THE YORK MSPRINT

Something is happening in York!

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Mars Park Market No Longer Able to Serve Community in York's Northeast Neighborhood

by: Matthew Gargano matthew@msprint.media

After welcoming over 140 businesses into a previously blighted lot in York's Northeast neighborhood last year, Mars Park Market organizers are unable to further their community-driven mission for the remainder of the 2026 season after losing access to the parking lot where the market was held for 14 weeks in 2025 and early 2026.

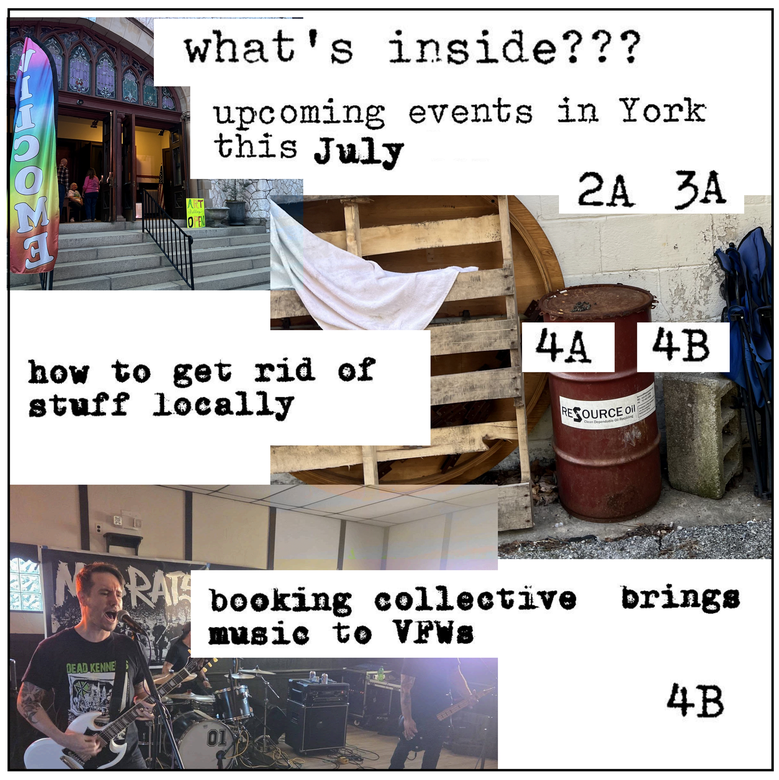
York's Northeast neighborhood is not usually one that gets a lot of attention. While Downtown, Market District, Royal Square, and WeCo neighborhoods are all known for first or thrid Friday celebrations and events and activities throughout the month, the Northeast neighborhood, roughly contained between George, Market, Sherman, and Arch Streets, is predominantly residential. In general, Northeast neighborhood residents need to travel outside of their neighborhood to shop and partake in nightlife.

In Summer 2025, as part of the MARS (Music, Arts, Relationship, Society) project, a community-based initiative focused on neighborhood revitilization, entrepreneurship, food access, and community engagement, Mars Park was launched by local community members seeking to turn an underutilized and neglected property into a community and economic hub through weekly markets.

The project transformed a blighted 52,000 sq. ft. parking lot at 200 N. State Street into a vibrant gathering space for the community. Each Sunday for 10 weeks beginning on July 27th, 2025 a fenced-in parking lot became Mars Park with a weekly market featuring fresh food, local vendors, and positive community activities.

Mars Park Organizer Gedo Geez summarized the motivation behind the project very simply, "You can't build the city from the outside in. You have to invest in the people of the city to build it all up." In order to achieve that goal, Gedo Geez explained, "Mars Park was designed to provide low-barrier opportunities for entrepreneurs, food vendors, nonprofits, artists, and community organizations while creating a safe and welcoming environment for residents."

Continued on 1B



Mars Park

Continued from 1A

The initial 2025 Summer season was a success. Working closely with the property manager, investing time and labor into cleaning the site, and scheduling programming, Mars Park supported more than 80 entrepreneurs, small businesses, vendors, and non-profit organizations as well as expanding beyond a simple market to host community events, cultural celebrations, youth activities, and family-friendly programming.

In Spring 2026, Mars Park started again, bigger than ever. The season's grand opening was held on Thursday April 23rd, and food trucks were open from Thursday until Sunday when the typical market was held with 120 vendors of all types.

Unfortunately, the 2026 season was abruptly cut short after four weeks when the property representative informed the Mars Park organizers they needed to vacate the property. Public property records state that the lot is currently owned by Garden Foods Inc., a Nevada-based corporation that shares a president with California-based development firm Far West Industries. According to Mars Park organizers, they, "had previously received permission to operate and had invested significant time, labor, programming, and resources into transforming the site and building community programming around it."

Through building community and economic opportunity in a neighborhood (and vacant lot) that does not regularly host these types of activities, the Mars Park Market was a success. In total, 140 businesses operated as part of the Mars Park Market in the 14 weeks that the market was active.

Organizers say Mars Park, "proved there is strong demand for neighborhood markets, local food opportunities, small business incubation, and community centered events in York City's Northeast neighborhood."

The organizers are looking for new spaces in the city to continue Mars Park, but face a variety of hurdles. Some owners won't permit this type of use of their vacant lots, and others refuse to sell their unused land in the city to the Mars Park organizers. If you know of a space that would welcome Mars Park, please reach out to the MARS Project at marsprojectpa@gmail.com.

Regarding the future of Mars Park, organizers state, "The question now is not whether the model works. The question is whether York will continue to support and expand community-driven projects like Mars Park in the future.

B. Joyful Homestead in its Early Stages Represents a Local Vision for Community Prosperity

By: Sara Mack sara@msprint.media

Mary Alice is a York Resident on a mission to grow a homestead in her backyard that will provide food and resources to the community. Although she is still in the early stages of executing on her goals, Mary Alice describes herself as someone who can foster extended community through connecting people to others that have the resources and ability to help out.

After purchasing her home in 2023 with plans to utilize the land for some kind of community effort, the project was recently rolled out to the public in early 2026. So far this year, Mary Alice said her focus, "has been (about) fundraising and learning. While I'ge had houseplants before and small gardens, there hasn't been anything to this scale before.""

Mary Alice's interest in contributing fresh produce back to the greater York community comes from her own lived experience, and from her desire for young children to experience the benefits of fresh, local produce: "I am very familiar with being in poverty and not being sure if you're able to pay for groceries. I've been to a lot of food pantries and they are all lacking in fresh fruits and vegetables. I have memories of picking blackberries behind my grandparents house and I'm not sure if kids these days get to experience that."

This past April, Mary Alice created and distributed flyers to share her vision for a community-centric homestead around York City during Go Green in the City. The flyers included a QR code linked to a GoFundMe as well a link to an affiliated YouTube page and email address. Find the GoFundMe here:
gofundme.com/f/mary-alices-dream-a-homestead-for-all

On the flyers and on social media, Mary Alice's community project is encompassed by the moniker, "B. Joyful Homestead". She is motivated by a positive community response both online and in conversations with community members, and looks forward to continuing to spread the word about her work. According to Mary Alice, "Making this public made me much more aware of actually how supported I am - we can lose an awareness of how we are supported in the world."

Although the homestead is still in its early phases, Mary Alice shared with The msprint that overcoming the fear of being criticized for sharing her goals and ideas publicly was a big hurdle for her. She shared that, in order to foster community, it's important to also be able to open yourself up to asking for help.

In addition to seeking support through traditional fundraising, Mary Alice hopes to recruit local individuals who are able to support the B. Joyful Homestead project through volunteering their time. For anyone interested in contributing their physical labor to this effort, reach out to Mary Alice at bjoyfulhomestead@gmail.com

JULY EVENTS

York County Fiddlers Picnic Preview

The Bluegrass Legacy with Warren Blair provides a taste of what attendees can expect at the York County Fiddlers Picnic (Aug 22nd in Seven Valleys) celebrating music and community.

7/12
2:00PM
Gift Horse Brewing Company
117 N George St, York

York Book Fest

A free community event for book lovers and friends.

Open mic, free books, author readings, and children's activities.

7/17; 5:00PM-8:00PM
Grace Manor B&B Courtyard
258 W. Market St, York

7/18; 10:00AM-5:00PM
Queue Art Gallery
280 W. Market St, York

Nicole Osburne Opening Reception

As a part of WeCo's 3rd Friday, Gather 256 hosts artist Nicole Osburne's opening reception.

7/17
5:00PM-8:00PM
Gather 256
256 W Philadelphia St, York

Walk the Seasons: Summer

A walking tour through the fields and meadows of Horn Farm as you learn more about the world in summer. $5 suggested donation.

7/16
7:00PM-8:30PM
Horn Farm Center
4945 Horn Rd, Hallam

Comedy Park Live

Comedian Alan Massenburg and others bring laughs to York Township Park. Comedy starts at 7pm. Beginning at 6PM, food from Mac Stack, Scoop Dreams, and Yia Yia's Kitchen will be on site. Bring a chair or blanket.

7/18
6:00PM-9:00PM
York Township Park
25 Oak St, York

Resource Guide

Continued from 4A

//// RECYCLING CENTERS ////

If all else fails and an item cannot be donated, swapped, or sold, there are a variety of local specialty recycling facilities in the York area for materials not traditionally accepted in curbside single-stream recycling.

CRDC Global, Plastic Recycling:
390 N Eberts Lane, York
CRDC Global, located in York operates the RESIN8 process, turning hard-to-recycle plastics into a resin aggregate used in concrete. CRDC accepts hard-to-recycle soft plastics at their York facility anytime from 8AM-4PM Monday through Friday. Anyone interested can drop off bags of recycling during those open hours.

Paz Metals Inc., Scrap Metal and Electronics Recycling
4315 Run Way, York
Although classified as a recycling center, Paz will give you cash for scrap metal that you drop off. Located outside of the city, Paz accepts a variety of materials including copper, brass, aluminum, batteries, and e-waste.

Hazardous waste events:
York County Solid Waste Authority (YCSWA) hosts two household waste collection events each year. Registration is required, and the Fall collection event is scheduled for October 17th from 9AM-1PM. The event is held behind YCSWA's Recycling Drop-Off Center. For more information:
ycswa.com/services/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/

If you're looking for alternative ways to pass along your underused or unwanted objects, talking to friends and neighbors is often the most effective way to find a home for something no longer wanted in your space. The msprint encourages you to ask for what you need and share what you have excess of!

Raptor Rise Collective Builds Community Through Music

by: Matthew Gargano matthew@msprint.media

In August 2024, after prolonged liquor licensing issues, local bar The West York Inn closed its doors, and, along with it, York music lovers lost the associated music venue The Kennel.

AJ Rios, previous Junior Talent Booker at The Kennel, founded Raptor Rise Collective in response to the Kennel's closure to continue to draw national touring bands into York.

Rios has attended shows in York since he was a teenager and fell in love with the sense of community that is generated by a group of people joining together to appreciate live music. This community-first focus is, in part, what lead to Rios' decision to prioritize local American Legions and VFWs when selecting venues for Raptor Rise Collective-hosted shows.

While not the most glamorous of stages, Rios said, "a venue is just a building, but the community is love." Raptor Rise Collective values the affordability these venues offer, which lowers the barrier to entry and allows more money to go straight to the musicians who play.

Rios compared these shows to stories that he heard about the York punk and hardcore scenes of the 80s and 90s and touring bands agree. Raptor Rise Collective often books acts that achieved notoriety in that time period (DC 90s punk legends The Goons are playing a Raptor Rise show July 31st), and when those acts come through York to play, they have told Rios they feel young again.

As Rios meets and books more and more bands, there is a growing community including both bands that want to play York and music fans who are excited to join together to come out to support live music.

While Raptor Rise Collective books mainly punk and hardcore bands, they host shows spanning a wide variety of genres. Similarly, there is a wide age range in attendance loosely based on which bands are playing.

Rios is proud of the community that he has built in the two years that he has been booking shows under the Raptor Rise Collective name, and he has established such a strong reputation for himself as a booker that he is now a co-booker for legendary 1980's NYC hardcore band Urban Waste.

Raptor Rise Collective is predominantly a one-man show, which raises the question: what or who is the "Collective"? According to Rios, the collective is everyone who comes out to make the shows possible. In addition to the msprint event section, you can stay up to date and join the Raptor Rise Collective by checking out their Instagram and Facebook page, or keep an eye out for their posts on Reddit's r/yorkpa or for flyers in the wild. If you want to get involved, email them at: raptorrisecollective@gmail.com and come out to a show to build the collective.

Resource Guide: How to Get Rid of Stuff

By: Sara Mack sara@msprint.media

The easiest way to get items out of your space is usually to throw them away. Although it's often very tempting to dispose of things in the most convenient way possible (usually landfill), there are a variety of resources locally that make it possible to redistribute items that might be cluttering your space.

We compiled the following list of local resources and drop-off spots that accept various items in this article. If you have your own go-to spots in and around York to share, write to us (york@msprint.media).

//// SWAP EVENTS ////

An emerging trend, swap events present a hands-on way to pass your items on to someone else in the community. Consider hosting your own!

Crow Night:
Recently, The Hangar held an item swap and "trinket trade" event called Crow Night, hosted by York local, Vi. The event was free and open to anyone without advance sign up required, and invited attendees to bring trinkets of all varieties (handmade or otherwise) to swap, trade, and share with others. The event was well attended and folks brought art, books, figurines, and more. The next Crow Night is already being planned for August, so stay tuned!

The Second Hand Art Supply Swap:
Hosted annually by local artist Steph Holmes, The Second Hand Art Supply Swap is scheduled for Sunday, October 18, 2026; 1PM to 3PM in the Chipmunk Pavillion at Rocky Ridge County Park. Art supplies and materials of all types are welcome, and anything left-over at the end of the event is donated to Art of Recycle, a second-hand art supply store in Ephrata, PA.

//// POTENTIAL RESALE LOCATIONS ////

In addition to physical resale spots detailed below, Facebook Marketplace remains a viable digital opportunity to offload items (either for free or $$$).

My Girlfriends Wardrobe:
2519 S Queen St, York
An enduring presence in the York consignment space, My Girlfriends Wardrobe recently moved their storefront from downtown on Beaver Street to the shopping center at Olde Tollgate Village. Find more information about clothing that they accept at:
mygirlfriendswardrobe.net/pages/consignment-contract

Stellar Collectibles:
4205 W Market St, York
We had a recent positive experience selling old video games and accessories here! According to the Stellar Collectibles Facebook page, they purchase coins, comics, video games, toys, records, and cards.

MLR Consignment:
4159 N George St Extension, Manchester
A consignment store specifically designed to cater to families with young children, MLR accepts children's clothing and toys. There are pre-determined "drop-off"* dates several times each month including July 6, 13, and 27. For more info about drop-off guidelines:
www.mlrconsignment.com/

Yard Sales:
Host your own yard sale! If you're located downtown, York City requires residents to procure a permit for each Yard Sale that they host. For the first sale within a calendar year there is no fee, but subsequent sales (up to nine per year) cost $20.00. For more info and to apply for a permit:
yorkcity.org/decd/bureau-of-permits-and-inspections/

//// DONATION OPPORTUNITIES ////

The York County Solid Waste Authority maintains a list of local "reuse facilities". The document includes animal rescues, shelters, food pantries, and more. Find the full list here:
ycswa.com/wp-content/uploads/YC-Reuse-Facilities-7-2025-2.pdf

Library book donations:
Although Martin Library in York City is unable to accept book donations, many other libraries across York County accept book donations throughout the year. For information about the types of books accepted and drop off dates/ times at various locations, visit:
yorklibraries.org/support/book-donations

Lifepath Thrift and CommunityAid:
(multiple locations)
York's two primary thrift store chains, Lifepath Thrift and Community Aid, both accept donations of clothing, homegoods, toys, books, and more. Each Community Aid location accepts donations Monday-Saturday from 9AM-6PM. Lifepath accepts donations during business hours, and additionally maintains collection bins located at sites across the county.

Resource York:
161 E 9th Ave, York
After recently consolidating their two locations into one space, Resource York remains a unique local organization that accepts used home goods and home improvement supplies in good condition including windows, doors, bathroom fixtures, kitchen appliances, furniture, and more. I recently donated a used storm door from my home and purchased a fully functional (and stylish!) ceiling fan for $30.00.

Buy Nothing Facebook Group:
If you are on Facebook, consider joining the group "Buy Nothing, York County, PA" to post items that you are interested in passing off to another person in the area. Group members can make a post inquiring for specific items, or can post photos of items they are hoping to give away for free.

Continued on 4B

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 :)

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

SEEKING: Photos of York from YOU. Email photos of your city to york@msprint.media for possible inclusion in a future issue.

SHARING: Small duffle of girl's dance clothes sized kid's large. Contact sara@msprint.media

SEEKING:

collapsible wagon to be used in downtown food distribution.

email:

matthew@msprint.media

SEEKING: Bricks in any condition for garden project. Contact matthew@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

The next legislative meeting of Council will be Tuesday, July 21st at 6:00PM.

No committee meetings are held during the months of June, July, August, or December.

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

//// COMIC CORNER

the application of collage in my artwork is not used by accident. By layering pieces of my own art-work (after chopping up & reassembling them), i strive to mimic the same process our own brains go through to recall memories. Memory, when thinking back in time, through time, our brains can only hold so much data that sometimes pieces of, or whole chunks of information can get lost or altered in the recalling shuffle. As you go through recalling process, time becomes layered onto the original framework of memory in the brain thus aided by various stimuli mined through sensory context (touch, taste, sight, smell, hearing). This is where my next chapter of 'Time Freeze' leaves us. The main character (me) has travelled back in time to Imperial Japan and has fully embraced the world of the Samurai. Main character has recently learned that there's a crucial reason as to why his time machine remote control plopped him smack dab in the year 1185. His travelling companions (wolf, monkey, bird) have vowed to assist him in his journey to find his lost memories. These lost memories are vital to this story because they help explain the attributes that a samurai wields daily such as self-discipline and personal honor as well as enjoying the arts such as waka (japanese poetry), and noh (japanese dance-drama). My parents are depicted as human-like mountains in this illustration, seeing as they represent alot of the shaping of who i am today as an artist, teacher, writer, theater performer.

the animal warriors that surround me are drawn into my memory journey as well as is prevalent in Japanese lore, each animal offers an unique perspective and skillset for the perilous quest. Both of my parents are still alive (mother is 78 & father is 82), and still an important part of my life, which is why i want to include them in my art while they're still present here on Earth. Time has seeped into my relationship with my father because his version of time versus memory has been slightly skewered due to surviving a bout of lymphoma, two strokes, and gout. An important lesson i had to learn early on was not to question someone's failing memory when they're unsure what forgetting is. So i leave it to this graphic novel, still in the works, to act as a proxy, because every few pages of this chapter featuring my parents will have my father asking to no one in particular, "When is Antonio (main character) getting here?" Which is an appropriate question to ask if you are suddenly thrust into a storyline with time travelling. However, when my father reads this, i hope that he and i can talk again without time getting in the way. i feel as if time is going backwards sometimes. Eyb rof won.

EVENTS CONT.

Want to see your local event featured in future editions?

email york@msprint.media to submit your own!

Before The End, Wrath of Typhon, Por Vida, Magg Dylan, and No Bear

Virginia metal groups Magg Dylan and Por Vida come to York to rock Valencia with support from PA's No Bear, Wrath of Typhon, and Before The End.

7/18
6:00PM
Valencia Ballroom
142 N George St, York

Kreutz Creek Cookbook Group: Americana (Happy 250th Birthday)

The library's monthly Cookbook Group is meeting around the theme, "American Food". Bring a dish matching the theme to share along with its recipe.

7/23
6:00PM-7:45PM
Kreutz Creek Library
66 Walnut Springs Rd, Hellam

Revolutionary York Walking Tour

A 60-90 minute tour of York exploring various historical sites throughout the city.

7/24
6:00PM-7:30PM
York County History Center Museum
121 N Pershing Ave, York

Greener Codorus Initiative

Join the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association to cut down vegetation along the banks of the Codorus to prevent the spraying of herbicides that will ultimately pollute the creek and Susquehanna River.

7/29
5:30PM-7:30PM
Foundry Plaza Codorus Boat Basin
220 W. Philadelphia St, York

Pathway to Homeownership Workshop

A free two-part series approved by the Pennsylvania Housing & Finance Agency to help community members achieve homeownership. For more information or to attend a session, please call (717) 846-4600 or send an email including your phone number to navigator@yorkcpc.org to register.

Community Progress Council
226 E College Ave
Session 1: 7/11, 9:00AM-4:00PM
Session 11: 7/25, 9:00AM-4:30PM

MORE EVENTS

Board Game Nights

Weekly Tuesday board game nights for all board game lovers. Bring your own games or borrow one to play from the Adventurers' Academy library. $5 entry fee (gets congerted to store credit).

7/7, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28
6:00PM-9:00PM
The Adventurers' Academy
1720 S Queen St, York

All Terrain Run Club July Runs

Runners of all skill levels are welcome to join the All Terrain Run Club on their runs throughout July.

7/9; 6:15PM at Splitshift
7/30; 6:15PM at Holy Hound Taproom

Wizard Ranch Hike

The York Hiking Club hosts a short hike along the Susquehanna Riverlands. Call ahead if the weather is bad. Hikes are not typically held in storms. Hike Leaders: Kim Pavlick & Raf Ruiz (717) 650-0253.

7/12
10:00AM
Wizard Ranch
Parking Lot coordinates:
40.038396, -76.572436.

Creatives in the Park!

Sara and Matthew (your York mspriht publishers) host a recurring outdoor meetup for musicians, artists, and any kind of creatives interested in collaboration. Bring your current projects, acoustic instruments, or even favorite yard games to share. :)

7/20
6:30PM-8:30PM (approx.)
John Rudy Park
Somewhere around or under
Eastern Hemlock Pavillion
400 Mundis Race Road, York

The Goons / Break City Drowwners / Seeing Snakes / Witness Marker

Album release show for York "Shark Punx" Break City Drowwners headlined by DC legends The Goons. Additionally supported by Philly's Seeing Snakes and Lancaster's Witness Marker

7/31
7:00PM
Shiloh American Legion 791
1490 Poplars Rd, York

Pan Live @ Penn Market

Poet and performer Pan will be performing her works for visitors at Penn Market.

7/11
12:00PM-2:00PM
Penn Market
380 W Market Street, York