THE YORK MSPRINT

Something is happening in York!

York, Pennsylvania

June, 2026

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Opinion: Pride Benefits Everyone, in York and Beyond

by: Matthew Gargano matthew@msprint.media

Prior to moving to the York area, I lived in DC. Just on my walk to work I passed the Human Rights Campaign headquarters, one park that regularly hosted a gay men's sport league, and several LGBT+-focused social gathering spaces. Moving to an area that was significantly more rural, I was unsure of what to expect in regards to the size and prevalence of the LGBT+ community around York.

During one of my first experiences exploring York I was walking around Beaver Street and ended up outside of Central Market. As I was taking everything in for the first time, a young person was casually walking by the market wearing a punk "battle jacket" with all sorts of patches, spikes, and, most notably, a big "He/They" patch declaring their pronouns to everyone that could see it.

Logically, I know that a city doesn't suddenly create LGBT+ people when it reaches a certain population threshold, and, despite how some people speak about them, even the reddest counties have LGBT+ community members in them. However, it is still helpful to have these sorts of stereotypes shattered by seeing someone declaring who they are very plainly and being able to move through their city as comfortably as any other.

It isn't enough to merely acknowledge that LGBT+ people exist and live in York. It is important to explicitly advocate for their rights to live their lives just as any other member of the community can. Pride month is certainly a great opportunity to publicly affirm and celebrate the LGBT+ community in York with the various celebrations taking place including the Pride Pop-Off that kicked things off at the end of May and the official York County Pride at the York Fairgrounds on June 13th.

Pride Pop-Off 2025

Visibility is important, but it is not the full scope of pride.

There is still work to be done locally to protect and support the LGBT+ community. Last August, LGBT+ patrons including a local drag queen were subjected to homophobic slurs and assaulted by a small group of other patrons at Gift Horse BrewingCompany. Although there was an outpouring of support for the LGBT+ community in the region following this attack, similar platant attacks to individuals due to their perceived gender and/or sexuality are only further brushed under the rug and validated by local politicians when they present or endorse anti-LGBT+ legislation.

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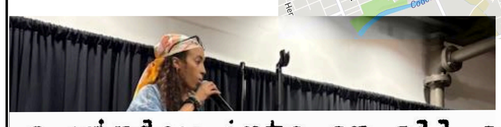

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Pride in York

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This past March, when Pennsylvania House Bill 1800, which redefines marriage more generally as "A civil contract between two individuals" and repeals a provision that attempts to prohibit same sex marriage, was passed and sent along to the State Senate for consideration, only two of the six York County State Representatives who participated in the vote voted in favor of the bill: Republican Mike Jones representing District 93 and Democrat Carol Hill-Evans representing District 95. Representatives Marc Anderson, Joseph D'Orsie, Wendy Fink, and Kate Klunk representing Districts 92, 47, 94, and 169 respectively voted against the bill. If you live in those four districts, by the nature of representative politics, these legislators are saying YOU are against this basic civil right for the LGBT+ community in PA.

Recently, transgender Pennsylvanians specifically have been targets of legislation. A provision in Senate Bill 1321 aims to end funding for gender-related care for minors. This was cosponsored by York County Senator Dawn Keefer and another York County Senator, Kristin Philips-Hill, voted in favor of the bill. Additionally, Representative Joseph D'Orsie's "Defending Our Daughters" campaign targets the transgender community in a misguided attempt to "empower" young women.

Somewhat ironically, a broader acceptance of the LGBT+ community would more legitimately empower young women rather than forcing them into more rigid roles based on the idea of what a woman ought to be like. These gender roles, for men and women alike, get more restrictive as gender expression is more heavily regulated. Similarly, when different sexualities areinvalidated or demonized, it can become more difficult to engage in male/male and female/male platonic friendships as an increasingly narrow view of sexuality can constrain what types of relationships we consider to be possible and accepted.

These examples demonstrate the importance of Pride for everyone — not just LGBT+ community members — to fight for the rights of the LGBT+ community to be free to be free to live their lives. If your elected representatives are not proudly in favor of LGBT+ rights, I encourage you to reach out to them and let them know that it is important to you. If you are looking for LGBT+ resources and programming, please check out the Rainbow Rose Center at rainbowrosecenter.org where they support the LGBT+ community in York and Adams counties.

How To: Participate in the Democratic Process and Make $

By: S. Irene Born

Do you know what JUST occurred on Tuesday May 19, 2026? Did you guess Pennsylvania's Primary Elections? Well, that would be the correct answer. Voting in Pennsylvania may be conducted in-person at your designated polling station, or via mail-in ballot.

PA has a closed primary: you only get to vote if you're registered to a major political party (Democrat or Republican) and you are voting for your party's candidates. Voter turnout tends to be lower for primary elections But remember, voting is super cool.

Cooler yet is working at your local polling station. Shifts are available for the entire day (6AM-9PM) or for half shifts (6AM-1:30PM or 1:30PM-9PM). This is a PAID gig for $175-$190 for the full day.

It does require a brief training, which, if you complete the live class, is reimbursed at $25. The live training lasts about 1.5-3 hours.

High school applicants must be at least 17 years old and both a US citizen and York County resident. Otherwise, applicants must be at least 18 years old and must be registered to vote. There are various positions and typically each polling station runs with 3 folks, but can require staffing up to 12 folks.

This is a pretty sweet opportunity to both participate in a crucial civic process and to support your community. There is a definitive need for Spanish speakers, and this could be a great opportunity for high school students looking to impress on a college application!

Also, representation matters, and this is an opportunity to visibly represent your ethnicity, gender, or other identity dynamic to create a more inclusive voting environment. In uncertain political times, this is an active way to participate in the voting process and to assure that you and your neighbor's votes are counted and heard.

10/19/26 is the last day to register to vote before the 11/3/26 general election. If you need to register, you can do it online or print a paper application: pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx.

If you are registered but do not know your polling place: yorkcountypa.gov/969/vote-in-person

If you wanna be a poll worker: yorkcountypa.easypollworker.com/apply

If you need a little more information: yorkcountypa.gov/972/Become-A-Poll-Worker

If you just want the old school address and phone number:

York County Board of Elections
2401 Pleasant Valley Rd, Suite 219
York, PA 17402

717-771-9604

JUNE EVENTS

Road to Independence Art Exhibition

As part of the Lincoln Highway Association National Conference, which is being held in York this year, ten artists highlight the Lincoln Highway and its accompanying people, buildings, and landscapes as it runs through PA.

6/5-6/26
The Gunter-Smith Center for Community Engagement
59 E Market St, York

LGBTQIA+ Young Adult Social Group

Young adults ages 18-30 are invited to relax and build connection and community in an affirming space.

6/11
6:00PM-8:00PM
Mapa Bolis
2535 S Queen St, York

Author Event with Marissa McFarland

Former York resident Marissa McFarland discusses her inspiration and writing process surrounding her debut novel, "When Goodbyes Begin".

6/11
6:00PM
Bound Books
2555 S Queen St, York

StarWatch at John Rudy Park

An evening of stargazing with the York County Astronomical Society. For more information contact info@astroyork.com or leave a voice message at 717-759-9227.

6/13
8:00PM-10:00PM
John Rudy Park
400 Mundis Race Road, York

Arts & Crafts Meet-Up

All types of artists and crafters are welcome to bring a tidy project to work on for a cozy morning.

6/13
10:00AM-12:00PM
Steph Holmes Artist Studio
256 W Philadelphia St
2nd Floor

A Spoken Word Treat at The Hanger: Open Mic 4th Fridays with Na'San Jamison

By: S. Irene Born

I am conflicted. This monthly event is so engaging, wholesome and authentic. I almost do not want to share; I want to hold this as my own private delight. Hoarding this experience would do a disservice to the phenomenal folks who have brought and cultivated this situation; this addition to the York, PA social scene. I will instead pivot and urge you to carve out time in your social calendar each fourth Friday for this age inclusive, spoken word forum.

The Hanger is a social space at The Grotto Community Center, a Downtown co-working establishment. JJ Sheffer and her business partner, Delia Pabon, started at the NY Wire Works and moved to The Grotto in January of 2026. They wanted to establish an open mic night from The Hanger's inception. Through other local events, they met an influential spoken word poet named Na'San Jamison and quickly recognized him as a potential host for The Hanger's future open mics. He was a frequent participant at The Outlet, The Appel Center's 2nd Thursday open mic.

Na'San, now the event's official MC, is committed to furthering community through live performances. With a background in poetry and acting, Na'San participated in Weary Art group productions like The Wiz and A Raisin in the Sun. He has written poetry since high school. His first spotlight was at The Appel Center, and he described the experience as enlightening, and an opportunity to recognize the power of this format for connection. Active in theatrical productions in his youth, Na'San described time spent on the stage as an opportunity to command a crowd and make them laugh. He reflects that now, "I make them feel".

He focuses on younger talents,creating a warm and receptive space for folks toexplore connecting with an audience through this medium. His connection to established spoken word communities supports his ambitions and makes him a natural mentor. Poetry, specifically spoken word, offers him the opportunity to present lived experiences not as a character, but as a genuine reflection of himself.

Na'San describes his talents and opportunities as blessings. His character radiates integrity, dedication, and talent. In exploring his style of spoken word, Na'San states that he loves to tell a perfect story while playing with words. He frequently explores the theme of love and takes phrases from the settings of his poetry to create dynamic word juxtapositions, often cleverly taking the listener on a full circle experience. His presentation is heavily influenced by the cadence of battle rap and by the artist Wale.

Na'San regularly performs at venues beyond the Greater-York Area: Baltimore, Philly, Wilmington, Delaware and soon Pittsburgh. His father regularly accompanies him on his performance tours, and has stepped up to fill a vacancy left when his grandfather passed away in July of 2013. His grandfather and mother's brother were his male role-models growing up. His uncle helped establish his work ethic and his grandfather believed in his aspirations, getting to see Na'San's career in the arts bloom from potential to actuality.

The format of the 4th Friday open mic is straightforward. Artists, Poets, and Rappers are invited to sign up to present their work. After a brief introduction by Na'San, they approach the stage while Franny improvises on Trumpet. The first 2/3 of the event proceeds this way. Partially through the evening, a unique featured artist sits down with Ruel or Beimnet of CapSoul Lancaster for a 5 minute Q&A. The final 15 minute set of the evening is dedicated to the featured artist and they may use this time as they please.

I attended the May 22, 2026 all-ages open mic night. As usual, Na'San led the event as MC with intro and outro musical transitions by Franny on the trumpet and Astrid on the drum loop. 15 some artists dropped powerful lyrics and intimate performances covering a variety of subjects from exterior perceptions, anxiety, what it is to be Black in America, self-deception, and love. New and old works were celebrated, massive support given to each performer as they found their voice and rhythm.

The featured artist, Aire, was a moving wocalist at 21 who silenced the room with her talent. Her set started with the tiniest bit of hesitation, but by its completion the room was on its feet. I am not schooled in musicality, but she had runs of notes, purity of heart and a presence that stopped me mid-breath. What a delight to witness her self-proclaimed goal to reflect God and to be used as his vessel to share the healing aspect of love!

Regardless of your stance on spirituality, Aire was an undeniable force, proof of beauty and love in an increasingly chaotic world. She acknowledged the impact of this feature; citing how impactful it was to connect with the audience and hear everyone's creativity. Truth be told, I'd argue that her contribution was immesurable.

This open mic event is g enuine and honest. Seasoned professionals with developed stage personas and concrete self-conceptions present alongside young voices; talented voices still evolving their presentation. Rap, bold dynamic voices, and quiet, slightly less confident woices fill the space. For some, poetry might be therapy, for others poetry is another format for truth. The words spoken here are haunting and enlightening. I dare you to remain unmoved.

June's open mic, hosted by Na'San at The Hanger, is scheduled for June 26th at 7:00PM. For more information, visit The Hanger York on Facebook.

Focus on Local Arts Presence Creates Potential for Future Grant Funding

By: Sara Mack sara@msprint.media

For a city of its size, York has an impressive arts presence. Due to the potential economic and social benefits that accompany a thriving art scene, organizations affiliated with the City of York including Downtown Inc and Cultural Alliance of York County are interested in cementing York's status as a creative hub.

In order to publicly formalize the city's prioritization of the arts, Downtown Inc is exploring the feasibility of applying for the new Pennsylvania Creative District Designation offered by the Commonwealth. This grant-based program would provide winning organizations with a $50,000 grant each year of the five year program.

According to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania official website, a "Creative District is a walkable, geographically defined area by a municipality that is characterized by a high concentration of cultural facilities, creative businesses and entrepreneurs, artists, and culture bearers. Creative districts promote and benefit from a community's unique assets, enhance residents' quality of life, and attract visitors, talent, and investment."

The pa.gov website states that any organizations interested inapplying for the designation must submit a completed Letter of Intent Form by Monday, June 12, 2026.

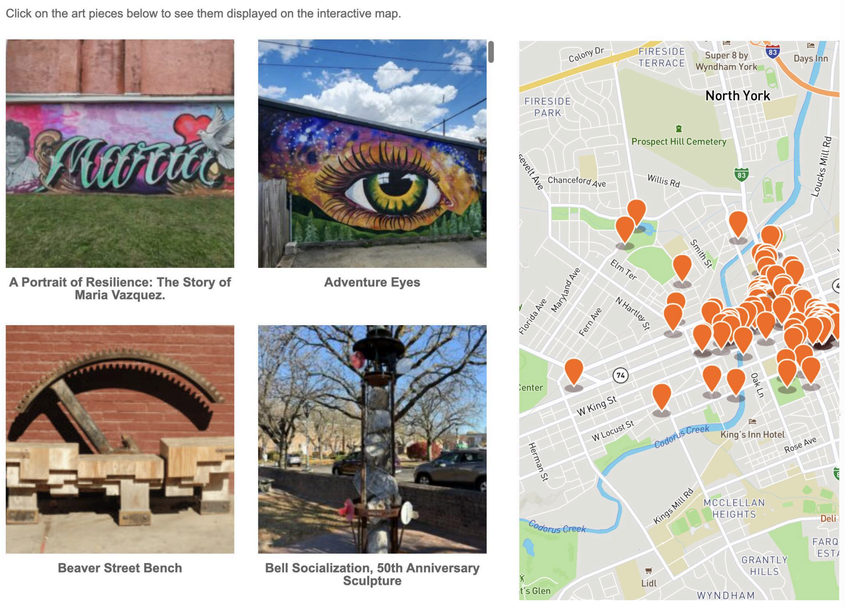
Several ongoing initiatives, designed to support York's creative identity and bolster the City's chances of receiving the creative designation, are currently in the works at Downtown Inc and across the city including a public art toolkit, a public art mapping project, and an open call for art that is currently seeking artists to design 16 planters across Downtown York.

The Public Art Map, launched in 2025, is a community-powered initiative located online at

york365.com/public-art/map/

and designed to draw attention to the breadth of art already present across York. The effort is supported by a collaboration between the Cultural Alliance, Explore York, and YCEA/ Trail Towns.

To submit new entires to the map, York visitors or residents are encouraged to create a free profile on York365.com and click through to the "Public Art" tab in their user profile. For assistance adding new works of art into the database, users can email Rita Whitney at rita@culturalyork.org.



Similarly, the new Public Art Toolkit is designed to provide "practical guidance for artists, property owners, non-profits, and municipalities bringing and enhancing art in York County." Although initially created with a focus on the York area, the information included in the toolkit is potentially transferable to similar areas across Pennsylvania. The toolkit will be regularly updated to reflect the latest guidance at culturalyork.org/public-art-toolkit/.

The information included in the toolkit is intended to support new and ongoing art initiatives in the area, including the effort to add local art to 16 large cement planters located downtown. Installed by the Rotery Club of York in 2025, the blank planters have received critiques for not positively contributing to the aesthetics of the Market Street corridor. Artists interested in applying to design one of the planters should apply by June 26th. 16 artists will be chosen,and winners will receive $150 funded by the Cultural Alliance to reproduce their images. For more information and to apply, visit culturalyork.org.

According to Sarah O'Brien, Downtown Inc Director, "Creativity has always been part of Downtown York's story, but we're increasingly focused on making it part of our future. From public art and cultural programming to creative entrepreneurship and placemaking, we're working alongside our community to create an environment where artists, makers, musicians, and creative businesses can thrive. These efforts aren't just about beautification, they are also about economic development, neighborhood vitality, and creating the kind of authentic experiences that attract residents, visitors, and investment."

York's reputation as a city and region that prioritizes creativity and the arts continues to evolve, and more information about these efforts (and more) are available at culturalyork.org and york365.com. Feel free to reach out to the msprint with any thoughts on these efforts or to share your perspective on how you perceive the evolution of York's status as a creative center at york@msprint.media.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SEEKING: a friend/advisor to assist with integrating lights and movement into art pieces. I am abhorrent with technology and very easily distracted. Proper candidate should be patient, kind, and interested in art. If interested send a message to Steph at welcometofidgetville@gmail.com.

SEEKING:

collapsible wagon to be used in downtown food distribution.

email:

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

Council is observing Summer Recess, during which only one meeting per month is held from June-August.

The sole June meeting was held on June 2nd. 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

SHARING: canopy frame for weddings still in original box, never used. email sara@msprint.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 :)

Community Garden

at Reichert Farm

New Garden space in Spring Grove with the goal to grow food for Food Not Bombs food distribution.

Aside from the FNB garden I am happy to provide additional free garden space for anyone willing to help with the project that wants or needs space to grow their own things.

Ways to help:
- donate time to help with weeding/watering
- donate seeds or plants

For more information, join the Facebook Group: Community Garden at Reichert Farm or email

reichertfarmpa@gmail.com

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GARFYORK Illustrated by: Josh Johnson Story by: Matthew Gargano

EVENTS CONT.

Want to see your local event featured in future editions?

email york@msprint.media to submit your own!

Music For The Mammals 2026

An annual fundraiser to raise funds for animal charities "Sam's Beasties" and "MORE For Furry Friends" featuring a bake sale, silent auction and music from The Turning Hand, Janedriver, Stella Was Taken, and Fight The Fold.

6/27
4:00PM
Collusion Tapworks
105 S Howard St, York

LGBTea PRIDE Party

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York and the Mindfulness Practice Center of York host a whimsical tea party with tea/coffee, food, arts and crafts, outdoor games, and even Jenn PageWise, a local, queer sound healer offering mini-sound healing sessions.

6/14
11:30AM-2:30PM
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York
925 S George St, York

Noel's Rock Shop Closing Send-Off

After three years, Noel's Rock Shop will be closing with thier last day on June 14th. Join them f or an open house pizza party send off.

6/14
Noel's Rock Shop
23 E King St, York

Horn Farm Solstice Market

A fun, festive community market with local vendors to celebrate the summer solstice.

6/20
10:00AM-2:00PM
Horn Farm Solstice Center
4945 Horn Road, York

Creative Office Hours

The Cultural Alliance of York County is hosting recurring office hours every 3rd Tuesday of the month for Cultural Alliance staff and grant Navigators to facilitate casual conversations about resources for local artists and creative entrepreneurs.

6/16
12:00PM-2:00PM
The Grotto Community Center
17 E Philadelphia St

MORE EVENTS

Total Chaos/Noogy/ English Teeth/Mid Rats

California Hardcore punks, Total Chaos, come to York for the first time supported by ska-core Texans Noogy, Philadelphia's English Teeth, and Lancaster's Mid Rats.

6/23
7:00PM
Shiloh American Legion Post #791
1490 Poplars Rd, York

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Library Patrons are invited to drop off a stuffed friend any time before 5PM on 6/17 and pick them up on 6/18 at 10:30AM to see a slideshow of their adventures.

6/17 and 6/18
Martin Library
159 E Market St, York

Make Music Day York

Music will ring out across different events at various locations throughout the county in celebration of Mark Music Day.

Find a map of participating locations: makemusicday.org/yorkcounty/

6/21

Creatives in the Park!

Sara and Matthew (your York msprint 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. :)

6/12, 6/23
6:30PM-8:30PM (approx.)
John Rudy Park
Somewhere around or under Eastern Hemlock Pavillion
400 Mundis Race Road, York

Second Sunday on King Outdoor Market

Organized by The Glass Turtle, come experience the outdoor market with produce from local farms as well as wares from local artists, makers, and vendors. Recurring on the second Sunday of each month.

6/14
9:00AM-1:00PM
Royal Square
Parking lot on the corner of E. King St. and Queen St., York