York, Pennsylvania

THE YORK MSPRINT

Something is happening in York!

September, 2026

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Food Vendor Arrest Attributed to "Disorderly Conduct", Music Volume

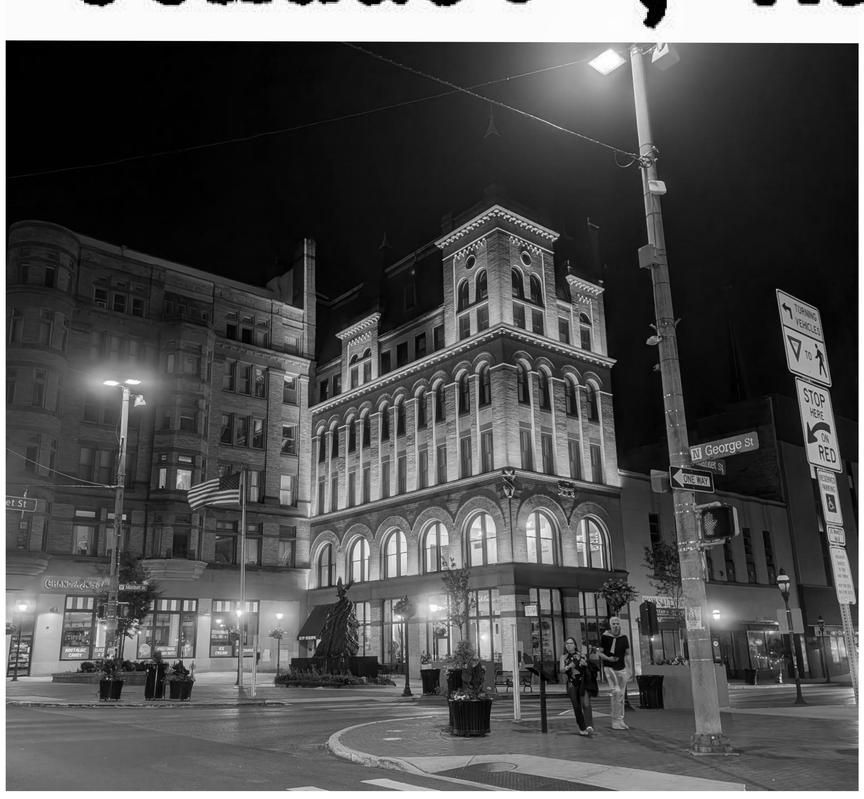
by: Matthew Gargano

matthew@msprint.media

On August 7th, a local food vendor in Continental Square was arrested for violating the city ordinance regarding "Disorderly Conduct", reportedly due to concerns over loud music.

Continental Square is the historic heart of York. However, when walking through it at many different points in the day it doesn't always seem like it. The wide open square feels empty, the once bustling comfort stations are boarded up, and many of the buildings are in a transitory state. A food vendor playing music in the square represents the intersection of business and culture that makes cities feel alive, and I am saddened that many organizations in York that pride themselves on strengthening the vitality of the city are staying quiet about this arrest.

Although an individual or business playing music extremely loudly can certainly disrupt community activities it is important to note the food vendor was not charged with a noise ordinance violation. Instead, they were charged with disprderly conduct.



Part of the definition of disorderly conduct includes "Making unreasonable noise...which by its very utterance or usage inflicts injury or tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace."

In contrast, in the city's actual noise ordinance, sound amplification is prohibited when it is played in such a manner as to create a noise disturbance across a property line (boundary), or at fifty feet from such device, whichever is less."

There is a higher burden of proof in the city's official noise ordinance versus in the city's definition of "disorderly conduct". The broad definition of "unreasonable noise", allows police to more liberally apply a disorderly conduct charge.

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Food Vendor Arrest

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Unlike an official violation of the noise ordinance, any officer interpreting noise levels to be "unreasonable" is enough justification to warrant a disorderly conduct charge regardless of how loud the music actually was. This also means the officers can ignore loud music if they deem it reasonable.

For example, Gift Horse Brewing Company frequently plays both live and recorded music, and the establishment is a staple on N. George St. I enjoy walking around on First Friday hearing the excitement and energy coming from the music at Gift Horse even when I am a block or more away. As the noise ordinance makes no exception for bars or music venues, Gift Horse is technically violating the letter of the law. That said, because the police do not deem their noise "unreasonable", they have had the opportunity to become a cultural staple downtown.

Historically, York's policies have favored brick and mortar restaurants over food trucks or other mobile food vendors. In the early 2010's there was only one mobile food vendor, a hot dog cart, that was permitted to vend in the central business district.

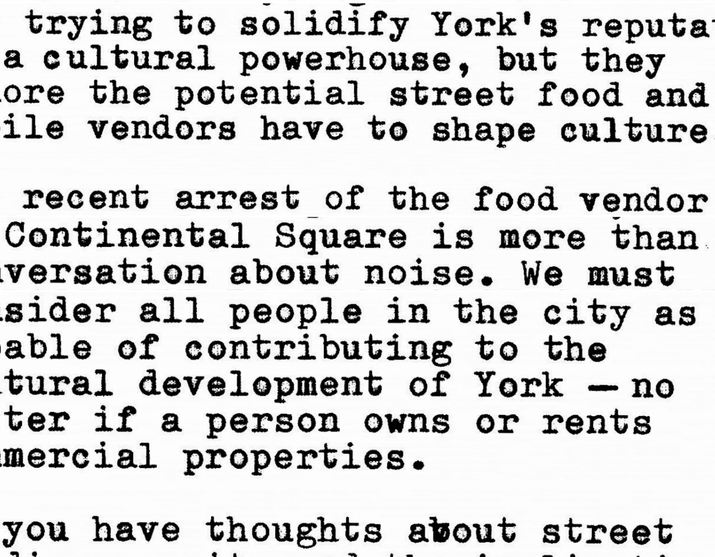
Over time, after numerous city council votes on the matter, there are still only 30 permits allowed for mobile food vending in a given calendar year in York.

For these permits, vendors must apply by June 30th of the previous year to be able to serve food. Vendors can always apply for a temporary permit, but they are only allowed 14 a year and must apply each time they wish to serve food. On top of this, all mobile food vendors must be a minimum of 100 feet away from any restaurant during their hours of operation. All of these restrictions are already preferential to brick and mortar restaurants and represent a barrier for mobile food vending without other laws and ordinances being selectively applied to mobile food vendors.

Street food is a global tradition and some of the most iconic or culturally relevant dishes in cities around the worled like tacos, hot dogs, bagels, fish and chips, falafel, and elote come from mobile food vendors on the street. Many organizations in York are trying to solidify York's reputation as a cultural powerhouse, but they ignore the potential street food and mobile vendors have to shape culture.

The recent arrest of the food vendor in Continental Square is more than a conversation about noise. We must consider all people in the city as capable of contributing to the cultural development of York — no matter if a person owns or rents commercial properties.

If you have thoughts about street vending permits and the implication of street vendor arrests due to disorderly conduct, reach out to matthew@msprint.media. City Council meetings often discuss matters relating to downtown permits and street vendors, so if you would like to speak about this in a more formal capcity consider attending upcoming City Council meetings on September 15th and 23rd.



5th York Fringe Fest Features Eclectic Acts Across the City

by: Sara Mack

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Seeing Fringe Festivals mimicking the original in Edinburgh, Scotland pop up in major cities internationally, it feels appropriate for York to have its own iteration of the series.

The 2026 York Fringe Fest welcomed approximately 450 attendees to experience 30 acts performing in seven different venues across the city including Valencia Ballroom, Paper Tiger Studio, The Hangar, Rockfish Grill, and Dreamwrights Center for Community Arts.

According to the organization's website, the 2026 festival was the 5th occurrence of the York Fringe following events held in 2018, 2019, 2023, and 2024. Since its inception in 2017, the event has been put together by enroot — an organization composed of the same team responsible for York Story Slam and Kable House Presents.

York Fringe is supported, in part, by a team of volunteers from the community. One volunteer, Ava Belmont, shared that her experience volunteering for the festival was "an absolutely wonderful experience."

Ava said, "Seeing the York community come together to support artists and performers across such a wide range of venues and energies was truly incredible...The festival offered me the ability to connect with the community and support the live performing arts in all of its fringe-y glory. I would absolutely volunteer again and would recommend anyone in the York area attend next year's Fringe shows with an open mind and a creative heart."

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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Labor Day Metal Matinee

Castle, an occult metal band from San Francisco, supported by Yoe's dungeon metal rockers Cultic and York's own proto-metal magicians, Spellbook.

9/7
5:00PM
The Sideshow
115 S Howard St

Labor Day Festival 2026

The City of York Parks and Recreation department invites you to celebrate Labor Day with a community yard sale, festival with music and food, and fireworks in the evening.

9/7
Yard Sale:9:00AM-2:00PM
Festival: 5:00PM - 9:00PM
Fireworks: 8:45PM
Kiwanis Lake
300 Pennsylvania Ave

Connie Imboden Artist Talk and Reception

Photographer Connie Imboden will host a walking tour and artist talk exploring her work. Refreshments will be served in the Wolf Hall Lobby.

9/9
5:30PM
York College Galleries
465 Country Club Rd

F.S. Autumn Release Party

Celebrating the release of her new book "The Haunting of Maplebrook Manor", F.S. Autumn will join Bound Books for a discussion with Emily Kirk, an audience Q&A, and a book signing. Cookies available. Registration required.

9/11
6:00PM
Bound Books
2555 S Queen St

3 Rozes Ent and Just Janica's Park Party

An all-day, all-ages celebration in the park featuring double dutch, pie eating, tug-of-war, and potato sack race competitions. Enjoy a pig roast from Just Janica's and a comedy jam beginning at 7:00PM

9/20
11:00AM-9:00PM
John Rudy Park
400 Mundis Race Rd

West Coast Swing & Hustle dance social and potluck

Victrola Dance Hall hosts a monthly dance social, every 2nd Sunday. Open to all levels, no partner required. Crash class available by request. Free, bring a dish for the potluck, donations accepted.

9/13
6:00PM
The Hangar
17 E Philadelphia St

York Fringe

Continued from 1B

The festival kicked off on Wednesday, August 19th, with two contrasting and vibrant performances: ImprovScape, an artist-focused improvisational performance, and "The CATbaret Tail of The MEOWmagical Boy Cat, Prince Snowflake, ona FURRflavorful FURRfood Glittering CATventure, with his 2 Armenian Mommies, unFURRfringed!!!!", which... honestly speaks for itself.

York Fringe provides a unique opportunity for regional and traveling acts to perform at venues around York where they would normally have more difficulty booking shows. Unfortunately, in York there is a shortage of venues with availability for small-to-medium-size artists to perform, especially outside of musical genres that are popular in the area — so this festival presents a unique opportunity for artists.

With this level of variety in performances, attendees must accept a degree of associated "risk and reward". Fest audience members are asked to give artists that they haven't previously heard of a chance, or attend a type of performance they've never been to before. In exchange, they have the opportunity to find a new favorite act! It is also important to recognize, however, that not all performances are for everyone.

After hearing substantial buzz around the act's performance at the 2024 festival, I attended the Prince Snowflake show on night one of York Fringe 2026. Although the cat was undeniably very cute (and potentially even a natural-born performer!) and silly, I don't think the show was for me. I didn't enjoy the feeling that I was meant to be laughing "at" the performers rather than "with" them, and I also didn't love the smell of rotting cat food which was passed out to a lucky few attendees.

Although it wasn't as much of a highlight for me as I had hoped, I appreciate that the Prince Snowflake show provided an opportunity for York residents to see something new and outside of their regularly scheduled programming.



The highlight of my Fringe experience was stopping by Paper Tiger Studio for Kill Your Ego and Make Art, an evening of music-inspired art making. Although I regularly spend time at Paper Tiger Studio, it was unique and exciting to see the space being used in such a multi-faceted way; with improvised music being performed on a variety of instruments including bass, saxophone, drum pad, and guitar at the same time as attendees were invited to utilize art supplies provided by the studio to create work inspired by the performance.

Throughout the five day festival, it was exciting to hear reflections in passing from other Fringe attendees.

Commuhity member and Fringe Festival Attendee S. Born reported back to The MSPRINT about her experinece at Friday night's Drunk History performance: "Did y'all know that we had a renowened black female poet named Alice Dunbar Nelson grace the steps of our courthouse before the 1915 election? Or that you can review the personal correspondence of Anna Dill Gable at the York County History Center? Heidi (Storey) rose to the challenge of bringing some lesser-known historical events to light. Research was done and we're here for it. The stories at times were scandalous, spicy, intriguing and exciting — perfect choices for a bit of drunken embellishment. In addition, approaching the less savory aspect of York history through comedy is a means for further discussions... All said — an enjoyable evening, eclectic tales of the fabulous and nearly forgotten history of York— exciting performances and I look forward to next year's contribution or Fringe Encore presentations throughout the year."



JJ Sheffer, York Fring Fest organizer, expressed thanks to everyone to the festival. She shared with The MSPRINT, "We are so grateful to the performing artists who come from near and far, our local sponsors, and our volunteers. We're working on all the follow-up from the 2026 festival, and will soon dive into planning for an even bigger, better, and weirder festival in 2027.

If you're interested in volunteering, performing, or hosting as part of the next York Fringe, keep an eye on yorkfringe.org, and dream big! Better yet, don't wait for the next festival. What types of events would you like to see hosted in York NOW?

York Fresh Food Farms Spotlights Lack of Accessible, Local Produce

by: Sara Mack

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York Fresh Food Farms (YFFF) is a York County-rooted 501c3 that distributes fresh, affordable, locally grown produce. The organization is distinct from non-profits with similar missions in the York area in that it operates farms at three locations around York, and distributes produce primarily through "mobile markets" that visit approximately 19 sites monthly.



YFFF prioritizes accessibility and affordability in their offerings by accepting EBT/SNAP and similar food assistance vouchers. According to their organization's website, "customers who pay with SNAP receive a $2 Food Buck coupon with every $2 spent using their SNAP/EBT card (up to $10 in Food Bucks)."

Founded in 2015, YFFF is continuing to expand its reach and continues to work to improve access to fresh produce in York County. As part of the organization's evolution and growth, Christi Brown joined York Fresh Food Farm in May, 2026 as the new Executive Director.

Prior to her time at YFFF, Brown was Director of Operations at Lancaster County Food Hub, an organization that addresses food insecurity. Brown carries her experiende helping neighbors in Lancaster with her to York, and is transitioning her focus from primarily shelf-stable goods to fresh produce.

Brown shared that, although York County doesn't officially meet the criteria for a food desert, she refers to the area as a "food swamp" — grocery items are generally available, but fresh, nutrient-dense goods are more difficult to access and come at a significantly higher price point. She came to YFFF to meet these needs, and to improve access to fresh, nutrient-rich produce.

In the midst of national concerns around food safety due to Cyclospora parasite outbreaks, Brown expressed that public interest in where food is sourced has increased. She shared that, in many grocery stores, produce can often travel up to 1500 miles over a period of up to 10 days, and is not truly fresh. In contrast, Brown said, "we are harvesting something today that will be available tomorrow."





According to Brown, the organization is working to develop a new strategic plan. Her goals include expanding YFFF's services and providing outreach further into the County. While the organization primarily serves York City residents, with a better mobile vehicle the YFFF team could cut down on "loading and unloading time" and allow for the team to add more market stops while also staying open longer at the market stops they currently frequent.

Although YFFF intends to continue to expand, the organization relies primarily on grants, donors, and volunteers to further operations. If you're interested in contributing to the YFFF cause, consider getting involved as a volunteer! The YFFF team is actively seeking additional volunteers for their farms and mobile markets for the remainder of the 2026 season. To get involved, learn more at: yorkfreshfoodfarms.org/volunteer/

If you'd like to visit the farm and see what YFFF is all about in person, join the team for their upcoming open house! Visit the YFFF farm at 150 Willis Rd on October 10th, 10:00AM-1:00PM.

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

SHARING: A little bit of everything. Paper Tiger Studio is downsizing and their moving sale through the month of September includes house plants, tables and chairs, and more. Find Paper Tiger Studio at 57 E King Street

SHARING: Mattress. Size : Full
It is old but clean and smoke free
Contact matthew@msprint.media

SEEKING: Hot Sauce recipes. Do you have a preferred way of making hot sauce? Contact sara@msprint.media

SHARING:Math tutoring. School is back in session; if you are in need of any math assistance please 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

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

City Council Meeting
9/15
6:00PM-8:00PM

City Council Meeting
9/23
6:00PM-8:00PM

State of the City Address
10/1
6:00PM-8:00PM
Appell Center
50 N George St

Mayor Sandie Walker addresses where York is today, what is next for the city, and the priorities her administration will focus on to get there. Complementary appetizers will be available. Free admission, registration required.

Trading, Swapping, Other Alternate Economies on the Rise in York

by: Matthew Gargano

matthew@msprint.media

Two businesses along Beaver Street have recently expanded their stores to include an area that does not revolve around the purchase or sale of goods.

Root & Relic, the whimsical home decor store, has recently installed a trinket box right inside their door. Here, traders can exchange stickers, figurines, charms, bracelets, or anything one might consider a trinket.

There is a list of rules on the door of the box, and traders are expected to make "true trades", only taking a trinket when they have something to leave in its stead. Reminiscent of something like The Hangar's Crow Night trinket exchange event on a micro-scale, the trinket box is a wonderful way to cycle through items you think others might appreciate more.

Vintage store and vegan cafe, The Kitsch-Enette similarly dedicated a section of their counter for exchanging produce. Co-owner Kayla brings in and stocks the section with veggies grown from her own garden, but welcomes anyone to contribute their own produce as well. There is no expectation that you need to drop off produce in order to take something. This is not the first non-monetary section of The Kitsch-Enette. Since opening, they have also maintained a shelf with free books that anyone is welcome to take from or contribute to.

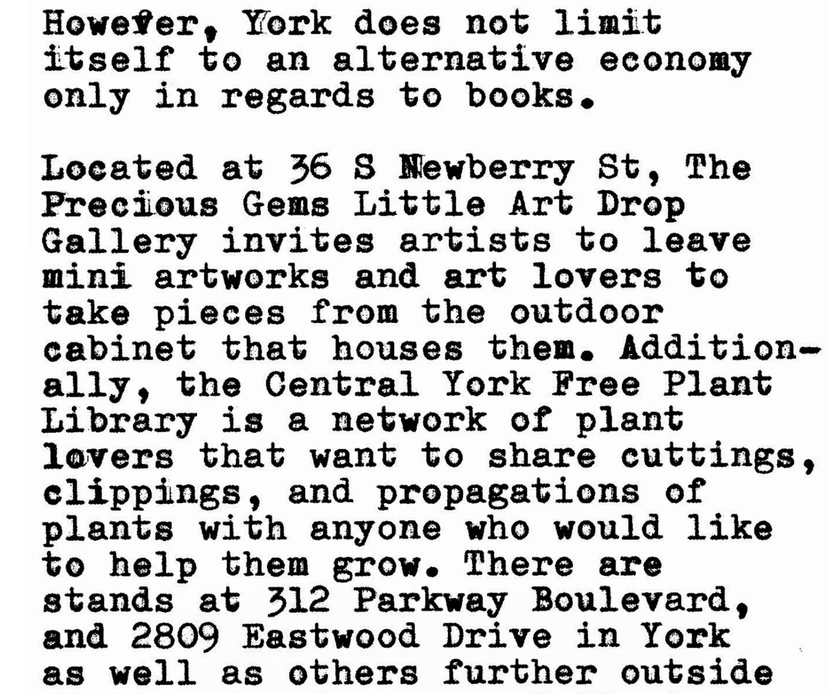
Books are probably the item associated the most with this sort of local alternative economy due to the popularity of the Little Free Library mission. In fact, York is no stranger to Little Free Libraries, having many around schools, churches, and residential areas of the city.

If you would like to see which Little Free Libraries are closest to you, visit: littlefreelibrary.org/map/

However, York does not limit itself to an alternative economy only in regards to books.

Located at 36 S Newberry St, The Precious Gems Little Art Drop Gallery invites artists to leave mini artworks and art lovers to take pieces from the outdoor cabinet that houses them. Additionally, the Central York Free Plant Library is a network of plant lovers that want to share cuttings, clippings, and propagations of plants with anyone who would like to help them grow. There are stands at 312 Parkway Boulevard, and 2809 Eastwood Drive in York as well as others further outside of the city in Dover, Dallastown, Mt Wolf, and Spring Grove.

Continued on 3B



EVENTS CONT.

Want to see your local event featured in future editions?

email york@msprint media to submit your own!

York Chess Club

Meeting weekly on Thursdays at In Between Pages, the York Chess Club invites players of all skill levels and ages to play chess, Chess sets provided.

9/10, 9/17, 9/24
6:00PM-8:00PM
In Between Pages
113 S Duke St

Pawpaw festival

As part of the wild and uncommon weekend, Horn Farm invites you to enjoy the largest edible fruit native to the Eastern US — the pawpaw! Enjoy various pawpaw treats, vendors of all types, and learn a little something about the world around us. Tickets required.

9/19
9:00AM-5:00AM
Horn Farm Center
4945 Horn Rd

Hot Chair Yoga Series

Bringing Yoga on the Go (BYOG) and York Parks and Rec present a gentle yoga class designed for adults 55+. No experience necessary, free for York City residents, $10 for nonresidents.

10:00AM-10:45PM
Tuesday, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29
Voni B Grimes Gym
125 E College Ave
Wednesdays 9/9. 9/16, 9/23, 9/30
at Yorktown Center
1059 Kelly Dr

Cavity, Cryptid Tears, Born of Plagues, Pilar Of Salt

Florida sludge band Cavity plays York with support from Harrisburg's Cryptid Tears, Baltimore's Born of Plagues, and York's own Pilar of Salt.

9/25
7:00PM-11:55PM
American Legion Post 791
1490 Poplars Rd

Pass The Mic Ripe

Poetry Tour

A regional poetry tour, featuring a set by Peter Shuey, an open mic for local poets to perform, local spotlight on artist Rob Epifani, and a featured poetry set by the Ripe Poetry Team.

9/12
5:30PM
York Alliance Church
501 Rathon Rd

Veterans Stand Down

Crispus Attucks York invites veterans who are unhoused, at-risk, or otherwise in need of help to join them at the fairgrounds for various resources and services including food, clothing, hygiene kits, medical and dental services, VA services, and help with housing and employment. Fortransportation or more information contact:
Barry Freeland:717-781-0014
Jomo Beatty: 717-542-0091

9/23
11:00AM-2:00PM
Horticultural Hall @
York Expo Center
334 Carlisle Ave

Alternate Economies

Continued from 2B

While a lot of these trading and swapping opportunities are primarily for fun, they set the stage for an alternative economy to help meet the needs of the community. The Little Free Paatry/ Mini Pantry Movement aims to have neighbors collectively working together to have food freely available for anyone who wants or needs it in a pattern similar to the Little Free Library.

According to the Little Free Pantry website, there are pantries registered in Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Carlisle — but none in York.

In Westminster Maryland, a city about half the size of York that is similarly the urban county seat of a predominantly rural county, they even have an entire "free store". Organized by the Coalition Against Prejudice, every Saturday the Gathering Grounds Free Store is open for community members to take from or contribute to stores of food, toiletries, and household items.

Just because York is a relatively small city, it doesn't mean we can't be at the forefront of new ways to move through the world and support our communities. In some ways, because the community is smaller, it is easier to know your neighbor and be empowered to offer or accept help from those around you. If you are interested in supporting York's growing alternative economy, are passionate about starting a Little Free Pantry or "Free Store", or have other goals aligned with these missions, please reach out to york@msprint.media and we will try to connect you to like-minded neighbors.

MORE EVENTS

Open Mic & Karaoke

Erin Levine hosts a bi-monthly recurring event blending performance and participation ecouraging guests to get up and sing.

9/10, 9/24
6:00PM-11:00PM
King George Speakeasy
(Downstairs at Tutoni's)
108 N George St

One Night Stand: An Evening of Art and Dialogue

A one night art exhibition featuring work from Nicole Osborne, Ethan Kannel, and Ladislav Hanka.

9/25
5:00PM-8:00PM
145 E. Springettsbury Ave

Beyond Referrals

Hope Therapist Collective brings together mental health and wellness professionals, building community and providing support. $5-$10 pay what you can, RSVP by calling or texting Michelle Shya at 717-256-2701.

9/24
5:00PM-7:00PM
Gather 256
256 W Philadelphia St

Manchester Township

Fun Fest

Come nejoy food trucks, carnival games, live music, and participate in an apple pie eating contest, home run wiffle ball derby, and even a dog parade.

9/19
3:00PM-8:00PM
Cousler Park
922 Greenbriar Rd

St John's Concert Series

Come hear York Symphony Orchestra members Ai-lin Hsieh and James Tung accompanied by pianist Xun Pan as they treat you to beloved piano trios. This event is free. To monetarily support the concert series, email Rodney Barnett at venite@stjohnyork.org or Gretchen Dekker at gretchen@stjohnyork.org.

9/27
4:00PM
St. John Episcopal Church of York
140 N Beaver St