



York, Pennsylvania

# Springettsbury Township Park Removes Basketball Nets Eliminating Key Community Space For Teens

By Austin Lerch

On March 24th, Springettsbury Township's Township Manager, Mark Hodgkinson, announced the "temporary closure" of its Springettsbury Park basketball courts "until further notice", thereby further reducing the already diminishing number of communal spaces for teenagers to socialize and recreate in York.

In the announcement posted to the township's website, Hodgkinson cited increased litter, evidence of marijuana, and violence amongst teenagers as the reasons for the closure.

The township is correct in stating that litter, including "numerous candy wrappers and water bottles" found at the courts is a problem, but the township must also accept partial responsibility for this issue. There are no water fountains adjacent to the basketball courts; however, if someone finds themselves in need of a drink, they are free to purchase a plastic water bottle along with a serving of junk food wrapped in single-use plastic at the concession stand (which is set to re-open this

month) located directly beside the basketball courts. This access to snacks and drinks (all packaged in plastic) in combination with a frequently overflowing trash bin exacerbates the litter problem.

"Evidence of marijuana," that oft-cited boogeyman used as an excuse to crack down on "riff-raff" in public spaces, is a weak reason to shut down a park. There was no elaboration on what this "evidence" actually was - a roach? The smell of weed? And exactly whose safety is truly jeopardized by a teenager smoking weed in the park? If Springettsbury Township chooses to pursue their own iteration of the American War on Drugs, it will inevitably end the same way the larger war has - in absolute failure.

I also call into question the validity of the claim of "violence amongst teenagers". I have personally played thousands of hours of pick-up basketball at Springettsbury Township and other York County Parks and have never once seen a dispute rise to the level of true violence. Was this a case of actual violence, or just an instance of kids being a bit rowdy and offending the sensibilities of a conservative park-goer?

Continued on 1B



what's inside???

upcoming events in York this April 2A 3A

bills proposed to eliminate school property taxes 1B

local sustainability info because it's earth month!!! 4B

## Basketball Nets

Continued from 1A

There has been no proposed plan for the re-opening of the courts, which calls into question the validity of the township's claim of commitment to "maintaining a safe and welcoming environment to all visitors." This ostensible "welcoming environment" apparently excludes teenagers, for whom the basketball courts are by far the biggest draw.

Without a plan for reopening the courts or providing alternative spaces for local youth to spend time outdoors, the "problems" cited by the township will not vanish with the removal of the basketball nets. Instead, removing safe spaces for teenagers to recreate locally will only serve to push them into alternative spaces, likely without the same benefits associated with community sports.

Members of the community seeking to expedite the re-opening of the courts should consider reaching out to Springettsbury Township directly, attending the next Parks and Recreation Meeting on April 20 from 6-7PM at the township building (1501 Mt. Zion Road York, PA 17406), or stopping by the park to clean up any litter accumulated by the courts.



## Proposed Bills Would Eliminate School Property Taxes, Further Inequality

by: Matthew Gargano  
matthew@mस्पrint.media

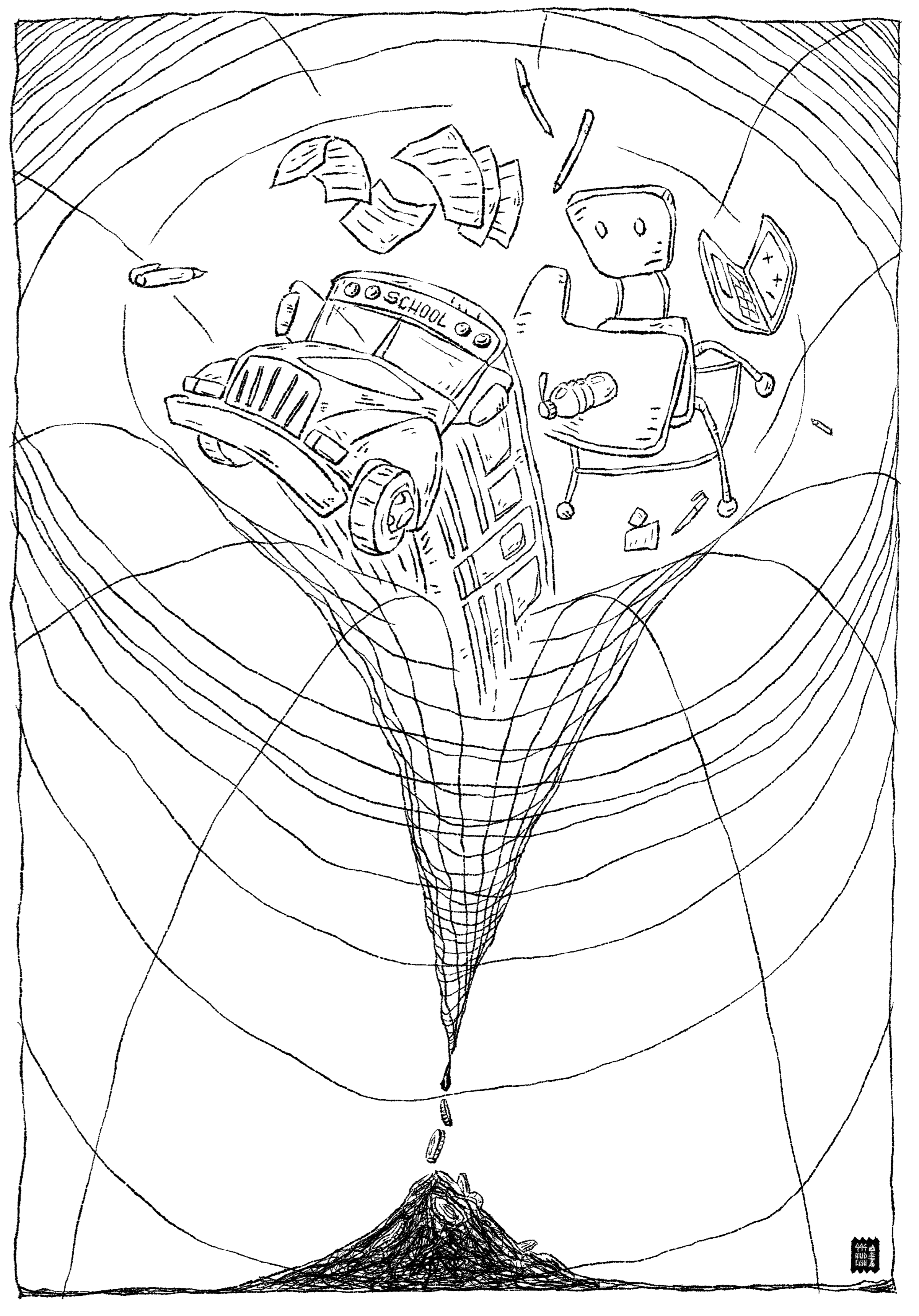
Led by York County Republican legislators, two current proposed bills would effectively eliminate and subsequently outlaw school property taxes statewide. Representative Wendy Fink, representing the 94th House district, is the prime sponsor of House Bill 1649 and Senator Dawn Keefer, representing the 31st Senate district, is the prime sponsor of the corresponding Senate Bill 962.

School property taxes in Pennsylvania, in their current form, do create challenges across the Commonwealth. The existing system creates an inequitable distribution of money between schools in areas with higher property values and schools in lower property value districts of the state. For example, in 2022, Tyrone Area School District spent \$15.8K per student while Wilkesburg Borough School District was one of the most highly funded public schools with \$71.6K spent per student. These discrepancies further the class divide in Pennsylvania and lead to worse educational outcomes in poorer school districts.

The proposed plan (which can be found at [www.noprop.tax](http://www.noprop.tax)) developed in these two bills fails to address any inequity concerns and instead propose replacing school property taxes with a locally collected 2% sales tax increase and a 1.85% local income tax increase. This includes expanding the sales tax to include non-WIC/SNAP foods and clothing and expanding the income tax to treat retirees' 401K/403B withdrawals and pension payments as income.

By nature of this new funding for schools being based entirely on local sales tax and local income tax, students are now relying on their school districts to contain both large amounts of commercial activity and high-income residents in order to be properly funded, claiming that it is better to keep the money local rather than passing it through Harrisburg. The plan does include a \$500+ million emergency fund for schools to help meet their budgets, but if we are already pooling money to help schools educate their students there is no reason a general education fund can not be created that would ensure an equitable distribution of money to students.

At the core of the proposed school funding rework is the concept that school property taxes are a "regressive tax" - a tax that places a higher burden on lower-income taxpayers rather than higher-income taxpayers.



# A P R I L E V E N T S

## Art Wellness Workshop: Seeds of Strength

As part of this recurring Art Wellness series, come to Marketview Arts and plant your own sunflower. All ages, free, all materials provided.

4/11  
11:00AM-1:00PM  
Marketview Arts  
37 West Philadelphia Street, York

## Garden Talk with Melanie Markowski

Melanie shares tips on how to grow plants and flowers in your garden that will lend themselves to lovely cut flower arrangement.

4/9  
6:30PM-7:45PM  
Kreutz Creek Library  
66 Walnut Springs Rd, Hellam

## Root & Relic Grand Opening

Treasures, plants, and home decor hit Bever St as Root & Relic opens their doors. Free gifts while supplies last.

4/10  
57 N Bever St, York

## The Outlet: Music & Poetry Open Mic

Local poets and creatives PAN, Sir Dominique Jordan and Shelby Speaks host a free, first-come-first-served open mic inviting poets and musicians to tell their story.

4/9  
6:30PM  
The Appel Center  
50 N George St, York

## Audubon Society Monthly Bird Walk

Walk with the York Audubon Society through Nixon Park watching for early migrating birds and listening for Louisiana Waterthrush along the creek.

4/18  
7:30AM-9:30AM  
Nixon County Park  
(park next to the creek)

## Go Green Cleanup

The 4th annual cleanup focusing on clean and safe streets in York. Bring your own gloves — trash bags and grabbers provided. RSVP required.

4/17  
10:00AM-12:00PM  
Foundry Square  
234 W Clarke Ave, York

2A

# OPINION: Sustainability Starts Close to Home

By: Elizabeth Bower

When people talk about sustainability, it often sounds far away. Big environmental words that feel important, but are disconnected from everyday life. Sustainability can look different, though. It's not about doing everything perfectly. It's about what is practical, local, and realistic for how people actually live. Most people care about the environment, and what usually gets in the way isn't motivation, it's access. Access to systems that work. Access to options that feel doable. Access that doesn't assume endless time, money, or energy. That is where sustainability actually begins.

Some of the most impactful sustainability work happens quietly. Sometimes those options are right in your backyard, if you do a little digging or start talking with like-minded people. If you are here in York, PA, there are some eco-missioned places to check out:

York is home to CRDC Global, which operates the RESINS process, turning hard-to-recycle plastics into a resin aggregate used in concrete. Instead of plastic sitting in landfills forever, it becomes part of long-lasting infrastructure. According to CRDC Global, this kind of work addresses waste at a systems level, not just through individual behavior, which matters because not every environmental problem can be solved one household at a time.

CRDC accepts hard-to-recycle soft plastics at their York facility anytime from 8:00AM-4:00PM Monday through Friday. Anyone interested can drop off bags of recycling to the York facility at 390 N. Eberts Lane. Beginning in March, 2026 (after 100+ households express interest locally), the City of York will launch a partnership with Recyclops, a service designed to pick up soft plastic waste. For more information visit:

[yorkeity.org/successful-york-plastic-reuse-program-enters-next-phase-to-support-growth-expand-access/](http://yorkeity.org/successful-york-plastic-reuse-program-enters-next-phase-to-support-growth-expand-access/)

Paper recovery is another example hiding in plain sight. Continental Paper Grading operates a paper processing facility here in York, supporting the collection and recovery of paper so it can be reused rather than discarded. Paper remains one of the most recoverable materials we use every day. Having a facility in the area reduces

transportation impacts and helps keep materials circulating regionally instead of being shipped long distances.

York is also home to Refillism, York's first refillery. A refillery allows people to reuse containers they already have and fill them with non-toxic household products like cleaners and dish soap, as well as personal care products like shampoo and conditioner.

I started Refillism in 2021 because, in the United States, hundreds of pounds of plastic waste are generated per person each year, and only about 9% of plastic is actually recycled. Refilling helps reduce packaging waste by preventing single-use containers from being thrown away after one use. Refillism also carries eco-friendly everyday essentials like compostable cleaning tools that help people reduce waste in small, practical ways. You can visit Refillism at 2572 Eastern Blvd in York, online at [refillism.com](http://refillism.com), and on socials @shoprefillism.



York has a real opportunity here. We can lean more into education that is community based and hands on, not just something we talk about. We can also put more focus on reducing waste before it is even created through reuse, refilling, repair, and choosing products that are made to last. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has pointed out for years that these approaches have a bigger impact than recycling alone. There is also value in continuing to support small, local businesses that build sustainability into how they operate. When businesses are local, you can see the accountability and the dollars spent stay in the community.

You do not have to overhaul your life to be part of living more eco-friendly. Getting curious matters. Showing up matters. Supporting local efforts when you can matters. Sustainability in York is not about who is doing the most. It is about more people doing something, together. Real progress does not have to be flashy. It just has to be possible.

## 32nd York Review

Continued from 4A

According to archives maintained by York College, the first edition of the "The Undergraduate Literary Publication of York Junior College" that would later become The York Review was published in 1962. The legacy of The York Review spans multiple decades, and it continues to present an opportunity for students to foster a love of writing and to gain exposure to other creative outlets in York.

For anyone interested in picking up a copy of the 2026 version of The York Review, copies are available for free at The Grotto Community Center and at Marketview Arts during regular hours of operation.

4B

# School Property Taxes

Continued from 1B

While this definition does fit in cases where someone (likely a retiree) has little income but owns their property, the new proposed school tax plan is also a regressive tax. The plan claims that under the new tax policy "80% of the tax revenue now comes from working families (80% of the state population) making it fair". This sounds nice if you do not think that hard about it. Interpreted another way, the majority of the tax burden (80%) will be paid for by the working class of Pennsylvania who do not hold 80% of the wealth in the state - which fits the definition of a regressive tax.

A big claim that these bills make is "school taxes today are unfairly based on property value (as if it is a source of income like the 1800s)". Although this is true for the majority of residential landowners, a significant portion of properties are commercial properties that currently also pay a school property tax based on the value of the property. These properties provide a source of income for businesses across the state, and these businesses wouldn't be directly paying income tax under the new proposed plan.

If fewer school taxes are paid by businesses, individuals will need to compensate for that reduction in order to maintain our current levels of school funding. One could argue that lowering operating costs by removing school property taxes would free up money that could go to increasing employee wages, thus increasing the amount of money collected via local income tax, but this is only wishful thinking relying entirely on the generosity of employers which will vary business to business.

This fallacy is similar to the "advantages" this new tax plan claims to provide for renters. As a landlord's cost of owning a rental

property decreases with the elimination of school property taxes, proponents of the bill suggest that landlords should be incentivized to reduce the rent of the tenant by an equivalent amount. Again, this relies on individuals' generosity which cannot be guaranteed statewide.

It is important to pay taxes. Our Commonwealth cannot function if we do not collectively contribute to maintaining an educated society. Even taxpayers who do not have children reap the benefit of investing in the education of communities' youth. However, it is important to ensure that the taxes we do pay are contributing equitably to the education of students across Pennsylvania and that we are not increasing the tax burden on working class individuals in favor of tax breaks for businesses.

Joe D'Orsio, 47th District State Representative and proponent of these bills, is hosting a legislative update and town hall on school property tax elimination on Thursday April 30th at 5-7PM at Alert Fire Hall, 3118 N George St, Emigsville for anyone who would like to ensure their voice is heard on this issue.

## 32nd York Review Released, Shared with Broader Community

by: Sara Mack sara@sprint.media

On March 28th, The York Review, a York College-produced, student-run literary publication, celebrated its 32nd edition launch with a release party.

Held at the Grotto Community Center, this launch party location marked the first time (in recent documented history) that the publication recognized a new edition at an "off campus" location with higher visibility for members of the broader York community.

By design, The York Review is student-centric, and provides opportunities for York College students across disciplines to generate and publish a fully realized magazine from start to finish. Students involved with the process enroll in the Student Publications course at the college, and they receive guided support from Writing Professor Lizz Dawson throughout their involvement with the publication. In addition to the annual printed edition of the Review, students produce and maintain an associated website and podcast.



Although the Review has always been led by members of the York College community, over the years the publication has experimented with distributing print copies throughout the community more generally at various first Friday events.

Continued on 4B

4A

# CLASSIFIEDS

Leave your own note in our classifieds section! Send an email to: york@sprint.media

Are you SEEKING older issues of the msprint? Check out the archive online at <https://msprint.media> For current issues, seek them out in person like always :)

**SHARING:** Math Tutoring.  
Need any help with math?  
email: matthew@sprint.media

**SEEKING:** Outdoor garden tool storage for a community garden.  
email: york@sprint.media

**SHARING:** Composting tips.  
Need advice on how to start?  
Email: sara@sprint.media

## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL

### MEETINGS

All meetings are open to the public and held at York City Hall: 101 S. George Street, York

**City Council Meeting**  
April 7  
6:00PM-8:00PM

**City Council Meeting**  
April 21  
6:00PM-8:00PM

**City Committee Meeting**  
April 29  
6:00PM-8:00PM

City Council meetings can be streamed on the City's Facebook page, the White Rose Community TV Youtube Channel, Xfinity WRCT Channel 18, or online at wrct.tv

2B

# E V E N T S C O N T .

April, 2026

Want to see your local event featured in future editions?

email [york@msprint.media](mailto:york@msprint.media) to submit your own!

## Go Green in the City

Come out for the 18th year of this celebration of green, healthy, and local living. There will be 50+ vendors, dedicated children's activities, music, food, and more.

4/18  
10:00AM-3:00PM  
The block between N Beaver St, S Beaver St, W Clarke Ave and surrounding areas.

## Heath James Hardin Live at Glass Turtle Studio

Album release show, social, and overall celebration! Meet and greet from 6-7, music from 7-8. Donation for musicians suggested, RSVP required.

4/11  
6:00PM-8:00PM  
The Glass Turtle Studio  
118 E King St, York

## Horn Farm Center Farmhouse Ribbon Cutting

Celebrate the grand opening of the new Horn Farm Center Farmhouse after it was struck by lightning and rendered unusable in 2021. Hear from the Horn Farm board president and executive director and explore the renovated farm house.

4/24  
9:00AM-12:00PM  
Horn Farm Center  
4945 Horn Rd, York

## Wake Up York Meditation

A group for younger mindfulness practitioners (around 18-35) to join in community strengthening their practice.

4/25  
4:00PM-6:30PM  
Roaming Roast  
116 E King St, York



## Hover, Radcliffe Wave, Shelter Cat

Philly's post-noise anxiety rock group Hover, Reading's guitar space rock band Radcliffe Wave and Harrisburg punks Shelter Cat come to York to rock the Valencia.

4/24  
6:00PM  
Valencia Basement  
142 N George St, York

3A

# M O R E E V E N T S

## Coffee & Conversation

A recurring meeting on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month for members of the LGBTQ+ community of all ages to meet and connect.

4/4, 4/18  
10:00AM-12:00PM  
Roaming Roast  
116 E King St, York

## Wildflower Walks

Friends of Gifford Pinchot lead participants through a woodland stroll identifying and sharing information about the wildflowers you will see.

4/11, 4/16, 4/21  
10:00AM-11:30AM  
Gifford Pinchot State Park  
Pavillion #2 (Sunnyside Pavillion)  
in the Conewago Day Use Area

Building Community, Making Connections: Teen Art Exhibit opening reception

Local teens' artwork will be unveiled and celebrated at Martin Library focused on the theme "Building Community, Making Connections". The show will be on display from 5/1-5/8. Artwork may be submitted for the show until 4/10.

5/1  
5:00PM-7:00PM  
Martin Library  
159 East Market St, York

## Stuff the Tent

Friends & Neighbors of PA encourage you to bring survival essentials to share with our neighbors in need. Enjoy a free spaghetti dinner, meet the Friends & Neighbors team, explore the Beacon, and sign up to be a neighbor in action.

5/1  
4:00PM-7:00PM  
The Beacon  
140 N. Duke St, York

## Horn Farm Plant Sale

Fundraising for regenerative farming practices and educational programming at Horn Farm, the 14th Annual Plant Sale will see a large variety of vegetable, flower, tree, herb, and shrub starts.

5/2  
9:00AM-3:00PM  
Horn Farm Center  
4945 Horn Road, York

## Molly's Follies

Grand Re-opening

After previously offering upcycled and refurbished furniture in this storefront over 2 years ago, Molly's Follies is back! Join them for soft openings in April on Sat/Sun 12:30-3:30PM leading up to their Grand Reopening on May First Friday.

5/1  
10:00AM-12:00PM  
Molly's Follies  
56 S Duke St, York

3B