

VIEWPOINTS

Apartments nearing completion on W. Springettsbury Ave.



Gordon Freireich
Guest columnist

“What’s being built in the 200 block of W. Springettsbury Avenue?” a long-time Yorker asked after driving by the construction site.

Nearing completion are 20 apartments that will house 79 upper classmen attending York College, located directly across the street.

Years ago, homes filled the area between Pershing Avenue and Manor Street, bounded by Springettsbury Avenue and Butler Avenue. Over time, the college purchased the individual homes and about a decade ago demolished them, creating a vacant lot at the loca-

tion. Now that tract has become the location for the new college-owned apartments that will be available when the school opens on Aug. 15.

The only building remaining on the block-long tract is the impressive white former home at the corner of Pershing and Springettsbury. That building, Springettsbury Hall, houses 14 students.

The new housing option “was a project that was vetted with our students on what they wanted in a residence hall,” said Mary Dolheimer, York College’s Chief Communications and Marketing Officer.

The result is “more independent living with all the amenities connected to the college,” she noted. The new residences are also transitional housing,

See **FREIREICH**, Page 2D



Nearing completion, the new streetscape in the 200 block of W. Springettsbury Avenue is York College-owned apartments available for upperclassmen. The buildings wrap around to Manor Street. SUBMITTED

Young researchers energize York County history writing



Archivist Dominish Marie Miller has expanded her Preserving the History of Newberrytown into in-person community story nights. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

100 years of United Way partnerships strengthen York County

Your Turn
Laura Burke
Guest columnist

When the York Welfare Federation began serving the York County community in 1921, the predecessor to what is now United Way of York County looked a little different than the organization we know today.

The York Welfare Federation set out on a weeklong door-to-door solicitation campaign during December, aiming to raise \$155,000 in support of 10 participating agencies. By 1922, the campaign had shifted to solicit manufacturing firms and businesses directly, and continued to adapt over the years to become what United Way of York County is known for: The largest annual fundraising campaign in York County, raising critical resources for our community, our neighbors, and our families.

Member agencies, or Partner Agencies, as they are now known, were added and removed over the years, but five of these agencies who began with United Way in 1921 are still Partner Agencies today: Boy Scouts, Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the YMCA, and YWCA.

From the beginning, the York Welfare Federation formed to provide “better service to the community with better use of agency manpower,” according to a 1971 newspaper article. By 1923, the article continues, “most of the participating agencies indicated that ... [the federation] had freed them almost completely from the time-consuming task of raising funds, and permitted them to spend their time on actual service.”

As representatives of the five Partner Agencies who still partner with United Way of York County to meet the education, health, and economic mobility needs of our community, we can affirm that the past century of partnership has provided benefits far beyond the initial consolidated fundraising efforts.

Together, the collective actions of United Way and its partners work hard to maximize benefits to the community and strengthen the delivery system for health and human services.

- We rely on shared expertise in many areas of our community’s needs to work collaboratively and identify long-term, impactful solutions to health and human care challenges in York County.

- We work together to increase the public’s understanding of the role of our organizations and other United Way partners in improving the quality of life for York County residents, and celebrate lives changed.

- We participate in a comprehensive Allocations process led by community volunteers that ensures do-

See **BURKE**, Page 2D



Jim McClure
Columnist
York Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK – PA.

In 2003, historian Eric Ledell Smith took a deep look at the local history research and writing enterprise in York County.

He wrote in Pennsylvania History journal that York County was experiencing a “renaissance” of history writing.

In the 18 years since that evaluation from this noted Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission historian, York County has amassed a wealth of local research in many forms.

For example, Scott Mingus subsequently wrote 25 books, more than half of which deal with York County topics, in full or in part.

In 2010, the York County History Center started an annual scholarly journal – the Journal of York County Heritage – that takes a deep look at topics well-known and unknown.

And in recent years, numerous Facebook groups and digital sites have overlaid the book writing enterprise – sites like those operated by the Friends of Lebanon Cemetery, Northeastern York County in Preservation, York Black History and Retro York.

On the brick-and-mortar front, the Hanover Area Historical Society recently opened a new museum. The York County History Center plans a countywide museum in the old West Philadelphia Street steam plant, and Crispus Attucks Community Center is working toward a York Black history museum and cultural center on its South Duke Street campus.



Genealogy Masters is a private Facebook group started by two cousins after a conversation about the importance of family research and history. The group has many participants below 50 years in age.

In Hellam Township, Susquehanna Heritage and others are working on a regional visitors center at the Mifflin House, an Underground Railroad site.

The Friends of Lebanon Cemetery and many others provided hands, hearts and minds in restoring the historically Black Lebanon Cemetery in North York. The work to bring back this cemetery has gained widespread and interested attention.

In fact, North York Borough Council recently feted Jacob Brenner and Bailey Miller for their cleanup

See **MCCLURE**, Page 2D

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Surveillance cameras aren't racist

I recently read a guest column in this newspaper written by Richard Craighead, president of the York chapter of the NAACP, stating that his branch stands in opposition to the planned implementation of surveillance cameras in and around York City.

Mr. Craighead writes, "In this newly surveilled environment, would our brothers and sisters maintain their rights to a fair and free trial?"

Richard, I got news for you, we are all brothers and sisters under the sun. You must include whites as your brothers and sisters, or you will never get anything accomplished. Love conquers hate and all that. Considering I am a member in good standing of the York NAACP, I feel slighted that I'm not included in your racially based extended family. Furthermore, being white is no guarantee of a free and fair trial. Especially in York County.

Mr. Craighead mentions the \$3 million-plus cost of the system. It will pay for itself over time by means of the increase in negotiated plea bargains instead of costly trials because videotape doesn't lie.

Mr. Craighead writes that the people who will feel safe are the same people the surveillance system is set up to protect, "White America."

C'mon man, do you really believe this? This cannot be further from the truth.

Surveillance cameras will help to protect everyone and document all crimes that occur within its view whether they be perpetrated by whites or people of color. The camera doesn't discriminate. People do. As

long as there is some righteous supervision, I don't see any negatives of the city's plan for implementation. Maybe some knucklehead will think twice before they pull the trigger.

As far as your suggestions to address violent crime pushed by the "prevention institute," I agree with some and disagree with others. Maybe we can get together and discuss it sometime.

Lawrence Goldman
York Township

Simone Biles is a wonderful role model

As an American and a mother, I am far prouder of and more grateful to Simone Biles for pulling out of her Olympic events than if she had gone through with them. The reason is simple and powerful.

I have teen daughters. Simone showed them that if they are in a situation where their physical or mental health is at stake, they feel unsafe or their gut is warning them of danger, they can say no. They do not have to do something risky, even if others are expecting them to. Even if they said they would. Even if people spent time and money on them, and they already went to a place or event with the intention of doing something.

They can back out if their bodies or minds say no and it is okay.

That lesson is worth far more to my daughters than seeing Biles win another medal.

Angel Pritts
Yorkana

Try to donate to area educators

As the summer comes to a close and we prepare to return to in-person learning, I hope that you consider giving your educators of choice the school supplies needed for their students.

Educators often go on scavenger hunts to various stores for the best prices. At times, educators will select a store out of convenience to purchase pens, pencils, notebooks and folders for their students. Sure, educators are able to write off a small percentage on their taxes, but it's never equivalent to how much they actually come out of pocket.

Also, there are good natured people who collect school supplies to give to students, but the students do not always show up to school with those supplies, and educators will need to pause to ask the class, before proceeding in their instructions, "Who is in need of whatever supply?"

Supplies look different as of late, not only are they the pencil or paper, but consider things used with the laptops including the bag. Masks may be required on the bus or in the classroom. These donations may be placed at the doors of the bus or at the entrance of school buildings. These pertinent items will assist your educator who may have to shop for 25 or more.

Again, I hope that you will consider donating to your favorite educator or educational institution, and do hold on to your receipts.

Thank you!
Aretha Brown
West Manchester

McClure

Continued from Page 1D

work at the cemetery.

According to a Facebook post: "During the two hottest weeks all summer, with heat indexes over 100 for many day(s), these boys (WITHOUT the help of machines or large equipment) removed and hauled away over 7,000 pounds of debris including trees, bushes, furniture that was dumped, fencing, concrete, a HUGE old tree trunk, and a dead deer."



Eash

In a recent email to members of the York County Writers Roundtable, Mings wrote that he talks about the county's historical community on the national history-speaking circuit.

"In comparing notes," he wrote, "I strongly believe that York County has one of the most diverse and strongest community history groups."

He noted, for example, archivist Dominish Marie Miller's operation of the Preserving the History of Newberrytown Facebook group and her organization of story nights are "wonderful additions to an already great cadre of local history discussion groups."

"Several folks in other states would enjoy having so much interest in their local stories."

Picking up the pace

So a question is whether this movement can continue.

The conventional wisdom is that mostly senior citizens enjoy local history. That claim is there even though evidence exists to the contrary. For example, about 50% of the 14,200-member Retro York group is 54 years in age or younger.

So I gathered a sampling of efforts by York County historians and family researchers who are less than 50 years in age to show that the movement has young legs and is picking up pace.

● Miller and historian Jamie Kinsley have embarked on a video series, "Hometown History: Jamie and Domi Talk YoCo Backstory." In conversational style, the pair unpacks and explores serious stories from the

Genealogy Masters, a private Facebook group, typifies the enthusiasm that is carrying the local history renaissance forward. MsLady Brown said the group has many participants below 50 years in age.

county's past: Ezekiel and Eliza Baptist's work as station masters in the Underground Railroad and the community's work to free asylum seekers from the freighter Golden Venture in the 1990s. Kinsley also writes for the Wandering in York County blog and operates the WitnessingYork.com digital site (in partnership with me).

● Ben Igo, a York Suburban graduate and Widener University student, is interning with the York County Economic Alliance. He is researching celebrity guests at the Yorktowne Hotel since its beginning in 1925. This is part of the Yorktowne restoration project.

● Codie Eash, a West York graduate in 2011, serves as director of education and museum operations at Gettysburg's Seminary Ridge Museum, a Civil War center with many York County ties.

He recently presented to the York Civil War Roundtable on Gettysburg's Pennsylvania Veterans Reunion of 1889, a complex topic that included Gettysburg's monuments.

Eash and Civil War author Cooper Wingert are among the youngest presenters at the roundtable in the past decade. Eash also operates Pennsylvania in the Civil War digital site with fellow West York grad Kendrick Gibbs and others.

● Alexa E. Born, managing director of the York firm White Rose Ventures, has embarked on a deep study of York County history. She is doing this to inform her firm's planning in "Reimaging Investment in Central Pennsylvania."

● Joe McClure, a Dallastown and Messiah College graduate, is editor of the history center's "Journal of York County Heritage." This journalist/historian (and my son) also writes regular columns for PennLive.com and The Patriot-News that sometimes include York

County history.

● The history center's staff is continuing programming through the pandemic, switching to digital delivery of stories and presentations. The public is now attending history center events, which are still delivered on Facebook Live. As one recent example, Christine Cooper, public programs manager, demonstrated early American preparation and cooking techniques with period tools.

● Teen Tristan Mundis, with Thomas Steele, co-moderates the active Red Lion History and Preservation Facebook group. Mundis and fellow teens Nate Heffner, Tate Lehman and Nathan Filak are involved in many other local history volunteer activities.

● Three Northeastern Middle School teachers – Mike Graham, Eric Gimbi and David A. Raymond – have created a YouTube series about history. With videographer Alex Raymond, their "Bobble George" series features high-quality instructional videos on Codorus Furnace, the Agricultural and Industrial Museum's Reddy Kilowatt and other pieces of local history.

Their YouTube page states: "Bobblehead GEORGE ... Spending time with us is like being on an endless 8th Grade field trip!"

Masters of genealogy

Genealogy Masters, a private Facebook group, typifies the enthusiasm that is carrying the local history renaissance forward. MsLady Brown said the group has many participants below 50 years in age.

The group was started by two cousins having a conversation about family history.

"The more they talked the more they understood the power in many when researching and sharing in genealogy," the Facebook group states.

Brown has researched her mother's side – the Bankses, Meekinses, Eccleses and Nelsons - back to 1800.

Her father's side includes the Chappels, Watsons and Jenkinsons.

"... Back to the late 1888 is as far as I got," she wrote in an email.

For Brown, as with the many other local researchers, the York County history renaissance continues.

Freireich

Continued from Page 1D

from traditional dormitories to after-college living.

The 20 apartments in two-story buildings feature:

- Two bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Full kitchens with dishwashers
- Living spaces
- Fully furnished

There will be four students sharing each apartment, except for one that will house three students to provide additional space which meets handicapped accessible requirements for one student.

Ken Martin, the college's Assistant to the President for Capital Projects and Facility Utilization, provides additional details:

- Derck & Edson, LLC, an architectural firm in Lititz, Lancaster County, designed the apartments.
- Kinsley Construction was the contractor.
- Cost was originally expected to be \$7.4 million, "but will probably be closer to \$8 million because of pandemic-related and supply chain issues," Martin said. The apartment buildings have been designed to look like a modern, residential streetscape. Exterior materials and angles vary to create attractive facades.

The apartments begin on W. Springettsbury Avenue and wrap around on Manor Street.

Parking will be available on-site, behind the buildings, with additional space across street on the cam-

pus, if necessary, Martin added.

According to Ken Martin, the new apartments will cost \$5,220 per student per semester.

The apartment concept is almost a throw-back to when the college purchased Country Club Manor, on the corner of Country Club Road and Richland Avenue. One of York's original apartment complexes, it eventually became housing for York College students.

Mary Dolheimer said the new apartments also provide flexibility for the college to "pull some of our older residence halls off-line to do some work with them."

Springettsbury Apartments is the newest in about 24 housing options available to students.

Gordon Freireich is a former editor of the York Sunday News. E-mail: gordonaf2805@gmail.com.

Burke

Continued from Page 1D

ners' investments are stewarded well and that our programs are continually reviewed for financial strength and operational stability.

By listening and learning, we invest together in solutions that empower all York County residents to achieve their goals. This long-term work is critical to ensure that York County remains strong and our families, friends, and neighbors have the resources they need to thrive.

We see the impact of the community's support — your support — every day: in the eyes of a woman receiving counseling and resources after leaving her abuser, in the laughter of a child playing and growing in a high-quality early learning environment, in a Scout who is building leadership skills and friend-

ships for life, in the grateful heart of a family facing the aftermath of a house fire and not having to worry where they'll sleep that night.

Community results are realized through collaboration, commitment and dedication. We hope you will join us in recognizing and celebrating the importance of these community partnerships, and the powerful outcomes we can achieve when we work together.

Laura Burke, Executive Director
American Red Cross, Central Pennsylvania Chapter

Ronald Gardner, Jr., Scout Executive & CEO
Boy Scouts of America – New Birth of Freedom Council

Thomas S. Babbitt, Major, Area Coordinator
The Salvation Army, York Citadel
Larry Richardson, President/CEO
YMCA of York and York County
Jean Treuthart, CEO
YWCA York

