

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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Brunswick Could Soon Be Larger

Two Annexations Planned with Age-Restricted Housing

By JULIE GOURLEY

By now most Brunswick residents have heard about the pending annexations of the former Ferris and Brylawski farms south of Brunswick Crossing, and the small remaining piece of the Cooper Farm along Souder Road/ Rt. 464.

If you are wondering what exactly is going on and what these annexations will mean for Brunswick, you are not alone. It has been a long time since the city annexed land. The last time was in 2009 when the Cooper Farm was mostly, but not entirely, brought into the city's jurisdiction.

VISTA POINTE

The 57-acre Ferris Farm and the 15-acre Brylawski Farm, together with the former 113-acre Daugherty Farm, comprise what is now known as "Vista Pointe," so named by Pleasants Development, the new owner of the three contiguous farms totaling about 185 acres. The Daugherty Farm was annexed into Brunswick in 1994, so the issue is whether to annex the 72 additional acres.

In deciding whether to annex the two farms, the city is negotiating eight proffers with Pleasants Development:

1. Purchase specific numbers of water and sewer taps at specific

times (to fund upgrades to the water and wastewater treatment facilities).

2. Fix storm drainage problems through New Addition to the West End Park and direct ground and storm water away from 719 to 825 Brunswick Street.
3. Contribute \$45,000 toward development of a "western gateway plan" (small area plan) at the corner of Rte. 17 and Rte. 180.
4. Provide a mix of age-restricted (age 55+) and affordable housing types (single family, condominiums, apartments, villas, etc.) all with master suites on the first floor.
5. Comply with adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) traffic, water, and sewer requirements.



Pleasants
Vista Pointe
SCHEMATIC LAND USE BUBBLE PLAN
N.T.S.
November 05, 2023
Prepared for the City of Brunswick, Georgia

Homecoming Royalty



Jacob Genos and Taylor Fry were voted Homecoming King and Queen at Brunswick High School before the start of the Homecoming football game on October 4 at the BHS field. Brunswick won the game 21-7.

6. Design a closed section street to tie Vista Pointe to Knoxville Road, creating a four-way stop at the intersection with Brunswick Street with sidewalks to the 811 W. Potomac Street building.
7. In lieu of land for a school, transfer the 21.14 property owned by Brunswick Crossing LLC at the corner of Rte. 17 and Rte. 79 to be used for a 26,000 ft2 community/senior center (assuming a feasible path forward).
8. Comply with Potomac Edison decorative lighting requirements.

The development will have 660 age-restricted units, of which ten percent, or 66 units, will be affordably priced in perpetuity so that when a buyer eventually sells, the selling price will still be in the affordable range (affordable for someone at or below 60% of county median income). The homeowner's association

(HOA) will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the age requirement. There will be walking paths connecting to the Brunswick Crossing paths, green spaces, and covered amenities possibly including pickleball courts. The covered amenities will be for HOA members only and their guests.

Concerns of Brunswick Crossing residents

At the September 23 Planning Commission meeting on the proffers, several Brunswick Crossing residents spoke up with questions mostly about how the two back-to-back developments would be linked. Some asked that the existing vegetation (wooded) buffer between the developments be maintained. Others asked about adding a proffer on building sidewalks on West

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Brunswick Veterans Day Parade Set for November 10

By DIANE ELLIS

Every year on the Sunday before Veterans Day, Brunswick takes time to honor a courageous group of people – those who have served in the United States military. Now in its 92nd year, Brunswick's Veterans Day Parade is one of the oldest in the nation, attracting people from a great distance. The event is only one of two officially sanctioned Veterans Day regional sites in Maryland, as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The parade this year is Novem-

ber 10. The opening ceremony begins at 1:00 p.m. on a grandstand at the corner of Potomac Street and Maple Avenue with patriotic speeches and military displays. Local and state dignitaries will be there to honor the occasion.

The parade begins at 2:00 p.m., starting at City Park on East Potomac Street and running all the way through downtown and up West Potomac Street. The sights and sounds of such a large parade create excitement as a procession of marching bands, military units, fire engines, antique vehicles, floats and costumed characters go by. Everyone loves

a parade!

Potomac Street will be lined with people young and old wanting to see and cheer on parade participants who often throw candy out to the waiting crowds.

Shuan Butcher, who organizes the parade for the City of Brunswick, said there are approximately 90 parade entries this year, ranging from marching bands such as Brunswick High School to veterans and military groups. Numerous fire companies, businesses, and youth and community organizations are also participating and vying for cash prizes

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Soldiers' Circle: A Vet's View



PLUS: ANNEXATIONS, POLICE PROFILE, CEMETERIES, VOTER REGISTRATION TRENDS, NATIVE TREES, AND MORE

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BRUNSWICK NEWS

Brunswick May Be Growing: Annexations CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

Potomac Street in the vicinity of the Dollar General Store; adding traffic slowing devices given the elderly population; whether there would be a special taxing district similar to Brunswick Crossing's (unknown at this point); and how to address the impact of a larger elderly population on emergency services.

One person incorrectly stated that Brunswick Crossing water rates are higher than the rest of the city and asked if the same would apply to Vista Pointe residents (water rates are the same for all Brunswick residents; they are higher for Rosemont residents who pay at the county rate). No one spoke up objecting to any of the proffers.

The Planning Commission unanimously approved the proffers and forwarded them to the mayor and council for their decision. If they approve them, the next step would be to approve the annexation. Not approving them would cause the city to deny the annexation.

COOPER FARM

All but about 24 acres of the 150-acre Cooper Farm on Souder Road was annexed into the city in 2009. The family put a 10-year moratorium on any development on the property and that expired in 2019.

Natelli Communities has proposed a maximum 500-unit age-restricted housing development of which ten percent, or 50 units, would be affordable in perpetuity. For the development to go forward, the remaining 24 acres would need to be annexed. This annexation gives the city the authority to negotiate proffers for the entire development.

If the city decides against annexing the 24 acres, Natelli Communities could still develop the remaining 126 acres "by right." In that case, Natelli would not be required to build age-restricted housing, and the city would lose control over the design of the development.

In deciding whether to annex the additional 24 acres, the city is negotiating ten proffers with Natelli Communities:

1. Purchase specific numbers of water and sewer taps at specific times (to fund upgrades to the water and wastewater treatment facilities).
2. Enter into an agreement with Brunswick Crossing LLC to provide the required right-of-way for road improvements at the intersection of 9th Avenue, Souder Road, MD Rte. 464, and Cummings Drive and coordinate the improvements for the Cooper development accordingly.
3. Contribute \$35,000 toward development of an "eastern gateway plan" (small area plan) in the area of MD Rt. 464 and Souder Road that would include a "Welcome to Brunswick" sign on Rte. 464.
4. Provide a mix of age-restricted (age 55+) and affordable housing types (single family, condominiums, apartments, villas, etc.) all with master suites on the first floor.
5. Comply with adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) traffic, water, and sewer requirements.
6. Design a sidewalk along the north side of Souder Road with a State Highway Administration-approved crossing at 2nd Avenue including an activation device, lighted stop signs, and lighted road markers to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, golf carts and similar crossings.
7. In lieu of land for a school, work with Frederick County Public Schools to transfer to the city the 7.52-acre property located between Galyn Manor and the Cooper Farm owned by the Frederick County Board of Education for a community gathering space.
8. Comply with Potomac Edison decorative lighting requirements.
9. Explore trail connections into and through Galyn Manor to



points east including Othello Park.

10. Consider if the existing pump station at Galyn Manor could be expanded to accommodate gravity flow.

Two public meetings held

Natelli has held two public meetings about the development. The approximately 25 people in attendance at the September 22 meeting, including many residents of Rosemont, heard Tom Natelli make the presentation about the plans for development if the annexation is approved.

As with Vista Pointe, the entire project would be an age 55+ "active adult community." There would be no school building requirement and about one-third less auto traffic than unrestricted housing would bring.

The development would allow no more than four housing units per acre, though, due to wetlands and green spaces, there likely would be fewer than that. The housing mix would include single-family detached, townhouses and some multi-family buildings if costs allow (elevators are expensive and increase condo and apartment building construction costs).

Some attendees expressed concern that Natelli would eventually persuade the city to allow him to develop data centers on the Cooper property. However, as Planning Director Dell explained at the September 24 proffer workshop, that would require that Natelli seek a zoning change which would be very difficult to do.

Jackie Ebersole, a former Burgess of Rosemont, raised a concern that the additional 24-acre annexation would create an enclave of properties along Souder

Road (west of the 2nd Avenue intersection) that would be in the county but cut off from the rest of the county. Natelli said that they were allowing for a 50-foot-wide strip of land to run from those properties to county land to the north of the Cooper Farm.

Several people in the audience raised concerns about existing green spaces and continuing access to them from Rosemont. The plans for the development require that wetland areas remain undeveloped, and that forest restoration requirements will result in tree plantings throughout the area.

A walking path along the north side of Souder Road and continuing onto the west side of Point of Rocks Road will also be part of the plan.

The proffers were scheduled to come before the Planning Commission at its October 28 meeting after press time. ■

BRUNSWICK NEWS-JOURNAL

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

Veterans Day CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

awarded in various parade categories.

The keynote speaker for the opening ceremony and parade grand marshal is The Honorable Tony Woods, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans & Military Families. Secretary Woods is an Army veteran with two deployments to Iraq where he earned a Bronze Star. He continues to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves.

This year's honorary parade marshal is Charles Edward Kinney, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, Marines, and U.S. Coast Guard who served in Vietnam and received Navy Commendation.

After the parade, attendees are encouraged to attend a reception at American Legion Post 96 at 18 South Maple Ave. Food and beverages will be provided at no charge for attendees. ■

Spot the Bot!

WIN \$\$\$



There is an article in this issue of the Brunswick News-Journal that was written by Artificial Intelligence. The first three people who "Spot the Bot" and report it to Editor@BrunsNews.com will win a \$1 gold (colored) coin (pictured) and get their name and photo in the next issue of the BNJ. There are some very subtle clues to help you Spot the Bot!!

BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL

Mayor and Council October Update

By JULIE GOURLEY

The top-line items before the Brunswick Mayor and City Council these days are annexations (see separate article in this edition) and commissions and committees. With respect to the latter, the bottom line is: volunteers are needed.

Annexations

The mayor and council held two annexation workshops prior to their regular meetings, on August 13 for the Vista Pointe proffers and September 24 for the Cooper Farm proffers. "Proffers" are specific requests by the local government to a potential developer when considering annexing land. They are mostly infrastructure-related such as water and sewer service.

After many months of negotiating with developers, the Brunswick Planning Commission approved the Vista Pointe annexation application on September 23 and forwarded it to the mayor and council for consideration.

The public is able to weigh in on annexations at planning commission meetings and at public meetings called by the mayor and council. The workshops were for the purpose of ensuring the mayor and council fully understand and agree with the proffers.

Boards, Commissions, Committees — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The mayor and council urgently seek citizens to take an active role in their community by volunteering for boards, commissions and committees.

Boards and commissions are established by city ordinance and their members are appointed by the mayor. The city currently has two boards and six commissions: Board of Elections, Board of (Zoning) Appeals, Economic Development Commission, Ethics Commission, Finance and Utility Commission, History Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Planning Commission.

Committees are established less formally. There are currently three committees: emergency preparedness (currently only city staff), equity and inclusion task force, and green team/sustainability groups. The mayor and council encourage youth volunteers on all committees to ensure the city is addressing youth issues and concerns in its operations.

Director of Finance and Administration Carrie Myers said



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

"We really need lots of volunteers for all boards, commissions and committees. The time commitment is minimal – usually only one meeting per month and occasional read-ahead materials – yet the value to the entire community is huge."

The mayor and council, on the recommendation of city staff, voted to disband the Preservation and Revitalization Committee (it completed its task) and the Youth Advisory Committee because it has not met in many months, but will be re-designed into a new committee, ideally with several youth volunteers.

Interested citizens should contact Carrie Myers at (301) 834-7500 or CMyers@brunswickmd.gov. See also www.brunswickmd.gov/boardsandcommissions.

Boys and Girls Club of Frederick County

Timika Thrasher, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Frederick County, gave a presentation on this organization and what it could bring to Brunswick, particularly for kids in asset limited income constrained employed (ALICE) homes. She showed data and statistics that 39% of Brunswick homes are ALICE compared to 32% for the county as a whole. She spoke highly of Sue Blair, a former teacher and counselor here in Brunswick, with whom she is working to start things up.

The Boys and Girls Club offers activities, homework help, access to technology, college and career-readiness opportunities, and high-quality programs that help kids learn and excel in school.

The initial program in Brunswick would be an after-school service from 3-6 p.m. (when kids are most vulnerable) two to three days per week, along with summer programs from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The club would require a location that could be reliably available on the days and times needed (for example, the city

park building, a vacant commercial building, etc.) and volunteers willing to help.

The cost to enroll is \$940/child/year to cover costs which can be paid at once or through weekly, bi-weekly or monthly payment plans.

CDBG Program

The mayor and council approved a memorandum of understanding between the city and Frederick County on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Joining the county CDBG allocation that comes directly from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guarantees annual funding for Brunswick, albeit at a lower level than could be received through applications to the state Department of Housing and Community Development's allotment from HUD. State awards are highly competitive and not guaranteed. Communities cannot receive funds from both the county and the state.

The other Frederick County communities that signed onto the county allocation are Emmitsburg, Middletown, Thurmont, Woodsboro, Walkersville, Burkittsville and Rosemont. Frederick City receives its own separate CDBG funding directly from HUD.

In Other News...

- Hannah Debelius was appointed as a Canal Towns Partnership Citizen Representative replacing Walt Stull who stepped down. Debelius will serve alongside Abbie Ricketts to represent Brunswick.
- The city will purchase the storage facility at 820 Brunswick Street from the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company for \$200,000. Funding from the sale of the 20 East A Street city building will be applied to the purchase. The facility will be used by the Public

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Supporting Local Businesses Helps Our Town Prosper

As we wrap up another successful Railroad Days celebration, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every single person who made this year's event possible. From our dedicated staff and volunteers, local businesses and the visitors who traveled from near and far, your support is what makes Railroad Days the beloved community tradition it has become.

Railroad Days is more than just a festival – it's a celebration of our town's rich history, a showcase of our vibrant community spirit, and a powerful boost to our local economy. This year, we saw record attendance, with families and friends gathering to enjoy live music, delicious food, and exciting activities for all ages.

Our downtown area came alive with energy and excitement, demonstrating the enduring appeal of this cherished event. The success of Railroad Days underscores the strength and resilience of Brunswick's local businesses. Our town's unique shops, restaurants and services are the backbone of our economy, and events like Railroad Days provide a vital injection of support. As we continue to recover from the challenges of recent years, it's clear that Brunswick is thriving, thanks to the determination and creativity of our business community.

Building Blocks grant

Speaking of support for local businesses, I am thrilled to report that our Building Blocks grant program is making a real difference across Brunswick. This initiative, launched in 2022, provides critical funding to improve the health, safety and welfare of the older buildings around the city. Examples of this can be seen at



Imagination Station where funds were used to pour concrete into the basement for waterproofing and to prevent mold and mildew damage which could lead to unhealthy living conditions. Another example can be found at the Newberry building where the old windows have been replaced with new ones that are energy efficient and increase safety.

The funds from the Building Blocks program are being used to invest in the long-term success of Brunswick's commercial core. Since its inception the program has funded \$528,800 to approved projects. Much of this money was provided by State and Federal funding that was passed on to us. By supporting our local businesses in this tangible way, we are helping to ensure a vibrant and prosperous future for our town.

As we look ahead, let's build on the momentum of Railroad Days and the success of the Building Blocks program. Let's continue to come together as a community to support our local businesses, celebrate our heritage, and create a Brunswick that we can all be proud of.

Thank you again to everyone who made Railroad Days 2024 such a resounding success. I'm honored to serve as your mayor and look forward to seeing the great things we'll achieve together in the days and months to come. ■

— Nathan Brown

Works Department for equipment storage.

- The mayor and council approved a Memorandum of Agreement with Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services to place a naloxone vending machine in the train station. Naloxone is free to the public and council members urged all households to take a few naloxone kits and keep one in cars so that everyone can help save a life in an emergency. Fire and Rescue is responsible for the vending machine and will keep it stocked.
- The Maryland Department of Transportation/ Maryland Transit Administration is planning a major reconfiguration of the

MARC train parking lot when funding becomes available.

- The city won a lawsuit to force the demolition of the modular home at 1043 Peach Orchard Lane. The owner wanted to build a nursery on the property but had gone into foreclosure. The modular home had fallen into disrepair such that demolition was the only viable solution.
- Pleasants Development and Frederick Primary Care Associates have reached agreement to move the new medical facility to the commercial area across from the Dunkin Donuts commercial strip. The majority of Brunswick Crossing residents had asked for this change of location. ■

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BRUNSWICK NEWS

Smoketown Brewing Station Sold

By MARK ROHNER

Brunswick's Smoketown Brewing Station has new owners.

The self-described "blue collar craft" brewery was sold in September to Amy Dudrow and Todd A. Vaughn. The sale price, according to public records, was \$1.2 million.

Dave Blackmon, who opened Smoketown in the old Brunswick fire station in 2016, listed the business for sale earlier this year as he concentrated on a new venture, Hub City Brewing in Hagerstown. Dudrow and Vaughn came forward as prospective buyers, but negotiations broke off in June and Blackmon took Smoketown off the market and announced plans to expand it himself.

Later, talks between the two sides resumed, leading to a deal that closed on Sept. 23. The sale



Smoketown Brewing Station at 223 W. Potomac Street

includes the brewery, bar and restaurant, the Smoketown beer brands and the 8,000-square-foot Cannon's event space on the upper level of the building. Public records list the buyer as Arrow Catcher LLC, a company Vaughn

organized in June with an address in Ijamsville.

Dudrow and Vaughn declined requests for an interview with the Brunswick News-Journal and did not respond to emailed questions. ■

Police Cadets Get Their Groove On



The 2024 class of Brunswick Police Cadets. The more advanced are in uniform; the newcomers in civilian clothes.

By JULIE GOURLEY

By the look of things, you would never know that the current class of Brunswick Police Cadets was not a set of brand-new officers. In their crisp new uniforms standing at attention, these middle school/high school youth look every bit the part.

The Brunswick Police Cadet Program is a relatively new, reworked Explorer Post program from several years back. Officer Chad Marshall brought the Cadet Program to life in 2022 to give kids with an interest in the public safety professions an opportunity to experience police work up close.

They wear police-like uniforms (purchased at each cadet's own expense), go on patrols with officers, assist with special events (traffic control, parking assistance), attend monthly

classroom training, and practice public speaking and other life skills. They must always practice good behavior and high moral character (not just when involved in cadet functions) and must maintain a 2.0 grade point average.

The 2024 class is currently 14 strong and split about evenly between boys and girls.

At the September cadet session, four new cadets joined in the classroom learning experience for the first time and observed the more advanced cadets practice proper handcuffing. Applying a handcuff to a person under arrest is not as easy as it looks. You must hold the arrestee's hands in a certain way to avoid wriggling out; ensure the cuff openings are neither too large nor too small; use the correct side of cuff when "slapping" onto the wrist or it won't snap on (and could hurt

mightily!); and be able to access the cuffs quickly among all the other pieces of equipment in a typical police vest. It may sound easy, but it's tricky and definitely takes practice.

Cadets must also be in good physical shape: able to do push-ups, run around a track, get in and out of a police cruiser seamlessly, know how to properly turn their bodies to maximize sight in any situation, maintain a healthy weight, and more.

The cadets are very visible. They most recently served at Railroad Days, at a cadet fundraiser hosted by the American Legion, and at the Trunk or Treat event. They will also serve this month at the Milt Frech Mile, the Veteran's Day Parade and in December at Wreaths Across America where they will help with traffic control at Park Heights Cemetery. ■

BEHIND THE BADGE

Senior Patrol Officer Eric Bittner



JULIE GOURLEY

Senior Patrol Officer Eric Bittner

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

BPD Captain Andy Crone said, "It benefits everyone to build relationships with the community. We can't be everywhere all the time, and we need the public's help so that we can help the public. We want the citizens of Brunswick to feel comfortable calling us when the need arises or when they have information that might help us prevent a bad situation or solve a crime."

By JULIE GOURLEY

Senior Patrol Officer Eric Bittner's advice to everyone is, "Don't make excuses and blame others for your bad decisions. Own your mistakes and learn from them."

Officer Bittner joined the BPD in 2009 and is the second longest serving officer on the force. He is currently assigned to patrol operations, which means that

you will probably see him around town in his cruiser at some point.

His background includes service in both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. He graduated from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) with a degree in forestry and a minor in biology.

Before joining the BPD, Officer Bittner served as an officer in the Cumberland City Police Department. ■

BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Maryland State Citations	36	140	16	174
Maryland State SEROS	6	51	0	17
Warning Citations	81	707	51	674
Parking Citations (paper)	4	50	4	47

CRIME REPORT				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Calls for Service	739	8,052	1,068	9,397
Homicide	0	1	0	0
Rape	0	2	0	3
Robbery	0	1	0	0
Assault	3	67	14	124
Breaking & Entering	0	8	3	8
Theft	2	33	4	21
Auto Theft	0	2	2	4
Adult Arrests	9	68	9	75
Juvenile Arrests	1	24	0	29

OTHER INCIDENTS				
	Month	YTD	PY Month	PY YTD
Motor Vehicle Accidents	12	102	8	84
Emergency Evaluations Mentally Ill/Suicidal Persons	11	67	3	38
Overdoses	1	10	0	4

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)



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114 Brunswick Elementary Students Could Move to Valley Elementary Next Year

By JULIE GOURLEY

The new Brunswick Elementary School (BES) was overcrowded before it even opened. The total state-rated capacity is 725 students. The latest figures show total enrollment of 772 for the 2023–24 school year.

Valley Elementary School (VES) in Jefferson was also over capacity last school year. Its state-rated capacity is 499 and had a total enrollment of 504.

Fortunately, the new Valley Elementary School will be under capacity when it opens for the 2025–26 school year. It is estimated to open at 73% of its capacity with 220 seats available. Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) is proposing to balance the enrollment between the two elementary schools to relieve overcrowding at BES.

Options being studied

FCPS hired a consultant to do a study and make recommendations on which areas — indicated through “planning blocks” — to shift out of the BES area into VES.

Planning blocks 5, 66, 11, 65, 12, and 48 on the map, encompassing 114 children in Rosemont and Galyn Manor, were selected based on a number of factors including keeping neighborhoods and contiguous areas together as much as possible. This is known as the “draft option” and will not be finalized until after public input and further consideration by the Board of Education (BoE).

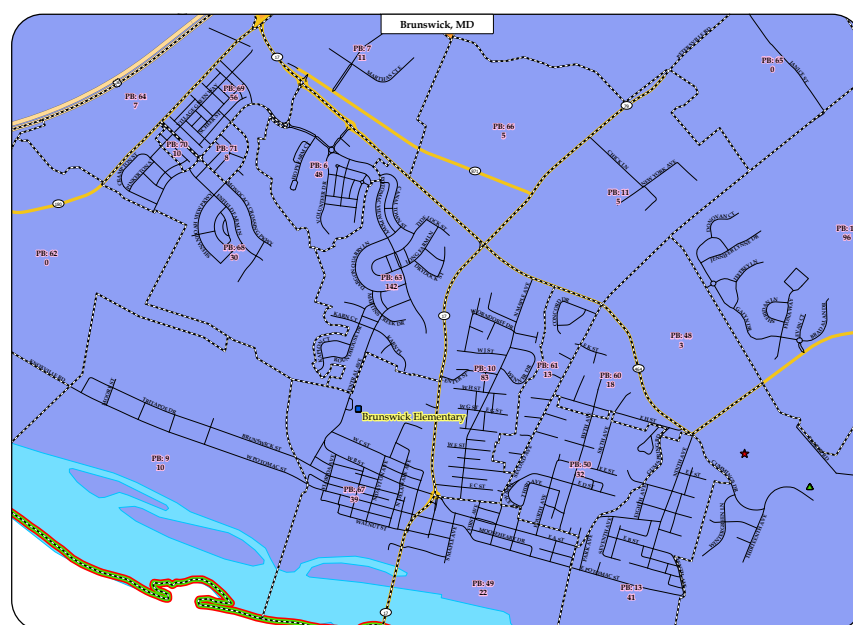
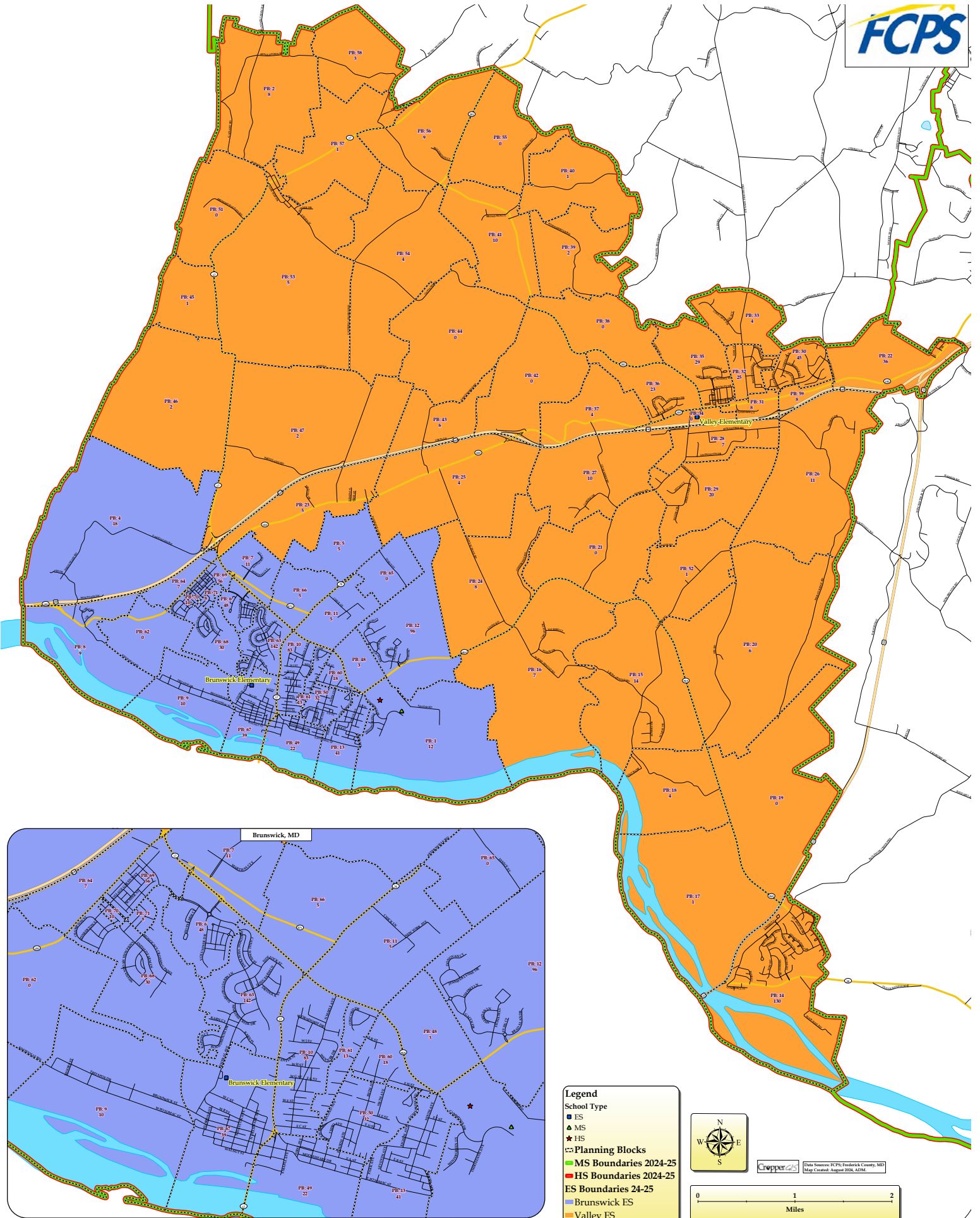
According to the study, moving these students to VES would not increase transportation costs and would not move any students that live within walking distance of their school. Demographic changes are very low, and five-year projections show a stable population (within 2%) in both schools.

FCPS has held four public meetings so far, two on August 28th (one virtual, one in person at BES) and October 17 (one virtual, one in person at BES). The August 28 meetings did not include the draft option but focused on the study itself. The October 17 meetings were for the purpose of presenting the draft option and getting initial public reaction.

Low public input so far

Only two parents attended the October 17 in person meeting. One expressed relief that her children will continue attending BES, although her house is on the dividing line and she fears the line could move, sending her kids to VES. The other parent expressed skepticism that the Cooper Farm project, which is inside the draft option area, will remain age-restricted and that if unrestricted housing is built, VES quickly would become overcrowded.

When asked about other public reaction they have heard so far, presenters Matt Cropper of Cropper GIS (the consultant) and Beth Pasierb, Supervisor of Facilities Planning at FCPS, said that most people have expressed general comments such as liking or not liking the plan, but not much concrete that they can use.



More opportunities for public comment

A general feedback form that is monitored and checked regularly is open until November 3 at: www.vesbesredistrict.com. Any input provided that helps to better adhere to the redistricting study factors established by the BoE will be considered. FCPS asks responders to state the planning block they live in when providing comments.

The public will have further opportunities to speak to the BoE, at its December 11 work session and at a January 22, 2025 public hearing. BoE expects to make its final decision at its February 12, 2025 meeting and to implement the plan starting with the 2025-26 school year. ■

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BRUNSWICK NEWS

Bird City Brunswick Earns Certification



Bird City Brunswick receives certification. From left: Jeff Scarmazzi, Sarah Frost, Pamela Kellett from Bird City Maryland. Abbie Ricketts, Joe Eberly, Bob Schwartz, Barb Kemerer (committee leader) and Ellen Kinser-Schwartz from Bird City Brunswick.

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

The newly affirmed Bird City Brunswick group recently received “high flyer” certification from Bird City Maryland. Brunswick is one of 11 communities in Maryland to be certified and the third in Frederick County, following Frederick City and Middletown.

The Brunswick group has been working for a year to reach the goals needed for the certification. Bird City Maryland’s Pamela Kellett presented the certificate at the tree planting on October 13.

The Bird City Maryland mission is to encourage all communities, including campuses, in Maryland “to make communities healthier for birds and for people.” The group’s actions are organized in four categories:

1. Create, protect, and restore bird habitat
2. Address threats to birds

3. Engage people in birding and conservation
4. Encourage sustainable practices.

Eric Stuyck, Bird City Brunswick member and local photographer, presented the group with a framed photograph of a Belted Kingfisher. As the result of nearly 300 votes submitted over the past months, the Belted Kingfisher has been chosen as the official Bird City Brunswick bird.

Bird City Brunswick has hosted several bird walks this year, including a recent one on the C&O Canal where 18 species of birds were identified. The group also held a well-attended Native Garden Tour in August with six local gardens open and nearly 70 participants. A Migratory Bird Day Festival is being planned for next year.

For more information about Bird City Brunswick, email bird-citybrunswick@gmail.com or visit birdcitybrunswick.org.



The belted kingfisher was voted the official bird of Bird City Brunswick.

Senior Center Happenings

By **JEAN DOYLE**

Memory Cafe — Brunswick Senior Center, along with the Frederick County Division of Aging & Independence and the Alzheimer’s Association, sponsors a Circle of Friends Memory Café on Fourth Fridays, 11:30–1 p.m. at the Brunswick Senior Center, 12 E. A St.

The Memory Café is a safe and relaxed place where people with early-stage memory loss, their families and friends can come together for social interactions and companionship. Pre-registration is required by calling 301-600-6022 or email caregiversupport@frederickcountymd.gov. The next Café meeting is Friday, Nov. 22.

A **Caregiver Support Group** meets two times per month: an in-person at the Frederick Senior Center, 1440 Taney Ave., Frederick, at 11 a.m.–12 p.m. on the last Friday of each month; and a virtual meeting is held on the second Thursday of the month from 6–7 p.m. Contact: CaregiverSupport@FrederickCountyMD.gov, or 301-600-6022 for more information.

Trips offered in November and December

Friday, Nov. 22 — visit Emmanuel Episcopal Church located in Cumberland. The church is over 100 years old and contains three Tiffany windows, religious artifacts and a passageway that was once part of the Underground Railway, along with historic photos and a diorama of Fort Cumberland. Time 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. The trip leaves from Frederick Senior Center. Cost is \$25 plus bring \$10 for the cost of the tour and bring money for lunch. Register by Friday, Nov. 8.

Sunday, Dec. 8 — Totem Pole Playhouse revives its perennial holiday tradition of presenting a production of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol at the Majestic Theater for the Gettysburg Christmas Festival. Time: 12:30 – 6 p.m. Cost is \$55 per person. Bring a snack for the ride back, as we will not stop for a meal. Leaves from the Frederick Senior Center. Register by Nov. 22.

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

Brunswick Senior Center November Highlights

Monthly Dinner Dance — 2nd Thursday each month, Nov. 14, at the Brunswick Eagles, 401 Central Ave. Dance at 2 p.m. Dinner at 4 p.m. Cost is \$12 per person. Pre-register at Brunswick Senior Center or online.

Special Lunch Bunch — Tuesday, Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving Meal at noon. Please reserve a week in advance. Voluntary contributions toward meal cost are appreciated. To reserve call 301-834-8115.

Mondays, 2:30–3:30 at Brunswick Library, Knotty Knit Picky Intergenerational Yarn Arts Group — Learn to knit or crochet, teach others, share your skills and socialize.

Monday, Nov. 18, 1:30–3:30, Painting in a Day, Fall Pumpkins, enjoy a fun and creative afternoon painting with friends, all supplies provided.

Monday, Nov. 26, Trivia, 11 a.m. Free, Pre-register at 301-834-8115.

1st Tuesday of Nov. at 11 a.m., Fire and Rescue Program and Blood Pressure Screenings. November is Holiday Safety, Free, Drop-In.

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m., Crafts with Michelle, Candy Cane Countdown, pre-register 301-834-8115, \$1 per session.

Wednesday, Nov. 13, Diamond Dot Fun, 1–3 p.m., \$5 per session, pre-register 301-834-8115.

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 1:45 p.m., Kitchen Kapers, Live from Cathy’s Personal Kitchen, Green Beans with Apples/Sage Butter, Virtual, pre-register 301-834-8115.

Thursdays, Bingo, 10–11:30 a.m., Free, pre-register.

Thursday, Nov. 7, Lunch Out with Friends at Penny’s Diner, pre-register 301-834-8115, bring money for lunch.

Thursday, Nov. 21, 1-2 p.m., Nutritional Program with Weis Market Nutritionist, Diabetes Store Tour, Free, pre-register 301-834-8115.

Brunswick Exercise Programs

Line Dancing: Mondays, 10–11 a.m., at the Brunswick Eagles, \$35 for the Fall Session, Register at the eStore or at the Brunswick 50+ Community Center.

Strength and Stretch Hybrid, Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 9–10 a.m., \$35 for 1 day per session, \$70 for two days per session, register at the eStore or at the Brunswick 50+ Community Center.

Pickleball, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9–11 a.m., at the Brunswick City Park Tennis and Pickleball Courts, play for fun and exercise, all skill levels welcomed, free drop-in.

A Note for Veterans

Veterans Coffee Social. Join other service members, veterans and their families for a social hour with light refreshments. Veterans Advisory Council Coordinator, Michaela Browne, will share information about resources available to Frederick County Veterans and their families.

Friday, Nov. 22, 9–10 a.m. at the Frederick 50+ Community Center, Free, drop-in and/or Friday, Nov. 15, 10-11 a.m. at the Middletown Center, Free, drop-in.

Resource Directory Available

Frederick County Division of Aging and Independence publishes a resource guide for older adults, persons with disabilities, families, caregivers, baby boomers and professionals. An electronic copy is available on our website: www.FrederickCountyMd.gov/DAI

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
The Honorable Anthony Woods, Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Parade 2:00 P.M.
MAPLE & POTOMAC STREETS



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BRUNSWICK NEWS

Party Registration Losing Ground in Brunswick Area

By MARK ROHNER

A much-changed electorate will be casting ballots at Brunswick-area polling places Nov. 5.

In older Brunswick city neighborhoods, as well as newer subdivisions and rural areas, Democrats and Republicans are both losing ground as more and more voters decline to affiliate with either party.

That's the takeaway from an analysis of state and county voter registration figures for the two Brunswick-area voting precincts. The area's shifting political makeup comes amid changing demographics as developments such as Brunswick Crossing and Galyn Manor have attracted new residents and boosted the local population.

Growth in unaffiliated voters

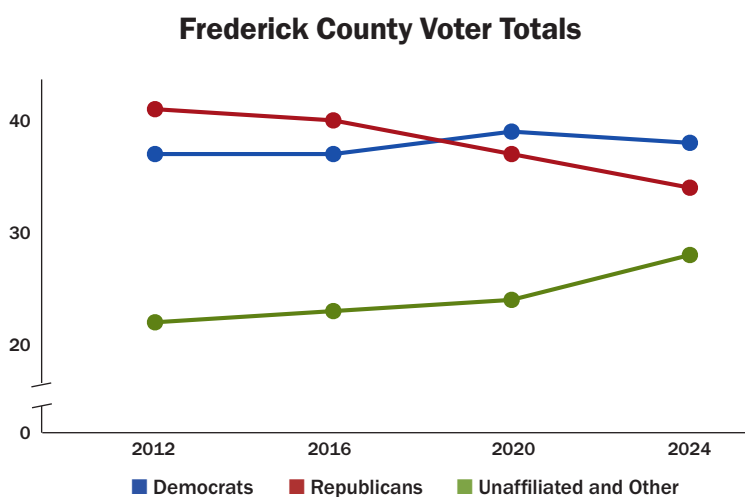
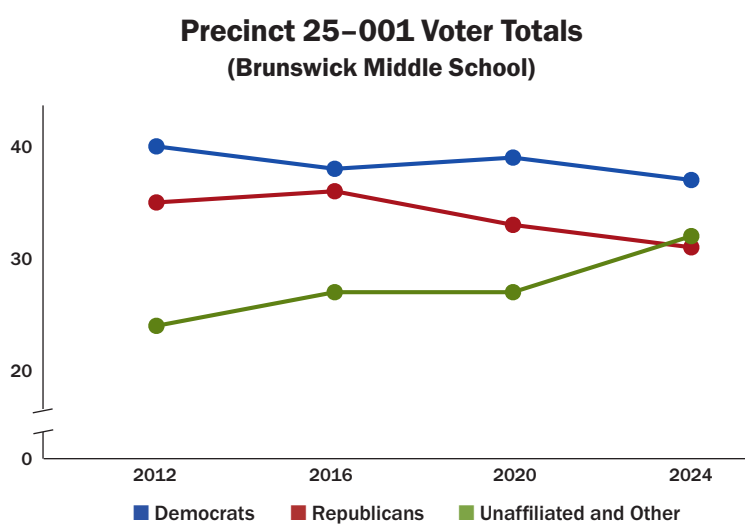
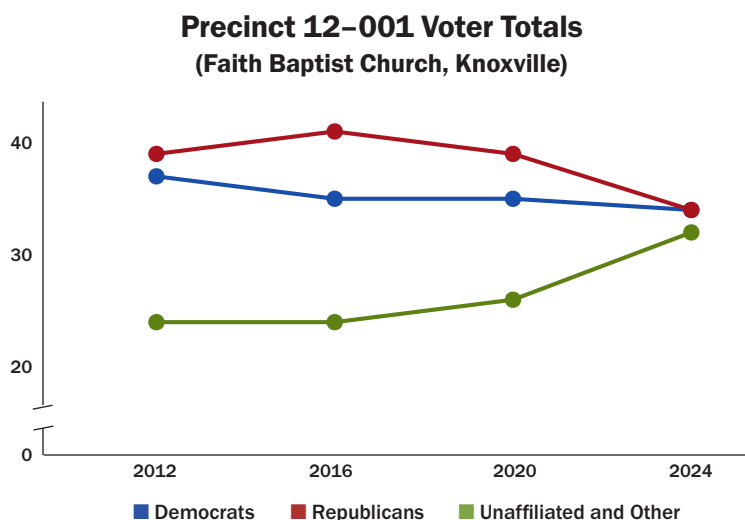
In the Brunswick city precinct, voting at Brunswick Middle School, Democrats still dominate, as they have traditionally. But they are slipping. In 2012, registered Democrats constituted 40 percent of eligible voters in this precinct. That's down to 37 percent this year. Republicans have lost ground too, going from 35 percent to 31 percent, and they are now outnumbered by voters who have no party affiliation or are registered with third parties.

Democrats and Republicans are both losing ground as more and more voters decline to affiliate with either party.

The picture is a little different in outlying areas that make up the precinct voting at Faith Baptist Church on Jefferson Pike. In this area, where Republicans once enjoyed an edge, the major parties are now on equal footing, each with about a third of registrations, while the remaining third are unaffiliated or with minor parties.

This precinct takes in the newer Brunswick neighborhoods of Galyn Manor and Brunswick Crossing, as well as Rosemont, Petersville, Knoxville and New Addition. In this precinct, the number of eligible voters has almost doubled since 2012 and today roughly equals the number of voters in "old" Brunswick.

In the 2020 presidential election, Joe Biden and Donald Trump were essentially tied in this precinct, with Biden getting 1,219 votes to Trump's 1,216. That represented a big shift from four years earlier, when Trump carried the precinct with 861 votes to Hillary Clinton's 583. There was an even more pronounced shift in "old" Brunswick. There, in the 2020 election, Biden got 1,387 votes



FOR ALL GRAPHS ABOVE: Percentage totals may not add due to rounding. Source: Frederick County Board of Elections, Maryland State Board of Elections

to Trump's 1,231. Four years earlier, Trump outpolled Clinton 963 to 703.

Similar shift in the county as a whole

Mary Lou Green, who served 22 years as a Republican on the Frederick County Board of Elections, 16 of them as president, said the shift in local voting patterns reflects the changing makeup of the county as a whole.

"When I started in 2002, the Republicans had 11,000 more than the Democrats," she said. Now, Democrats outnumber Republicans by almost the same number. The county's 54,245 independent voters this year represent a gain from just 3,000 back in 2002, said Green, who formerly resided in Rosemont.

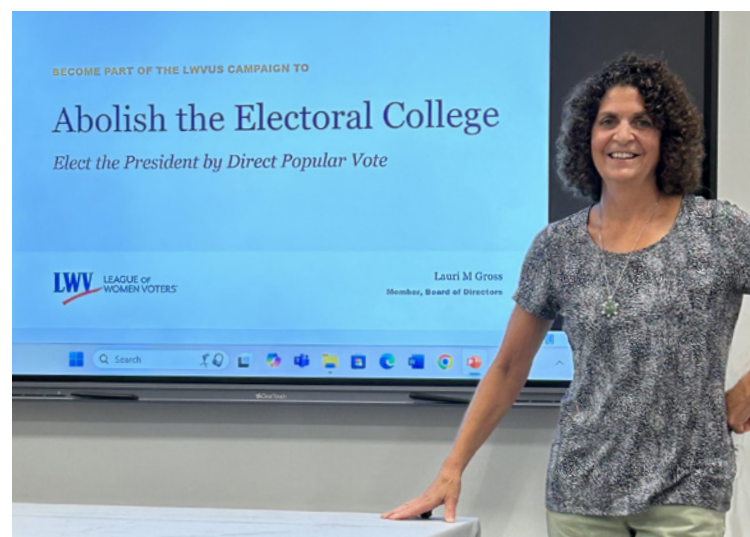
What's made the difference? "See, you've got all those people

moving up from Montgomery County," where Democrats dominate. Another factor: "The ones that are fed up with elections, so they're probably independents," Green said. "The unfortunate thing with the independents is that in the primary where you're picking the persons for the November elections, you can't vote, not in the state of Maryland."

When Frederick County was dominated by Republicans, the outlying areas around Brunswick closely reflected the county as a whole, Green said. The Democratic-voting city of Brunswick was a little different, in part owing to the city's blue-collar history as a railroad town. "A lot of people registered to vote the same way their parents did," Green said. "And probably to some extent today, that's the way it is." ■

Should the Electoral College be Abolished?

The League of Women Voters says YES



LWVFC board member Lauri Gross presents a talk on the Electoral College.

A talk was held at the Brunswick Library on September 18 about abolishing the Electoral College. Representing the League of Women Voters of Frederick County (LWVFC), Board Member Lauri Gross spoke about the role of the Electoral College in U.S. elections.

In the talk, Gross explained that the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) has advocated since 1970 for a Constitutional Amendment that would abolish the Electoral College in favor of a direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President. The presentation by Gross was based on LWVUS research.

The Electoral College consists of 538 electors chosen by state legislatures, who elect the U.S. President and Vice President. The number of each state's electors is equal to the number of that state's representatives in Congress plus one elector for each senator.

To become president, a candidate must win over 50 percent of the electoral votes, which currently stands at 270. Most states use a winner-take-all approach and assign all their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote in the state. Only Nebraska and Maine assign their electoral votes in proportion to popular votes.

Problems with the Electoral College

The League cites many problems with the Electoral College. For instance, four times in our history, including twice since 2000, the candidates who won the popular vote lost the election because they didn't win 270 electoral votes. Also, because each state gets two electoral votes based on their two senators, those two electoral votes from states with smaller populations carry the same weight as two electoral votes from states with larger populations.

Another problem is that candidates focus mainly on swing states today because electoral votes in other states are not up for grabs.

Myths about the Electoral College

Gross also busted myths about the Electoral College such as the idea that, without the Electoral College, presi-

dents would be chosen by a few big states. In truth, a candidate would need the majority of votes in at least 30 states to win the popular vote.

Also, the total number of registered voters in the nation's 50 largest cities is equal to only about 15 percent of the nation's total registered voters, so a candidate could not win the national popular vote by appealing to only a few big cities, another popular myth.

One Person, One Vote System More Popular

More than 63 percent of Americans are interested in abolishing the Electoral College and moving to a one person, one vote sys-

The League cites many problems with the Electoral College. For instance, four times in our history, including twice since 2000, the candidates who won the popular vote lost the election.

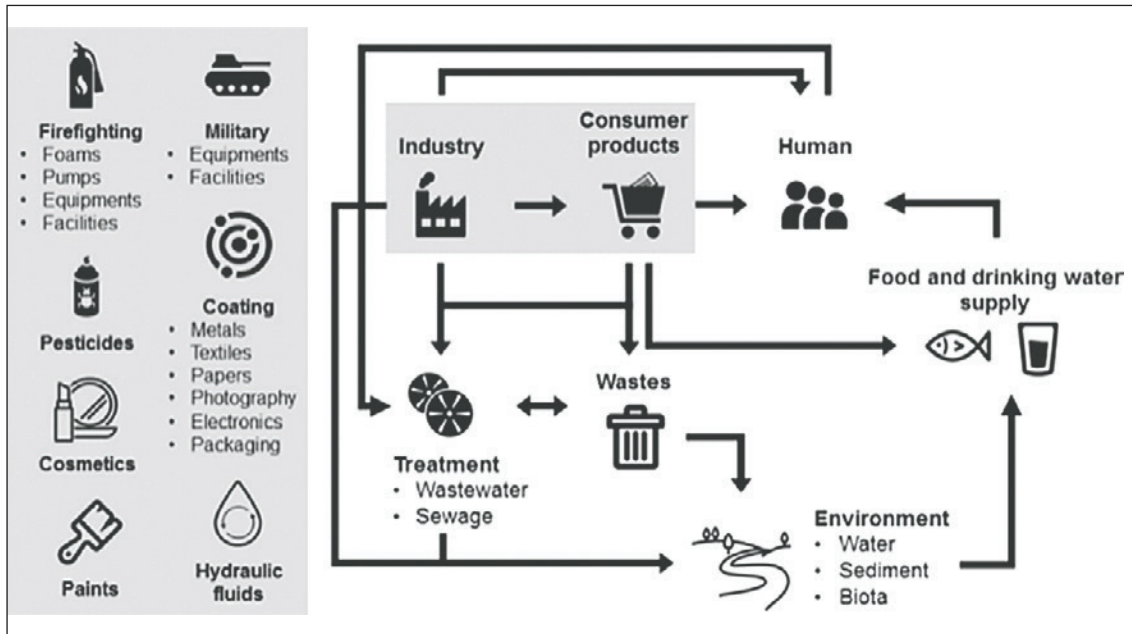
tem, even though doing so will require a Constitutional Amendment.

In the meantime, 17 states plus the District of Columbia have signed the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, in which they pledge to award their electoral votes to whichever candidate wins the national popular vote. Currently, this group represents 209 electoral votes. Once the states in the compact collectively represent at least 270 electoral votes, the compact will kick in and effectively usher in an era of one person, one vote, even if the Electoral College is not yet abolished by Constitutional Amendment.

LWVFC President Kate Jones stated, "While voting is the first step to ensuring that citizens' voices are heard, even more important is for every vote to count equally, and the best way to do that is with a one person, one vote system and not through the Electoral College." ■

Forever Chemicals

What Are They and Why Are They in Our Water?



By JEAN TOLEMAN

Valley Elementary School is one of eight Frederick County schools found to have PFAS levels above the federal standard that will come into effect in 2029. PFAS and PFOA are forever chemicals and are found more often in well water, which is the source of Valley Elementary's water. Due to this, students at Valley now are given bottled water to drink, according to Brandon Oland, Communications Manager for Frederick County Public Schools.

"The water can be used for hand washing and other non-consumable uses and bottled water is being provided to drink," Oland stated. The new Valley Elementary School will have a different source of water, according to Oland.

What are "Forever" Chemicals?

Scientists back in the 1940s created chemicals that were believed to be the answers to so many of our persistent questions, such as: How can we put fires out without water? How can I keep my carpet from being stained? How can I keep my mascara from running when I go swimming? Being amazing scientists, they answered these life-helping and life-saving questions and continue to do it. Only problem is, some of these chemicals have been found to have life-harming properties.

PFOA (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) is in the category of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), the more prominent compounds associated with plastic pollution. Because of their chemical stability they have received the moniker 'forever' chemicals. Because of their structural similarity to key biological compounds such as hormones, they are also potentially powerful mimicking agents and disruptors of our endocrine system. This is the system that signals much about what goes on in our bodies, including growth, development and regulation of metabolism.

Is Water the Only Place where Forever Chemicals are Found?

Over 4000 compounds belong to this class of chemicals and

are utilized by industry. Evidence of their negative impact on life has been accumulating for many years. As the products from our "plastic age" get discarded, washed away and burned, they are ending up in our water, soil and air. On a daily basis, we are exposed to them in the wrappings on our fast food carry-out, cosmetics, waterproof rain gear and cookware.

When forever chemicals get in our bodies, our metabolic systems don't know what to do with them. Like lead, mercury and other chemicals from our industrial environment, they end up being stored. Higher levels in our bodies cause immune and reproductive problems, cancers and liver and heart troubles.

Controlling the Problem

PFAS contamination from water is a big concern. Unlike lead, which is in the pipes and fixtures of water systems and can be removed, PFAS is in the water itself. This past April, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established "allowable" levels for six of the PFAS in drinking water. Public water systems have until 2027 to adhere to monitoring these levels and 2029 to fix the systems. It is expected this will prevent PFAS exposure in drinking water for approximately 100 million people.

Maryland has collected PFAS level data from over 450 community water systems, supplying 90% of the state's population. EPA is providing \$125 million to Maryland over five years to address PFAS pollution in public water systems. Frederick County has put out bids to companies to test well water at schools; however, no company has indicated interest at this time.

Brunswick gets its water from the Potomac River and Yourtee Springs. Matt Campbell, Water and Wastewater Treatment Specialist for Brunswick, said they have followed the EPA guidelines for water testing and that both sources had less than 1 ppt. (one part per thousand). The EPA standard is less than 4 ppt.

"We were more concerned about Yourtee Springs because it is ground water and that is

where forever chemical levels tend to be higher," Campbell stated. "But it was low. We have been proactive and tested the water every quarter, but since it has remained almost non-detectable, we will start testing just once a year."

Should you switch to bottled water? There are no federal regulations for PFAS in bottled water yet. Here in Brunswick, since the water is testing safe, you can drink it without concern. If you are on well water, you may want to get it tested. If it is found to be high, consider using a water filter that is certified to lower the levels of PFAS.

There are simple changes you can make to reduce your exposure to PFAS & PFOA.

- Forever chemicals are used in fast food wrappings. Transfer the food out of the packaging as soon as possible and never reheat foods in takeout containers.
- Some restaurants have started phasing out PFAS packaging. These include Wendy's and Chipotle. Chick-Fil-A has a policy of no PFAS in all food contact materials.
- Avoid microwave popcorn bags; switch to bulk kernels and pop in an air popper.
- Water-resistant clothing and stain- and water-resistant fabrics, carpeting and furniture contain PFAS. Look for brands that have a no PFAS policy.
- Cosmetics contain PFAS. Avoid water-resistant products and products with "fluoro-" in the ingredient list.
- Most nonstick cookware contains a product that is a type of PFAS. Nonstick products will release less PFAS if properly used. Don't scrape them with metal utensils or abrasive cleaners. Don't overheat them when cooking. Consider switching to enamel or ceramic-coated pans or cast iron.
- Change the filters on your heating and cooling units as recommended. Dust with a damp cloth or mop, use a HEPA filter in the vacuum. PFAS is in dust.

To learn more about what products contain PFAS, go to pfascentral.org/pfas-free-products/ for lists of PFAS free products. ■

Jean Toleman is a Registered Dietician (retired) who has worked in the area of diet and nutrition for over 30 years.

Native Tree Planting in Brunswick

By ABBIE RICKETTS

On Sunday, October 13, more than 30 volunteers converged behind the Food Bank Annex Building on East Potomac Street to plant native trees on the steeply sloped land behind the building.

The workday was organized and planned by Sarah Frost, Bob Schwartz, Ellen Kinser Schwartz and other members of Bird City Brunswick, along with City of Brunswick Public Works staff and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Volunteers from Smoketown Rotary Club assisted as well.

Abby Hall, GIS and Environmental Program Manager for Brunswick, said that Director of Public Works John Gerstner applied for the Chesapeake Bay Trust — Urban Trees Grant Program and the city was awarded \$15,600. This grant amount plus the city in-kind match of \$13,440 brought the project total to \$29,040.

81 Native Fruit or Flowering Trees

The city was able to purchase and plant 81 native fruit or flowering trees. In addition to the Food Bank location, trees will be planted near City Park Building and next to the basketball courts across the street. Last week, DPW bored the holes for the root balls. Future planting locations under this award include the baseball fields and steep slope areas along Cummings Drive.

The trees provide multiple benefits including shade, habitat, pollinator support, and the opportunity for the community to pick fruit from the fruiting-type trees. Trees planted

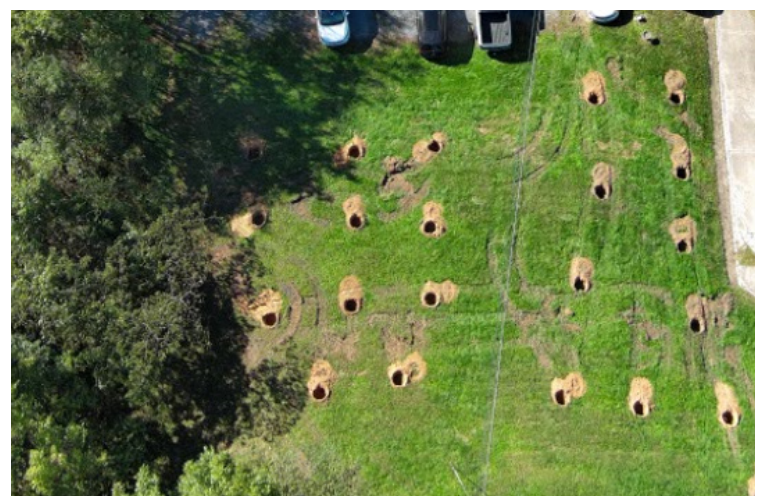


DNR Staff Anna Twigg and Bird City Brunswick member Bob Schwartz demonstrate the correct way to plant a tree.

along the hillside will also reduce the amount of mowing that is needed on the steep slope behind the Annex, which can be tricky and unsafe to mow. This (and other) tree planting projects are creditable towards the City's MS4 program Restoration and Public Participation goals as well as the State of Maryland's 5 Million Trees initiative.

There were 23 species purchased including these:

- American Plum
- Highbush Blueberry and Huckleberry
- American Hazelnut
- Common Persimmon
- Tulip poplar
- Black Gum
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Paw Paw ■



Holes were bored for tree root balls behind the Food Bank.

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OPINION

PUBLISHER'S EDITORIAL

'May you live in interesting times'

That title is said to be an ancient Chinese curse, presumably because "interesting" times are scarier than other times – usually due to war, plagues, and other social upheavals.

To many, we are living in an "interesting" time. However, after the results of the Nov. 5 election are known, it is our duty as American citizens to accept the results (unless there is clear proof accepted by a court that an election was not fair, in which case, times will get very "interesting" indeed).

While there may be bickering about those results, one thing is certain: life in our local communities will go on much as it has before. If your neighbor lost a pet, you will keep an eye out for it; the local volunteer ambulance and fire companies do not check for political beliefs before responding to an emergency; people in our communities who have difficulties can rely on local churches or organizations like the Emergency Relief Fund to help out.

We are very fortunate in Brunswick and Lovettsville to have local government elected by non-partisan elections. The reason for that is the decisions that these officials make are not based on ideology, but on practical concerns.

Don't worry, there will be plenty of opportunity to complain and criticize, but if you don't like how the system works, please suggest an alternative.

In the meantime, it's our local communities that keep us going day to day. ■

How to send a Letter to the Editor

Letters intended for publication should be emailed to 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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rustic Roads

The scenery outside right now is majestic. The leaves have turned and for a few short weeks the Beauty of the Season — Autumn, is here! And it won't be here for long. Get out and enjoy it while it lasts! Bring home a pumpkin and maybe a few red/gold leaves.

If you need some road suggestions, check out Friends of Rural Roads website: www.ruralroadsfrederick-md.org. Also the Exceptionally Rustic Roads and the Candidate Roads — eligible to become Rustic Roads in the new County Rustic Roads Program — are shown on a map at the County website: www.frederickcountymd.gov, Boards and Commissions, Rustic Roads Commission, map.

Now, put the paper down, put on your jacket, and go! Happy Trails!

— Susan Hanson, Jefferson

The Soldiers' Circle

Veterans' Day is November 11. This article was submitted to the Brunswick News-Journal by a veteran in response to the story last month about the mysterious soldier statues that recently appeared in the new traffic circle on Petersville Road.

By ARIEL "GONZO" GONZALEZ

They are small. Jokes arise about them, or no observations as the driver passes. Who are they? The Forward Observer, the Battle Buddy, and the Fallen. These are identifiers of the American Soldier. As I glance further, it looks like they invaded a traffic circle that connects Brunswick Crossing and Brunswick at the corner of Center Street and Petersville Road.

The Forward Observer closely monitors activity surrounding the circle, and his two companions look like they are silently departing the battlefield. However, why are they there? They noticeably represent loyalty, duty, respect, selflessness, honor, integrity, and personal courage, which

are the values that the Army holds so dear, the bedrock of our nation's defense, and a source of pride for Americans.

Nevertheless, the transparency of the Army's values is only as Andrew Bacevich, a scholar of military studies, once stated that military ethos and the prerogatives and responsibilities due to Soldiers as members of a distinctive and largely self-regulating profession becomes the price that society pays to purchase military deference to civilian authority. Still, it does not explain the story of the Soldiers' Circle. It only encourages memories and times of honor.

Honor is when our Soldiers and Veterans, throughout many



ELIUS BURRUS

generations, must deal with a system of conscription, volunteers, heritage, and tremendous expectations. I hear much of that here in Brunswick and its characterization, yet there are reasons beyond the norms, ideologies, or economic challenges to join or draft into the Army. Lately, recruiters tried to mask it all with the sense of adventure, the promise of a college education, and an amenity of different benefits.

However, some of us want to be Soldiers because we want to grow up to be ethical beings beyond misunderstanding, pessimism, isolationism, and fear of unacceptance. We go for *esprit de corps*, the bonding of tradition and ritual of warriors, the initiations, rites of passage, and the team. So, with that insight, the profession is a culture within itself, apart from society, that is a deeply rooted structure binding a civilization, thinking in a certain way and reinforcing behavioral techniques, tactics, and procedures, exemplifying the definition of service.

These Service Members became our most significant contributors because, in many ways, they continue to serve the public. In peers, Veterans sent letters of recognition and remembrance of Brunswick natives George Wilson and Sterling Lee Ambrose and pushed the Department of Defense for their honorably due commemorations. These two cousins disappeared in their transport off the Irish coastline 73 years ago. In these moments, no one had donned their uniforms for a long time, yet they continued serving in the highest capacity expected of others who had not come home.

Through art, study, attendance

Continued on page 11



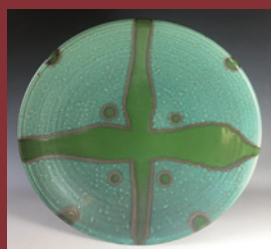
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FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

As November arrives, we look forward to the upcoming holiday season spent with friends, family and neighbors. Let us not forget that this month includes a special holiday for honoring those who have served our nation with Veterans Day on November 11.

Brunswick Veterans Day Parade

I am proud to highlight one of Frederick County's own traditions — the Brunswick Veterans Day Parade. Known as one of the oldest Veterans Day parades in the country, this event brings together people from Frederick County and beyond to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of those who served. I encourage all to attend this year's parade on Sunday, November 10 to honor our veterans and support one another in our community. The opening ceremony begins at 1 p.m. and the parade begins at 2 p.m.

While we take this time to honor our veterans, it is also important to reflect on how we can continue to build a strong, vibrant community. I recently had the opportunity to share our progress and outline future goals in my annual State of the County Address. I am proud to report that the state of the County is strong.



County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Livable Frederick Master Plan

It isn't enough, though, to say that the County is strong. We must measure ourselves against the vision laid out in the Livable Frederick Master Plan. We want — and are working towards — a community where people live, work and thrive while enjoying a strong sense of place and belonging.

We are the fastest growing County in the state, which creates opportunities. People want to live and invest here. Young families want to raise their kids, and older residents want to enjoy their golden years here. Entrepreneurs want to create things here.

Growth also creates challenges,

which we are meeting head-on with practical solutions to protect the things that make this community so attractive to so many people.

Our public schools are one of our greatest strengths. The Frederick County Public Schools' team works tirelessly to provide a diverse and inclusive learning environment, and our educators are committed to meeting the needs of every child, every day.

From making historic investments in K-12 education, to working with the school system to reduce overcrowding, to preparing students to enter the workforce, Frederick County is making investments in education that will transform lives.

Career and Technical Education

I am excited to announce a commitment to upgrade Frederick County Public Schools career and technical education. A steering committee has been formed to examine the existing facilities and offerings, and then make recommendations. The resulting Career and Technical Education Strategic Master Plan will outline what would be required to provide a world-class career and technical education program.

As we help new workers prepare to enter the workforce, we are making our economy more

inclusive for all residents. We do this by creating transit solutions, expanding access to childcare, investing in entrepreneurs, improving access to technology in underserved communities, and lifting up our Main Street businesses. Our economy thrives on innovation. Our manufacturing and technology sectors are thriving, making new investments and creating good jobs in our community.

As we continue to attract business investment and create high quality jobs, we will never lose sight of our agricultural heritage or our obligation to grow responsibly and sustainably. We are committed to preserving our land, preserving our history, and using technology to make Frederick County more sustainable and resilient.

Land Preservation, Housing, Services

At the State of the County Address, I announced plans to double the number of preserved acres of agricultural and forested land. This new goal of protecting 160,000 acres will ensure that Frederick County maintains its rural character for future generations.

As part of becoming more sustainable and resilient, Frederick County has been working on a comprehensive housing needs study which will be used to develop a countywide housing strategy. We continue to leverage County real estate assets to create more affordable housing while fighting against housing discrimination.

The way we deliver health and social services is improving as well. This year, we pioneered a new model for helping vulnerable seniors age in place, our first responders and public health officials worked collaboratively to help people battling addiction, and we implemented new ways to help people in crisis.

Workforce

The people in our workforce are our most important asset, and I am committed to making Frederick County an employer of choice and a place where the best people come to work. In addition, partnerships are an incredibly important asset to solving the problems our residents face. Frederick County Government is building partnerships with local nonprofits, businesses, schools and healthcare organizations to better serve our residents.

This is a thriving community, where people can feel a strong sense of place and belonging. We embrace our community's diversity and vibrance. Each one of us is unique and worth celebrating. And we know that being intentional about including everyone is meaningful.

Looking back at the things we've accomplished this year is humbling. By working together with people throughout the county — elected officials, community leaders and dedicated public servants alike — our community is thriving, and I can say with confidence that the state of Frederick County is strong. ■

The Soldiers' Circle continued

Continued from page 10

and writing, we express our feelings and experiences. Those statues in the grass on Soldiers' Circle depict a new method of communication where, again, we represent an ideal that a Soldier's place and affinity are essential amalgamations of a collective martial ethos that resonates in this military town. We have Veterans serving on the city council, bringing distinction and incentive for self-improvement, integrity, competence and spiritualism to our city.

When Brunswick was known as Berlin, we saw action in the manner of skirmishes and troop deployments and, therefore, saw the creation of the First Maryland Infantry Regiment, the Potomac Home Regiment, which guarded Brunswick's shores. We bind together military culture where we have Veterans and Soldiers still serving and commuting to the Pentagon, DC, Fort Detrick, or other government agencies pushing and pulling for ideals of one percent Americanism and devotion toward democracy in our lives.

Life is just because we want to give it more daily, which is challenging. Some of us who came home or found refuge here in Brunswick need you to help us feel that our ways have not been abandoned. Our traditional conceptions regarding our nature and purpose other than warfare are a legitimate and sustainable fundament despite a reversion of abuse and harm to figure out and sustain our fragile minds away from the worst conclusion: Suicide. The Fallen often feel guilt or find that they have not given

enough in their service. Some lock themselves away from everyone and blame others for

The Soldiers can represent us, relaying a characterization befitting the soul and morale of our town as it grows and embraces its changes, despite perceptions of the contrary.

their behavior and well-being.

Since the outcome of every military action, there have been struggles for positivity and modernization within the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs for a more effective *means of action* to support our Veterans returning without the fear of extinction and feeling like they are part of a redundant warrior caste society where the customs and courtesies they were taught are no longer relevant. They are not redundant or castaways but humanity's best because they have modesty, realization and perspective.

In the *Soldier's Creed*, one line: "I will never leave a fallen comrade," hints that we all must remind our fallen comrades that we are there to remind them who they are and what they provide to every one of us. That is what it means to be a Veteran and a citi-

zen of our great land. Plato claims that Veterans are the idealists, the wisdom, the virtuous, and the selfless of society. They protect the city, ensure its function within the natural law, and bring harmony and balance. They are also the city walls.

Standing in the Soldiers' Circle, those small figures seem more like giants. Yet the question lingers: Who are they? Are they all the men and women who donned the uniform? Those little statues may have invaded the traffic circle, but captured our hearts and memories. They remind us to reflect on the settings of our lives and what the consequences may be.

Particular curiosity exists about these Soldiers and what they can do to change the world through their absolution of a system of shared meaning, attitudes, values, goals and practices. They can represent us, relaying a characterization befitting the soul and morale of our town as it grows and embraces its changes, despite perceptions of the contrary. Those three stone Soldiers are there for that. ■

Ariel "Gonzo" Gonzalez is a Brunswick resident who lives near the new traffic circle. He is a disabled veteran who served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan). He is the son of a Vietnam War veteran. Ariel served for nearly 12 years in the U.S. military and has visited numerous countries supporting U.S. foreign affairs. He is a member of the Steadman-Keenan American Legion Post 96 in Brunswick and the John R. Webb VFW Post 3285 in Frederick.



Please join us on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 12:00 pm at Park Heights Cemetery in Brunswick, Maryland for the Wreaths Across America ceremony to REMEMBER the fallen... HONOR those who serve... TEACH the next generation the value of freedom.

We have a goal of 255 wreaths for veterans at Park Heights Cemetery and the Old Berlin Cemetery in memory of those who served. Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on the grave of a veteran. Wreaths are \$17 each, of which \$5 goes to Pulling For Veterans, an organization that raises awareness for PTSD.

To sponsor a wreath, use the QR code, or mail a check payable to Wreaths Across America at Pulling For Veterans, PO Box 4101, Frederick, MD 21705 or go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MD0644P. The deadline to sponsor a wreath is December 1, 2024.

Volunteers are needed to help with the laying of wreaths. Please text or call 240-285-4487 to sign up.

Our Annual Luminary Event will follow at sunset to recognize and honor those at rest at both Park Heights Cemetery and the Old Berlin Cemetery.

For more information
www.parkheightscemetery.org
info@parkheightscemetery.org

www.pullingforveterans.org
outreach@pullingforveterans.org



FREDERICK COUNTY NEWS

The Power of Potomac Marble

By LAURA DVORAK

Paul Kreingold's passion for geology began as a student, when an instructor took the class to Manhattan's Central Park. "We were in the park chiseling away at rock outcroppings. Can you imagine that happening today?"

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever," as John Keats penned. More than 200 years ago, before the C&O towpath was created, marble destined to beautify the U.S. Capitol was discovered in what came to be known as the Latrobe Potomac Marble Quarry. The enduring beauty of columns created from this "marble" graces National Statuary Hall, formerly the Old House Chamber.

Siege of the Capitol

It might not have happened, except for a siege. In August 1814, British troops—some 4,500 newly-freed from fighting Napoleonic Wars—were itching for a rumble against American "rebels." Minister of War John Armstrong didn't think the British would attack Washington. President Madison wasn't convinced. He wanted a spy to assess the situation and chose James Monroe.

"Can you imagine? That would be like sending Secretary of State Antony Blinken to spy," Kreingold laughed. "Monroe returned, reporting attack appeared imminent." Washingtonians hustled to move booty to safety.

Muggy, 100 degrees. On August 24, 1814, folks sweltered in Leesburg, where an eerie red glow was visible 42 miles south. The Capitol was breached, its sandstone buildings burning and melting, thanks to black powder extracted from "Congreve" rockets British stole during the Mysore Indian Wars.

"When you go to the National Gallery of Art, visit the American section," Kreingold suggested. "There's a wonderful painting of the burning of D.C. by Samuel Morse." (He later invented the single-wire telegraph system.)

Finished ravaging the Capitol, the British hied to Ft. McHenry, Baltimore, where "the rockets' red glare" became lyrics in the Star Spangled Banner.

The Capitol was left in ruins. Nonetheless, British attempts to demoralize and dissolve the U.S. failed. Plans took shape to build back an edifice with function and beauty. Glorious columns in the manner of the Parthenon were imagined, strong enough to support the brick ceiling. Pillar material had to be beautiful, acces-



Centuries-old Potomac Marble columns in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. Each column of three stacked drums cost about \$5,000 each, up from the projected \$1,500.

sible and transportable. Architect Benjamin Latrobe knew the ideal stone: Potomac Marble.

Potomac Marble

It isn't marble, but a conglomerate of limestone and clasts. Latrobe called it breccia. You've probably walked past outcrops in Loudoun, Montgomery and Frederick counties.

Newly-elected President Monroe hopped into the carriage with Latrobe to search for a Potomac Marble site. In pouring rain, they set out on (future) Hwy 7, then U.S.15, on to Noland's Ferry, Point of Rocks and Whites Ferry. The chosen site was located not far from today's C&O Canal milepost 38. Latrobe proclaimed it "the largest mass on Maryland side of Potowmac...overhangs river." Not a ground quarry, but a quarry in the air.

"I searched the towpath to find Latrobe's quarry," Kreingold said. "At the National Archives I examined C&O survey books. Two metal cases were brought out. I donned gloves and opened a leather journal. There were doodles on the pages—these were young guys surveying and they didn't have video games. Then I found it! 'At Marble quarry... from which the columns were obtained for the Capitol in Washington.' March 1828, just ten years after the quarry was active. The second notebook had a map and drawing of the quarry. Subsequent sources confirmed this was the quarry used by Latrobe."

An ad in the Leesburg Genius of Liberty newspaper announced: "One hundred strong, healthy, laboring men wanted immediately" (August 8, 1817).

It was demanding work in the wild woods using star drills, double jacking, eight-pound hammers, unstable black powder (dynamite, more stable, was not yet available) and few safety measures.

Some of the cut blocks were unusable due to dry veins. There was urgency to get viable blocks aboard boats, which could operate depending on water levels.

Once the Potomac River rose, the ride to D.C. was brisk and treacherous.

Kreingold paused, shifting from geology to history. "When you visit the Statuary, forget the statues. They come and go. Pay attention to the columns. They're not going anywhere. Realize that from 1817-1857 so much history occurred in this Chamber. The 1830 Indian Removal Act that resulted in the Trail of Tears. That law passed by four votes! Four! And Abraham Lincoln's so-called Spot Resolution in 1847, where he stood up against war in Mexico.

So many people entered political attention in this room: Crockett, Clay and others. It went from historical ruin to classical treasure."

Truly, this beauty is a joy forever. ■

Kreingold will talk November 3 at 2-3:30 p.m., in Frederick at the C. Burr Artz Public Library. Kreingold will offer a class at Frederick Community College, November 5, 12 and 19. Class includes a hike to Latrobe Quarry. Register through FCC ILR.

thepastorate.com/sleepyhollow

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Fall Fun for the Community!



Paul Kreingold with samples of Potomac Marble.

LAURA DVORAK

Fall Tree Planting

By BETTY HEDGES

Fall is an ideal time to plant a tree. This gives it several months to grow roots before it puts out leaves.

Trees provide so many benefits to people, wildlife and the environment. They help cool the air during the hot summer months. Native trees provide food for caterpillars, which in turn are food for birds. The seeds of mature trees, such as acorns, beechnuts, and hickory nuts, are food for many animals. Trees hold the soil with their roots and slow heavy rainfalls. Trees take in carbon dioxide and expel oxygen as they grow. Once they are established in one or two years, they are very easy to care for. Lastly, trees beautify the landscape.

Find a Good Location

Since planting a tree is a long-term investment, it is important to find a good location where the tree will thrive without causing problems in the future. Locate a tree away from overhead power lines, underground utilities (electric, water, sewer, internet) and buildings.

As a general rule, trees should be located so that their canopy when mature will not touch a house or will not hit a power line if it should fall down. Trees with large fruits, such as walnuts or



An example of a tree planted too close to a power line.

oaks, should be located away from driveways and walkways, so that falling nuts will not cause harm to people or vehicles.

Many homes have a narrow strip of grass between the sidewalk and street. This "hell strip" is too hot, dry and salty for a

tree, and its roots may cause the sidewalk to buckle.

Native Tree Discount Available

Maryland's Department of Natural Resources has a program

"Marylanders Plant Trees" that gives you a discount of \$25 on the purchase of a native tree costing \$50 or more from a participating nursery. There are three nurseries in Frederick County in the program — Mar-Lu View in Jefferson, Statler Nursery on Mt. Zion Road, and Dutch Plant Farm on Baughman's Lane in Frederick.

To find out more and print your coupon, search for "Marylanders Plant Trees" on the internet. The website also has helpful information about planting and caring for new trees.

Some small trees that are eligible for the discount include crabapple, redbud, American dogwood, fringetree, American holly, sweetbay magnolia, pawpaw, and sourwood.

Shrubs

If a property does not provide a good location for a tree, consider planting a tall shrub to provide privacy, food for birds and beauty. Some native shrubs to consider are serviceberry, elderberry, ninebark, blackhaw viburnum, spicebush, highbush blueberry and chokeberry.

Holly shrubs that do well here include winterberry and inkberry. Winterberry holly loses its leaves in fall but has

brilliant red berries. Holly trees need both male and female plants to bear berries on the female plants. Besides providing privacy, native shrubs with berries provide food for birds.

Things to Consider When Planting

If deer are a problem in your neighborhood, enclose a young tree with a wire cage or fence to prevent deer eating the branch tips or rubbing their antlers on the trunk.

A smaller tree less than six feet tall will do better than a large one. The large one is more likely to have transplant shock, because it lost some roots in the transplanting process. The smaller tree will catch up to the larger one in a few years.

A new tree will do well with a layer of mulch no more than 4" deep not touching the trunk. Building up layers of mulch is not good for the tree, because it causes moisture buildup at the base of the trunk. Once a tree is well established after a few years, it only needs a little mulch to prevent damage from string trimmers.

Young trees need to be watered weekly during hot dry weather. Water slowly and give them several gallons of water.

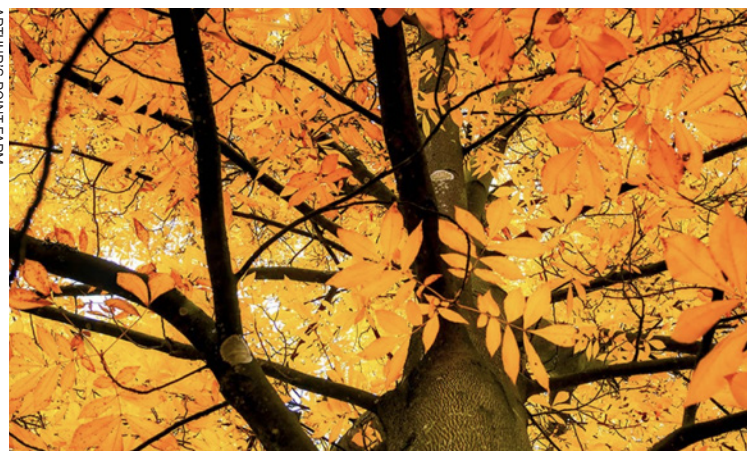
The group Bird City Brunswick led an effort to plant natives behind the Brunswick Food Bank and next to the tennis courts on East Potomac Street (see the article on page 9). Their Facebook page also has a map showing the types of trees and shrubs they planted.

A native tree planted in a location where it will thrive will provide beauty and benefit the local environment and climate for many years to come. ■

Betty Hedges is a Master Gardener in Lovettsville.

Hickory Nut Oil

Local and Sustainable Food Foraging



A Yellowbud Hickory tree

By ABBIE RICKETTS

You may know of the Yellowbud Hickory tree and be lucky to have some growing nearby. They are abundant in the Mid-Atlantic states. For those interested in food foraging, Yellowbud hickories are an untapped wild food source in this region. The tree produces hickory nuts that fall to the ground in October

and can be foraged through the fall.

Hickory nuts themselves are bitter but they can be pressed into a very tasty, high in healthy fats cooking oil that loses the bitterness of the nut itself when pressed. The tannins which cause the bitterness are left behind in the nut. Neil Gormley, founder of the newly formed non-profit Wild Potomac, says the oil is strikingly rich and buttery, and

the hickory flavor is subtle.

To identify the trees, look for distinctive yellow buds in the spring. They have alternate leaves with 7 to 11 lance shaped leaflets. The bark is gray and rough and the nuts are oval shaped. They fall to the ground from late September to mid-November. To locate trees in public areas where foraging is allowed, try looking in the Falling Fruit app, iNaturalist, or your state's "Big Trees" group.

The nut is ripe when the husk peels off easily. Dry the nuts by spreading them out on a table in a low humidity room.

Bring the peeled and dried nuts to the REED Center for Ecosystem Reintegration in Middletown on December 7 where Gormley, who is a Brunswick resident, will lead a group in turning the nuts into the delicious hickory nut oil. The oil is yours to keep. Donations are welcome. For more information including directions and time of day, con-

tact wildpotomac@gmail.com. This will be the second year for pressing hickory oil.

Gormley says, "I hope a lot of people will participate this year. Food doesn't get any more local and sustainable than wild hickory nuts you forage yourself." ■

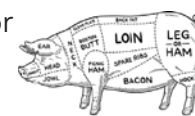
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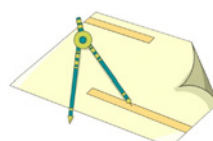
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IN THE KITCHEN

Managing Diabetes During the Holidays

By CHRISTINA PELLETIER

November is American Diabetes Month, making it a perfect time to raise awareness for the disease that affects more than 37 million Americans. It is never too late to learn about diabetes prevention and management and put that into action.

The holidays can be an especially challenging time for people living with diabetes, but that doesn't mean any holiday favorites have to be missed out on. Focus on nutrition, moderation and simple swaps.

Plan Your Plate

Planning out meals is one of the best ways to support a steady blood sugar. Take a lap around to see all of the food options available and plan your plate accordingly. Maintain blood sugar levels with lean proteins, vegetables, whole grains, high fiber foods and healthy fats. Aim to portion half of your plate with non-starchy vegetables like asparagus, green beans, spinach and mushrooms. Then, fill the rest of your plate with lean protein, such as fish and pork tenderloin, and smaller portions of starchier favorites like mashed potatoes and stuffing. Keep in mind that protein can also be found in plants like beans, lentils and nuts. The more color on your plate, the more variety of foods and nutrients.

Be Consistent

The timing of holiday meals can be outside of typical meal-times. Plan meals and snacks accordingly to combat blood sugar highs and lows. Although skipping meals may seem logical to



Spinach pomegranate orange salad

"save room" for a big meal, this ultimately may cause more problems than it's worth. Waiting to eat until later in the day may not support stable blood sugar levels and could cause overeating at the meal, leading to discomfort.

Lighten Things Up

Prepare a diabetes-friendly dish to share with others. Here are some ideas for preparing healthier holiday favorites:

- Transform a traditional green bean casserole by using low-sodium vegetable broth and milk instead of cream of mushroom soup. Inject more flavor with sauteed onions and mushrooms, then use baked, chopped onions for a crispy topping.
- Use whole wheat bread to add fiber to stuffing or swap the bread with brown rice. Chopped onions or vegetables can be used to replace a portion of the bread

in your favorite stuffing recipe for a lower carbohydrate and higher fiber option.

- Boost flavor in water or unsweetened iced tea with mint leaves, lemons, or frozen fruit.

Move More

Though it is tempting to lounge after a satisfying Thanksgiving meal, try to incorporate some movement into your celebration. Engaging in physical activity after your turkey day feast, like a family walk or game of catch, can help digestion as well as reduce stress.

Contact the Weis Dietitians at weisdietitians@weismarkets.com to learn more about how they can help make every day and every meal more diabetes friendly. ■

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

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Brown Rice Stuffing with Butternut Squash & Mushrooms

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups Long Grain Brown Rice
- 3 cups Vegetable Broth
- 1 large Butternut Squash, peeled and diced into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tbsp. Olive Oil, divided
- 1 White Onion, diced
- 5 Garlic Cloves, minced
- 1 cup Celery, sliced
- 1 cup Carrots, chopped
- 1 box Baby Bella Mushrooms, quartered
- 3 tbsp. Fresh Thyme Leaves, divided
- 3 tbsp. Sage, chopped
- Salt and Pepper, to taste



Directions

1. Cook brown rice with vegetable broth according to package instructions.
2. Preheat oven to 400°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
3. Toss butternut squash with 1 tablespoon olive oil, a dash of salt and pepper, and 1 tablespoon thyme. Roast for 20–25 minutes, until fork tender.
4. While the rice and butternut squash cook, prepare the stovetop vegetables.
5. Heat the remaining olive oil in a large frying pan on medium heat.
6. Add the onion and a dash of salt and pepper. Cook for 2–3 minutes until translucent.
7. Add garlic and cook for another 1–2 minutes.
8. Add celery and carrots with more salt and pepper. Stir and cook for 5–8 minutes, until carrots and celery begin to soften.
9. Add mushrooms, the remaining thyme, sage, and salt and pepper. Cook for about 15 minutes, until the mushrooms brown and everything starts to caramelize a little, leaving little brown bits at the bottom of the pan.
10. Use your spoon to scrape the brown bits into the vegetable mixture, because it adds a lot of savory flavor.
11. Once everything is done cooking, combine all the ingredients in a large mixing bowl.
12. Stir to combine and add more salt and pepper to taste.
13. Transfer to a serving dish and serve warm with fresh herbs for garnish.

Courtesy of USA Rice

Do you have a favorite recipe to share with the community? Send it to "Recipe of the Month" at editor@BrunsNews.com



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Thanksgiving Dance

I love the way women work in a kitchen preparing a large holiday meal. We come together without a lot of outward vision or verbal communication, able to sense each other's movements and skills. We may each say, "oh, I will make this dish," or "do you need any of that?" but not much more. In a foreign kitchen we dance through the preparations. One may move in first to start something that needs to "set," then others come to prep or to clean up. Eyes may unite to determine if something looks right or mouths may sample, but for the most part it progresses with little questioning. Things go into ovens; others come out. On occasion someone from outside the women circle will be called to assist with lifting something heavy, setting the table, calling all together. We do continue to let the "menfolk" find the perfect knife for carving, even though we have been wielding knives for hours to chop tough vegetables and cut up giblets. And then it is all there, on the table united, completed and we smile to each other with the knowledge of shared history, experience, instinct, love.

— Jean Toleman



News from the Town of Lovettsville

By JANA WAGONER

Election Day Nov. 5

General elections for U.S. and Town of Lovettsville offices will be Nov. 5. Polling locations in Loudoun County will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Both the Lovettsville Community Center and Lovettsville Elementary School will serve as polling places. For more details about where to vote and for a sample ballot, log on to www.loudoun.gov/182/Upcoming-Elections.

Veterans Day Ceremony

The Town of Lovettsville will host a Veterans Day Ceremony from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 11 in Zoldos Square. The town gathers to honor and thank not just recent generations of veterans, but every man and woman who has honorably served since the American Revolution.

Historical Society Lecture Nov. 10

The Lovettsville Historical Society will hold its monthly lecture at 2 p.m., Nov. 10, at St. James United Church of Christ, 10 E. Broad Way.

This month's presentation is a journey through the 1970s and after by former Loudoun Times-Mirror and Washington Post photographer John McDonnell. The event will showcase McDonnell's photographs.

For more information on the historical society, log on to lovettsvillehistoricalsociety.org.

Town Offices Closed

Town offices will be closed Nov. 5 for Election Day, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day, and both Nov. 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving. In addition, offices will close at noon Nov. 27, the day before Thanksgiving. ■

November Meeting Schedule

The following meetings are scheduled for November in the Town Council Chambers:

Nov. 6, 7-10 p.m.	Planning Commission
Nov. 7, 6:30-10 p.m.	Town Council
Nov. 12, 6:30-9:30 p.m.	Infrastructure Committee
Nov. 14, 7-8 p.m.	Love Winter Subcommittee
Nov. 19, 7-10 p.m.	Commerce and Business Development Committee
Nov. 21, 6:30-10 p.m.	Town Council

Lovettsville Co-op Marks First Anniversary

Since Lovettsville's first full-service grocery store opened in November, 2023, it has been welcomed by the local community. The Brunswick News-Journal interviewed the general manager, Killian Geeslin, about their first year.



The co-op contains a full service deli

BNJ: Since the Lovettsville Co-op opened last November, how has the business been doing? Has there been growth during the year?

Killian: Since we opened our doors last year we have seen an increase in business. We did see the store slow a bit after our opening and the holidays, but since then we have been enjoying a steady increase in traffic.

BNJ: How is a co-op different from a 'regular' grocery store?

Killian: There's not much difference for shoppers. The Co-op is owned by its members but everyone is welcome. Most of our shoppers are not member/owners, but since we opened last year, we have seen an almost 50% increase in those who have become member/owners - from 1150 to nearly 1600 now. We welcome suggestions (and criticisms) from all our shoppers, but member/owners also can play an important role in the governance of the Co-op.

BNJ: Some people see a "health food store" as being more expensive than a regular supermarket. Please comment.

Killian: We do carry an array of high-quality natural food options in our store! We are very competitive on many natural food items that you can now find in big box stores. Of course, we also understand the value of a good deal. Each weekend, you will find flash sale items in our produce department at prices that cannot be beaten. In August one of our regular shoppers told me that our \$5.99 seedless watermelons were the same price as those at a Frederick area Walmart!

BNJ: Have you made changes in your inventory as a result of customer comments or sales?

Killian: We have heard feedback from many patrons that they want to see more local products on our shelves. While we have partnered with over 50 Loudoun businesses already, we are eager to partner with more and more local producers. The dollars you spend here are more likely to circulate through the local economy than if you shop at a big box store.

BNJ: How have you been received by the Lovettsville and Brunswick communities?

Killian: Lovettsville has been very welcoming! For years now, the community wanted a more convenient place to purchase essential food items. We are delivering that service, and Lovettsville seems to be embracing us as their neighborhood grocer. Brunswick is still a key area of outreach for us. We look forward to partnering with more local producers from Brunswick in the coming months and being better community partners with the Railroaders!

BNJ: What has been the most encouraging experience?

Killian: The most encouraging experience has been gaining the trust of our shoppers! We really aim to treat our employees well and take extra care in what we stock and serve. I think that has a big impact on the customer experience. People really appreciate the fact that we are open 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

BNJ: Anything else?

Killian: A huge thank you to everyone who decided to shop with us this year and to our amazing staff for showing up each day to make this all possible. We are very excited for the next chapter in Lovettsville and we would love to have you come visit! Don't forget our full-service deli with sandwiches and hot foods to grab and go. ■

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DAY TRIPS FROM BRUNSWICK

Fort Ritchie



The Castle Building, a former post headquarters and an example of Fort Ritchie's unique architecture.

By JOHN CAVES

Most local residents are familiar with Fort Detrick, an active military installation in Frederick hosting the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. But go further up Route 15 and through the Catoctin Mountains—a 50-minute drive from Brunswick—and you will find what was once the Army's other base in this area: Fort Ritchie, which is now open to the public as a lively commercial, residential and historic site, along with opportunities for outdoor activity.

Fort Ritchie, named after

Governor Albert C. Ritchie, was established as a Maryland National Guard training camp in 1926 on the shore of Lake Royer in the town of Cascade, in northeastern Washington County. The fort was built with unique stone buildings designed by Captain Robert Barrick, a self-taught architect.

The base is best known for training the "Ritchie Boys," military intelligence soldiers who served in World War II. They were mostly of Central European Jewish background, recruited for their knowledge of the German language and their motivation to defeat the Nazi regime. Others were Japanese-Americans

known as "Nisei." And not all of the Ritchie Boys were boys: about 200 Women's Army Corps soldiers were trained at the fort.

At Fort Ritchie, the soldiers studied German and Japanese military organization as well as techniques for information-gathering, interrogation and propaganda. They were often deployed in close proximity to the front lines. In the war's aftermath, they supported the Allies' denazification efforts and the Nuremberg war crimes trials as translators, interrogators and plainclothes intelligence collectors.

Congress closed the base in 1998, and for years much of it lay vacant. In 2021, a Cascade resident bought the southern half of the abandoned fort and started the Ritchie Revival organization, which has since been renovating the old stone buildings and bringing in businesses and residents to occupy them.

Visiting Fort Ritchie

The place to begin your visit is the Fort Ritchie Community Center by the front gate. It is run by Washington County, and the staff can orient you to the fort's layout and give you brochures for businesses there. The community center also hosts events, which you can find on its website, thefrcc.org.

Your next stop should be the Ritchie History Museum, where you can learn about the wartime endeavors of the Ritchie Boys

and the experience of Washington County veterans of the Korean War. Across the street is the Nisei Gallery, so-named because of a mural inside believed to have been painted by Japanese-American soldiers. The gallery has art for display and sale.

Businesses on base include an apothecary and a salon. For food, there is a café, a taproom, an ice cream shop (open only in summer), and a pizza joint just outside the gate. You can picnic on the fort's parade ground, fish in Lake Royer (catch-and-release only), or walk around to see the stone architecture and the forested hills behind it.

Outdoor Activities

Fort Ritchie is near outdoor destinations and hiking. Access the Appalachian Trail from Pen Mar Road at either Pen

Mar Park or High Rock, a popular overlook with an obnoxious amount of graffiti but a grandiose view.

A roughly five-mile round-trip hike south on the AT from High Rock will take you to Raven Rock, a secluded and graffiti-free viewpoint, and the Devil's Racecourse, a jumbled rock formation resembling a roadway. To reach the Devil's Racecourse, take a side trail marked with blue blazes and a sign saying "Spring."

Another set of blue blazes further on, after the main trail descends steeply, leads you to Raven Rock. You can also reach the Devil's Racecourse via an unmarked short path off Ritchie Road.

Directions

To get to Fort Ritchie, take U.S.15 north to Thurmont. Exit onto MD 550 north, which becomes Sabillasville Road and takes you all the way to Fort Ritchie's gate. When you enter, turn right to find parking in front of the community center and along Lake Royer Drive. The fort can get crowded, so arriving early may reduce the distance you have to walk from your car once you park.

You can easily spend an afternoon in or around Fort Ritchie. Fridays and weekends are the best time to visit, since some of the businesses are closed earlier in the week. Fort Ritchie continues to evolve, with a general store planned to open in December and a nature center in the works for 2026.

Ritchie Revival occasionally holds its own events – the next is a Christmas tree lighting on December 7. Learn more on their website, ritchierevival.com. ■

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.



The view from Raven Rock along the Appalachian Trail.



Fort Ritchie's front gate, which gives a sense of its distinctive stone architecture.



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TRAVEL, ARTS, CULTURE

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.

Alone with Her Dreams (2019) 1 hr 39 min

Italian with English subtitles

By Paolo Licata

Music composed by Pericle Odierna

Reviewed by LAURA DVORAK

In her debut role, Marta Castiglia plays 11-year-old Lucia. The setting is the incomparable Favignana, on the Northwest coast of Sicily. The time is the 60s. Lucia and her family are at the dock where her mother, father and brother prepare to board the ferry for France. Her parents plan to find work there, later sending for Lucia when they are settled.

Meanwhile, Lucia will live with Dona Maria, her grandmother. When Lucia inquires what Dona means, she is told "it means you are good, have respect." But Lucia, heartbroken by the family separation — just until Christmas her mother promised — experiences the not so good side of grandmother, who others call "The General." There is a big wooden paddle. Rules. No affection.

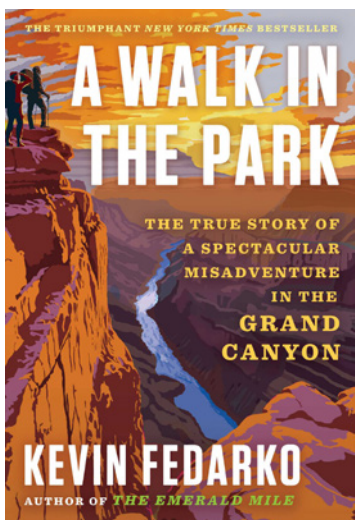
Alone, Lucia bonds with a black hen, tying a string around its neck and walking it like a pet dog. She digs her bare feet into beach sand. Her elbows are dirty. She waits for Christmas. After weeks, a phone call from her mother, who "hopes" to see Lucia at Christmas. Lucia quickly understands. When someone says they "hope" to do something, they never do.

Dona Maria has a married sister who lives nearby — it is a small town, where nobody ever minds their own business. Lucia's aunt and uncle treat her well from a distance. Dona Maria fiercely ignores both of them and insists Lucia never visit or have anything to do with the couple. It seems grandmother is a miserable, overbearing and isolated person. Lucia, in response, becomes rebellious and disobeys.

One remarkable aspect of this film is its fluid and graceful rendering of this story. There is nothing forced, explained or pointed out. The scenes guide the viewer through an understanding of the history of reasons behind reasons — myriad powerful, compelling and overwhelming reasons. *Alone with her Dreams* is a thought-provoking offering. ■



OFF THE SHELF

**A Walk in the Park:**

The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon

By Kevin Fedarko (2024)

Reviewed by LAURA DVORAK

In 2015, New York Times best-selling author Kevin Fedarko and National Geographic photographer Pete McBride set out on a sectional traverse of Grand Canyon National Park with a goal to cover its entirety. Arguably the most widely-recognized landscape feature in the United States, this mile-deep, 18-mile wide, 277-mile gouge in the earth has no trail its length. There is the river, tributaries, slot canyons, and sheer walls. "Those walls showcase perhaps the finest cross-section of terrestrial time

visible anywhere on the globe," Fedarko wrote.

For a year, he and McBride took time slowly, completing 800 treacherous miles, up, down, around and through the vast landscape. This journey, from an armchair perspective, is enlightening, exhausting and exhilarating—and a white-knuckle, edge-of-the-seat experience.

Each year the Grand Canyon receives 5 million visitors, including 80,000 permitted overnight backpackers. As for the deep back country, a mere 35 or so make the attempt. "The vast and mostly untrammled zone between the river and the rims...is remote, isolated, visited by almost no one... deep in the center of the maze, you could spend entire weeks without encountering another human being," Fedarko noted.

Throughout Fedarko's narrative, a deep sense of quiet, respect and humility resounds for the forces of nature, the eleven tribes that live within and around the park, and the numerous prehistoric tribes. Fedarko describes many of their artifacts and the pictographs and petroglyphs discovered during the walk.

"Only on foot, the slowest and hardest way to move, can you hope to make contact with the finest parts of this landscape," Fedarko observed, while conceding, "To take even a few steps without anything coming between you and the canyon may be all most people who are drawn to this landscape, or any landscape, really need." It is, in every sense, truly grand. ■

Poetry Returns to Beans in the Belfry

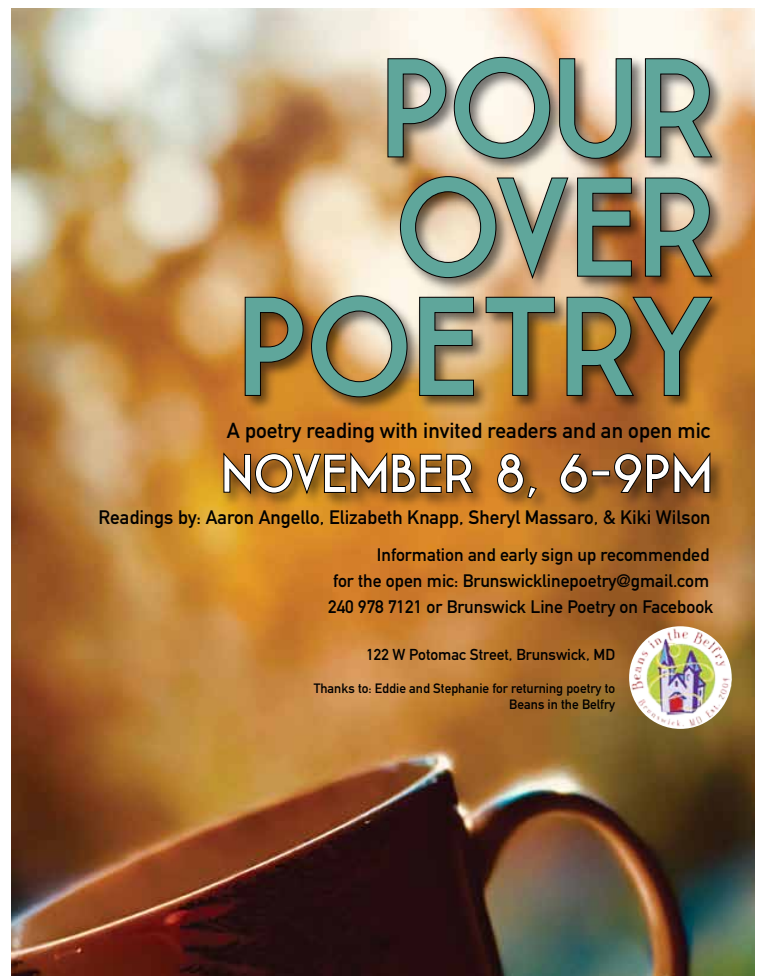
Brunswick Line Poetry and the Brunswick Arts Council are pleased to present an evening of poetry at Beans in the Belfry on Friday, Nov. 8, from 6–9 p.m., at 122 W. Potomac St. in Brunswick.

Beans in the Belfry has the perfect ambience for an assortment of esteemed area poets to share their wares and create an evening out that everyone can enjoy.

An open mic hour will kick off the night and spots are filling fast. To secure a spot or get added to the waitlist, email brunswick-linepoetry@gmail.com.

The open mic entertainment will be followed by readings by local multi-talented poets Aaron Angello, Elizabeth Knapp, Sheryl Massaro, and Kiki Wilson.

Beans in the Belfry has been a community gathering spot for nearly two decades and has hosted poetry slams in the past. The sponsors noted, "We are excited to continue the tradition of live local poetry in this uniquely Brunswick and beautifully historic destination. Enjoy a winter evening with good friends, entertainment, great atmosphere, a tasty café menu, and beer and wine." ■



Stories that Need to be Told

By LAURA DVORAK

Genealogist Joe Ginorio began his presentation Hispanic Heritage: One Puerto Rico Family's Legacy in US History with a question: How many of you recall learning about Spain and her colonies' contributions to the American Revolution (1775-1783) in history class?

"Nine members of my family served in the American Revolutionary War," Ginorio said. "Two from Cuba and seven from Puerto Rico."

The revolution fomented first in Massachusetts then spread throughout the colonies. Spain, which had not yet declared war on England, covertly provided supplies to American military, financed by the silver mines of Peru and Mexico. War booty included weapons, gun powder, musket balls, uniforms and all matter of items stolen from English ships.

In 1779, Spain declared war. The Spanish Navy, mostly from Cuba, and Spanish military, from Puerto Rico and Santa Domingo, amassed 7,500 troops. Led by Governor General Bernardo de Gálvez, Spanish colonial forces captured British forts including Baton Rouge (1779), Mobile (1780), and Pensacola (1781). These campaigns protected the rear flank of the colonies and cut off British military supply lines.

In 1781, French Rear Admiral de Grasse assisted Lt. Governor of Cuba, Juan Dabán Busterino (Ginorio's 5th great-grandfather), organizing a fundraiser in Havana for the destitute Continental Army fighting in Yorktown, Virginia. In six hours the "Gold of Havana" drive realized \$3.9 million, enabling defeat and surrender of the British. "This would not have happened without the contributions of the citizens of Cuba. That's a great



At Brunswick Library, singer/songwriter/genealogist Joe Ginorio Viscal plays and sings lyrics to his original tune, "Hispanics on the Line."

Hispanics on the Line

Joe Ginorio

VERSE ONE

In 1779 we put our lives on the line
From Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Santo Domingo too.

We fought in Baton Rouge, Saint Louis, and Mobile too.

But most important in Pensacola where we stopped the British too.

REFRAIN

So don't forget what we have done for over 200 years.

Stood tall for freedom and the American ideals.

No one can say — we don't belong here

We've held the line and stayed the course, Year after year.

story that no one talks about," Ginorio said.

Contemporary stories

He pivoted to stories of contemporary family members, including his aunt Olga and his mother, Irma, who is 92 years old.

Dr. Olga Viscal Garriga received a PhD in political science

from the University of Puerto Rico and was a student leader during the Puerto Rican Nationalist uprising in 1950. As spokesperson, she focused on independence from the U.S. and regaining freedom of speech, assembly, press, the right to bear arms and the right to hold office. Arrested in 1950, she was imprisoned at La Princesa prison and released after five years.

Olga was invited to Cuba in 1958 by Fidel Castro to be the Puerto Rican Representative to the Cuban National Assembly. Her speeches were published by the Cuban press. In 1959, as Fidel became more concerned and paranoid about assassination, he became suspicious of all foreigners, including Olga. Consequently, she fell out of favor and was relegated to the ghettos of Havana. She was rescued by Irma.

Irma had also been jailed in 1950, when eight months pregnant with Ginorio. Released, she later moved to Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., where she eventually became the Assistant to Indonesian Press Minister and official interpreter to President Sukarno, traveling widely with his entourage. She interpreted during negotiations in Cuba (Fidel, Raul, and Che Guevara), Mexico (President López) and accompanied Sukarno on many official events, including his favored trips to Hollywood. During Irma's three years with the Indonesian Embassy, she was an undercover informant for the FBI.

"My mom always says, 'for a little island we make a lot of noise,' and it's true. I have been all over the world, first with U.S. Merchant Marines, then Air Force and, more recently, CIA — there they are. In Bombay — now Mumbai — I entered an ice cream shop — who did I find but a group of Puerto Ricans," he laughed. ■

The Monarch Butterfly Fall Migration



Monarch on milkweed

By DR. KATHY HEINSOHN

It's fall and on warm days, if you are lucky, you will see monarch butterflies frequenting your yard, especially if you have their host plants such as the caterpillars to munch, and butterfly bush and other bright pollinator plantings for the adult to sip nectar. Fun fact: butterflies taste nectar with their feet (tarsi) before sipping it up with their curled siphoning probosces.

North American monarchs travel from their summer breeding grounds in Canada and North America to overwintering locations very far away.

The annual migration of North America's monarch butterfly is an amazing phenomenon. The monarch is the only butterfly known to make a two-way migration as birds do. East of the Rocky Mountains, monarchs can travel as much as 3,000 miles to central Mexico; a shorter migration route occurs west of the Rockies to the California coast.

Monarchs are not able to survive winters in the U.S. The plant the caterpillar feeds on — mostly milkweed — is not available in the winter. In fact, the northern limit of milkweed prevents monarchs from breeding in many parts of the Pacific

Northwest and much of Canada.

In early October and into November, huge clouds of monarch butterflies make the 2,500-mile trek south where they live in hibernation for six to eight months. Once in Mexico, the butterflies cluster together in large hanging groups at their overwintering sites to survive the winter. Once spring begins, these butterflies migrate north to start the breeding season all over again.

5 Interesting Butterfly facts from the Xerces Society

1. It's a long journey for a small insect. A migrating monarch can fly up to 2,500 or 3,000 miles before reaching its destination. A monarch can travel over 100 miles a day with the right conditions. These butterflies coast on air currents to move quickly and conserve energy. They often fly at elevations where we can't see them from the ground, at 800 to 1,200 feet high.

2. It's every monarch's first and only migration. Monarchs that migrate north in spring will breed and pass away before their descendants are ready to migrate south again. None of the monarchs on the fall migration path have ever been to their destination before, and yet they know

exactly where to go. Scientists believe they use cues like the earth's polar magnetism and sunlight to navigate directionally, but the rest is still a mystery.

3. Migrating monarchs live longer than others. The monarchs that migrate south are the last generation born each year, and they live up to eight months longer than their ancestors from earlier in the summer. A typical monarch life span is two to six weeks. Migrating monarchs live up to nine months, with their lifetimes spent migrating south, sticking out the winter, migrating north again, and finally breeding in the spring.

4. Some monarchs don't migrate. Monarchs are famous for their migration, but some groups don't make the journey. For example, monarchs living and breeding in southern Florida and on other continents are able to sustain life year around without migrating. Scientists aren't certain if these resident monarchs don't migrate because of mild winters, a genetic difference, or a combination of factors.

5. A lot of what we know came from community science. Most of the available data on monarch migrations is from volunteers. For decades, community scientists have been collecting data by tagging, tracking, counting, and photographing monarchs on the move and overwintering. It's how we know that monarch populations have declined dramatically since the 1980s (largely due to pesticides and the reduction in habitat both through urbanization in the U.S. and in Mexico with slash and burn farming of land for cattle production).

The Xerces Society facilitates and supports several community science projects throughout the year to continue this research. Anyone can get involved! See www.xerces.org. ■

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.



Monarchs clustering

Brunswick's Dr. Kathy 'Crowned' in Denver

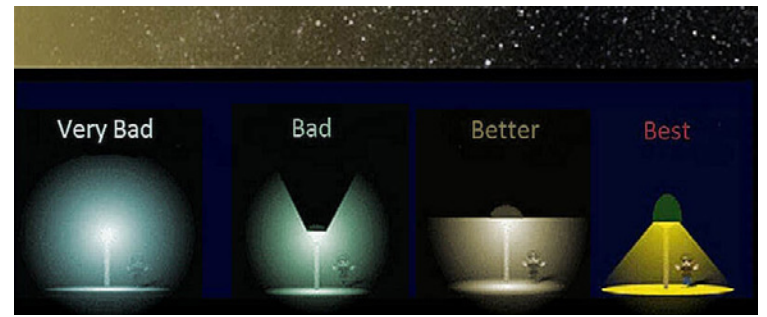


On Wednesday, October 23, our columnist, Dr. Kathy Heinsohn was one of five recipients of the 2024 PCT/Syngenta Crown Leadership Award during the industry convention in Denver, Colorado. PCT is Pest Control Technology magazine and Syngenta is a global agricultural technology company headquartered in Basel, Switzerland.

The Crown Leadership Awards have been presented annually to pest management professionals, university educators, consultants, industry distributors and association officials who uphold the highest standards of industry ethics, while contributing their time and talent to a wide range of professional and civic organizations.

Congratulations Dr. Kathy!

Do You Miss Seeing the Stars?



Modern public light fixtures are designed to direct light toward the ground instead of letting some escape into the night sky.

By ABBIE RICKETTS

When you think about ways planet Earth is being polluted — water, air and ground — you might overlook light pollution. But according to highly regarded non-profit and government agencies, light pollution disrupts wildlife, impacts human health, wastes money and energy, and contributes to climate change.

In a remote location, light pollution can be seen at longer distances. Areas near the horizon may appear bright, or light can extend like a dome over distant cities. Even in national parks, these bright areas produce a measurable impact.

According to a 1992 study, when there are artificial bright lights on a beach, newly hatched turtles become disoriented and navigate toward the artificial light source, never finding the sea (Michael Salmon et al., volume 122, number 1-2 of Behaviour).

Bright electric lights can also upset the behavior of birds. About 200 species of birds migrate at night over North America, and especially during inclement weather with low cloud cover, they routinely are confused by brightly lit buildings, communication towers and other structures.

"Light attracts birds and disorients them," explains Michael Mesure, executive director of the Toronto-based Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP), which works to safeguard migratory birds in the urban envi-

ronment. "It is a serious situation because many species that collide frequently are known to be in long-term decline, and some are already designated officially as threatened."

Collateral Damage of Light Pollution

An Environmental Health Prospective in a National Institute of Health bulletin from 2009 contains concerning information about light pollution's collateral damage. Each year in New York City alone, about 10,000 migratory birds are injured or killed crashing into high-rise buildings, says Glenn Phillips, former executive director of the New York City Audubon Society. The estimates of birds dying from collisions across North America annually range from 98 million to close to a billion. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates 5 to 50 million birds die each year from collisions with communication towers.

Turtles and birds are not the only wildlife affected by artificial nighttime lighting. "We are just now understanding the nocturnality of many creatures," says Chad Moore, Night Sky Program manager with the National Park Service. "Not protecting the night will destroy the habitat of many animals."

Audubon 'Lights Out' Program

During migration in fall and spring, Audubon promotes a program called "Lights Out," asking people to help protect migrating birds by turning off non-essential home and store lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. each night.

In Brunswick, new lighting in downtown Brunswick and in Brunswick Crossing contains internal shields to aim the light downward. Planning and Zoning staff look at lighting project by project and make recommendations based on up-to-date information and availability of products. Director of Planning and Zoning Director Bruce Dell said, "The City is using soft white lights. They point lights downward and try to avoid light spread to other sites by using shorter light posts. Staff is conscious of the effects of light pollution on the environment and humans."

The C&O Canal National Historical Park is known to be a good place for clear skies and natural light making star gazing a fun activity in different areas of the 184.5 mile long park. The park was selected by WAMU's "DCist" as one of the 11 best spots for stargazing in the D.C. area. ■

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LOCAL HISTORY

TALES FROM The Merryland Tract—Part 2

BY ABBIE RICKETTS

Where South Mountain Road rises above the Potomac River there is a burial ground hidden in the woods. The more well to do and the poorest of the poor alike are buried in this place, once called simply the Mountain Cemetery. To find this African-American cemetery, look for a small sign placed along South Mountain Road in 2021, with an arrow pointing to a mowed pathway.

The cemetery was likely associated with the Knoxville African Methodist Episcopal Church, though some of the deceased were members of Mt. Olive Baptist. While forgotten at times, this place has an extensive recorded history detailed on historic cemetery websites and related sources. Cause of death certificates are available for many of the people buried there. These reveal how difficult life must have been in years when medical care was hard to come by and deaths were caused by infectious diseases and lack of prenatal care.

There are 130 memorials recorded in this cemetery. While there are traditional tombstones, some graves are marked only with rocks and hold unknown remains.

Daniel Brooks, age unknown,

was the first known burial, in 1885.

Florence Odella Cooper of Brunswick was the last person to be buried, just over a hundred



Frederick News announcement, 1952

years later in 1886. Beside her lies her husband, William B. Cooper, who died in 1978 and was a decorated World War II veteran, a Montford Point Marine.

More than 20,000 African Americans trained in segregated facilities between 1942 and 1949

at Montford Point, N.C., and became the first African Americans to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. From its inception until 1942, the Marine Corps refused to recruit African Americans and other minorities. Some of the Montford Pointers saw combat from Iwo Jima and Okinawa to Peleliu and Saipan. After years of seeking recognition, the Montford Point Marines received the highest civilian honor—the Congressional Gold Medal—in November 2011.

The Mountain Cemetery is the eternal resting place of three Civil War veterans. William B. Garner died in 1918 at age 78. He served in the Co. E, 4th USCT at Fort Lincoln. John Henry Palmer died in 1951 at age 95. Thomas Smallwood enlisted in Kent County and was mustered out in 1867 at Brownsville, Texas. He died in 1915.

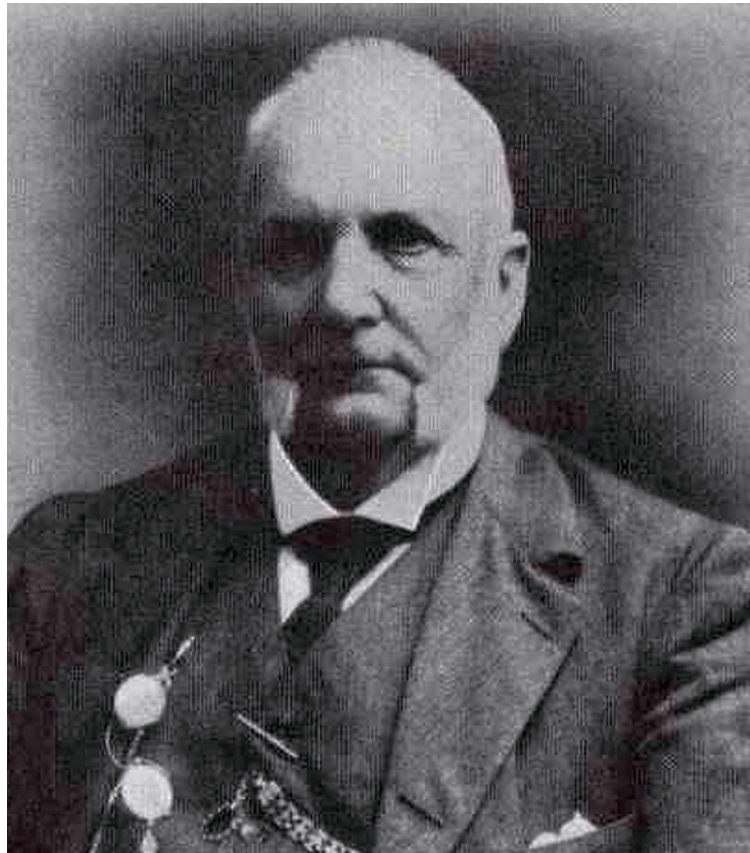
Other veterans include Richard Gilbert, who died in 1971 at age 52 (PVT. 398 QM Truck Co.); Walter Brooks, who died in 1980 at age 66 (PFC in the U.S. Army Air Force in WW II, serving in the Pacific Theater); Robert Campbell; Douglas Palmer; James Butler; Raymond Cooper; and John White.

James Alfred Gwynn (Guynn) died in 1894 at age 76. His wife Louisa Streams Gwynn was brought into Frederick County as a slave. The couple's daughter Arie Guynn Butler married and lived in the Coatesville area. She and husband James "Pap" Butler are buried in the Mountain Cemetery as well.

Great tragedies struck more than one family. In February of 1930, Alice Margaret Giles, age 3, was playing in her front yard at Sandy Hook and started a brush fire. She tripped and fell into the fire, dying hours later from burns. Her mother was burned trying to help her and in 1955 was killed in a car accident in Rosemont. To add to her sorrows, Mrs. Giles had given birth to a stillborn baby in 1933 and a premature baby in 1928 who lived a day.

Another burial was that of a young man, 20, killed in a house fire in Brunswick in 1952. John Harold Thomas died in an overnight fire near the Swing Inn (present day Virts Flowers). He left a wife and baby daughter.

Eighteen people with the last name of Brooks are buried there including five infants who



FROM THE PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF THE SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, MARYLAND, 1896

Manassas Jacob Grove began the highly successful M. J. Grove & Son Lime Company. He died in 1907 and is buried in Burkittsville Union Cemetery.

were either stillborn or died of bronchial pneumonia, according to death certificates. Premature twin boys died at birth in 1930 just weeks after their 8-month-old sister died from bronchial pneumonia. In 1933, their parents, William and Jola, lost another infant to bronchitis.

Frank Brooks died at age 85 in 1935. He is buried near his 6-year-old daughter Laura, who died in 1903 from measles. The Brooks sisters, Sarah and Myrtle, were taken from parents Charles and Mary Ellen by tuberculosis at the ages of 20 and 22 years old in 1918 and 1922.

G. B. Brooks, 24, son of Louis and Sallie Wood Belt, was killed

by a freight train in 1906 at the "B&O Tunnel" (perhaps at Harpers Ferry). Raymond Cooper, a World War II veteran who served overseas in the Pacific Theater, was the victim of a homicide in 1948 near the Swing Inn after a fight broke out. He was just 22. His father operated Cooper's Tavern, also known as the Swing Inn, until 1949 when he died of natural causes at age 45. He is also buried in Mountain Cemetery.

Burkittsville Union Cemetery

On the other end of the Merryland Tract is Burkittsville Union

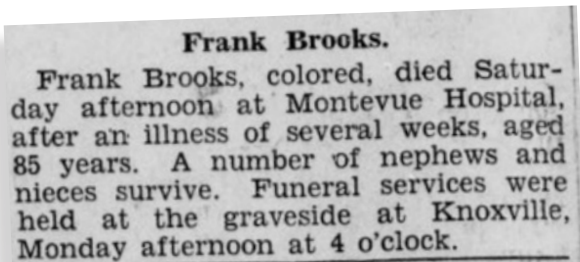


Frank Brooks died at age 85 in 1935. He is buried in Mountain Cemetery.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Civil War Veteran William B. Garner died in 1918 at age 78 and is buried in Mountain Cemetery. He served in the Co. E, 4th USCT at Fort Lincoln, one of seven temporary earthwork forts part of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, DC. Nov. 17, 1865.



Frederick News Post announcement

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Cemeteries CONTINUED

Cemetery. Situated on a hillside north of Main Street and steeped in Civil War history, it has a panoramic view framed by the backdrop of the town.

The cemetery was used as a temporary location for Civil War dead from the battles at South Mountain and Antietam. According to the Burkittsville Union Cemetery website, "in 1867, most of the U.S. soldiers were exhumed and reinterred at the newly-established Antietam National Cemetery. A few years later, the Confederate soldiers were also exhumed and reinterred at Washington Confederate Cemetery [in] the City of Hagerstown's Rose Hill Cemetery."

The earliest burial was Martin Shaffer who died in May of 1801. Among the more prominent



James Alfred Gwynn (Guynn) died in 1894 at age 76 and is buried in Mountain Cemetery.

Amos Horine went from Brunswick to Westminster, purchasing the drug store of the late Charles W. Moore in 1919.

The Horines' mother Frances was a sister to Manassas Jacob Grove. He owned a mercantile in Broad Run and then in Burkittsville and before that was a school teacher in several local communities and postmaster in Burkittsville. He and his wife lived there before moving to Lime Kiln. There he saw an opportunity to quarry lime and began the highly successful M. J. Grove & Son Lime Company. Nymeo Stadium, home of the Frederick Keys, is named after his son Harry Grove, who was an avid sportsman and sports fan.

John Dawson Ahalt was the proprietor of Ahalt's Distillery near Burkittsville. He was a Director of the C&O Canal for seven years and was once a candidate for House of Delegates.

The Honorable Daniel Biser served in the House of Delegates for several terms and by all accounts was highly-esteemed. He suffered tragedies in his life when his sons were killed, one as a young man when a tree fell on him and another in the Civil War.

Another well-known person interred here was George Wilmer Yourtee, a physician and surgeon born in "Sandy Hook" District in 1868. He died in 1923. "Yourtee Springs," from which Brunswick draws some of its water supply, is named for his family. ■

The next part of this series will include Ceres Union African Methodist Episcopal Cemetery on Gapland Road above Burkittsville and the Knoxville Reformed Cemetery overlooking the Potomac River on Cemetery Circle.



Gravestone of Manassas J. Grove, industrialist.

figures interred here are Brunswick's Dr. Arlington G. Horine; industrialists Manassas J. Grove (1824-1907) and John D. Ahalt (1848-1916); and former member and Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Hon. Daniel S. Biser (1801-1877). The cemetery contains 1,098 people and continues to receive burials.

Dr. A. G. Horine was a surgeon with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from 1891-1903 and Brunswick's mayor from 1906 through 1914. He also operated Horine's Drug Store and Soda Fountain in the Horine Building on the square corner in downtown Brunswick.

Also interred at the cemetery is Dr. Amos M. Horine, a well-known druggist, brother to Dr. A. G. Horine. He died in 1940. Dr.



Amos Horine's drug store.

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

100 Years Ago
from The
Valley Register

Compiled by
Julie Maynard

November 7, 1924.
COOLIDGE SWEEPS COUNTRY.

Coolidge Wins in County.

... Middletown was the banner Republican district in the county, giving Mr. Zihlman [for Congress] the largest Republican majority in the county—277. It gave President Coolidge 398 majority. Brunswick came next, with 268 majority for Zihlman, and 78 for Coolidge. Burkittsville district gave Zihlman 130 majority and Coolidge 172. Petersville district gave Zihlman 130 majority and Coolidge 72.

Hog Cholera.

Hog cholera exists on the farms of Roy Taylor and C. Y. Adkins, near Middletown, and J. W. Young and W. G. Everhart, Petersville.

FORMER BRUNSWICK MAN IS MURDERED.

Shot Down By Robber in Ohio

Edward Funk, aged 53 years, a well-known business man of New Boston, Ohio, formerly of Brunswick, was shot down and killed in his place of business, Oct. 21. Robbery was the motive.

Mr. Funk was the owner of the New Boston Filling Station. According to the police theory, he was sitting in his office, balancing his sales sheet for the day, when a man, with his face covered with a handkerchief, stepped to the door and without any words fired two shots, each one passing through the body of Mr. Funk.

A boy, 12, was coming from a grocery store at that time and saw the man stop in an alley, put the handkerchief over his face and afterward heard the shots. At this he ran for help. Mr. Funk lived about 15 minutes after being shot.

The handkerchief and a pair of overalls, with the gun, were found in the alley later and several men are held by the police as suspects. Rewards amounting to over \$1,000 have been offered for the capture of the gunman.

Mr. Funk is survived by his widow and three daughters...; four sisters, Mrs. J. F. MacAbee, Lime Kiln; Daisy Funk, Brunswick; Cara Funk, Petterson, N. J.; Mrs. E. L. Belt, Baltimore; two brothers, Harry B. and Lewis R. Funk of Brunswick. ... Mr. Funk left Brunswick many years ago for Baltimore. After working there for several years, he went to New Boston in 1913 and was employed in a steel plant. Later he entered the oil business, in which he prospered. He was a well known business man and popular among a wide circle of friends.

Pola Negri in 'The Spanish Dancer'

"The Spanish Dancer," a Paramount production starring Pola Negri, will be the big attraction at Memorial Hall Saturday night. The story deals with the love romance of a gypsy girl of rare beauty in Spain during the reign of Philip IV. Every scene has a thrill of its own and Pola Negri's role is one of extraordinary dramatic strength. The gorgeousness of the interior scenes is said to surpass any picture ever made. Heavy silken draperies, cloth of gold and mosaic of rare design fashioned after original decorations in old Spanish palaces, were used. When Negri, as the gypsy girl, becomes the wife of Don Cesar, she wears costumes which for sheer beauty have probably never been equaled by the gowns of any other period in history. ...

Two Injured and Automobile is Almost Demolished.

Two persons were slightly injured and an automobile almost demolished in an accident on Steiner's Hill, west of Jefferson, last Saturday evening about 7.30

o'clock. Those hurt were Wm. Dawson of Brunswick, who was cut about the forehead and bruised about the body, and Goodman G. Wills, of Frederick, who was rendered unconscious for a short time.

The mishap was the result of the Dawson automobile and a car driven by Mrs. Roy Maught, of near Burkittsville, containing Mr. Maught and their young child, who were going toward Harper's Ferry, colliding. Mr. Dawson was coming toward Frederick. The Dawson car rolled over several times, and was almost a complete wreck. Soon after the accident, both parties were taken before Justice Lloyd, of Petersville, and given a hearing on a charge of failing to keep to the right of the road.

Much Building Going On.

Among the most modern and beautiful finished homes in this part of the county just completed, is that of Mr. C. A. Huffer, at Broad Run. This resident is fashioned after many of the modern new homes of the cities and presents a most pleasing and inviting appearance. The trimming is of ivory enamel, with mahogany doors.

The new resident of Vernon E. Webber, Knoxville, is well under way and is expected to be completed within a comparatively short time. This home is located near the new school house.

The new asbestos shingle roof on St. Mary's Catholic Church, Petersville, has been completed.

Brunswick is in the midst of an intense building program. Paul W. Koogler has begun work on his new home on the north side of Brunswick street, between Florida and Central avenues, and Mac Moore has begun work on his new home in Rosemont. E. D. Darr is adding the finishing touches to his new garage on West Potomac street, and a fine new home for the Brunswick Motor Co. is under way on Petersville road. W. H. Calhoun has about completed his large storage garage in the rear of 214 A street, and the apartment of Miss Lottie Harbaugh, at A street and Third avenue, is nearing completion.

November 14, 1924.

New Words, New Words

THOUSANDS OF THEM SPELLED, PRONOUNCED AND DEFINED IN WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY

Here are a few:

broadcast, Blue Cross, rotogravure, Flag Day, mud gun, rollmop, psoriasis, taiga, Czecho-Slovak, aerial cascade, Devil Dog, soviet, realtor, mystery ship, junior college, Fascists, megabar, precool, camp-fire girl, Air Council, activation, Federal Land Bank...

Three Held on Larceny Charge.

Owen Norris, Jesse J. Himes, and Arnold Mentzer, all of near Burkittsville, were held under \$100 bond each for the February grand jury, on Thursday afternoon of last week, on charges of the larceny of shovels and picks belonging to the M. J. Grove Lime Co. Through their attorney, they waived a preliminary hearing and gave bail. The men at first denied the charge, but later stated they were under the influence of liquor at the time they removed the implements, and told the authorities where they were hidden. The arrests followed a series of petty thefts which have kept the company waiting for an opportunity to apprehend the guilty parties.

Pull Up Your Skirt.

The woman who doesn't like "The Register" because it never gets anything right should tuck up her under-skirt. It hangs down and looks sloppy. The editor may

not know how to run a newspaper right, but he knows how to put his clothes on so his underwear won't show.

November 21, 1924.

Two Big Wrecks on B. & O. Saturday.

Last Saturday was an unlucky day for the B. & O. Railroad Co. That morning, shortly after 4 o'clock, the engine and 14 freight cars loaded with live stock, was wrecked near Buckeystown, when the train struck a horse that had wandered on the track. Several hundred head of cattle and hogs were killed. Hundreds of hogs, cows and calves were liberated when the cars wrecked, and wandered for miles around the scene.

At 4.14 o'clock Saturday afternoon, the Capitol Limited, the crack flyer of the B. & O. Railroad, from Baltimore and Washington to Chicago, was wrecked at Weverton, Washington county, just this side of Harper's Ferry. Harry H. Giffern, fireman, of Elizabethtown, Pa, was thrown from his cab and crushed to death beneath the tender of the locomotive. M. Fletcher, Cumberland, postal clerk, and W. G. Maxion, 19, Cumberland, postal clerk, were slightly injured. A. J. Ross, of Baltimore, the engineer, is blamed for the wreck, when he switched over from the westbound track to the eastbound track at 48 miles an hour instead of slowing down to 15 miles an hour as required by company rules. Two signals, one 3,000 feet from the signal tower, and another a red flag at the tower, were disregarded by the engineer, it is claimed.

Ross was signaled to switch over due to the derailment of several cars of a 124-car freight train which blocked the westbound track at Sandy Hook, one mile west of Weverton. More than 250 feet of track was torn up and the interlocking switching plant demolished. Ross, the engineer, according to officials of the company, has been in its service for a long time and was a "picked man," as the Capitol Limited is one of the most important trains on the B. & O. system. The engine and seven of the 11 coaches of the train left the rails.

E. W. Scheer, general manger of the railroad, said of Ross: "The engineer in charge was one of the best and most careful on the railroad, and has been running his trains in a very satisfactory manner. In this particular instance, however, he made an error of judgment for reasons we do not now understand and permitted his train to pass through the switches at a higher rate of speed than the company's rules permit at such places." Ross was brought to the hospital at Brunswick and later in the day removed to his home in Baltimore.

The Buckeystown Wreck.

In the wreck at Buckeystown, 180 hogs, 75 cattle and 15 calves were killed. The train consisted of 60 cars, all but one of which were loaded with livestock. The carcasses of the dead animals were sold to Frederick County Products, Inc., Frederick, for conversion into fertilizer. One refrigerator car of beef was among those wrecked.

Hundreds of yards of track was torn up. Two wrecking crews, one from Baltimore and one from Brunswick, were rushed to the scene of the wreck. Squads of B. & O. workmen were sent out Saturday afternoon, gathering up the frightened animals, which had wandered from the wreck scene, after having been released from the cars. These animals were loaded and reconsigned to Baltimore.

LOCAL NEWS

Descendants of Dr. Horine Visit Brunswick

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

On Railroad Days weekend, four of Dr. Arlington G. Horine's great-grandchildren and their spouses gathered in Brunswick, a place they fondly remember from their childhood. What better place to stay than the Horine Building, now an AirBNB owned by Kimberly Lazarow and Todd Garvis. Located on the corner of East Potomac St. and S. Maple Ave. in downtown Brunswick, the Horine building was once their great grandfather's famous drug store and soda fountain.

The four adults have other family ties to Brunswick as well. They were the grandchildren of Robert and Frances Virginia Horine Cage. Mrs. Cage was Dr. Horine's daughter. Robert Cage was a brother of Hugh Cage who operated Cage Bros. Garage, a



Dr. A. G. Horine

four years old in 1956 when Dr. Horine died but he remembers coming here with his father on the train from Washington to visit him.

The Cage grandchildren remember enjoying the time they spent walking around Brunswick with friends and cousins, playing outdoors, and fishing at the river. They loved the trains back in the day and still love trains. Their father was a retired B&O Railroad engineer.

Behind the Horine Building there once was a squirrel cage in a gazebo where they liked to feed the squirrels.

Many of the four Dowling sibling's family members are buried in the Burkittsville Union Cemetery including the Horines, Cages, Ahalts, Bisers and the Groves. Dr. Horine was married to the sister of M. J. Grove, an industrialist in his day. ■

long running and popular business in Brunswick.

Debbie, Robert, Joe, and Gemma's mother, Delores Cage Dowling, was born in Brunswick but later moved with her parents to Washington D.C.

The Horine grandchildren fondly remember spending time in the summer in Brunswick with their grandparents. Joe was just



Dr. A. G. Horine's great grandchildren in front of his former drug store and soda fountain in 2024.

Asteroids and Comets



By **IMA ROE BOT**

AI SPECIALIST — SOUDER INSTITUTE

When an editor of the Brunswick News-Journal asked me to write an article about the difference between an asteroid and a comet, the first thing I thought was to check with my colleague, Chet G. Petey. Here is what he had to say:

The key differences between a comet and an asteroid lie in their composition, origin, and behavior.

Composition:

Comet: Comets are composed mainly of ice, dust, and rocky material. They are often described as "dirty snowballs." When a comet approaches the Sun, the heat causes the ice to vaporize, creating a glowing coma (a cloud of gas and dust) around the nucleus, and often a visible tail that always points away from the Sun due to the solar wind.

Asteroid: Asteroids are made up primarily of rock and metal. They don't have much ice, so they don't develop a tail or coma when they get close to the Sun.

Location/Origin:

Comet: Comets typically originate from the outer regions of the solar system, particularly in two places: the Kuiper Belt (just beyond Neptune) and the Oort Cloud (a distant spherical shell surrounding the solar system).

Asteroid: Asteroids mostly reside in the Asteroid Belt, a region between Mars and Jupiter. This area is home to numerous rocky objects that never formed into a planet.

Behavior:

Comet: Comets have highly elliptical orbits, which means they often travel far from the Sun, then come close, and repeat this cycle. This causes them to periodically become active when near the Sun, creating the characteristic tails.

Asteroid: Asteroids generally have more circular orbits that keep them in the relatively stable zone of the asteroid belt, though some can stray close to Earth.

In summary, comets are icy and active when near the Sun, while asteroids are rocky and remain mostly inactive. ■



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Students of the Month Honored at BHS



Back row (from left): Mr. Schwarenegger, Thomas Kautz, James Sidelinger, Nathaniel Houck, Wyatt Guyton, Mecciah Keitt.
Front row (from left): Layke Jensen, Delaney Yablon, Marah Schnur, Reese Dudley

At Brunswick High School this year, every department will honor one student a month. These students were celebrated on October 9 and given the opportunity to act as an advisory board to the school administration.

September Students of the Month and Nominating Departments:

- Reese Dudley — Social Studies
- Wyatt Guyton — Visual Performing Arts
- Nathaniel Houck — Career Technology Education
- Layke Jensen — Physical Education
- Thomas Kautz — Math
- Mecciah Keitt — World Languages
- Marah Schnur — Science
- James Sidelinger — English
- Delaney Yablon — Media/Virtual School

New Members at Jefferson Ruritan



Pictured (l-r): Dave Huffer, President, Justin Nedwick, Anna Mae Zecher, Carol Ann Williamson, Theresa Furnari, Gardner Duvall and Jaime Patrick, Membership Chair. Not pictured was Susan Kelley.

The Jefferson Ruritan Club was pleased to welcome the following new members during their September meeting: Gardner Duvall, Theresa Furnari, Susan Kelley, Justin Nedwick, Anna Mae Zecher, all of Jefferson, and Carol Ann Williamson

of Frederick.

For information about our club, which meets the 3rd Wednesday monthly at 6:30 pm, please visit The Jefferson Ruritan Facebook page or our website: Jeffersonruritan.org. ■

REMEMBERING Dr. George E. Lewis, Jr.

By **ABBIE RICKETTS**

Well known area resident, Dr. George E. Lewis Jr., DVM, PHD, DACVM, COL (Ret.) U.S. Army passed away on September 22, 2024 after a lengthy illness.

A long time resident of Lander, he is remembered in the Brunswick region for his passionate civic volunteer service to the C&O Canal National Historical Park. His vision for restoring the Catoctin Aqueduct, an historic structure along the canal near Lander, led him to form the Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration Fund.

Working closely with the National Park Service, Dr. Lewis led the fundraising for the \$4.5 million restoration that was a combined effort of the private and public sector.

He was awarded the Superin-



Dr. George E. Lewis, Jr.

tendent's Award for Excellence in Citizen Stewardship (C&O Canal National Historical Park) and the Tourism Council of Frederick County Ambassador of the Year (2011) award for his efforts.

Most recently, Dr. Lewis served as Chair of the C&O Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission (National Park Service).

Dr. Lewis was an early advisor to the C&O Canal Trust, founder of the Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration Fund, a past C&O Canal Association Board member, and founder of the Lander Community Association. Among the many Boards that Dr. Lewis served on were the Community Foundation of Frederick County and the

Working closely with the National Park Service, Dr. Lewis led the fundraising for the \$4.5 million restoration.



Dr. George E. Lewis, Jr. is 3rd from left next to former Senator Barbara Mikulski.

Point of Rocks Community Historical Society.

Dr. Lewis came to Brunswick on several occasions to speak to the Canal Towns Partnership members where his advice and enthusiasm were always welcomed and appreciated.

He leaves behind his wife Pamela and their two children along with one grandchild. ■

Comet Visits Brunswick!!

Well, it didn't actually visit us, but this photo was taken from Brunswick Crossing by Dan Roe on Sunday, Oct. 13. The comet's head is just under 2 miles in diameter and is composed of ice and dust (a dirty snowball — see nearby article on comets and asteroids). If you missed seeing it there will be another visit in the year 82,024 if you want to mark your calendar.



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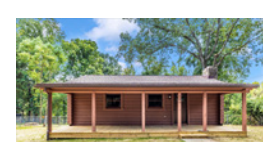
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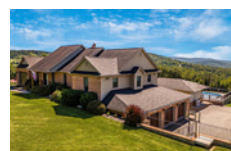
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SPORTS

BHS Flag Football

A mix of fun and learning

By BILL CAULEY

In its second year of existence, Brunswick High School's flag football team is focusing on a number of things.

First, the Railroaders are a group of players involved in a young, rapidly-evolving athletic program across the state, as well as the country.

Second, they are continuing to learn the fundamentals of flag football.

Third, and most important, Brunswick is learning how to have fun with the sport. For second-year coach B.J. Dick, that's how he's going to gauge the success of the team. It's something that goes far beyond just winning.

"Fun, that's what we've been stressing," Dick said following the Railroaders' 7-6, overtime loss to Smithsburg High on Wednesday, Sept. 25, at the BHS stadium. "If you're not having fun, then you're asking yourself: why are you out here in the first place? You have to be happy while you're playing this sport."

Dick takes over for former BHS coach Cindy Wilhelm, who left the school's athletic program after the end of girls' basketball season last February to re-start the women's basketball program at Hagerstown Community College. He admits he was talked

into the job by his daughters, Megan and Jenna. Jenna is the quarterback of the team.

"They got after me about it, so did my wife (Kelli)," B.J. Dick said. He applied for the position last spring. Soon after that, he got the job.

Dick did not play football in high school, but knew about flag football and decided to give coaching a try. He's already had experience as a youth basketball coach, so Dick knew how to relate to the players.

With five returning starters from last year, and the younger players eager to learn the game, Dick found himself in a good situation. "This is a fantastic group of kids," he said. "They're willing to listen to what the coaching staff is telling them and they're learning."

Last year, the Railroaders won just one game. Through Sept. 25, Brunswick had won one game, defeating Walkersville.

When the team makes a mistake, Dick stresses the need for not dwelling on it. "You just have to keep moving forward, learn from your mistakes, and get better."

Last year, the flag football movement started in Frederick County Public Schools, with 10 public high schools starting the program, which has been en-

dorsed by the National Football League through its NFL Flag Football program. Now, there are 53 officially-sanctioned flag football teams in Maryland.

"It's really growing, not just in Maryland, but all across the country," Dick said. "The NFL is leading the way on this."

In the game with Smithsburg, Brunswick had taken a 6-0 lead when Jenna Dick threw a touchdown pass to Higgins with 10 minutes, 27 seconds to go in the first half. Flag football is played in halves, with each half lasting 15 minutes. There is a 3-minute break between halves.

Smithsburg tied the score with 2:28 to go in the half, breaking a long running play. The score remained tied throughout the second half, sending the game into overtime.

In overtime, the Leopards stopped the Railroaders on its 2-point conversion pass play, when the pass was deflected by a Smithsburg defender. No touchdowns are scored in overtime, just 1 or 2-point conversion.

Smithsburg converted a 1-point pass play to win the game.

"That one play was the difference," Dick said of Smithsburg's long touchdown late in the first half. "But you can't change the past, you just have to move on to the next game." ■

BHS JV Football

A training ground for the future

By BILL CAULEY

The strength behind any successful varsity high school football team has to come from a strong feeder system. Junior varsity football helps fulfill that requirement.

Brunswick High School's junior varsity football team may not always win a lot of games during the season, but that's not what the program is about. The idea is to get these underclassmen better prepared for what lies ahead, once they move up to the varsity level.

"They're maturing, but they have a long way to go," Brunswick head JV coach Scott Tilles said after a JV game against the Smithsburg High Leopards on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at BHS stadium. Smithsburg High won that game, 24-14.

The most important aspect of the JV program is it's no different than on the varsity level. The philosophy is the same, the offensive and defensive schemes are the same.

"We all use the same plays as varsity," Tilles said. "And all of the varsity coaches are involved with the development aspect of the JV program."

Tilles explained members of the varsity staff come over to the JV practice sessions and work with the JV coaches and players, showing them how to run the plays, how to play defense the right way. One of the main things taught to the players is it takes a full four quarters of effort in order to be successful.

During the game against

Smithsburg High, Brunswick High fell behind 16-0 at halftime and 24-0 after three quarters. From then on, the Railroaders' defense shut the doors on the Leopards.

"They still need to learn they've got to put two halves together," Tilles said. "I think, because they're so young, they come out at the beginning of the game and get hit in the face."

Tilles said what the team needs to do is to not wait for an opponent to make the first move. "They wait for them to hit us in the face first, instead of us doing it first."

During the final quarter of the Smithsburg game, the Railroaders did just that. Quarterback Cole Hoffman threw a pair of touchdown passes to Cayden Boddicker.

One pass covered 33 yards, the other was good for 25. Manny Kontar kicked two extra points for Brunswick High.

Hoffman and Boddicker know things never come easy. A lot of time and effort goes into learning the offense and defense. They know what's expected of them.

"Our goal is to improve over time," Hoffman said.

Boddicker is fairly new to football. He's primarily a lacrosse player, but he said he needed another varsity sport to participate in. Like Cole, he also wants to learn and continue to improve with each game.

All of what Brunswick High's JV football team does, just like another JV sport, is preparing these young athletes for future varsity competition. ■

BHS Girls' Soccer



Members of Brunswick High's girls' soccer team huddle before the start of a recent match



Brunswick High girls' soccer coach Darrach Demich watches intently as her team plays a recent match at BHS. The Railroaders are enjoying a very successful season

Parry takes over at BHS

Brunswick High School assistant football coach Rick Parry has been named acting head coach of the Railroaders' varsity football team, Kevin Kendro, Supervisor of Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities for Frederick County Public Schools, said in an email.

Parry takes over for head coach Jerry Smith, who is currently not coaching the team. No reason was given for Smith not coaching the team at present.

It's the policy of FCPS not to comment on personnel matters, Kendro said. Parry will remain the acting head coach until further notice, Kendro said.

The team has been notified of the update in head coaches, Kendro said. "BHS is confident in coach Parry leading the Railroaders during this period," he said.

— Bill Cauley



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Brunswick Boy Scouts Stay Active

By ANNE ZUMBACH

Brunswick Boy Scout Troop 277 is in the midst of a busy fall. In September the boys assembled the parts for a picnic table for their campsite at Walkersville Watershed. They worked to clean up their campsite and worked on their cooking skills, making quesadillas and pancakes. Assistant Scout Master Mr. Parde added blueberry cobbler to the menu.

The boys had their regular booth offering games at Railroad Days. Dime toss, PLINKO, and ring toss were very popular this year.

Other fall activities include a camporee and a Court of Honor, where the boys will be presented with the merit badges they have earned and the ranks they have achieved.

Service projects will include a food drive to benefit the Brunswick Food Bank (tentatively scheduled for Nov. 2) and manning the Weverton aid station for the JFK 50-Miler race. The troop will also participate in the Brunswick Veteran's Day Parade. Activities at the troop meetings will include a flag retirement ceremony, filling shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse, and turkey bowling.

Troop 277 is open to boys ages 11 to 18. The troop meets on Thursday evenings at Merryland Park. For more information, email zum50@hotmail.com. Brunswick is also starting



Scouts building a picnic table, from left to right: Sam Cronkite, Simon McGillivray, Kyle McGann, Nicholas Cronkite, Hutch Nerheim and James Best.

a Cub Scout Pack. For information on the cub pack, contact

stephanie.fletcher@scouting.org. ■

Holiday Bazaar at the American Legion

On Saturday, November 23, the American Legion Auxiliary is hosting a Holiday Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be many vendors and crafters to help with holiday shopping. Some of the items include jewelry, wooden crafts, Scentsy, Christmas decorations, handmade home décor, Avon, stained glass and more.

The Auxiliary will serve food from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will have a baked goods table.

Raffles will be offered with all proceeds supporting Operation Happy Holidays at Fort

Detrick, which helps soldiers Grade E5 and below provide gifts for their children for the holidays.

The Auxiliary has been donating the raffle proceeds since 2018 (except during the two years of the Covid pandemic) and brought this event back in 2022. Each year it gets better.

This Holiday Bazaar is a win-win for all. Everyone can shop for unique gifts for the upcoming holidays and the soldiers' families will be enjoying their holiday because of your support. ■

The Jefferson Ruritan Club



Holiday Craft Market

Saturday 11/30/24

10 am – 2 pm

Crafters and vendors for your Holiday shopping



Santa and The Grinch will be here to visit with your children.



Christmas Trees will be sold by BSA Troop 1066.

Food will be available to purchase for lunch.

4603B Lander Road (Next to the Fire Station)
Jefferson, MD 21755



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BRUNSWICK AND JEFFERSON

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

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

Meet our new providers accepting new patients

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

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

FPCA BRUNSWICK

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

Walk In Lab Services

7:30AM–11AM and
1:30PM–3:00PM

FPCA JEFFERSON

4014 Mountville Road
Jefferson, MD 21755
M–F: 7:30AM–5PM

Walk In Lab Services

7:30AM–12PM



Steffanie McCombs, CRNP



Heather Jones, CRNP



Joseph Asuncion, MD

STUFF & NONSENSE

Two pilots, both wearing dark glasses...

...walk up the center aisle of a passenger plane. One is using a guide dog and the other is tapping his way along the aisle with a cane.

Nervous laughter spreads through the cabin, but the men enter the cockpit, the door closes and the engines start up. The passengers begin glancing nervously around, searching for some sign that this is just a little practical joke. None is forthcoming.

The plane moves faster and faster down the runway and the people sitting in the window seats realize they're headed straight for the water at the edge of the airport. As it begins to look as though the plane will plough into the water, panicked screams fill the cabin.

At that moment, the plane lifts smoothly into the air. The passengers relax and laugh a little sheepishly and soon all retreat into their magazines, secure in the knowledge that the plane is in good hands.

In the cockpit, one of the blind pilots turns to the other and says, "Ya know, Bob, one of these days, they're gonna scream too late and we're all gonna die."

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right — only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify... I put 'DOCTOR.'"

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

You do not need a parachute to sky dive. You only need a parachute to sky dive twice.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but its getting harder and harder for me to find one.

A husband gentleman, fresh out of gift ideas...

... bought his mother-in-law a large plot in an expensive cemetery.

On her next birthday, he bought her nothing. She was quick to comment loud and long on his thoughtlessness.

He replied, "Well, you haven't used the gift I gave you last year."

Scientists have shown that the moon is moving away at a tiny...

...although measurable distance from the earth every year. If you do the math, you can calculate that 85 million years ago the moon was orbiting the earth at a distance about 35 feet from the earth's surface.

This would explain the death of the dinosaurs — the tallest ones, anyway.



WRITERS WANTED!

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

School News

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

Lovettsville News

General news reporting and feature writing

These are volunteer positions. Work on your own time. It's a great way to be involved in your community!

Interested?

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

Jefferson Ruritan Club



Country Breakfast

Sat. December 7, 2024

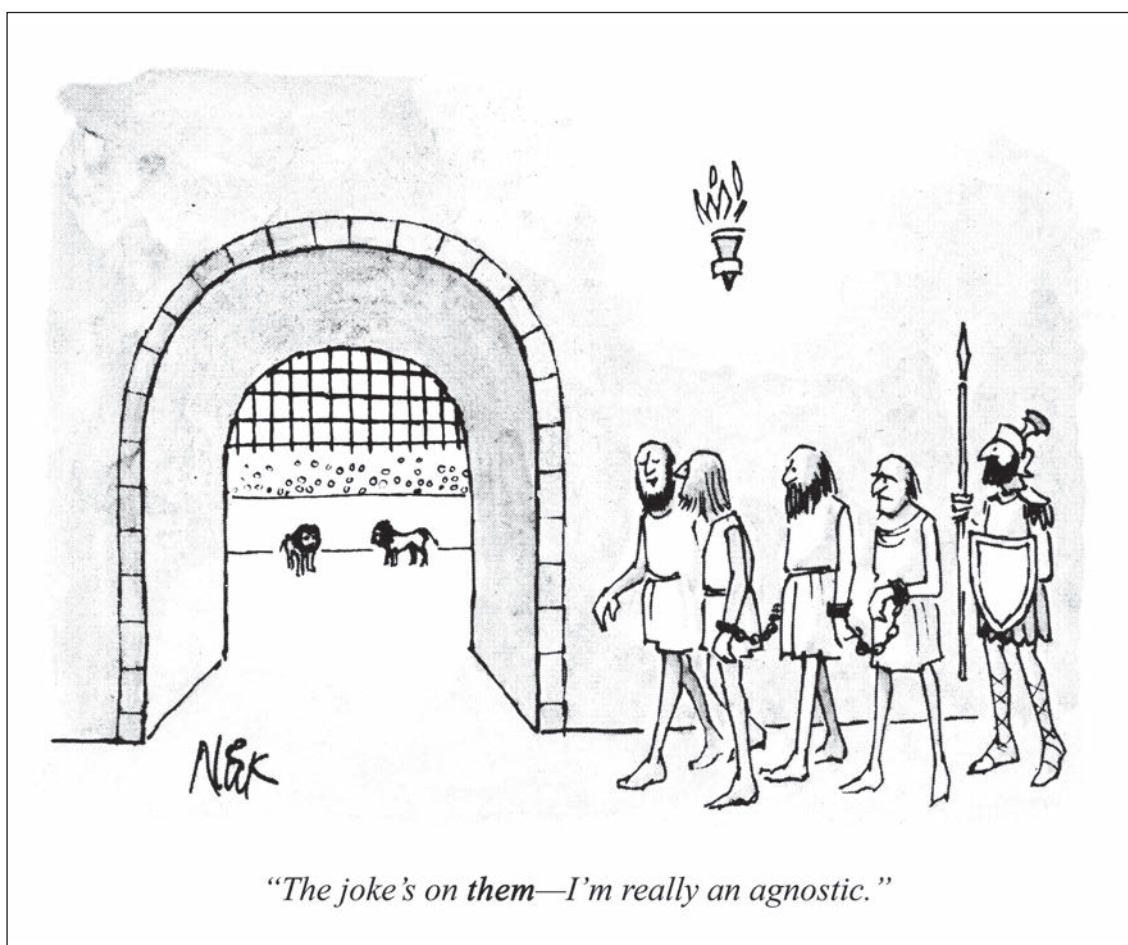
7:00 am – 11:00 am

Adults \$14

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

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

4603B Lander Rd., Jefferson, MD



BRUNSWICK MAIN STREET

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN 11/9

20TH ANNUAL MILTON FRECH JR. POTOMAC STREET MILE

Square Corner Park, 1 E. Potomac St. Proceeds benefit American Legion Post 96 & Brunswick B.E.A.C.O.N.

tinyurl.com/2024PotomacStreetMile

WINTER INDOOR MARKET

DEC-MAR

Kaplon Building, 102 W. Potomac St. Second Friday, 4-7PM

bmsfarmersmarket.com

New Members Wanted for Brunswick Great Decisions

Brunswick's Great Decisions Group is preparing for the 2025 season of foreign policy discussions. The eight-week series is based on a "briefing book" provided by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA.org).

Each week, a member of the group does background research for the week's topic and, following a 20-minute introductory video, leads an hour-long discussion.

Topics for 2025 include American Foreign Policy, U.S.-China Relations, International Cooperation on Climate Change, The Future of NATO, After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East, and many more.

The group meets at 11:45 a.m. on Fridays at Bethany Lutheran Church, from February 7 - March 28. The hour-long sessions are usually followed by lunch at the Potomac Street Grill a short walk away.



Dan Roe has led the Brunswick Chapter for the last several years, but has decided to step down. Scott Norris, who lives in nearby Knoxville, has agreed to lead the chapter this year.

Ten regulars will be back for another year of Great Decisions, but there is room for more. To join the discussion or find out more, contact Scott at senorris1@icloud.com. ■

See New York City at Holiday Time

The Smoketown/Potomac Valley Rotary Club is hosting its annual New York City your day your way bus trip on Sunday, December 15. The bus leaves at 6 a.m. from the 340 park and ride near Frederick. It returns between 11:30 p.m.-12 a.m. with lots of fun, cheer and movies. Bring your own snacks. The cost is \$90 per person. Proceeds from the trip will benefit scholarships for Brunswick and Middletown high schools. Register on Eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/smoketown-rotary-club-new-york-bus-trip-2024-tickets-1047923937707> ■

Freezin for a Reason

New Years Day River Plunge Benefits Local Charities

The 17th Annual Freezin for a Reason takes place January 1, 2025, New Years Day. It gives people a fun way to provide support for three organizations that serve the needs of many local people.

The Brunswick Area Food Bank helps families with food needs throughout the year. BEACON helps people with emergency needs such as housing, utility bills and children's needs. The Frederick County Special Olympics program supports youth and adults with intellectual challenges, by providing a healthy and fun sports program. All funds donated will stay here in Frederick County and the Brunswick area.

The river plunge takes place at the Brunswick Family Campground, 1 mile east of Brunswick between the C & O Canal and the Potomac River. The actual plunge takes place at 1 p.m.

Supporters can help in two ways. Make a financial pledge to support a person going into the river or collect your own pledges and take the plunge yourself.

For participants, a pledge sheet can be found at BARC-MD.com. Anyone making or collecting pledges in excess of \$35 and pre-registering by December 10 will get a fun Freezin T-Shirt. At the event, light packaged snacks and drinks are provided.



A changing area will be set up for use after the plunge.

Pre-register by phone at 301-834-8045 or email zum50@hotmail.com or sign up and bring your pledges to the event. Only those pre-registered are eligible for the T-shirt if registered by December 10. Several key contacts for the event include Shirley Shores, Keith Zecher, Bob

Ward and Lee Zumbach.

The Brunswick Area Recreation Council (BARC) is the event sponsor. River & Trail Outfitters are supporting this event by providing use of the campground and promoting the event. The plunge happens rain or shine, unless weather or river conditions are severe. ■



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thecrossings.cc

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GUIDING PEOPLE to
FIND and FOLLOW Jesus

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

ALL ABOARD BRUNSWICK

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

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

Folktales by the Fireside at Fox Haven Farm — donation
November 1, 6-9 pm
www.foxhavenfarm.org/events

Art Adventure
November 2, 10 am-4 pm
Brunswick Library

Puzzle Swap
November 3, 2-4 pm
Brunswick Library

Fall Fling — A Sensory Program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities
November 4, 11 am-noon
Brunswick Library

Fiber Fun
November 4, 4-5 pm
Brunswick Library

Children's Book Week (ages 5-10)
November 5, 4:30-5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Fantastic Fossils with GTC Rock Shop! (ages 11-18)
November 7, 6-7 pm
Brunswick Library

Pour Over Poetry
November 8, 6-9 pm
(open mic and invited readers)
brunswicklinepoetry@gmail.com
Beans in the Belfry
122 W. Potomac St.

Brunswick Arts Council — Holiday Arts Participation Discussion
November 9, 11 am
Brunswick Library

Memory Lab by Appointment
November 12-19, all day
Brunswick Library

Children's Book Trivia (ages 5-10)
November 12, 4:30-5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Board Game Party (ages 12-18)
November 14, 6-7 pm
Brunswick Library

Bethany Lutheran Church Fall Bazaar
November 15 & 16, 9 am-2 pm
Bean soup, vegetable soup, country ham sandwiches
Yard sale items, 109 First Avenue

Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar benefit for BEACON
November 15, 10 am-3 pm & Nov. 16, 8 am-3 pm
Grace Episcopal Church
114 E. A Street

Catoctin Holiday Art Tour
November 16 & 17
Lovettsville area
www.catoctinart.com

Dinosaur Party (ages 5-10)
November 19, 4:30-5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Tween Time: Sphero Painting (ages 8-13)
November 20, 4:30-5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

Sausage and Pork Chop Sale
November 21
Order on Facebook or 240-439-0235
Petersville Ruritan Club
3616 Petersville Rd.

Make-A-Magnet (ages 11-18)
November 21, 6-7 pm
Brunswick Library

Country Breakfast Buffet Style
November 23, 6:30-10 am
Petersville Ruritan Club
3616 Petersville Rd.

Valley Craft Network Studio Tour — free
November 23-24, 10 am-5pm
Middletown/Pleasant Valley
valleycraftnetwork.org

Holiday Bazaar at American Legion to support Ft. Detrick Operation Happy Holidays
November 23, 10 am-4 pm.
Food from 11 am-2 pm
American Legion
18 S. Maple Ave.

Raid the Closet (ages 5-10)
November 26, 4:30-5:30 pm
Brunswick Library

SAVE THE DATE

New York City Holiday Bus Trip
December 15, \$90/person
Smoketown/Potomac Valley
Rotary Club
Tickets at Eventbrite.com

RECURRING

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

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

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/ event

Elementary Explorers — fun activities
TUESDAYS, 4:30 pm, Elementary School Patrons
Brunswick Library

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

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

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

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

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

Weekly Teen Program
THURSDAYS, 6-7 pm
Brunswick Library

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

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

GBACC meeting November 14 6 -7:30pm

The Greater Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce will have a general membership meeting on Thursday, November 14 6 -7:30pm at the Holiday Inn Express (near the Brunswick Weis).

*Come find out about your local Chamber!
Light refreshments will be served*

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