to Brunswick. After he left the machine, Moore's movements are an unsolved mystery. It is believed that he fell from the bridge into the river and was drowned. Moore's aged mother, with whom he made his home, has offered a large reward for information leading to his discovery.

## Dr. Harry S. Hedges, Aged 62 Years.

Dr. Harry S. Hedges, a widely known physician of Brunswick and for a number of years resident B. & O. Railroad surgeon and physician, died last Sunday afternoon at 5.50 o'clock, of heart trouble, after an illness of some weeks, aged 62 years. About two weeks ago, his illness became serious and his strength gradually failed until his death. He was a son of the late Rev. John W. Hedges and was born in Baltimore in 1863. In 1884 he married Miss Mary Elizabeth Eichelberger, of Martinsburg, W. Va., and is survived by his wife, one son, John S. Hedges, B. & O. yardmaster, near Knoxville, and one daughter, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth West, wife of Dr. Levin West, Brunswick. The funeral took place from the Episcopal Church, Brunswick, Wednesday. Interment was made in St. Mark's cemetery, near Petersville. C. H. Feete, funeral director.

George C. Shafer, died 69, of tetanus. ... [as a result of injuries sustained] on a circular saw. Mr. Shafer accidentally lacerated the second finger of his right hand. He gave the injury attention at the time, but the laceration did not heal. Later, symptoms of lockjaw developed. By the time he was taken to the hospital, tetanus had set in. Mr. Shafer was a son of the late Peter Shafer and a leading farmer of the Middletown Valley. He was a lifelong resident of near Burkittsville. He married a Miss Young, who, with four sons, Edgar and Amos, near Burkittsville; Oscar, near Petersville, and Ira, near Middletown, and one daughter, Miss Mary Shafer, at home, survive.

January 16, 1925.

## Girls Wore Knickers in Court; Sent to Jail.

Two girls, giving names of Mollie Luster and Ruth Potter, were sent to jail for ten hours each on a charge of contempt of court by Police Judge Marrs, when they appeared in court, at Pikesville, Ky., clad in knickers. The girls had entered the court room for trial on a charge of loitering.

## Saves Train From Wreck Geo. Buffington, Who Had Been Furloughed, Wins Back Job.

Geo. Buffington, of near Weverton, Thursday of last week, saved the Capital Limited express, the crack B. & O. train running be-

tween Washington and Chicago, from what might have been a disastrous wreck, when a landslide, of about 19 tons of rock and earth, piled on the westbound track, on which the train was running.

Buffington, who is 29, married, and the father of three children, had been a fireman on the railroad, but had been furloughed recently until traffic conditions improved. [After] flagging the express and averting a disastrous wreck, Buffington was summoned to the B. & O. offices in Baltimore, where, after the particulars of the case were given, Buffington was promptly given another job as engine hostler, at Brunswick, which is said to pay a salary of \$5.25 per day.

## Unknown Man Tries to Discover Who He Is By Radio.

Speaking in an unknown tongue, a man from Norfolk, Va., last week broadcast a five-minute talk in the hope that somebody listening would be able to tell him who he is and where he came from. The man was washed ashore at Cape Charles six weeks ago. Found wandering around the streets, he was turned over to immigration authorities, but after two weeks during which nothing was learned about him, he was turned over to city authorities and held as a vagrant.

Linguists from all parts of Virginia have tried to converse with the man, but none understand what he said. The only words that sounded anything like English were "tobac," meaning tobacco, and "fuffy ceets," meaning 50 cents.

Through his radio talk he was discovered by a native of Finland, and will be sent back home on the next vessel leaving Norfolk.

## "Hoppy" Must Serve Sentence.

Harry C. ("Hoppy") Grove, of Frederick, said by prohibition officials to be the "king" of bootleggers in Maryland, was refused a new trial on charges of conspiracy to violate the Volstead act, by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals. As a result, Grove must serve a sentence of a year and a day in the Federal Penitentiary at Atlanta.

Grove was convicted April 1, 1923 for conspiring to remove 250 cases of liq from the Outerbridge Horsey Distillery, Burkittsville.

## Want New Road to Pt. of Rocks

A delegation of more than 100 persons, consisting of residents of Ballenger and Buckeystown districts, the Mayor and Alderman of Frederick, and various commercial organizations, together with professional men of Frederick county, appeared before the Board of County Commissioners with a request that the Board recommend to the State Roads Commission the Ballenger Creek road as the main highway leading between Frederick and Point of Rocks. Pointing out that the desired route is much shorter and a great deal safer, due to the absence of railroad grade crossings, the delegation presented a strong plea, which will be hard for the Commissioners to cast aside.

## SPORTS AND NEWS

## BHS Wrestling Team Gaining Strength

By BILL CAULEY

With four returning state qualifiers setting the stage as a good nucleus to build on for the future, Brunswick High School's wrestling team aims to qualify more athletes for the Class 2A-1A championships this season.

The Railroaders, coached by Scott Tilles, return one state semifinalist in senior Seth Crawford. Crawford went 50-1 during the regular season last year in the 120-pound weight class, making it all the way to the state semifinal match before losing, good enough for third place.

Also qualifying for states last year, and returning to the squad this year, are seniors Evan Mullen (106) and Austin Curry (215) and junior Lane Riggleman (285). Mullen went 46-6 last year. Curry was 36-15 and Riggleman posted a 27-12 record last year.

This year's Brunswick High wrestling team boasts 10 seniors, nine juniors, eight sophomores and eight freshmen. Other

seniors on the team this year are Ellie Grace Ayoub, Jamison Gdowski, Alex Haste, Ayax Martinez-Ortiz, Christopher O'Connor, Cohen Thompson and Noah Utterback.

The remaining juniors on the roster for the Railroaders include Riley Burgee, Dorrان Charles, Landon Gregory, Ben Guyton, Justin Lopez-Vasquez, Colby Moore and Colin Trendell. The sophomores are Cayden Boedecker, Jaden Casey, Keaton Hrabar, Jordan More, Thomas O'Leary, Kevin Rosas, Braden Swift and Joseph Watts.

Rounding out this year's roster are freshmen Samantha Blackburn, Tracy Fuller, John Lusby, Charles McLane, Carter Mullen, Catharine Orndorff, Navin Rahman and Katharine Virgilio.

The Railroaders are scheduled to compete in two invitational tournaments this season. Brunswick wrestled in the Tuscarora Tournament Dec. 27-28 and will wrestle in the C. Milton Wright Tournament (Bel Air) Jan. 10-11. ■



## BHS GIRLS' BASKETBALL

### A work in progress under new coach

By BILL CAULEY

It's a new beginning for Brunswick High School girls' varsity basketball.

Former Boonsboro High coach Sam Connelly was hired as the Railroaders girls new head coach shortly after former head coach Cindy Wilhelm left to re-start the women's basketball program at Hagerstown Community College.

Connelly brings a lot of coaching experience to the table. So far, Brunswick is buying into his style of play, but even so, it's still a work in progress.

"We're not going to go crazy with stuff," Connelly said after Brunswick's season-opener with Smithsburg High on Friday, Dec. 6, at BHS. "Just try to keep things simple at first."

It wasn't the best start of the year for the Railroaders.

Smithsburg, which suffered through a winless season a few years ago, has vastly improved. The Leopards held Brunswick to 12 points in the first half before routing the Railroaders, 67-22.

"We've got so much to do; it's still very early in the season," Connelly said. "We need to learn how to compete, concentrate on the basic fundamentals of the game."

#### An adjustment period

Connelly said the team is working hard in practice, but anytime a new coach comes to a team, there's that period of

adjustment. Moving from one coaching style to another is never easy, yet Connelly remains optimistic once the team gets deeper into its schedule, things should start to get better.

In the season-opener against Smithsburg, Brunswick kept the game within reason in the first quarter. The Railroaders only trailed the Leopards by 12 after one quarter, 23-11, but things began to unravel in the second quarter.

Brunswick had already committed 11 turnovers in the first quarter, so when the second quarter got underway, Smithsburg continued to pressure the Railroaders, which resulted in more unforced errors.

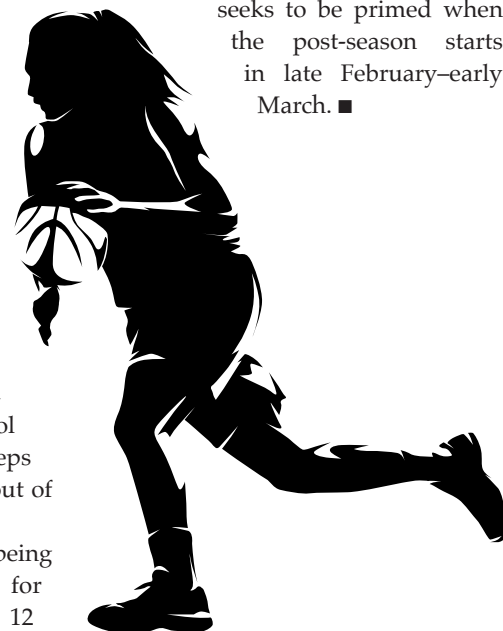
The best Brunswick could do was one foul shot by Andie Welsh in the second quarter. Smithsburg led at the half, 43-12. One minute into the third quarter, the Leopards led by 36, so the remainder of the game was played with a running clock, per the high school mercy rule, which keeps a game from getting out of hand.

Welsh ended up being the leading scorer for the Railroaders with 12 points. "Andie is a good player," Connelly said of Welsh. "I would like to see her

play more of a leadership role on the team this season."

One thing Connelly did when he was hired as the new coach for Brunswick's girls was put the team back into a holiday tournament. For the last few years, the Railroaders took the winter break off, but Connelly wanted Brunswick to have the opportunity to get some extra playing time as most of the other county schools were involved with tournaments over the holiday break.

To that end, the Railroaders girls played in the Tuscarora Board 214 IAABO Tournament at Thomas Johnson High School in Frederick over the holiday break. With January and February's schedule yet to be played, Brunswick seeks to be primed when the post-season starts in late February-early March. ■



## Smith Resigns as BHS Football Coach

By BILL CAULEY

It was something that didn't come as a complete surprise to anyone.

Jerry Smith announced his resignation as head football coach at Brunswick High School, effective Friday, Nov. 22. He posted his resignation letter on X, formerly Twitter.

"After much consideration, prayer and discussion with my family, I have decided it is best for my family and I that I step aside as the head football coach at Brunswick High School," Smith said in his letter.

Smith's letter of resignation came one week after the Railroaders' 2024 season ended in a loss to top-seeded Boonsboro in the second round of the Class 1A North playoffs. The game was played at Boonsboro on Friday, Nov. 15.

"Over the past eight years, I have poured my heart and soul into leading my alma mater and I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to make an impact on such an amazing group of athletes, coaches and families," Smith said in his letter.

In his eight-year tenure at BHS, Smith guided the Railroaders to a 48-28 record. He took over a

Railroaders' team that had just endured back-to-back winless seasons and was tasked with rebuilding a program that had seen its numbers dwindle down to the point of near-collapse.

The least number of wins the Railroaders had at any time during Smith's tenure was four. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when county high schools played an abbreviated schedule during the late winter-early spring of 2021, he was able to assemble a team that went 5-1. There were no post-season playoff games across the state, but for Brunswick, it still resembled a playoff atmosphere, although a short one.

"Over the past eight years, we have seen some great accomplishments that I will cherish forever," Smith said. He recalled how he got doused with Gatorade after the Railroaders snapped a 26-game losing streak during his first season with a win over Clear Spring.

With that win, Smith knew he had gotten Brunswick back on a winning track. Over the next seven years, the Railroaders regained their respect. The number of players went up. The junior varsity program got re-started. The turnaround was very suc-

cessful overall.

"We've had multiple players attend college to play football," Smith said. "Players have won multiple awards and scholarships."

Smith said the many relationships he developed with his players are just a few of the many things he will cherish as he moves forward with his life.

The reason Smith was suspended for the remainder of the 2024 season, following Brunswick's huge 27-26 win over Walkersville, remains unknown. Parents demanding answers from Frederick County Public Schools received none, other than the school board's long-standing policy of not divulging the reason for Smith's departure, citing personnel issues.

No one may ever know the real reason for this action, but one thing is for certain. The book is now closed on this latest chapter of Brunswick High School football. It's a chapter that is filled with lots of happy moments and wins.

Just who will take over Smith's job remains to be seen, but his successor has some big shoes to fill. Even if he has just a fraction of Smith's football knowledge and savvy, he will be very successful. ■

Jefferson Ruritan Club



### Country Breakfast

Sat. February 1, 2025

7:00 am - 11:00 am

Adults \$14

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

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

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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

## WHAT'S THE WORD?

This month the word is

### Compromise (n.)

Your living room needs painting. Not only are you tired of the light beige that's been there since you moved in, but one of the walls has accumulated some mysterious, ugly blotches.

You think a bright red would look absolutely stunning. However, your spouse is set on light blue. After a period of discussion — sometimes heated, sometimes REALLY heated — a friend suggests that you paint the room in several shades of gray which is popular right now. The darkest shade would go on the wall with the blotches.

Neither one of you really likes the idea, but you do agree that it would be a great improvement over the current mess.

That's a good compromise. Other compromises would have been possible: painting the walls alternately blue and red; mixing the two colors together and ending up with a purple room. Those would have been bad compromises which could have resulted in grumbling, loud words, tears and possibly bloodshed.

People have been making compromises for, well, as long as they have lived with other people, but the word in English has only been with us since the early 15th century meaning "a joint promise to abide by an arbiter's decision." The English word came from the 13th century French "compromis," from the late Latin "compromissus" or "to make a mutual promise."

Another meaning of the word from the 1690s is to endanger a reputation or expose to hazard. But that does not concern us here.

"Compromise" is also a verb which describes the process of reaching the "mutual promise."

#### Compromise



Two feet of snow arrived in the city last night.

## Random Thoughts...

I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Borrow money from pessimists — they don't expect it back.

Half the people you know are below average.

99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain.

All those who believe in psycho kinesic, raise my hand.

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

I almost had a psychic girlfriend... But she left me before we met.

OK, so what's the speed of dark?

How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?

If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.

— Ellis Burrus

# ALL ABOARD BRUNSWICK

## JANUARY COMMUNITY GUIDE FOR ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, EVENTS, ETC.

To have your event listed in next month's newspaper, email events by the 12th of this month to [info@BrunsNews.com](mailto:info@BrunsNews.com) or [angel411white@gmail.com](mailto:angel411white@gmail.com).

**Theatricks Circus Experience of Frederick** (all ages)  
Followed by hands-on circus skills lessons  
January 4, 10:30–11:30 am  
Brunswick Library

**Elementary Explorers: Create Your Own Mythical Creature** (ages 5–10)  
January 7, 4:30–5:30 pm  
Brunswick Library

**Teen Time: Minecraft** (ages 11–18)  
January 9, 6–7 pm  
Brunswick Library

**All You Can Eat Breakfast**  
January 11, 7–11 am  
Ambulance Company  
200 W. Potomac St.

**Silent Auction: Not Quite Burns Night**  
January 12–22, online at [Facebook.com/NQBN2025](https://www.facebook.com/NQBN2025)  
Friends of the Brunswick Library Fundraiser

**Jane Austin Tea Party and Trivia Challenge**  
January 12, 2–4 pm  
Brunswick Library

**Elementary Explorers: LEGO Building Time** (ages 5–10)  
January 14, 4:30–5:30 pm  
Brunswick Library

**Lego Information Session**  
January 15, 6–6:30 pm  
Brunswick Library

**Teen Time: LEGO** (ages 11–18)  
January 16, 6–7 pm  
Brunswick Library

**Junior Experts: How to be an Architect** (ages 4–10)  
January 17, 3–4 pm  
Brunswick Library

**Animals in Winter** (ages 3–10)  
January 18, 10 am–4 pm  
Brunswick Library

**Slippery Chicken Pot Pie Dinner**  
January 18, 3–7 pm  
Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance Auxiliary, 200 W. Potomac St.  
Pre-order quarts: 301–471–7007

**Elementary Explorers: Printmaking & Stamping** (ages 5–10)  
January 21, 4:30–5:30 pm  
Brunswick Library

**Not Quite Burns Night Silent Auction**  
January 22, 6–9 pm  
Smoketown Brewing Station  
Fundraiser for Friends of the Brunswick Library

**Teen Time: Tea Time with Local Author Paulella Burchill** (ages 11–18)  
January 23, 6–7 pm  
Brunswick Library

**Go Team Therapy Dogs: A Sensory Program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities**  
January 24, 11 am–noon  
Brunswick Library

**Read with a Dog** (ages 0–10)  
January 25, 10:30–11:30 am  
Brunswick Library

**Elementary Explorers: The Dot** (ages 5–10)  
January 28, 4:30–5:30 pm  
Brunswick Library

**Teen Time: Popcorn and Pixar** (ages 13–18)  
January 30, 6–7 pm  
Brunswick Library

### RECURRING

**Worship Service**  
SUNDAYS, 9 am, traditional; 10:30 am, contemporary  
Jefferson United Methodist Church  
3882 Jefferson Pike

**Worship Service**  
SUNDAYS, 9:30 am  
New Hope United Methodist Church  
7 S. Maryland Ave.  
[brunswickumc.com](http://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 at [www.RootsAndRiverYoga.com/](http://www.RootsAndRiverYoga.com/) event

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

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

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

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

**Valley Quilters, all ages/levels**  
PLEASE NOTE SECOND WEDNESDAY for January  
January 8 at 6:30 pm  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Jefferson  
Contact Peggy at: [valleyquiltersTLC@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Winter Indoor Market**  
SECOND FRIDAYS  
Kaplon Building  
102 W. Potomac St.

**Worship Service**  
SATURDAYS, 6 pm  
Jefferson United Methodist Church  
3882 Jefferson Pike

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

### CITY ANNOUNCEMENT

## Clear Your Sidewalks!

One day the weather in Brunswick is beautiful, but the next day a snowstorm could be raging. Weather extremes are now common. The blizzard of January 22–23, 2016 dropped nearly 30 inches of snow on our town. And who can forget the back-to-back snowstorms known as Snowmageddon that happened over February 5–10, 2010 and caused snow drifts as high as 4 to 6 feet.

**The City of Brunswick sent this reminder about snow removal regulations and what residents can do to help keep our walkways safe:**

As we approach the winter season, please keep the following information in mind. City Code Enforcement is out and about after each snow event to make sure sidewalks remain safe and passable for all residents.

#### Title 4. Public Nuisance Offenses Section 6-2402. Enumerated Public Nuisances

##### (C) Unremoved Snow or Ice.

For purposes of this Section, unremoved snow or ice is defined as a hazardous condition resulting from an accumulation of snow or ice upon any sidewalk within the City. The owners and occupants of properties abutting a sidewalk shall:

- (1) Remove or cause the removal of snow and ice for a width of at least four feet (4') for the entire length of any sidewalk abutting their property;
- (2) Refrain from depositing or causing a deposit of removed snow or ice upon any public street, road, highway or alley;
- (3) Remove or cause the removal of snow and ice within eight hours after a snowfall or before 2:00 p.m. of the next day following a snowfall between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.; and
- (4) Be charged a removal cost in the event that the City shall have caused the removal of accumulated snow and ice upon failure of the owner and occupant to comply with the City's notification and order to remove such snow and ice.

**For more information on how to help the crew plows get their job done quickly, see City of Brunswick Facebook page or the website at [www.brunswickmd.gov](http://www.brunswickmd.gov).**



**January 8, 2025  
6–7:30 pm**

**Town of Lovettsville  
Town Chambers  
6 E. Pennsylvania Avenue  
Lovettsville**

**Start the new year on the right foot by learning how to protect yourself from fraud and scams! The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a Fraud and Scam Prevention Presentation.**

**This is a great opportunity for residents to learn about common scams targeting our community, get tips on safeguarding your personal information, and stay informed and be proactive against fraud.**