THE YORK MSPRINT

Something is happening in York!

York, Pennsylvania

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Vol. II, No. 1

York Names 7th Poet Laureate, Heath Hardin

by: Sara Mack

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For the first time since 2020, York has a Poet Laureate. Heath Hardin officially assumed the two-year position on Friday, July 17th.

When the Poet Laureate's return was first announced, the community pushed for monetary compensation to be included with the position. After initial backlash, Mayor Sandie Walker updated the job description to include a $1,000 stipend for each year of the Laureate's term.

This role provides an opportunity for Heath to bolster appreciation for poetry and literacy more generally, while also supporting local poetry-related events.

This type of support for poetry in York is currently lacking, as demonstrated by the page: yorkcity.org/government/poet-laureate/poetry-alive-youk/ on the York City website. At the time of writing, the Poetry Live York page includes a variety of recurring poetry-related local events, but almost all of them are no longer being held (and many were hosted at community establishments that have gone out of business entirely.)

The MSPRINT sat down with Heath for a discussion, transcribed in part below, about his new role prior to his official induction at Friday's York Bookfest festivities.

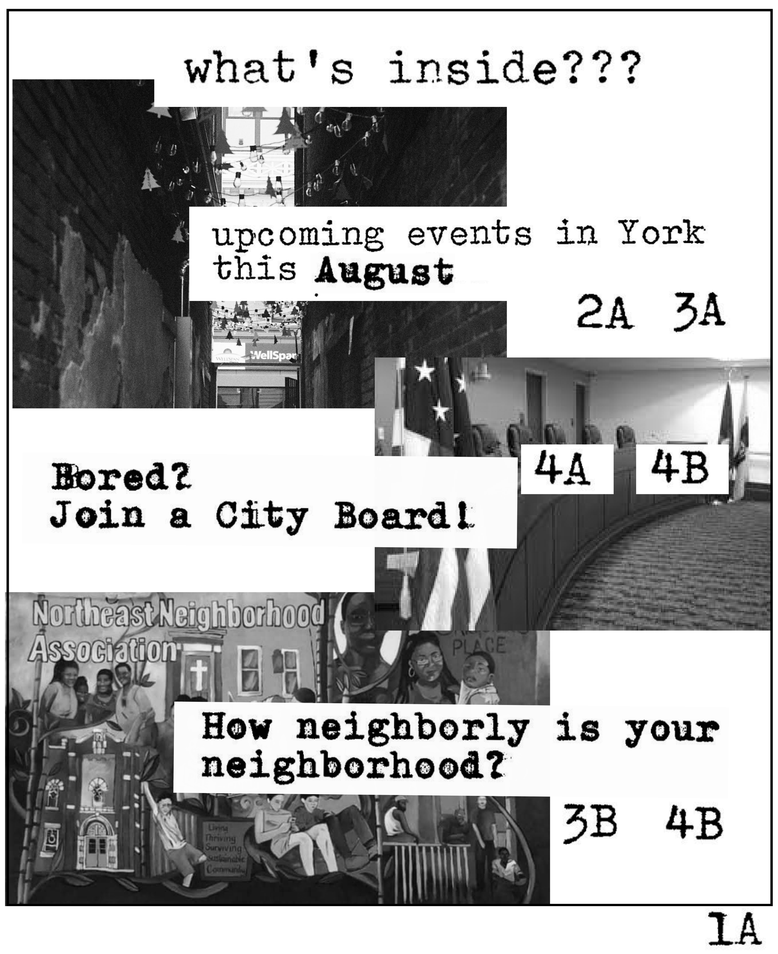
MSPRINT: How did you get into poetry originally?

HEATH: Well, poetry has been a constant in my life since I was probably five: Dr. Seuss. I've always been a word person, and that led to songwriting. But when I was in high school I remember really getting blown away by the Romantics and studying them as part of British Literature.

Their attitude was rebellious; that really got me because I was kind of like a little punk rocker kid, you know, skateboarding and stuff. And they seem like punk rockers to me, which influenced me to start writing at that age.

Continued on 1B

what's inside???



upcoming events in York this August 2A 3A

Bored? Join a City Board! 4A 4B

How neighborly is your neighborhood? 3B 4B

Heath Hardin

Continued from 1A

MSPRINT: What made you interested in the Poet Laureate Position?

HEATH: Part of my responsibility is to promote poetry. I've been teaching creative writing at White Rose Senior Center, which is for senior citizens in the city, for the last two years. (As the Poet Laureate) I'm trying to create writing-focused workshops and events that are invitational to everybody. I think when (poetry) gets really rich is when you have people in their 20s and people in their 60s in the same room, both responding to a prompt.

Then you got this really diverse viewpoint, and it's great.

The elderly, I feel, are heavily marginalized in terms of accessibility to what's going on in our world because it's so fast moving. When I teach my classes for senior citizens it's all about appreciation; a good life. What have been the most beautiful moments in your life? Who's a person in your life that really helped you? And that is good mental health: writing about things that meant good things to you and focusing on that rather than being lonely or sad.

I taught high school for 25 years: English, reading, writing, and Brit Lit. Now, I'm always putting poems on Facebook. I don't seek publication in magazines because it's more about being real.

When the advertisement came out for the Poet Laureate, 3 or 4 people sent me the ad right away: "You should apply for this." And I've been living my life in a way in the last few years where I say 'yes' to things even if it's a little scary. When I teach at the senior center, these are the seniors who get out of their house and go take a writing course. And I tell them that's the 1st thing—they're trying new stuff. And so I want to live my life that way too.

MSPRINT: Do your surroundings usually inspire your writing? Do you write about York a lot like in the poem you submitted for the Laureate application?

HEATH: That was one of the most intimidating things about the application process for me. And I was honest with them in the interview that I'm not going to sit down and write a poem about the history of York. That's like a civic-minded, literary kind of talent, and I envy people that can do that. Poetry, for me, comes from somewhere between my gut and my heart — and it surges. You gotta feel something.

So, when I thought about York and applying and writing that poem, what do I know about York. Well, I know about standing in front of (Central) Market as a recently divorced 50 year old man and playing guitar on a Saturday Morning. And that's because that healed me, dude. That was part of my healing because I was going through some rough times. And so I was like, okay, I'll go down there and I'll sit outside and I'll make enough money to buy lunch. And then just play guitar for two hours and buy lunch and meet people — and that's what my poem is about.

MSPRINT: What are your goals for your time as Poet Laureate?

HEATH: I applied to this position without a whole lot of knowledge about what the Laureate is responsible for. I know you're making appearances, and reading, and advocating for poetry, and you're supposed to have a project. So, my project is going to be an extension of a podcast. I'm going to meet with musicians, bsuiness leaders, and members of the community to share poetry that they remember or they're inspired by.

I also have already scheduled a poetry workshop. It's going to be at Creative York on October 18th; it's a Sunday from 2 to 4PM.

We're gonna be writing poetry in response to an exhibition that's there by Donna Sylvester, who does textile work that's very emotionally centered.

I t hink poetry is for everybody because it's so organic, and that's the way I teach it. I don't need you to dazzle me with your rhymes. Maybe just even one image that you come up with, but it's going to be your image that nobody else would come up with. So I hope to keep it real open.

MSPRINT: Are there other things that you would suggest for someone who is interested in poetry locally, but doesn't know where to plug in or get started?

HEATH: I was recently blown away by The Outlet at the Appell Center, and they're having one a month. If you're too intimidated to join the writers workshop, even just listening and watching other people get up and do it is a great place to start. Seeing it live is not the same as seeing it on your computer or on your phone.

Also, I am going to start a Facebook page for the Poet Laureate position simply so I can dispense information (about local poetry events).

The laureate position isn't about me; I'm simply doing what I've always done, which is help people express themselves.

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Heath's Poet Laureate page is now live on Facebook under the name, "Poet Laureate of York, PA". Follow along there for local poetry-related updates!

AUGUST EVENTS

Antonio's Rat:

Six months living vicariously through the local York, PA publication 'Msprint'

MSPRINT Comic Corner contributor Antonio Briley Jr will have his artwork on exhibit for the month of August at Leg Up Farmers Market

August

Leg Up Farmers Market
3100 N George St

MSPRINT 1 Year Anniversary Party

Come celebrate one year of MSPRINT! Share your fagorite articles and show your support for print focused, hyper-local journalism.

8/22
6:30PM
Paper Tiger Studio
57 E King St

Get Crafted: Fine Art, Fine Craft, & Spirits Fest

A fine crafts festival in Royal Square's Mural Park with accompanying wine and spirits festival at nearby Collusion Tap Works.

8/29
10:00AM-6:00PM
Mural Park
108 S Howard St

Index Card Epiphanies

Local Artist Mel Rodgers presents her "notes from the field" in this exhibition of work.

Opening reception:
8/7; 5:00PM-8:00PM

Exhibition will be hanging 8/7-9/25

The Grotto Community Center
17 E Philadelphia St

Books Bands and Vinyl Festival

In Between Pages presents a Duke St Festival celebrating music and reading.

8/29
10:00AM-6:00PM
100 Block of S Duke St

Board Vacancies

Continued from 4A

Open Positions: One board member seat for a building inspector, one board member seat for a real estate broker.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Purpose: Administers and enforces the City of York anti-discrimination ordinance and may initiate, receive, investigate, and adjudicate complaints charging unlawful discriminatory practices.

Membership: The commission consists of 11 members, eight of which must be residents of the city, all of whom are appointed by the mayor with consent of Council.

Open positions: Five board member seats.

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Purpose: Fully and equitably interprets and achieves the objectives of the Zoning Ordinance.

Membership: Five members and three alternate members appointed by Council resolution. Members must be City residents and hold no other office in the City.

Open positions: Two alternate board member seats

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

Purpose: Demolishes or renovates properties in order to restore them so they comply with building codes and are no longer a "blighting" influence in their neighborhoods.

Membership: Five board members. A majority of the members of the Authority shall be residents of York, and the remainder may be non-residents who own and operate a business in the city.

Open positions: One board member seat

PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD

Purpose: Work alongside other boards in the city to guide land use and development in York

Membership: Seven city residents (two of whom may be city employees/officers), appointed by the Mayor with the consent of City Council

Open positions: One board member seat

Woof Bar owner, Cory Wolfe, shared with the MSPRINT that his first experience with a community service board was through joining the Planning Commission Board as a member six years ago. He currently serves on that board in addition to the Vacant Property Review Committee.

Wolfe encouraged community members to consider applying for boards that interest them. According to Wolfe, "they're a huge opportunity to learn, grow, and connect in so many ways. York is such a great community that you can reach out to any member of any board and they would be happy to talk with you about that specific oraganization and all that goes with a commitment to it. Myself included!"

To see the full list of authorities, boards, and commissions, visit: yorkcity.org/government/authorities-boards-and-commissions/ where you can view requirements and apply through the "Join a Board or Commission" Button.

Neighbors

Continued from 3B

These neighborhood associations demonstrate the breadth of what this type of organization can accomplish. However, a neighborhood association is not magical. It is a tool powered by neighbors, and, as such, relies entirely on members of the association inorder to thrive.

The Historic Newton Square Neighborhood Association, bounded by Market, Princess, and Penn Streets as well as the Codorus Creek, is another active neighborhood association in the city. They hold monthly meetings and organize a neighborhood holiday party each winter. Despite its active status, one resident expressed concerns to The MSPRINT about the Historic Newton Square Neighborhood Association: "People go to meetings and complain. Very little gets done." One of the core problems identified was the question: who is a neighbor? The resident mx explained, "The neighborhood is a mix of renters and homeowners. The majority of folks that go to the meeting are homeowners. In an ideal world it would be more community focused — less divided over whether someone owns a property on not."

I am confident that the Historic Newton Square Neighborhood Association is not the only similar association in the city with these sorts of problems. Nor am I trying to say that this neighborhood association is full of nosy busybodies who don't care about their neighbors. In fact,

Newton Square resident quoted above also said, "the people (in the neighborhood) have been very generous —folks helping to keep the streets cleaned — all of us helping one another if someone has a package delivered. I'm lucky in that I'm surrounded with neighbors who I talk with and can ask for help ina pinch."

It is important to keep in mind that neighborhood associations can only benefit the community with commitment from the neighbors themselves. If you live in an area with an existing neighborhood association, I encourage you to reach out to your neighbors. Even if you don't get as far as forming a formal organization, it will help bring the neighborhood a little closer together. If you have any thoughts or questions about neighborhood associations in York, please write to: matthew@msprint.media.

York City Recruits for Board Vacancies, Offers Opportunity to Influence Local Decisions

by: Matthew Gargano
matthew@msprint.media

In February 2026, the City of York put out a call seeking applicants for boards, authorities, and commissions that serve various functions throughout the city, Of the 15 boards, authorities, and commissions, nine currently have vacancies.

These board positions can seem intimidating, or can seem like they are reserved for well-connected people who already hold prestigious positions. While some members of city boards certainly are also either well-known board members of private organizations in the city or notable York business owners, many positions only require that you are a resident of York or work within the city in order to apply. If you have a vision for the future of York, perhaps a board position may be right for you.

In the call for applicants, Mayor Sandie Walker echoed this, saying, "York thrives when its residents step forward to help guide the future of our city. These boards and authorities are where everyday people can make an extraordinary difference. If you care about York City and want to be part of shaping what comes next, apply today!"

The following boards currently have vacancies and YOU might be the perfect fit! If you are passionate about your city and community, please consider board membership as a way to contribute and make a difference in York.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Purpose: Oversee the appointment of new applicants to and promotions within the police or fire departments.

Membership: Three city residents who shall be appointed by Council. No city officer, official, or employee shall be eligible for appointment to the Civil Service Board. Council may appoint no more than three qualified electors of the city (city residents) to serve as alternate members of the Civil Service Board.

Open Positions: One board seat, three alternate seats

CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF APPEALS

Purpose: Hears appeals regarding "nuisance abatement points" (dangerous property conditions), determinations of blight, and decisions regarding interpretations of the various city codes.

Membership: City residency is not explicitly mandated

Open positions: One alternate board seat

YORK CITY REVITILIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT ZONE AUTHORITY (CRIZ)

Purpose: Spurs new growth and creates jobs for ~~xxx~~ residents.

Membership: Taxpayers in the City of York or outlying municipalities. The Mayor of York appoints three members, the 95th District Representative appoints one member, and the Representatives from the 47th, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 193rd, and 196th Districts shall collectively nominate three members. All nominees must then be approved by York City Council.

Open positions: Three mayor-appointed seats

DOWNTOWN INC (YORK BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AUTHORITY)

Purpose: Facilitates leadership, collaboration, advocacy, and promotion of downtown initiatives in order to improve the overall physical appearance of downtown York, increase foot traffic throughout the Downtown District, and communicate to the community at large the positive activities taking place in Downtown York. Oversees the York Business Improvement District Authority.

Membership: Each member shall be a taxpayer in, maintain a business in, or be a resident of York. The Mayor appoints 11 members to five-year terms with Council's consent.

Open positions: One Board of Directors Seat

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

Purpose: Regulates the erection, reconstrudtion, and demolition (etc.) of buildings within the local historic districts (as designated by York City Council).

Membership: Seven regular and three alternate members, appointed by City Council. One member must be recommended by the York County Heritage Trust, one member must be a registered architect, one member must be a licensed real estate broker, and one member must be a building inspector. Four members must be residents of or property owners in the city, and all members must have demonatrated interest or related expertise in historic buildings. Alternate members must be city residents.

CLASSIFIEDS

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 :)

Interested in submitting your own article for publication in The MSPRINT? Check out our updated submission guidelines, now live on our archive website.
visit:
msprint.media/submission-guidelines.html

reach out with any questions to:
york@msprint.media

SEEKING: Volunteers for "Get Crafted" and "Books Bands and Vinyl" festivals. Contact creativesonking@gmail.com for Get Crafted and inbetweenpagesyork@gmail.com for Books Bands and Vinyl inquiries.

SEEKING: Cardboard Boxes.
As the York Art Association begins moving to their new location they need boxes to assist with the move.
Contact
rpreap@yorkartassociation.org.

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

Upcoming York City Council Meetings

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

City Council Meeting
8/18
6:00PM-8:00PM

City Council Meeting
9/1
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

Celebrating 1 Year of The York MSPRINT !

by: Sara Mack sara@msprint.media

Last July, when Matthew and I started drafting the first edition of The MSPRINT, I remember trying not to "over commit". We didn't initially know if a monthly schedule would be sustainable, and we were just excited to establish a structure that worked for us and to pass out copies of the newspaper on August's First Friday.

When we floated the idea of potentially skipping September, 2025 in order to gauge next steps for the paper, I was surprised by the disappointed response we received from our community (that we were still introducing ourselves to) —who knew people would already care about what we were putting out enough to mind a missed issue?!

Since we didn't know how The MSPRINT would proliferate once it was distributed into the community, I never thought far enough ahead to imagine that we could potentially be sitting here, exactly one year later, with 12 published editions distributed.

Realistically, we've been buoyed by the community throughout this process in a way I couldn't have imagined. Although we are still striving to encourage even more community-submitted events, articles, art, and classifieds (send us your missed connections!!), each time we received an external submission this year I was beyond thrilled. Similarly, every time we drop off papers at a local business and hear something like, "folks come in here all the time just to pick up the new copy!" or, "we just can't keep these things in stock!" I actually can't believe it.

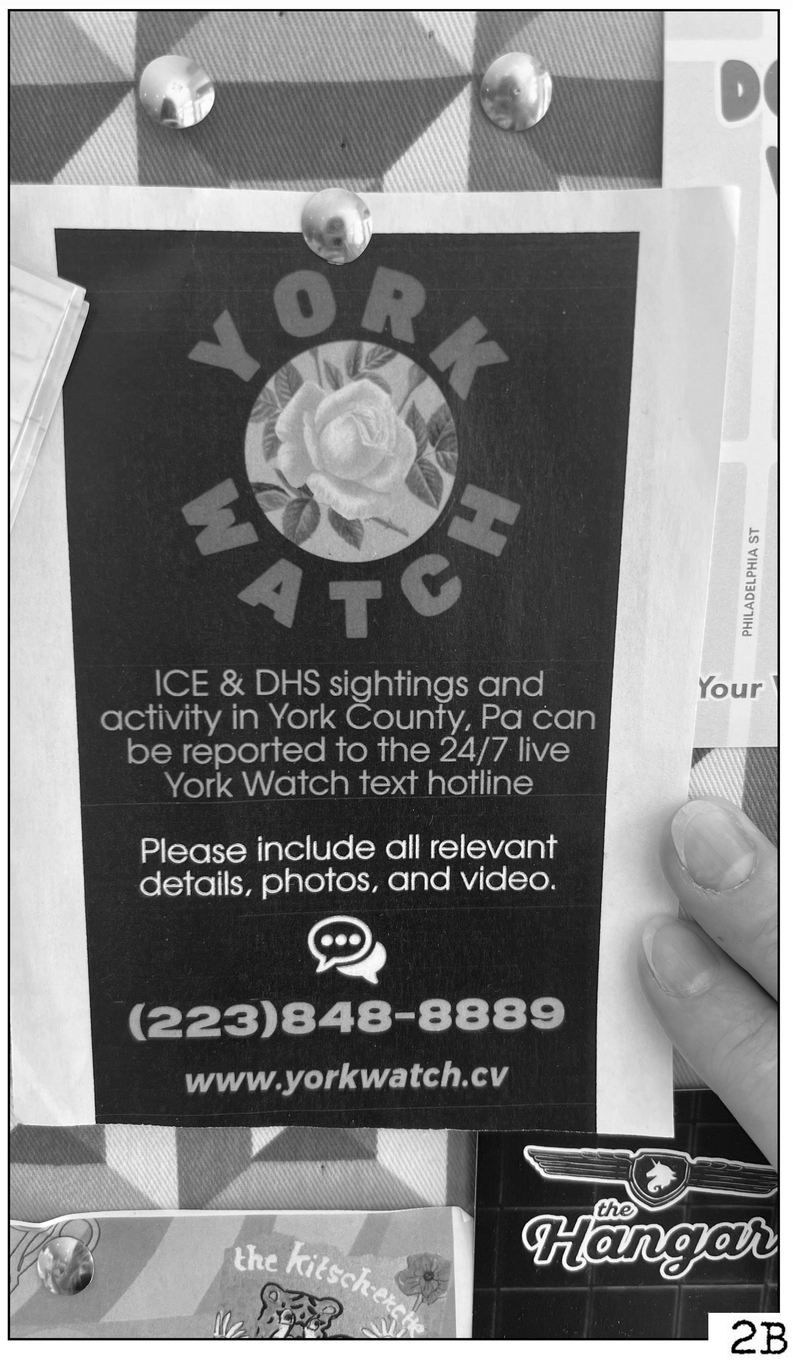
Hearing personal stories from folks reading the paper, learning about their community, and finding events organically, is our mission brought to life. We're excited to continue making connections and shaping The MSPRINT into a publication that reaches and gives a voice to folks across York.

Matthew and I have a bunch of ideas for the future of The MSPRINT, but it completely falls flat if we don't have folks picking up copies, reading articles, and submitting their own ideas.

If you're reading this, THANK YOU!! For supporting the hyper-local, analog dream.

If you're interested in hearing about The MSPRINT'S next chapter and celebrating the end of vol. 1 with us in person, come out to our one year anniversary party on August 22nd at Paper Tiger Studio at 6:30PM.

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING IN YORK!!!!



EVENTS CONT.

Want to see your local event featured in future editions?

email york@msprint media to submit your own!

Public Disco Porch Beer Release Show

The debut of the PUBLIC DISCO PILS beer — available in cans to take home and on draft at Collusion Tap Works.

Hear the music that inspired the beer from York rockers Public Disco Porch.

8/28
Doors, 6:00PM; Music, 7:00PM
Collusion Tap Works
115 S Howard St

The Light Within Us: Recovery Month Art Show

The York Art Association and York Opiod Collaborative host an art show inviting individuals in recovery or impacted by substance use disorder to submit artwork in any medium to create a positive outlet for sharing stories and strengthening community connections through art. Submissions open until 8/28.

9/4
6:00PM-7:30PM
Central Market
34 W Philadelphia Street

Mini Makers Market

Young entrepreneurs, artists, and creators ages 8-18 showcase and sell their handmade creations.

8/15
10:00AM-2:00PM
Creative York
10 N Beaver St

York Fringe Fest

The annual fringe fest celebrates innovative live arts in the city through a variety of performing arts mediums. For a full listing of Fringe Fest events please visit: yorkfringe.org/2026-festival-schedule

8/19-8/23
Various locations throughout York

The Outlet

A recurring spoken word, poetry, and music open mic for artists of all experience levels to share their work. Presented by PAN, Sir Dominic Jordan, and Shelby Speaks.

8/13
6:30PM-8:45PM
The Studio @ The Appell Center
50 N George St

John Rudy Park Open House

In the Demonstration Gardens

Hosted by the York County Master Gardeners, come tour the 50-bed demonstration garden at John Rudy Park and enjoy family-friendly fun including food trucks, plant giveaways, and educational speakers.

8/8
9:00AM-1:30PM
John Rudy Park Demonstration Gardens
400 Mundis Race Rd

4th Annual York Holistic Health Festival

Presented by the American Cannabis Society, this free community-centered event focuses on health, wellness, and education.

8/15
10:00AM-8:00PM
Kiwanis Lake
N Newberry St and Parkway Blvd

MORE EVENTS

Peeled

Episode 2&3 Premiere

Local Filmmakers Freddie Graves and Simone Davis debut episodes 2&3 of their docuseries about feature performers Tickets required

8/16
Doors 3:30PM
Pilot Episode 4:00PM
Episodes 2&3 Premiere 6:00PM-8:00PM
Wolf Hall at York College
451 Country Club Rd

Writers' Roundtable

Writers of all skill levels are invited to hear Adriel Resh, director of Jewish Life and Culture at the JCC, present "Finding Liberators and Why it's important to the York Jewish Community". Resh will tell stories of her research as she seeks to shine light on York Countians who liberated German Concentration camps in WWII.

9/3
7:00PM-8:30PM
York County History Center Museum
121 N Pershing Ave

Room With a Boo Story Time

Local author Rissa Miller reads the award-winning children's book illustrated by Josh Johnson: Room With a Boo — a not so scary ghost story about the Yorktowne Hotel!

8/21
10:30AM
Bound Books
2555 S Queen St

Opinion: York Needs More Neighbors

by: Matthew Gargano matthew@msprint.media

Neighborhood associations are a formal organization structure in which members of the same community can join together to advocate for the needs of their neighborhood. Over the past 10 years, the number of neighborhood associations in York has fluctuated significantly.

In an April 2018 diagram prepared by the Office of Emergency Planning and Special Projects, the City of York listed 16 neighborhood associations in existence in the city. On the city's neighborhood associations webpage, the full listing of neighborhood associations links to a 2021 document where 18 neighborhood associations are listed, however, nine were marked as inactive.

The latest York City Police Department online listing of neighborhood associations shows only five organizations, one with an inactive website and another that the city marked, "not holding meetings".

Neighborhood associations are a powerful tool for civic engagement and it is a shame that these organizations have been gradually dying off.

I don't believe that an official neighborhood association is the only way to communicate, plan, and organize with one's neighbors. I am confident that many streets and blocks in the city have neighbors who work together and cultivate a "neighborly" community. At the same time, I think there is value in having an official organization to easily admit new neighbors into, and to rally behind to meet the needs of those in the neighborhood.

For example, the East York Neighborhood Co-op (formerly the Albemarle Neighborhood Association and bounded by Market and Prospect Streets and Sherman St to the City Line) was able to work with the York City Department of Parks and Recreation to secure new soccer nets and upgraded equipment in Albemarle Park in October, 2025. As a result, this June local residents were able to participate in a free soccer clinic hosted in the park.

The Devers Area Neighborhood Association, bounded by LoucksRd and Roosevelt and Pennsylvania Avus, is extremely active on their private Facebook group and conducts a variety of community initiatives. They operate two gardens in the community, working alongside York College students and the Ciocca car dealership to support and maintain green space in the neighborhood. The neighborhood association also participates in larger community events like National Night Out and Make Music Day.

The Northeast Neighborhood Association(NENA) is bounded by George, Market, Sherman, and Arch Streets. It was originally founded in 1996 to operate a food pantry in the neighborhood. Currently, NENA operates Chrystal's Place, a community resource center named in honor of the neighborhood association's late founding director. The resource center distributes free food, clothing, diapers, and household items to anyone in need.

In addition, NENA provides monthly food delivery to seniors and disabled residents who live in nearby apartment buildings.

Continued on 4B